

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

Issue 106 • Volume 155

Thursday, June 1, 2023

SedaliaDemocrat.com • \$1

Centennial Pool to close after this season

By **Chris Howell**
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New aquatic facility planned for east Sedalia

Although the water in Centennial Pool is clear and refreshing, the future of the pool is somewhat cloudier.

Sharon Lazenby and her friends were swimming Wednesday morning, May 31 during the adult swim hours at Centennial Pool. Lazenby fondly remembers coming to the pool as a child.

“Oh, I can remember coming to swim classes,” Lazenby said. “Taking lessons in the summertime, coming here as a child with friends to the pools, both pools. We enjoy coming out here for adult swim.”

Talk among the ladies cooling off in the park pool drifted to the pool’s rumored closing.

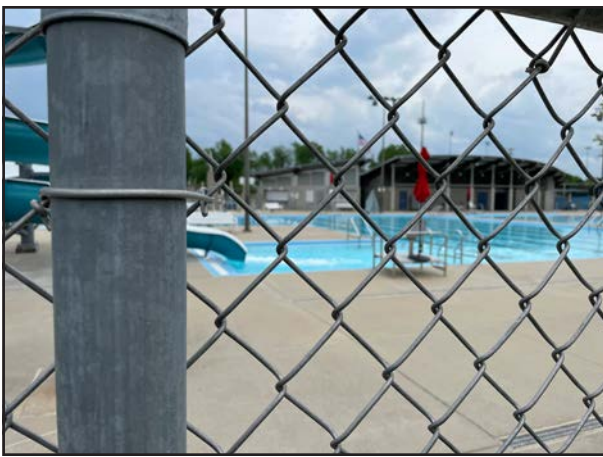
“I have heard that there is a rumor that this is going to be the last year,” Lazenby said.

At the Sedalia Parks

and Recreation Department, Director Amy Epple confirmed Lazenby’s suspicions.

“Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Centennial (Pool),” Epple said. “We clearly stated next year probably is the last year. We hope we can get through this year. I’ll be honest, this May, getting it going has been really a struggle. This will be the last summer, it will close. We’ll keep Liberty Pool open next summer. Construction would hopefully begin next spring for an outdoor aquatic facility, it usually takes 18 months to open.”

See **POOL | A5**



Liberty Park pool, seen here, and Centennial Park pool will both eventually be closed and turned into splash pads as Sedalia Parks and Recreation moves to a single outdoor aquatic facility planned for 2025 construction. Liberty Pool will remain open until then but Centennial Pool will close this year.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Doctors Izilda Eira Tamega and her husband, Tarcisio Luiz Tamega, of Sosocabo, Brazil, pose for a photo Wednesday afternoon at Hotel Bothwell. The couple is in Sedalia for the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival, which opened Wednesday and continues through Saturday.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Brazilian couple visits Scott Joplin Festival

By **Faith Bemiss**
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

With love for ragtime, two Brazilian doctors arrived on Tuesday to attend the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia.

Tarcisio Luiz Tamega, a cardiologist, and his wife, Izilda Eiras Tamega, a pediatrician, traveled from Sococabo, Brazil, a suburb of Sao Paulo, through New

York to Kansas City and then caught the Amtrak to Sedalia. Although they have limited English, they talked about their love for ragtime through a translator App in the lobby of the Hotel Bothwell on Wednesday.

Tarcisio noted he fell in love with the music while watching the movie “The Sting” in 1974 and added they are attending the festival because he likes ragtime.

See **COUPLE | A6**



The home of Izilda and Tarcisio Tamega in Brazil is decorated with many ragtime pieces. Tarcisio has a collection of 110 ragtime CDs and 60 long-play albums.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. IZILDA EIRAS TAMEGA

PCAD to celebrate 10th anniversary

By **Faith Bemiss**
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

Pettis County Ambulance District will celebrate its 10th anniversary at State Fair Community College on Saturday, June 10.

PCAD Battalion Chief Florian Hammer and Administrative Assistant Katie Patrick organized the event with exciting facts about PCAD’s decade of progress, free food, and a display of ambulances and command vehicles. They will also have posters with facts and staffing increases available.

On Wednesday, Hammer, who has been with PCAD all 10 years, spoke to the Democrat about the celebration noting some interesting factoids.

“Last year, all the am-

bulances (eight) traveled 315,000 miles,” he said. “And that’s 13 trips around the world. And actually, in 10 years, all the ambulances combined drove to the moon and back 13 times.”

When Hammer was hired at PCAD in 2013, it only had four trucks — it now has eight.

“Initially, it only had four trucks when we first started,” he said. “So, we had four EMTs and four Paramedics for each shift, which was a total of 16 and 16.”

“And now we staff eight ambulances,” he continued. “So, 24 EMTs and 24 Paramedics. We only had one station. Now we have, including Windsor, we have three stations and plans for the other station to go up on the southwest (side of Sedalia).”

Hammer said in 2013, PCAD had a projected call volume of 3,700. In 2023 the projected call volume is 10,000.

The Education Department at PCAD has come a long way also in the last decade with Division

Chief of Training Justin Cross.

“Justin has been doing a great job with education,” Hammer noted. “Initially, we had to go to outside agencies and bring outside agencies in to do classes.”

“Now Justin runs a fantastic education program,” he added. “We don’t have to go anywhere. And actually, people come to us.” PCAD gives classes to local law enforcement and other agencies and is affiliated with Bothwell Regional Health Center to present courses and symposiums.

“In 10 years, we come leaps and bounds on the education side for sure,” he said. “I’ve been there for 10 years. So, I’ve seen all the changes in the ambulances and equipment, and like I said, the staff and everything in general.”

Hammer said the anniversary celebration would be in the SFCC Yeater Building lobby and outside.

“We’re going to have trucks ... and line them



The Pettis County Ambulance District will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a community event on Saturday, June 10 at the Yeater Building on the State Fair Community College campus.

FILE PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

by the sidewalk,” he explained. “So, people can walk by and look at our equipment and look at the trucks that we have.”

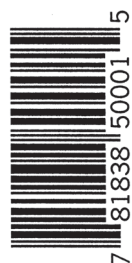
“We’ll probably have a couple of our command vehicles sitting there,” he

continued. “We use them on a day-to-day basis for emergency calls.”

Hammer said along with the poster boards of facts, they will likely have a slide show and trivia game.

A free lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with pork provided by Alewel’s (Country Meats). There will be some sides available also, along with water to drink.

See **PCAD | A5**



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OBITUARIES

Carol Jean Schweitzer Lang

Carol Jean Schweitzer Lang, age 88, a lifelong Pilot Grove, MO, area resident, passed from this world comfortably with family by her side on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center.

Carol was born December 9, 1934, first child to the late John and Irene Schuster Schweitzer of Pilot Grove, MO. A 1952 graduate of Pilot Grove High School, she went on to obtain her nursing degree in May 1955. On October 22, 1955, she married Lawrence J. Lang. They raised their five children while she worked as a nurse, primarily for the Boonville Medical Group, where she was known for her painless shot injections, then later at various nursing homes including Katy Manor in Pilot Grove. Lawrence preceded her in death November 13, 2000, after 45 years of marriage.

Carol was a lifelong parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Pilot Grove. She supported her husband's love of baseball and enjoyed socializing at the numerous baseball games he coached and her children played. In her later years, she enjoyed activities with her fellow Red Hat Society members. She was a lifelong reader with a particular love of who-done-it's and always enjoyed a good competitive game of rummy or



dominos.

She is survived by her children Linda Sundy of Sedalia, MO, John (Joe) Lang (Sue) of Sugar Land, TX, Jean Lange (Stuart) of Charleston, SC, James (Jim) Lang (Sarah) of Columbia, MO, and Jeff Lang of Victoria, TX; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and siblings Jack Schweitzer (Ruth) of Columbia, MO, David Schweitzer (Jeanette) of Kansas City, MO, and Kathy Brownfield (Marvin) of Sedalia, MO, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Saturday, June 3, 2023, with the Rosary beginning at 1:45 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 407 Harris St., Pilot Grove. Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 2 p.m.

Interment will immediately follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third Street, Sedalia, MO 65301, memo: Bookmobile, or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are in the care of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Pilot Grove.

Online condolences may be submitted at www.pagedady.com.

DEATH NOTICE

Street

Larry E. Street, 78, of Port Isabel, Texas, formerly of Green Ridge, died Monday, May 29, 2023. No services are planned.

FUNERALS

Lucille M. Meyers

1 p.m. today at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Robert "Bob" Paul Cranfill

11 a.m. Friday at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Carol Jean Schweitzer Lang

2 p.m. Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pilot Grove. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Pilot Grove.

Erma Lee Booth

11 a.m. Friday, June 16 at Mt. Pleasant Church near Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Main Street closed for road work

From Monday, June 5 to Friday, June 16, the City of Sedalia's Public Works Department will be milling and overlaying West Main Street from Dundee Avenue to Industrial Road.

During this period, lane closures will result in the roadway being reduced to a single lane of traffic and a reduced speed of 15 mph. Travelers are encouraged to use alternate routes whenever possible to avoid delays.

Mill and overlay work will begin each day at 6 a.m. and continue through 5 p.m. until the project is complete. Congestion is expected due to the lane restrictions and the volume of traffic normally using this roadway. Heavy equipment and workers will be present in the roadway during this period. Lane closures and restrictions will be in effect during the mill and

overlay operation.

Plans are to mill and overlay the westbound lanes (north side of roadway) on June 5, with asphalt being laid on June 7; the eastbound lanes (south side of roadway) to be milled on June 8 and asphalt being laid June 12; the center lane to be milled June 13 and asphalt being laid June 14.

Inclement weather or equipment breakdowns could delay completion.

Old Drum Open Mic to host program

Old Drum Open Mic kicks off with music, stories, poetry, and essays for its next program from 6 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 1 at Java Junction, 118 N. Holden St. in downtown Warrensburg.

The special guest in June is Dr. John Hess. He will be reading from his newly published book, "A Perfectly Ordinary Paradise: An intimate view

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 May 29

11:30 p.m.: Virgil Andrew Edgar Jr., of the 400 block of North Grand Avenue, was arrested after an officer attempted to stop a vehicle near North Engineer Avenue and East Saline Street they had observed making an improper turn and running a stop sign. The driver fled through alleys and yards to get away but was located, arrested, and transported to the Pettis County Jail for resisting arrest and careless and imprudent driving.

May 30

10:19 p.m.: Ismael Tamayo Lopez, 25, of the 24000 block of Highway 12, was arrested after an officer was dispatched to North Ohio Avenue and North Missouri Avenue to assist with a traffic stop. Lopez was intoxicated and was transported to the Sedalia Police Department, issued a traffic ticket for driving while intoxicated, and released to a sober driver.

Incidents May 28

11 a.m.: A police officer took a report in the 1900 block of South Park Avenue from a victim stating someone kicked in the front door to

her residence and caused damage.

May 29

1:03 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to a theft that occurred in the 2700 block of Brandon Avenue. The reporting party noticed metal decorations in his front yard were missing.

7:40 p.m.: Officers responded to the 600 block of Wilkerson Street in reference to an animal attack. The reporting party said a neighbor's dog entered their yard and attacked their dog. The dog was injured, and the suspect's dog returned home. A report has been sent to animal control.

May 30

12:49 a.m.: Officers responded to a business in the 3200 block of South Limit Avenue in reference to a dog bite. The reporting party said he delivered a pizza to a residence in the 1400 block of South Prospect Avenue and a dog bit him on the hand.

Noon: An officer was dispatched to the Housing Authority, 400 Robinson Court, in reference to suspicious circumstances. The incident was documented in a general information report.

1:16 p.m.: An officer responded to the 1600 block of Heck Avenue in reference to a hit-and-run accident. The complaint said their vehicle was struck while parked in front of the residence. The striking vehicle left without providing information.

CRASH REPORTS

Two hurt in Pettis crash

Two people were injured in a two-vehicle accident at 7:10 a.m. Tuesday, May 30 in Pettis County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Esther J. Burton, 63, of Sedalia, was driving a 2006 Toyota Corolla south on state Route 127 at Route B when she failed to stop for a stop sign. She traveled into the path of a northbound 1991 International F-4900 driven by Clifford E. Needy, 79, of Green Ridge. Burton's vehicle struck Needy's vehicle. Burton's vehicle began rotating, traveled off the left side of the road, and struck a culvert and a ditch before coming to rest. Needy's vehicle traveled off the right side of the road and came to rest, partially blocking Route B.

Burton, who was wearing a seat belt, was taken by the Pettis County Ambulance District to Bothwell Regional Health Center with moderate injuries. Needy, who was not wearing a seat belt, sustained minor injuries and refused medical transport at the scene.

The MSHP was assisted by the Pettis County Sheriff's Office.

Four injured in Johnson accident

Two adults and two juveniles sustained minor injuries in a single-vehicle accident at 7:11 a.m. Tuesday, May 30 in Johnson County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Kristyn L. Nichols, of Independence, was driving a 2004 Ford Taurus north on Northwest 1601st Road at Northwest 450th Road when she failed to stop at a stop sign.

She traveled through the intersection and traveled off the road and into a creek bed.

Nichols and three occupants, 24-year-old Andrew J. Conway, of Pleasant Hill, and a 1-year-old male and a 1-year-old female both of Independence, were taken by the Johnson County Ambulance District to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

The report indicates all four people were using a safety device.

The MSHP was assisted by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

Man, child hurt in Saline wreck

Two Armstrong residents were injured in a two-vehicle accident at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 30 in Saline County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Rebecca L. Defoor, 23, was driving a 2003 Dodge Durango north on U.S. Highway 65 at 110th Road when she struck a northbound 2008 Ford F-250 driven by Charlie J. Hamilton, 65, of Independence. Defoor's vehicle crossed the median and overturned.

Defoor sustained moderate injuries and a 4-year-old female occupant sustained serious injuries. Both were taken to University Hospital in Columbia.

The report indicates Hamilton and the juvenile were using a safety device, but it is unknown if Defoor was wearing a seat belt.

Teen injured in Moniteau crash

A 16-year-old from Jamestown sustained moderate injuries in a two-ve-

2:15 p.m.: An officer responded to the intersection of West Broadway Boulevard and South Prospect Avenue in reference to a vehicle crash with injuries. An eastbound Chevrolet Cavalier struck the rear of a stopped Chevrolet Impala, causing the Impala to move forward and strike the rear of a silver minivan. The minivan then fled the scene without providing information.

2:49 p.m.: A female from the 900 block of Westwood Avenue came into the lobby of the police department to report she was being harassed. A report was completed.

9:34 p.m.: Officers responded to the 700 block of North Grand Avenue in reference to a previous assault. The reporting party stated a subject jumped out of a vehicle and assaulted her as she was walking down the road. The suspect has not been identified.

Pettis County Sheriff's Office Arrests May 30

11:03 p.m.: Jeremy Mullins, 35, of Sedalia, was arrested after deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4500 block of South Limit Avenue on a vehicle with no headlights or tail lights and the wrong plates. The driver, Mullins, had a revoked driving status and was transported to the Pettis County Jail.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

hicle accident at 9:33 p.m. Tuesday, May 30 in Moniteau County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the teenager was driving a 2009 Ford Fusion north on state Route 87, one-tenth of a mile south of Oak Grove Road, when the vehicle skidded off the right side of the road, struck a tree, went airborne, and struck a parked 2015 Ford Explorer. Debris struck a house.

The juvenile, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken by the Mid-Mo Ambulance District to University Hospital in Columbia.

The MSHP was assisted by the Moniteau County Sheriff's Office.

Stover man injured in Morgan crash

A Stover man was injured in a single-vehicle accident at 3:57 a.m. Tuesday, May 31 in Morgan County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Nigher Alfaro, 29, was driving a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado south on Ivy Bend Road, a half-mile south of Webb Loop, when he traveled across the center line off the left side of the road and struck a tree.

Alfaro, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken by Mid-Mo Ambulance District to Lake Regional Health System in Osage Beach with minor injuries.

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

Compiled by Nicole Cooke.

Smithton senior receives WILS scholarship

West-Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS) announced that Chance Brown, a senior at Smithton High School, has been awarded the WILS Empowerment Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school senior in Johnson, Lafayette, Henry, Benton, Pettis, or Saline counties with a disability who plans to continue their education at a four-year college, associates program, community college, or vocational technology program.

Brown was chosen by a panel of judges based on his essay application. Brown plans to use this opportunity to continue his education at the Grand River Welding.

“Hard work and dedication gains more respect than anything. My grandpa used to say this to me, which made my work ethic better than it has ever been,” Brown said. “I wish to gain skills and knowledge during this school time and to help my future with a good paying job.”

WILS collaborates with local high schools to offer independent living courses for students with disabilities to prepare them for transitions to secondary education, the workforce, and living on their own.

“Chance’s essay shows that he is willing to work hard, despite challenges he has faced,” said Samantha Jarvis, WILS Independent Living Coordinator. “Chance is not only

pursuing his passion for himself but for those that have been there for him along the way. Chance has a heart for others, and a determination to not let anything hold him back. WILS is honored to be a part of Chance’s next chapter in his life.”

As a Center for Independent Living, WILS strives to remove barriers and prejudices and empowers people with disabilities to live independently. It is a nonprofit resource center that serves people with disabilities and their families through programs and services. For more information, visit w-ils.org or contact info@w-ils.org.

Release courtesy of WILS.



From left, Grand River Welding Institute Recruiter Kevin Judas, scholarship recipient Chance Brown, and WILS Independent Living Coordinator Samantha Jarvis pose for a photo as Brown receives his scholarship certificate at Smithton’s Decision Day for Seniors. PHOTO COURTESY OF WILS

THE GREEN THUMB

Some tips for rhubarb care

By Billie Long
Master Gardener Emeritus

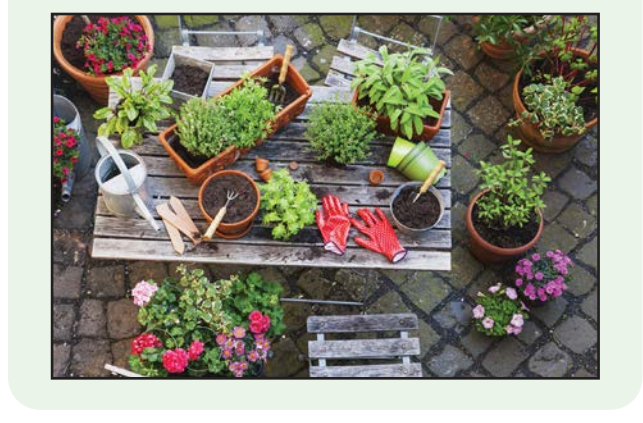
Begin by preparing the bed. Dig an area big enough to handle the planting. The crowns should be set 18 to 24 inches apart in all directions. Make the depth to 8 inches and work in plenty of compost or composted manure. If you use chicken manure, then use half of what you would for cow or sheep. Make sure the bed will be well drained. Rhubarb cannot stand wet feet.

Set the roots about 6 inches deep with the crowns just below the surface. Planting too deep will cause crown rot. Firm the soil around the roots with your feet. Apply your full weight. There must be no remaining air pockets. That will make the rhubarb rot. You may also add fertilizer at planting time. Use sparingly; about 1 pound every 10 feet worked in well. Low nitrogen, 5-10-10, will be fine. Add 10-10-10 each year after in early spring or after harvest.

Do not harvest the first year. In the second year, you may harvest sparingly. After that, use as much as you need. If the rhubarb sends up a seed stalk, cut it off all the way to the ground as soon as you see it. This only pulls strength from the plant. When harvesting rhubarb, pull the stalk rather than cutting it. This is done by pulling to the side until the stalk snaps off. You may pull stalks through early summer; after that, it is better to let the leaves manufacture the food they need for the following year.

For the best quality stalks, rhubarb roots do need to be divided from time to time, about every three to four years. If you have several plants, it’s better to alternate the dividing so that you have a full crop every year. In the early spring, as soon as the first buds appear, dig and divide the old roots into two or more sections and replant. It is best to rework the bed when you do this. With an established bed, mulch the surface of the bed in the fall with composted manure and then carefully work it into the bed in the spring. Try not to disturb the roots too much when digging in the compost. Keep planting and ensure that they are well watered until established.

Billie Long is a Master Gardener Emeritus with the Show-Me Master Gardeners, which is affiliated with MU Extension Pettis County.



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SFCC Foundation adds Guffey, Loges to Board of Directors

The State Fair Community College Foundation has recognized Chris Guffey and Wendy Loges as members of its Board of Directors. The board now has 21 members.

Guffey and his family moved to Sedalia in 2009. He and his wife, Kellie, have three children, Isaiah, Zariah and Georgia. He is the senior pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church and coaches the State Fair Community College women’s golf team. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and Psychology from Southwest Baptist University and a Master of Divinity and Global Studies from Liberty Theological Seminary. Guffey serves on the Uttermost International Ministries Board of Directors, as president of Jason Lovins Ministries Board of Directors and as a Sedalia Police Department chaplain. Previously, he was an Embassy Board of Directors member and Smith-Cotton’s High School boys and girls golf team coach.

In accepting the position, Guffey stated that

“serving on the foundation is a privilege and great opportunity to ensure the college continues to provide quality educational experiences for the next generation of leaders and workers. Guffey’s term on the board began in February 2023 and will end in 2024.”

Loges is the chief marketing officer for BTC Bank. She and her husband, Doug, live in Sweet Springs and have three children, Rayne, Taylor and Olivia. Loges has a Master of Education Administration from Central Missouri State University. She is involved in the Missouri 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees, Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Missouri State Fair Foundation, Area Youth Benefit Corporation Board, Grow Pediatric Services, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

The power of education to change the world is why Loges is motivated to serve on the foundation’s board. She said she believes SFCC is changing the world by providing learning expe-



Chris Guffey



Wendy Loges

riences that meet local economic demands and the needs of rural citizens. Loges’ term on the board began in February 2023 and will end in 2025.

“I am very happy Wendy and Chris are members of our board of directors,” said Mary Treuner, foundation executive director. “Wendy and Chris recognize the value of SFCC, and they are eager to be involved in our community and help support the missions of the college and the foundation.”

The State Fair Community College Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt

corporation, was established in 1981 as the J. Higdon Potter Educational Foundation Inc. to raise funds to meet the needs of the college. The foundation’s mission is to support and assist the college in serving the community by providing accessible, quality educational programs and services. Current officers are Steve Ellebracht, president; Paul Dick, vice president; Lori Swearingen, secretary; and Alaina Gump, treasurer. Visit www.sfccmo.edu/foundation to learn more.

Release courtesy of State Fair Community College.

Judge halts execution of man convicted in jail break killings

By Summer Ballentine
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A federal judge on Wednesday halted next week’s scheduled execution of a man convicted of killing two Missouri jailers amid questions about the literacy of a juror in the case.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Bough ruled that Michael Andrew Tisius’ execution at the state prison in Bonne Terre should be delayed to give the court time for a hearing on the juror.

The delay comes after Tisius’ lawyers earlier this month claimed a juror in his 2010 resentencing could not read or write.

Missouri law requires jurors to be able to read and speak English.

In an affidavit signed by the juror May 3, the juror stated “someone at the courthouse” helped him fill out his juror questionnaire.

“I told the Courthouse employee that I could not read,” according to an excerpt from the affidavit included in Bough’s ruling. “The Courthouse employee

took me into a private room. The Courthouse employee read word for word the questionnaire and filled in the answers for me.”

The judge wants more information. Bough wrote that another affidavit by the juror, which was signed May 7, conflicts with his earlier statement.

“I sometimes say that I cannot read or write, but it is more accurate to say that I cannot read or write very well,” the juror stated in the

May 7 affidavit, adding that he approached Tisius’ case with “an open mind.”

In 2000, Tisius and Tracie Bulington entered the lobby of the jail in Huntsville, aiming to break out Bulington’s boyfriend, Roy Vance, prosecutors said. Tisius — then 19 — fatally shot Randolph County jailers Jason Acton and Leon Egley during the attempted jail break. The plot failed because the intruders couldn’t find the cell keys.

Sedalia Animal Shelter
2420 S New York Ave • Sedalia • 826-5816

Pets of the Week

Pearl
BREED: Domestic Shorthair
SEX: Female AGE: 2Y/1M/1W

Mamma
BREED: American Pit Bull / Mix
SEX: Female AGE: 4Y/7M/4W

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House on track to raise debt ceiling and avert default, with Biden and McCarthy confident of passage

By Lisa Mascaro, Kevin Freking, Stephen Groves and Farnoush Amiri

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The debt ceiling and budget cuts package that would avert a federal default headed toward House passage late Wednesday as President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy assembled a bipartisan coalition of centrist Democrats and Republicans against fierce conservative blowback and progressive dissent.

The hard-fought compromise pleased few, but lawmakers assessed it was better than the alternative — devastating economic upheaval — if Congress failed to act. Tensions rose when Republican support lagged on a procedural vote in the afternoon, but the package ultimately sailed ahead once Democrats unleashed their votes in a show of bipartisan support.

A final House roll call was expected by evening.

As debate began, Biden expressed optimism that the agreement he negotiated with McCarthy would pass the chamber and avoid an economically disastrous default on America's debts.

"I think things are going as planned," he told reporters. The president departed Washington Wednesday evening for Colorado, where he is scheduled to deliver the

commencement address Thursday at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"God willing by the time I land, Congress will have acted, the House will have acted, and we'll be one step closer," he said.

Biden sent top White House officials to the Capitol to shore up backing. McCarthy worked to sell skeptical fellow Republicans, even fending off challenges to his leadership, in the rush to avert a potentially disastrous U.S. default.

"Everybody has a right to their own opinion, but on history, I'd want to be here with this bill today," McCarthy, R-Calif., said as he arrived at the Capitol.

Despite deep disappointment from right-flank Republicans that the compromise falls short of the spending cuts they demanded, McCarthy insisted he would have the votes needed by the evening roll call.

He characterized the package as "just a small step" toward getting the U.S. debt load under control, and announced he would next be working to set up a bipartisan commission to more deeply address budget imbalances.

"Today, America is going to win," he said.

Quick approval by the House and later in the week by the Senate would ensure government checks will continue to go out to Social Security recipients, veterans and others and

would prevent financial upheaval at home and abroad. Next Monday is when the Treasury has said the U.S. would run short of money to pay its debts.

The package leaves hardly any lawmakers fully satisfied, but Biden and McCarthy were counting on support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, testing the leadership of the Democratic president and the Republican speaker.

Overall, the 99-page bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes some policies, including imposing new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and greenlighting an Appalachian natural gas line that many Democrats oppose. It bolsters funds for defense and veterans.

Raising the nation's debt limit, now \$31 trillion, ensures Treasury can borrow to pay already incurred U.S. debts.

For days McCarthy has worked to build support among skeptics. For more than two hours late Tuesday, as aides wheeled in pizza at the Capitol, he walked Republicans through the details, fielded questions and encouraged them not to lose sight of the bill's budget savings.

The speaker faced a sometimes tough crowd. Leaders of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus

lambasted the compromise as falling well short of the needed spending cuts, and they vowed to try to halt passage.

"This deal fails, fails completely," Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, said Tuesday, flanked by others outside the Capitol. "We will do everything in our power to stop it."

A much larger conservative faction, the Republican Study Committee, declined to take a position. Even rank-and-file centrist conservatives were unsure, leaving McCarthy hunting for votes.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., said after the "healthy debate" late into the night she was still a no.

Ominously, the conservatives warned of possibly trying to oust McCarthy over the compromise.

"There's going to be a reckoning," said Rep. Chip Roy of Texas.

Biden spoke directly to lawmakers, making calls from the White House.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the spending restrictions in the package would reduce deficits by \$1.5 trillion over the decade, a top goal for the Republicans trying to curb the debt load.

In a surprise that could erode Republicans' support, however, the CBO said their drive to impose work requirements on older Americans receiving food stamps would end up

boosting spending by \$2.1 billion over the time period. That's because the final deal exempts veterans and homeless people, expanding the food stamp rolls by 78,000 people monthly, the CBO said.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said it was up to McCarthy to turn out votes, even as he assured reporters that Democrats would prevent a default. In the 435-member House, 218 votes are needed for passage.

As the tally faltered in the afternoon procedural vote, Jeffries stood silently and raised his green voting card, signaling that Democrats would help ensure passage. They did, advancing the bill that 29 hard-right Republicans, many from the Freedom Caucus, refused to back.

"Once again, House Democrats to the rescue to avoid a dangerous default," said Jeffries, D-N.Y..

"What does that say about this extreme MAGA Republican majority?" he said about the party aligned with Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" political movement.

Liberal Democrats decried the new work requirements for older Americans, those 50-54, in the food aid program. And some Democratic lawmakers were leading an effort to remove a surprise provision for the Mountain Valley Pipeline natural gas project.

The energy development is important to Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., but many others oppose it as unhelpful in fighting climate change.

The top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, said including the pipeline provision was "disturbing and profoundly disappointing."

On Wall Street, stock prices were down.

The final House vote was expected in the evening. The bill would then go to the Senate, where Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell are working for passage by week's end.

Schumer warned there is "no room for error."

Senators, who have remained largely on the sidelines during much of the negotiations between the president and the House speaker, began inserting themselves more forcefully into the debate.

Some senators are insisting on amendments to reshape the package from both the left and the right. But making any changes to the package seemed unlikely with so little time to spare before Monday's deadline.

Associated Press White House Correspondent Zeke Miller and writers Mary Clare Jalonic and Seung Min Kim contributed to this report.

NASA talks UFOs with public ahead of final report

By Marcia Dunn
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA held its first public meeting on UFOs on Wednesday a year after launching a study into unexplained sightings and insisted it's not hiding anything.

The space agency televised the four-hour hearing featuring an independent panel of experts who vowed to be transparent. The team includes 16 scientists and other experts selected by NASA including retired astronaut Scott Kelly, the first American to spend nearly a year in space.

"I want to emphasize this loud and proud: There is absolutely no convincing evidence for extraterrestrial life associated with" unidentified objects, NASA's Dan Evans said after the meeting.

Still, hundreds of questions from the public that poured in ahead of time were skeptical and veered into conspiracy theories.

NASA launched the study to probe what it calls UAPs — short for unexplained anomalous phenomena — in the sky, in space or under the sea.

Optical illusions can explain some of this, said Kelly, a former Navy fighter pilot. He recalled a Tomcat flight off Virginia Beach years ago during which his radar intercept

officer in the back seat was convinced they'd flown past a UFO.

"It turns out it was Bart Simpson, a balloon," Kelly said. "And in my experience, the sensors kind of have the same issues as the people's eyeballs."

Evans pointed out that the livestream of the meeting led to considerable trolling. That comes on top of "online abuse" directed toward several committee members.

Harassment detracts from the scientific process and reinforces the stigma surrounding the topic, said Evans, adding that NASA security is dealing with it.

"It's precisely this rigorous, evidence-based approach that allows one to separate the fact from fiction," he said.

The group is looking at what unclassified information is available on the subject and how much more is needed to understand what's going on in the sky, according to astrophysicist David Spergel, the committee's chair who runs the Simons Foundation.

No secret military data are included, such as anything surrounding the suspected spy balloons from China spotted flying over the U.S. earlier this year.

The meeting was held at NASA headquarters in Washington with the public taking part remotely.

A final report is expected by the end of July.

Earth in danger zone in nearly all ecological ways, study says

By Seth Borenstein

AP Science Writer

A new study says Earth has pushed past seven out of eight scientifically established safety limits and into "the danger zone," not just for an overheating planet that's losing its natural areas, but for well-being of people living on it. The study, published Wednesday, looks not just at guardrails for the planetary ecosystem but for the first time it includes measures of "justice," which is mostly about preventing harm for groups of people. The study looks at climate, air pollution, phosphorus contamination, nitrogen pollution, groundwater supplies, fresh surface water, the unbuilt natural environment and the overall natural and human-built environment.

Earth has pushed past seven out of eight scientifically established safety limits and into "the danger zone," not just for an overheating planet that's losing its natural areas, but for the well-being of people living on it, according to a new study. The study looks not just at guardrails for the planetary ecosystem but for the first time it includes measures of "justice," which is mostly about preventing harm for countries, ethnicities and genders.

The study by the international scientist group Earth Commission published in Wednesday's journal Nature looks at climate, air pollution, phosphorus and nitrogen contamination of water from fertilizer overuse, groundwater supplies,

fresh surface water, the unbuilt natural environment and the overall natural and human-built environment. Only air pollution wasn't quite at the danger point globally.

Air pollution is dangerous at local and regional levels, while climate was beyond the harmful levels for humans in groups but not quite past the safety guideline for the planet as a system, the study from the Swedish group said.

The study found "hotspots" of problem areas throughout Eastern Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, parts of Africa and much of Brazil, Mexico, China and some of the U.S. West — much of it from climate change.

About two-thirds of Earth don't meet the criteria for freshwater safety, scientists said as an example.

"We are in a danger zone for most of the Earth system boundaries," said study co-author Kristie Ebi, a professor of climate and public health at the University of Washington.

If planet Earth just got an annual checkup, similar to a person's physical, "our doctor would say that the Earth is really quite sick right now and it is sick in terms of many different areas or systems and this sickness is also affecting the people living on Earth," Earth Commission co-chair Joyeeta Gupta, a professor of environment at the University of Amsterdam, said at a press conference.

It's not a terminal diagnosis. The planet can recover if it changes, including its use of coal, oil and natural gas and the way it treats the land and

water, the scientists said.

But "we are moving in the wrong direction on basically all of these," said study lead author Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

"This is a compelling and provocative paper — scientifically sound in methodology and important for identifying the dimensions in which the planet is nearing the edge of boundaries that would launch us into irreversible states," Indy Burke, dean of the Yale School of the Environment said in an email. She wasn't part of the study.

The team of about 40 scientists created quantifiable boundaries for each environmental category, both for what's safe for the planet and for the point at which it becomes harmful for groups of people, which the researchers termed a justice issue.

Rockstrom said he thinks of those points as setting up "a safety fence" outside of which the risks become higher, but not necessarily fatal.

Rockstrom and other scientists have attempted in the past this type of holistic measuring of Earth's various interlocking ecosystems. The big difference in this attempt is that scientists also looked at local and regional levels and they added the element of justice.

The justice part includes fairness between young and old generations, different nations and even different species. Frequently, it applies to conditions that harm people more than the planet.

An example of that is

climate change.

The report uses the same boundary of 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times that international leaders agreed upon in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The world has so far warmed about 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit), so it hasn't crossed that safety fence, Rockstrom and Gupta said, but that doesn't mean people aren't being hurt.

"What we are trying to show through our paper is that even at 1 degree Centigrade (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) there is a huge amount of damage taking place," Gupta said, pointing to tens of millions of people exposed to extreme hot temperatures.

The planetary safety guardrail of 1.5 degrees hasn't been breached, but the "just" boundary where people are hurt of 1 degree has been.

"Sustainability and justice are inseparable," said Stanford environmental studies chief Chris Field, who wasn't part of the research. He said he would want even more stringent boundaries. "Unsafe conditions do not need to cover a large fraction of Earth's area to be unacceptable, especially if the unsafe conditions are concentrated in and near poor and vulnerable communities."

Another outside expert, Dr. Lynn Goldman, an environment health professor and dean of George Washington University's public health school, said the study was "kind of bold," but she wasn't optimistic that it would result in much action.



PCAD

From Page A1

“And we’ll also have some cake,” he said with a smile. “Because it wouldn’t be a celebration without a cake, right?”

Hammer added that the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce Hot Air Balloon

and Kite Festival would also be taking place that day. He hopes people will attend both events.

“I think that’s a free event as well,” he added. “If they want to come and swing by and look at great equipment that we use on a daily basis, that would be great.

“If they want to just come for some free food, that’s great,” he continued with a

smile. “And we’re going to have some stuff to give away ... there will be some free giveaways.”

The PCAD 10th Anniversary Celebration will be hosted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 10, in the lobby of the SFCC Yeater Building.

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

Pool

From Page A1

Pipe breaks under Centennial Pool are losing water, rusty equipment is breaking faster than it can be fixed and the pool surpassed its useable lifespan. After the pool is removed, it will be replaced by a splash pad.

“Seems like every other day we’re running and getting parts,” Epple said. “The Public Works and Water Departments have been great about coming in and helping us keep adding bandage and tape.”

Centennial Pool is open for now, though the Sedalia Parks Department won’t guarantee it will last all summer.

Liberty Pool has had life-extending efforts to cover the outdoor swimming for the next few years. Eventually, it, too, will be just a splash pad and fond memories.

“We put in about \$300,000 at Liberty Pool, so we could probably get five to seven more years out of it,” Epple said. “That’s something the Park Board did.”

The board has been quietly socking away cash for a new aquatics facility for the citizens of Sedalia.

“We do have a little over \$2 million in reserve that’s

earmarked for an outdoor pool,” Epple said. “An outdoor pool, it’s not going to cost \$2 million.”

It will be much more expensive than \$2 million, and the Sedalia Parks Department cannot ask for more from tax hikes after receiving funding for the Heckart Community Center.

“What we’ll have to do is ask for the City Council to approve a loan,” Epple said. “Basically, we would take the loan out, make the payments on that to get it built.”

Eventually, there will only be one outdoor aquatic facility in Sedalia, to the consternation of some regular pool users.

“The Parks Board has made it very clear that the new aquatic facility needs to be on the east side of town,” Epple said. “So we’ve been looking at some pieces of property. We hope to announce something here this spring.”

The large footprint for the facility and accompanying parking is considerable, and the soil underneath needs to be taken into consideration as well.

“I’m excited about a couple of those sites,” Epple said. “I think they’d be great locations, but since it’s a pool, you’re going probably 12 to 15 feet down for the dive well. You need to make sure the soil’s good, that there’s

not any garbage or anything else in there because that stuff can cost you a lot more money than you think.”

Epple explained the reasoning behind just one outdoor swimming facility going forward.

“It’s cheaper for us to build one larger facility than to build two facilities because it’s not just building, it’s maintaining it,” Epple said. “We’ve been running those numbers – it’s just like if you were going to build a house, if you build two 3,000 square foot houses or one 6,000 square foot, it’s going to be cheaper to build and maintain the 6,000.”

And the lifespan of the next facility has even been taken into consideration.

“When it breaks again in 20-25 years, when you’re having to redo it again, now you’re doing one instead of two,” Epple explained.

“Those are things that we’ve really looked hard at, what’s the right thing to do?”

Epple asks people to have patience as the city transitions its outdoor swimming facilities to better, longer-lasting swimming holes.

“We know a lot about the aquatics world,” Epple said. “The trends that are happening, things are moving forward and it’s the best thing to do for Sedalia.”

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

Stewart, 6-term Utah Republican, resigning from Congress

By Sam Metz

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — U.S. Rep. Chris Stewart on Wednesday announced plans to resign his Utah seat due to his wife’s illness, triggering a special election to replace him in a reliably Republican district.

“I can say with pride that I have been an effective leader for my beloved home state, and I’m honored to have played an important role in guiding our nation through some troubled times,” Stewart said in a statement.

The six-term Utah Republican did not offer details about his wife’s illness or indicate when he planned to vacate his seat but said in the statement that he planned to retire

“after an orderly transition can be ensured.”

Under Utah law, Gov. Spencer Cox has seven days to lay out a schedule to replace Stewart with a special election.

Though Stewart’s departure will mean one less Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, it is not expected to affect House Speaker Kevin McCarthy’s ability to steer a tight Republican majority. The district is reliably Republican and Stewart defeated a Democratic challenger by more than 30 percentage points in 2022.

Stewart, a U.S. Air Force veteran and author, was first elected in 2012 and collaborated with Utah’s Elizabeth Smart on a memoir about her kidnapping. The 62-year-old Stewart was raised as

a potential nominee for U.S. director of national intelligence during former President Donald Trump’s administration.

As recently as last year, Utah Republicans speculated about Stewart’s plans to run for another office. Last year, in an interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt, Stewart demurred when asked about his political plans, specifically whether he would challenge U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney or Cox, both moderates.

Though some Republicans have already come forward and announced plans to challenge Romney, Stewart’s resignation creates a rare federal opening for Utah Republicans, upending the calculus facing those mulling challenges to Romney or Cox.

GOP chairman moves to hold FBI director Wray in contempt

By Farnoush Amiri

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Oversight Committee said Tuesday he is moving forward with holding FBI Director Chris Wray in contempt of Congress because the department has not turned over a bureau record that purports to relate to President Joe Biden and his family.

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., criticized the federal law enforcement agency after he said his committee was told it would not gain access to an unclassified form that describes “an alleged criminal scheme” involving the president and a foreign national.

“The FBI’s decision to stiff-arm Congress and hide this information from the American people is obstructionist and unacceptable,” Comer said in a statement.

In response, the FBI said in a statement that it remains committed to cooperating with lawmakers in “good faith,” and that “any discussion of escalation under these circumstances is unnecessary.”

The FBI said it offered to give the Oversight committee “access to information responsive to the Committee’s subpoena in a format and setting that maintains confidentiality and protects important security interests and the integrity of FBI investigations.”

The bureau called that offer “an extraordinary accommodation.”

Comer and Wray are scheduled to speak by phone on Wednesday amid the standoff.

Calls to move forward with contempt were elevated by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy earlier Tuesday, who told Fox News that he had personally called Wray to urge the release of the document to Congress.

“If he does not act, he’s not above the law. He’s not above Congress. And we will hold him in contempt. Now I want to be very clear about that,” McCarthy said.

Comer subpoenaed Wray earlier this month seeking a specific FBI form from June 2020 that is a report of conversations or interactions with a confidential source. These reports are routine, contain uncorroborated and unvetted information and do not on their own establish any wrongdoing.

In a May 3 letter to Wray with Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Comer said that “it has come to our attention” that the bureau has such a document that “describes an alleged criminal scheme” involving Biden and a foreign national “relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions” when Biden was vice president and includes “a precise description” about it.

Comer and Grassley said those “disclosures” demand further investigation, and they want to know whether the FBI investigated and, if so, what agents found.

The subpoena seeks all so-called FD-1023 forms and accompanying attachments and documents.

Democrats on the Oversight committee called Comer’s narrative of the FBI obstructing

“a radical distortion of the situation.” And they accused the chairman of stonewalling them from the call with Wray on Wednesday.

“This subpoenaed document, by definition, reveals nothing more than an unverified and unsubstantiated tip made to Donald Trump’s Justice Department, which presumably led to no evidence of criminal wrongdoing,” Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., the top Democrat on the committee, said in a statement late Tuesday.

The lawmakers used the word “alleged” three times in the opening paragraph of the letter and offered no evidence of the veracity of the accusations or any details about what they contend are “highly credible unclassified whistleblower disclosures.”

The White House has called the subpoena effort further evidence of how congressional Republicans long “have been lobbying unfounded, unproven, politically motivated attacks” against the Biden family “without offering evidence for their claims or evidence of decisions influenced by anything other than U.S. interests.”

A contempt of Congress charge would require a full committee vote before going to the House floor.

If the House were to approve a contempt resolution against Wray, the decision about whether to prosecute him would fall to prosecutors in the Justice Department, where Wray works.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.



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Former Gov. Christie planning to launch GOP presidential campaign

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is expected to launch a Republican presidential campaign next week in New Hampshire.

Christie, who also ran in 2016, is planning to make the announcement at a town hall Tuesday evening at Saint Anselm College's New Hampshire Institute of Politics, according to a person familiar with his thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity to confirm Christie's plans.

The timing, which was first reported by Axios, comes after several long-time Christie advisers started a super political action committee to support his expected candidacy.

The Associated Press had previously reported that Christie was expected to enter the race "imminently."

Christie has cast himself as the only potential candidate willing to aggressively take on former President Donald Trump, the current front-runner for the nomination. Christie, a former federal prosecutor, was a longtime friend and adviser to Trump, but broke with Trump over his refusal to accept the results of the 2020 election. Christie has since emerged as a leading and vocal critic of the former president.

Christie, who is currently polling at the bottom of the pack, dropped out of the 2016 presidential race a day after finishing sixth in

New Hampshire's primary.

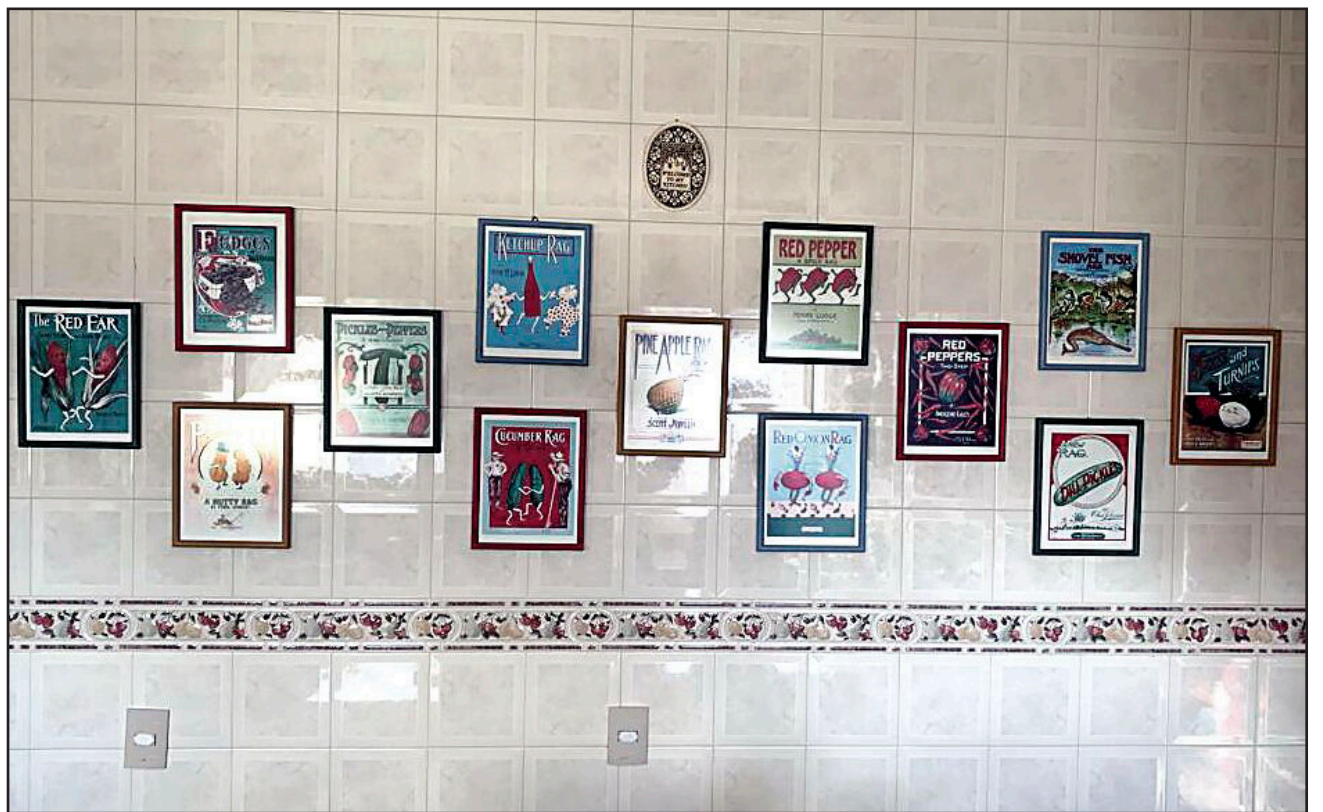
In addition to Trump, Christie would be joining a GOP field that includes Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and biotech entrepreneur and "anti-woke" activist Vivek Ramaswamy.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum is expected to announce his candidacy on June 7, according to two GOP operatives. And former Vice President Mike Pence is also expected to launch a campaign soon.

Allies believe that Christie, who has been working as an ABC News analyst, has a unique ability to communicate. They say his candidacy could help prevent a repeat of 2016, when Trump's rivals largely refrained from directly attacking the New York businessman, wrongly assuming he would implode on his own.

Christie has also said repeatedly that he will not run if he does not see a path to victory. "I'm not a paid assassin," he recently told Politico.

While Christie is expected to spend much of his time in early-voting New Hampshire, as he did in 2016, advisers believe the path to the nomination runs through Trump and they envision an unconventional, national campaign for Christie with a focus on garnering media attention and directly engaging with Trump.



Dr. Izilda Tamega, a Brazilian pediatrician, has decorated her kitchen in Brazil with ragtime posters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. IZILDA EIRAS TAMEGA

Couple

From Page A1

"I like Scott Joplin; I love it," he noted. "I play piano a little. In 1974, when we watched the movie 'The Sting,' I knew Ragtime and I bought a folio for the piano."

He began to play ragtime tunes and started buying CDs and long-play albums. To date, he has amassed 110 ragtime CDs and 60 long-play albums. He's also collected movies, papers, and magazines.

"We started to be interested in all the work of Scott Joplin," Izilda added. "It was through the newspaper (the Sedalia Democrat) that we started our conversation with the people here in Sedalia."

Tarcisio found out about the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Foundation and reached out to board member

Kathleen Boswell. Their visit is the second time the Tamegas have attended the festival. The first time was in 2018, and Tarcisio played the piano of Mayor John Kehde at Fitter's 5th Street Pub. He will play again this year at the Open Piano event at the Katy Depot.

"The first time they came, I was president of the foundation," Boswell noted. "They came in the fall, not the festival the first time, with their daughter (Gisele Camargo) and son-in-law (Paulo Camargo)."

"And we just saw the city," she continued. "And they decided they wanted to come to the festival." Besides a collection of CDs, albums, and newspapers, the couple has also collected many ragtime items.

"In my kitchen, there are several ragtime framed (music covers)," Izilda said.

She has framed titles such as the "Cucumber Rag," the "Ketchup Rag," the "Pineapple Rag," the "Pickles-Peppers Rag," and the "Red Ear Rag."

While at the Scott Joplin Festival, Tarcisio wants to pass out musical scores to other musicians. Izilda said they are ragtime songs made by musicians who know Tarcisio.

"One of the musicians is a pianist who lives in Italy, and is well known to us, Fabio Luz," Izilda continued. "Fabio Luz was born in Sorocaba, and there in Italy, he teaches at a music conservatory. In Milan, he is a pianist and is one of those in charge of the Milan Conservatory."

"He's very well known and is a very reputable pianist," she added. "And he made an ideal ragtime team for Tarcisio."

She said her husband brought the score he and Luz worked on to offer it

to other musicians.

Tarcisio added he has another colleague who has written some scores. He has also brought those scores to share as a gift. Izilda noted the other pianist created an arrangement played on two pianos.

In Brazil, ragtime music is still being discovered, and there are only a few ragtime musicians in the country. Tarcisio is one of the few who play his beloved ragtime in Brazil.

He added he loves the work of ragtime musician Frederick Hodges and hopes to meet him while in Sedalia.

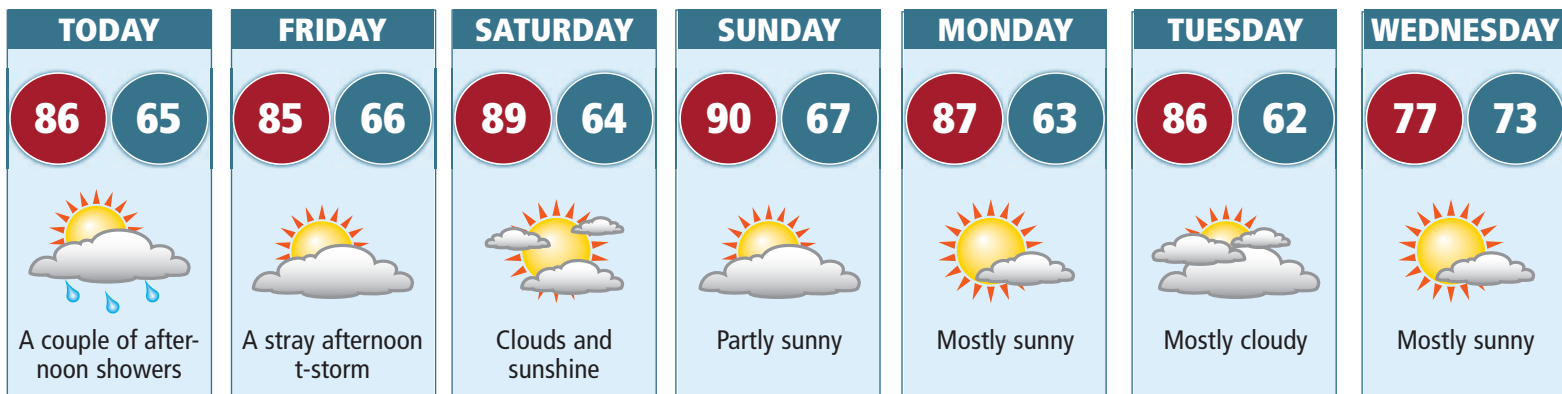
The Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival opened Wednesday and will continue through Saturday in downtown Sedalia. For more information, visit scottjoplin.org.

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

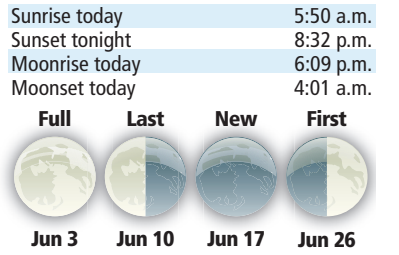
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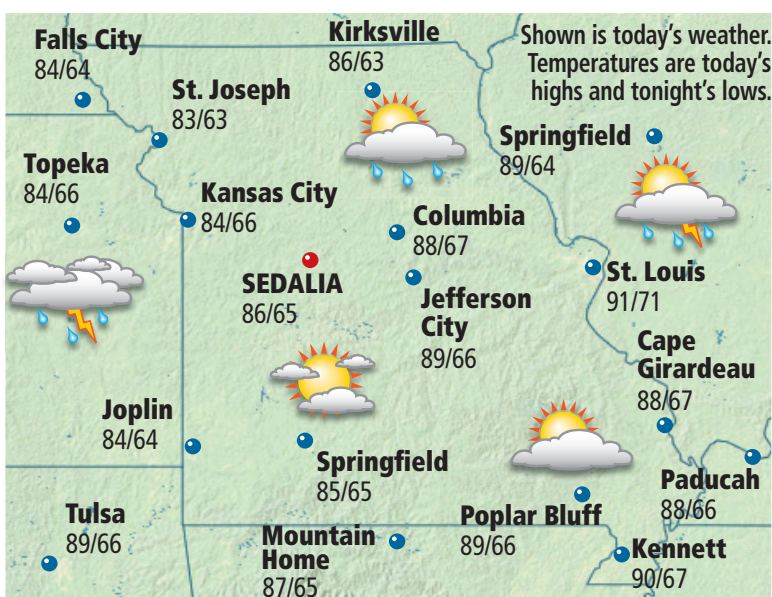


SUN AND MOON



ALMANAC

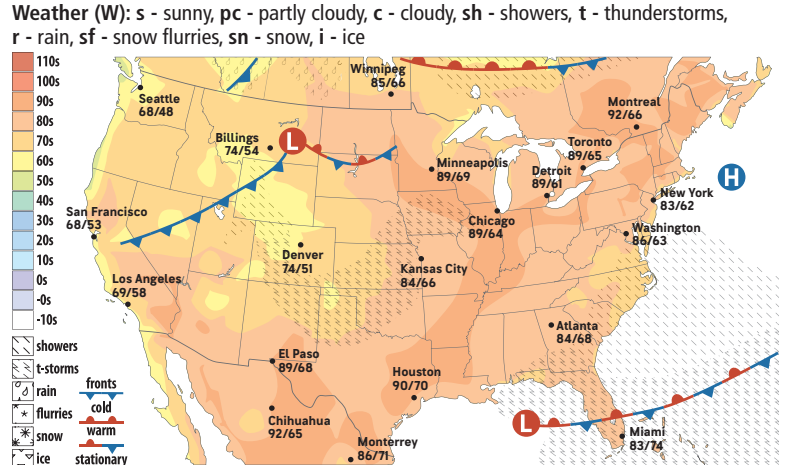
Table with 2 columns: Category (Temperatures, Precipitation, Cooling Degree Days, River Levels) and Value.



BRANSON High: 88. Low: 64. Humid today with clouds and sun. Humid tonight with a moonlit sky. Partly sunny tomorrow with a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon.
KANSAS CITY High: 84. Low: 66. Humid, a thundershower in spots this morning, then a few showers. A moonlit sky tonight. A thunderstorm around tomorrow afternoon.
ST. LOUIS High: 91. Low: 71. Partly sunny, hot and humid today with a thunderstorm around during the afternoon. Partly cloudy tonight.
NEW YORK CITY High: 83. Low: 62. Clouds giving way to sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny and very warm tomorrow; a significantly cooler weekend is ahead.
LOS ANGELES High: 69. Low: 58. Low clouds followed by some sun and cool today. Increasing clouds tonight. Low clouds followed by sunshine tomorrow.

NATIONAL WEATHER

Table with 4 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Friday Hi/Lo/W, and another set of Today Hi/Lo/W and Friday Hi/Lo/W.



Summary: Downpours will drench Florida as thunderstorms erupt and become severe over parts of the Plains today. Showers will dot the Carolina and Virginia coasts as afternoon storms dot the interior West.

Advertisement for The Homes Tour.com featuring a truck and a building with contact information for Mark Poehl.



SEC puts emphasis on gambling after college wagering scandals

By **Ralph D. Russo**
AP College Football Writer

DESTIN, Fla. — A month highlighted by gambling-related firings and potential NCAA infractions in college sports motivated the Southeastern Conference to put extra emphasis on the issue at this week's spring meetings. Commissioner Greg Sankey called on U.S. Integrity, a company that works with professional sports leagues and college conferences including the SEC to monitor events for gambling improprieties, to give multiple presentations to SEC coaches and administrators. With information a commodity more than ever before, talk of an injury report comes up among football coaches. But Sankey says that's unlikely and that more sophisticated ideas need to be explored.

DESTIN, Fla. — When it comes to sports wagering, information is a commodity and even a morsel of news that is not widely available can be valuable.

As college sports experiences some of the

negative consequences of ubiquitous legal betting on sporting events, could more transparency be among the potential safeguards?

"If everybody's giving an injury report, I have no problem giving an injury report," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said this week. "They do it in the NFL. I was in the NFL. That's not a huge deal as long as it's a level playing field."

A month highlighted by gambling-related firings and potential NCAA infractions in college sports motivated the Southeastern Conference to put extra emphasis on the issue at this week's spring meetings.

Commissioner Greg Sankey called on U.S. Integrity, a company that works with professional sports leagues and college conferences — including the SEC since 2018 — to monitor events for gambling improprieties, to give multiple presentations to SEC coaches and administrators on Wednesday and Thursday.

See SEC | A12



Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey speaks to reporters during the conference's spring meetings, Tuesday, May 30, 2023, in Destin, Fla.

PHOTO BY RALPH RUSSO | AP PHOTO



Sedalia Bombers infielder Jazhan Amill slides safely into third base in the second game of Tuesday evening's doubleheader at Liberty Park Stadium.

PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

Peak Prospects spoil Bombers' home opener

By **Bryan Everson**
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

A new era began Tuesday night for the Sedalia Bombers as the visiting Des Moines Peak Prospects soiled the debut of new head coach Logan Bexten.

Des Moines swept the Bombers in the season opener for both teams at Liberty Park Stadium, including an 8-7 win for the Peak Prospects in Game 2 of the doubleheader.

It did take extra innings, however a wild pitch with a 3-1 count and two outs in the top of the eighth allowed the winning run to cross the plate for the Peak Prospects.

In the bottom of the inning, the Bombers got a leadoff single and eventually put runners in scoring position with two outs, but a swinging strikeout ended the game.

Even the prospect of

extra innings looked dim several frames before, but a bouncer to the left side of the infield was dropped with one out in the bottom of the sixth that left runners safe at the corners and allowed another to score, cutting the Peak Prospects' lead to 7-5. A ball in the dirt outside later in the inning scored another run.

In the seventh, several walks loaded the bases for the Bombers, all with no outs, and a hit batter pushed the tying run across, but Des Moines forced an opposite field line out to right to escape into extras.

"Like I was telling the guys, we had two unlucky innings at the beginning," Bexten said. "I thought [pitcher Reid] Plum did a really good job, just kind of unlucky where the balls were hit to. Later in the game, we started swinging

it like I expected us to, putting runners in scoring position and battling all night. Going into extra innings, I liked our chances, a couple things didn't bounce our way, but that's baseball."

Des Moines took the afternoon opener, also planned for seven innings, 9-3. Payton Messer, Wesley Redelberger and Grant Burson combined on the hill in the defeat for the Bombers, while Mike Bonner went 3 2/3 innings for Des Moines while not allowing a run.

Leadoff hitter and center fielder Caleb Briggs had two hits and an RBI for Sedalia in that defeat, while Nic Beech, Zach Dillman, Brock Kobel and Dane Wimberly all also added base knocks in the loss.

Carter Thomas had three hits, while Tanner Short, Bubba Thompson

and Abraham Arroyo all drove in a pair for the Peak Prospects in Game 1.

There's talent on the roster, but it is, as it was last season, a young Bombers squad. Of that, Bexten said, "I was telling our assistant, I thought Caleb, Dane and Will all showed out tonight. You wouldn't have guessed that they're just going to college next year, but the more reps they see, the better they'll be. We have a bunch of other guys you haven't seen yet. I'm sure there'll be growing pains with it, but they're all going to grow and they're mature for their age, so I'm not too worried about it."

The Bombers played in Jefferson City against the Renegades on Wednesday and will return home to Liberty for a game against Chillicothe on Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Shane Ray's NFL comeback bid from injury takes him from CFL to Bills

By **John Wawrow**
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Through the woe-is-me low points, wrist surgeries, mood swings, counseling sessions and tryout obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic Shane Ray experienced over the past five years, the one-time promising NFL edge rusher never lost sight of his desire to play football.

If it meant attending league-sponsored free-agent hub camps, Ray was there. If the only teams expressing interest were from Canada, the 2015 first-round NFL draft pick packed his bags and spent a week in self-quarantine upon crossing the border to play for the CFL's Toronto Argonauts.

And if it came down to the Buffalo Bills offering him, at 30, an invitation to attend their rookie minicamp in May, Ray leaped at the opportunity in what became a successful bid to win one of the team's final roster spots.

"I had to humble myself, more than humbled than ever before," Ray said following a recent prac-



Buffalo Bills linebacker Shane Ray (49) runs a drill during NFL football practice in Orchard Park, N.Y., Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY T. BARNES | AP PHOTO

tice.

"From going to Canada and buying in, you know I can't act like there were days that I didn't walk in and I was like 'Bro, this is where I am?'" he added. "I was desperate for an opportunity."

Ray has one in Buffalo — "For now," as he cautiously said — while fully appreciating his job is far from secure, and knowing he's running out of chances at an NFL comeback.

This is not the career arc Ray envisioned upon being selected 23rd overall in the 2015 draft by Denver, where he would line up opposite Von Miller and go on to win a Super Bowl in his rookie season.

By March 2019, he was out of a job in Denver after two injury-limited seasons and four wrist surgeries.

What matters is Ray learning from the experience to tune out outside perceptions and expectations, and focus on controlling what is within his reach in being reunited with Miller in Buffalo and on a team needing to upgrade its pass rush.

His journey is not lost on Bills defensive line coach Eric Washington, who was an assistant with Carolina and still recalls the chaos Ray helped create during the Broncos' 24-10 Super Bowl win over the Panthers.

See BID | A12

Japanese knuckleball pitcher Eri Yoshida plays on her own 'Field of Dreams'

By **Stephen Wade**
AP Sports Writer

OYAMA, Japan — Eri Yoshida is a 31-year-old Japanese knuckleball pitcher with a sidearm delivery that she hopes might carry her to the big leagues in the United States or Japan. She says "I know it's a really difficult challenge, but I have a dream in my heart that I really want to stand on a mound in the majors with a knuckleball." Even Yoshida acknowledges that it's a far-fetched fantasy. But it's also very real. She travels this week to play for two months in the Empire League, an independent baseball league in upstate New York. Yoshida has pitched in games in Japan, the United States, and Canada — against men and women.

OYAMA, Japan — Eri Yoshida sat in the dugout of an all-dirt baseball field in rural Japan, surrounded by rice paddies, narrow roads, and traditional Japanese houses.

The scene recalled instantly the 1989 film "Field of Dreams" — Asian style — and Yoshida certainly has her own.

The 31-year-old Japanese woman is a knuckleball pitcher with a sidearm delivery that she hopes might carry her to the big leagues in the United States or Japan.

"I know it's a really difficult challenge, but I have a dream in my heart that I really want to stand on a mound in the majors with a knuckleball," Yoshida told the Associated Press, speaking in Japanese and showing off her knuckleball grip.

"So I've decided to challenge myself."

Even Yoshida acknowledges that it's a far-fetched fantasy. But it's also very real and reminds of another film, the 1992 classic "A

League of Their Own" that celebrates a women's baseball league in the United States during World War II.

She travels this week to play for two months in the Empire League, an independent baseball league in upstate New York. She's accustomed to chasing oversized objectives.

Yoshida has pitched in Japan, the United States, and Canada — against men and women — and for the last several years has been a player-coach with a women's team called Agekke — the sponsor's name — in Tochigi prefecture in north central Japan.

See FIELD | A12



Eri Yoshida of a Japanese women's team, Agekke, throws a knuckleball as she plays catch during a practice in Oyama, Tochigi prefecture, north of Tokyo, Tuesday, May 30, 2023

PHOTO BY SHUJI KAJIYAMA | AP PHOTO

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday ON TAP COLLEGE BASEBALL

7 p.m. Chillicothe Mudcats at Sedalia Bombers

ON AIR AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

4:30 a.m. (Friday) FS2 — AFL: Carlton at Melbourne

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

11 a.m. ESPN — Women's College World Series: Alabama vs. Tennessee, Game 1, Oklahoma City, Okla.

1:30 p.m. ESPN — Women's College World Series: Stanford vs. Oklahoma, Game 2, Oklahoma City, Okla.

6 p.m. ESPN — Women's College World Series: Oklahoma St. vs. Florida St., Game 3, Oklahoma City, Okla.

8:30 p.m. ESPN — Women's College World Series: Utah vs. Washington, Game 4, Oklahoma City, Okla.

GOLF

6 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Porsche European Open, First Round, Green Eagle Golf Courses — Porsche Nord Course, Winsen, Germany

10 a.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Mizuho Americas Open, First Round, Liberty National Golf Course, Jersey City, N.J.

1 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The Memorial Tournament, First Round, Muirfield Village Golf Club, Dublin, Ohio

HORSE RACING

2 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

MLB BASEBALL

Noon MLBN — Regional Coverage: Philadelphia at NY Mets OR Milwaukee at Toronto

3p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: Colorado at Arizona (Joined in Progress)

7 p.m. FS1 — LA Angels at Houston

NBA BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m. ABC — NBA Finals: Miami at Denver, Game 1

ESPN2 — NBA Finals: Miami at Denver, Game 1 (Stephen A's World)

TENNIS

4 a.m. TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Second Round, Paris

5 a.m. TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Second Round, Paris

4 a.m. (Friday) TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Third Round, Paris

5 a.m. (Friday) TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The French Open, Third Round, Paris

WNBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m. PRIME VIDEO — Connecticut at Minnesota

Butler, Jokic lead teams to NBA Finals after unconventional paths

By Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer

DENVER — Nikola Jokic wasn't supposed to be here. Neither was Jimmy Butler, for that matter.

Jokic was drafted behind 40 other players in 2014. Butler was drafted behind 29 others in 2011. Jokic grew up in Serbia, not even thinking about the NBA. Butler didn't have the easiest upbringing in Texas, then went the junior college route at the start of his journey toward the pros.

Yet here they are in the NBA Finals.

One of them will become a champion for the first time, with Jokic leading the Denver Nuggets and Butler leading the Miami Heat in a matchup that starts Thursday night in Denver, with the Nuggets heavily favored to win it all.

"This is going to be the hardest game of our life, and we know that," Jokic said. "We are prepared for that. We are prepared for that. So, I think there is no favorite. Definitely, I think we are not favorites in this series. I think they're not either. I think it's just the finals."

The Nuggets — in the finals for the first time — had by far the easier road to the title round. They climbed atop the Western Conference standings in mid-December and never fell from that perch, then lived up to that No. 1 seed by going 12-3 in the West playoffs.

Miami — a seven-time finalist now, seeking a fourth title — had about the rockiest path to the Rocky Mountains that a team could have. The



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler dribbles during the second half in Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals against the Boston Celtics Monday, May 29, 2023, in Boston.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KRUPA | AP PHOTO

Heat had to rally in a play-in elimination game just to make the play-offs, knocked out No. 1 overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1, rival New York in Round 2 and then just had to go win a Game 7 in Boston, after nearly wasting a 3-0 lead, to vanquish last season's loss to the Celtics in the East finals.

"This is a special group," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "This group has been able to overcome a lot of different things, handle a lot of adversity, setbacks, things that have not gone the way we wanted them to go. And instead of having that collapse our spirit, it allowed us to develop some fortitude and grit collectively, and give us something to rally around, which was each other."

At 44-38 this season, Miami would tie the worst regular-season record ever by an NBA champion. The Washington Bullets had that record and won the 1978 title. There were 10 teams that finished this season with better records than Miami — nine of them are no longer playing — and 589 teams in NBA history that had better regular seasons than the 2022-23 Heat yet still didn't win a title.

They are improbable finalists. Their leader took an improbable path, too. But after stints with Chicago, Philadelphia

and Minnesota didn't always go as planned, Butler is now in the finals with Miami for a second time in four years.

"I would like to say that I'm never rattled. I'm very calm," Butler said. "I'm very consistent in everything that I do, whether it's before the game, after the game, during the game, and I think when my guys look at me like that, they follow suit in every single way. I love that about them because they're never shook. No matter what."

It's not about Jokic vs. Butler; both have big-time players around them as well, namely Jamal Murray for Denver and Bam Adebayo for Miami. Jokic and Butler are the two leading scorers left in these playoffs; Jokic is averaging 29.9 points, 13.3 rebounds and 10.3 assists, while Butler is averaging 28.5 per game — including a playoff-high 56 to help oust the Bucks.

Jokic is a two-time MVP, was in the conversation for a third in a row this year, has seen about every defense imaginable and rarely blinks at any of them. Play off him, he'll shoot and score. Play tight, he'll set up someone for an easier shot. He's as close to fundamental perfection as there might be in the league right now. Not bad for a guy who got drafted while the broadcast was airing a Taco Bell commercial — true story —

and never thought he'd make the NBA when he arrived in the U.S.

"With Nikola, it's never about looking backward. It's always about looking forward and challenging himself to become the best player that he can be," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "Early on, being the best player he could be was not necessarily about a skill set. It was about maturing, growing up, handling adversity, dealing with the referees, getting into the best shape of his life, losing weight. I think once that all happened, that kind of coincided with our rise."

The team that plays at the highest altitude in the NBA — 5,280 feet above sea level — has risen to its highest level yet. Jokic is four wins from his first ring. Butler is four wins from the ring he has been talking about getting all year, even when Miami's record didn't exactly suggest the Heat would be here.

But here they are. The West finals MVP in Jokic. The East finals MVP in Butler. The prize they want most is just four wins away.

"In a lot of ways, what they have done is unprecedented," Miami forward Kevin Love said. "Obviously, they operate in different ways to get the job done. But still, all things considered, I think they're two very under-appreciated stars and superstars in this league."

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Saturday, June 3, 2023 – Liberty Park
4pm - luminaria ceremony completion

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, June 1, 2023:

You are practical, attentive and give serious thought to what interests you. You're also witty, chatty and casual. This year is full of exciting change and increased personal freedom. Learn to be more flexible. Let go of whatever has been holding you back. Seek out new opportunities! Trust your intuition.

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)

★★★★ This is a productive day. Your communication skills are strong. Issues at home are harmonious. Meanwhile, you feel creative, competitive and ready to tackle anything. (Keep in mind that you're letting go of people, places and possessions in the coming year.) Tonight: Get information.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You will be successful in improving your domestic scene in some way. This requires your attention, because recently, increased chaos and activity at home have been a demand on your time and energy. Fortunately, your diplomatic skills are tops. Tonight: Patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ The Sun is in your sign and fiery Mars is in your House of Communications, which means you can talk your way into or out of anything. People will listen to you now. This is why you will easily get your way and have sway over others. Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Even though your desire is to remain low-key (despite the fact that you're involved with younger people and are fairly busy), you're working hard to earn money, and you are certainly spending it. Look for ways to be productive today. What do you want to achieve? Tonight: Listen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ This is a productive day! Mars in your sign boosts your confidence and energy, and the Sun helps you schmooze and get people on board with your ideas. Meanwhile, Mercury and Jupiter at the top of your chart guarantee your ability to get doors to open for you. Bravo! Tonight: Stay chill.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Today you feel you have a lot invested in what you want to say. You want to address important issues that matter to you. (You don't want to waste time on trivial chitchat.) Education, the media, the law and medicine have your attention now. Go after what you want. Tonight: Diplomacy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ The secret to producing a lot today is to get the successful cooperation of others. This might come about through teamwork, your involvement with a club or possibly a competition with someone. Authority figures will endorse you now — this is a certainty. Tonight: Learn. Tidy up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Things will go your way today because the Moon is in your sign, plus fiery Mars is at the top of your chart arousing your ambition. Possibly, you can explore a bit of travel. You do have a desire to "get away from it all." You need a change of scenery. Tonight: Be understanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Partnerships have your strong focus now. In fact, your ability to see your role in your closest friendships and partnerships is excellent because you have more objectivity. Meanwhile, you can attract favors, money, assets and goodies from others. Use this. It's a good day to talk to banks and financial institutions. Tonight: Research.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This is an industrious time for you, primarily because you're motivated to work hard, efficiently and effectively. Once you set your standards high, you deliver. Fortunately, partners and close friends are supportive. A conversation with a female acquaintance might be important today. Tonight: Be open.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ This is a playful time for you. Happily, things are flowing smoothly at work. Look for ways to express your creative talents, because this will be a rewarding experience for you. You don't have to be a professional artist or get paid for what you do to enjoy expressing your creativity. Just color inside the lines. Tonight: Show respect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Things are well-balanced right now. You're focused on home and family; however, you're also having fun enjoying social diversions and time with kids. Despite this, you're working hard. Indulge your desire for change today. Do something different. Tonight: Study.

BORN TODAY

Actor Morgan Freeman (1937), musician, songwriter Ronnie Wood (1947), actress, comedian Amy Schumer (1981)



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani celebrates in the dugout after hitting a two-run home run off Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Lance Lynn during the third inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 31, 2023, in Chicago. PHOTO BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST | AP PHOTO

Ohtani homers twice, including career longest at 459 feet, in Angels win

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Shohei Ohtani homered in consecutive innings, including a 459-foot drive that was the longest of his Major League Baseball career, and drove in four runs to lead the Los Angeles Angels over the Chicago White Sox 12-5 Wednesday.

Mike Trout put the Angels ahead 2-0 with a 476-foot home run in the first that was four rows shy of clearing the left field bleachers. Taylor Ward also went deep as the Angels hit four two-run homers plus a solo shot.

"Those are the guys you lean on," manager Phil Nevin said. "They can certainly put the team on their backs and carry us

and that's what they did today."

Ohtani drove a first-pitch fastball from Lance Lynn (4-6) just to left of straightaway center in the third, where the ball was dropped by a fan who tried to glove it. That 425-foot drive put the Angels ahead 4-1.

Lynn didn't even bother to turn and look when Ohtani hit a full count fastball more than a dozen rows over the bullpen in right-center in the fourth. The two-way Japanese star is batting .269 with 15 homers and 38 RBIs to go along with a 5-1 record and 2.91 ERA.

"I'm feeling good right now," Ohtani said through a translator. "I'm putting good swings on pitches I should be hitting hard."

Ohtani increased his career total to 13 multihomer games with his first this season.

Trout pulled a hanging curve for his 13th home run. Ward hit a two-run homer against Jesse Scholtens in the seventh and Chad Wallach, pinch hitting for Ohtani, had a solo homer in the ninth off Garrett Crochet.

"Usually when that happens, we're in a good spot to win," Trout said. Trout and Ohtani have homered in the same game for the fifth time this season. The Angels hit a pair of 450-foot or more home runs in the same game for the first time since Statcast started tracking in 2015.

Lynn allowed eight runs, eight hits and two walks while hitting two batters in four innings, raising his ERA to 6.55. He has given up 15 home runs, one short of the major league high of Kansas City's Jordan Lyles. Lynn had won his previous three starts.

"It seemed like he didn't get away with any today," manager Pedro Grifol said. "Just one of those days, man."

Jaime Barria (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in five innings with six strikeouts and two walks. Los Angeles won two of three from the White Sox after being swept by Miami last weekend.

Jake Burger homered for Chicago, which has lost four of five. Burger hit his 11th homer in the ninth and Hanser Alberto had a two run double off Tucker Davidson.

Chicago's Romy Gonzalez, who'd homered in three straight games, went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts.

NASCAR slams Stewart-Haas Racing for cheating

By Jenna Fryer

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR issued its second massive penalty in as many days by levying huge fines Wednesday against Stewart-Haas Racing for a "counterfeit part" found on Chase Briscoe's car in a secondary inspection after the Coca-Cola 600.

SHR's No. 14 team was docked 120 points in both the owner standings and Briscoe's driver standings, and he also was stripped of 25 playoff points. John Klausmeier, the crew chief, is suspended six races and was fined \$250,000.

The penalties are the harshest NASCAR can impose under its written deterrence system. It comes a day after superstar Chase Elliott was suspended one race for deliberately wrecking Denny Hamlin on Monday at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"We would much rather be talking about the phenomenal racing we just had at Charlotte Motor Speedway than penalties," said Elton Sawyer, NASCAR Senior Vice President of Competition. "We are the custodians of the garage."

The penalties against SHR fall under rules that prohibit counterfeiting a Next Gen single source vendor-supplied part. SHR is accused of using an illegal part in an attempt to create more downforce on Briscoe's Ford.

"I was a little surprised they'd go down this path," Sawyer said of SHR's blatant cheating. "With them knowing the severity of the penalty. Talking with the race team, they've got some process and procedures within their race shop, that they feel they need to button-up."

SHR chief competition officer Greg Zipadelli admitted as much and said

the team will not appeal.

"We had a quality control lapse and a part that never should've been on a car going to the race-track ended up on the No. 14 car at Charlotte. We accept NASCAR's decision and will not appeal," Zipadelli said.

The violation was found in a random inspection at NASCAR's R&D Center in Concord the day after Briscoe finished 17th at Charlotte on Monday night. NASCAR randomly selects two cars to take back to its facility for a more thorough inspection, which is particularly important for policing the new Next Gen car.

The Next Gen car is mostly a spec car with single-source vendor parts. It was designed to both cut costs and even the playing field. Sawyer said NASCAR will consider taking more than two random cars to a secondary inspection

to ensure teams are not treating the car and their shops as "a laboratory" for how they can push the limits in the second year.

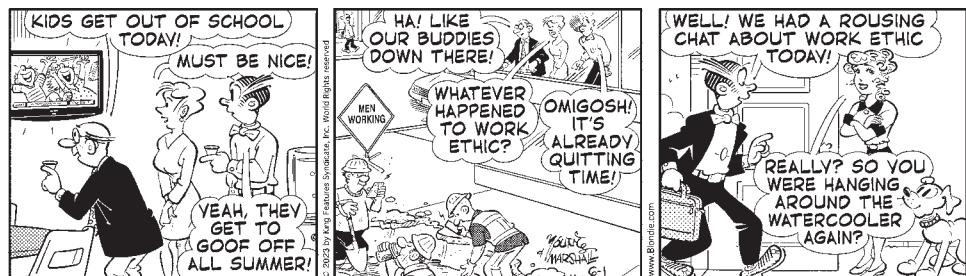
"Last year they were just getting the parts and pieces, and getting the cars prepared and getting to the racetrack," Sawyer said. "Now they've had them for a season and so its given a lot of time to their engineers, their people back at the shop to think 'OK, maybe we can do this? Maybe we can do that?'"

"By taking these cars back to the R&D and taking them down to basically the nuts and bolts — and we will continue to do that — we will get our message across."

The points loss dropped Briscoe to 31st in the standings with 12 races remaining in the regular season. The top 16 in the standings — or a driver with a win — make the 16-driver field for the playoffs.

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



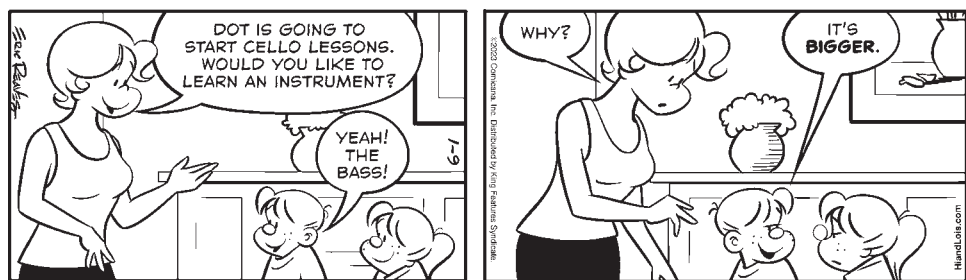
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



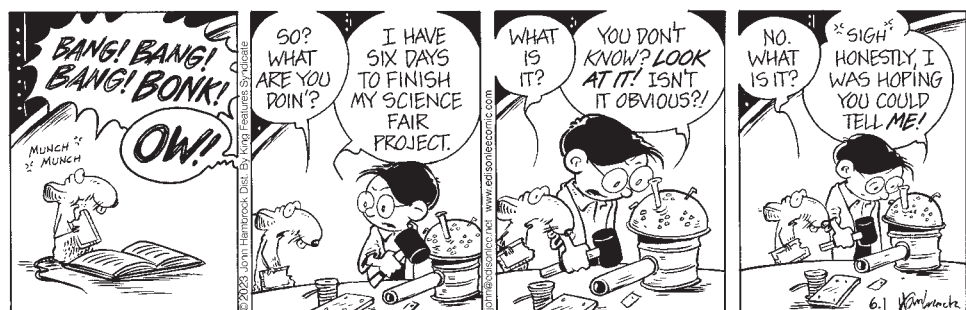
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



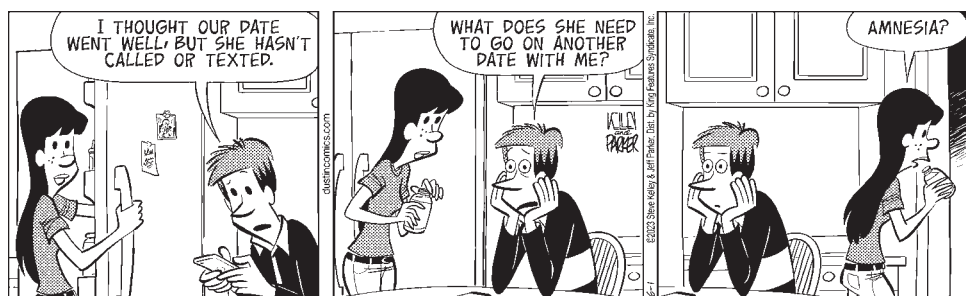
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



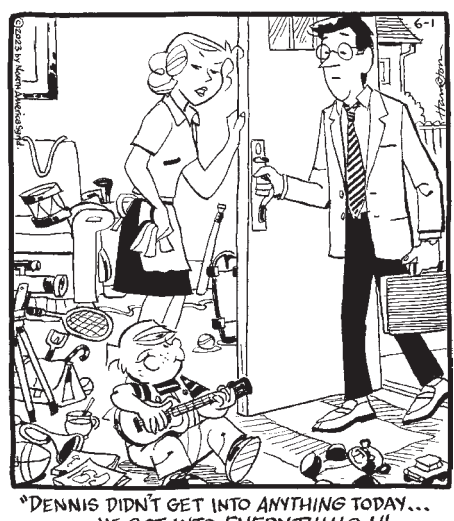
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Weary word
 - 5 Record company
 - 10 River sediment
 - 11 Greet a superior
 - 12 Concept
 - 13 Royal heir
 - 14 Spiky flower
 - 16 Bright flower
 - 20 Optimally
 - 23 Mine material
 - 24 Strata
 - 25 Spills the beans
 - 27 Count start
 - 28 Eye parts
 - 29 Showy flower
 - 32 Spring flower
 - 36 Stand up to
 - 39 Marine predator
 - 40 Cave sounds
 - 41 Strong smell
 - 42 Frost creations
 - 43 Flank
- DOWN**
- 2 Beach resort
 - 3 Baseball's Rodriguez
 - 4 React to a punch
 - 5 Tadpole, e.g.
 - 6 Saucer pilot
 - 7 Frank holder
 - 8 List-shortening abbr.
 - 9 Writer Harper
 - 11 Cricket or crew
 - 15 Minus
 - 17 Charged particles
 - 18 Goad
 - 19 Base meal
 - 20 Physics bit
 - 21 Turner of music
 - 22 Keg contents
 - 25 Egotist's focus
 - 26 Not alfresco
 - 28 Barn areas
 - 30 Figure of speech
 - 31 Nebula makeup
 - 33 Zwei follower
 - 34 Tea type
 - 35 Ontario, for one
 - 36 Workout unit
 - 37 Green prefix
 - 38 That lady

H	A	Y	S				S	L	O	W	
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Yesterday's answer

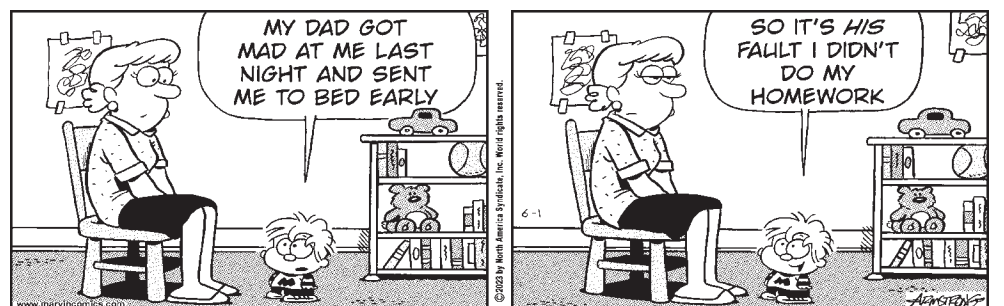
- 20 Physics
- 31 Nebula
- 21 Turner of music
- 33 Zwei follower
- 22 Keg contents
- 34 Tea type
- 25 Egotist's focus
- 35 Ontario, for one
- 26 Not alfresco
- 36 Workout unit
- 28 Barn areas
- 37 Green prefix
- 30 Figure of speech
- 38 That lady

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6-1

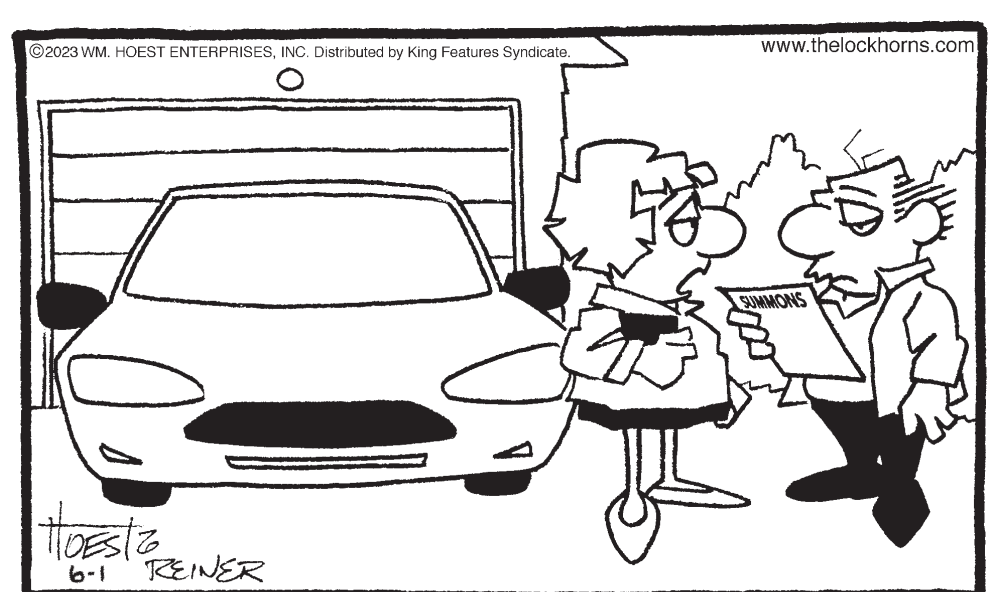
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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6/1

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YARD SALES

Pettis County

1626 W. 7th St. Sedalia Jun. 2-3 8am-2pm
Lots of nice misc. items

3 Family Garage Sale 823 Brentwood Ave Thurs-Fri 8-?

Rain or Shine
Kids toys and clothes. Juniors, women's, and men's apparel, books, kitchen appliances, decor, pet supplies, exercise equipment, lots of miscellaneous.

4 FAMILY GARAGE SALE 3131 S KENTUCKY THUR, 8-3 FRI, 8-3 SAT, 8-12

Lots of tools, generator, table & 4 chairs, computer desk, nice dresser, boy clothes m-l, women's clothes sm-2x, men's clothes, rods & reels, toys, crafts, books, glass display cabinet, 2 old trunks, chainsaw, smoker, stereo, lots of nice women's shoes 6-9, Miscellaneous.

5 FAMILY SALE 1508 S Beacon Friday 7-4 Saturday 7-1

Name Brand Clothing- Newborn to 3X (girls, boys, women's and men's); shoes, dishes, purses, housewares and tons of Misc.

A Lot of Goodies! 4111 Apple Ridge Road South Walnut Hills Fri & Sat 8-?

Kitchenware, women's size XL-3X, 4-drawer file cabinets, men's clothing size XL tall-2X, home decor, John Deere riding mower (needs repair), office items, chairs, small doggie clothes & more! Don't miss!

Pettis County

BROOKING PARK VILLAGE ANNUAL YARD SALE EAST OF SEDALIA ON TT HWY JUNE 2ND & 3RD FRI-SAT 8-2 DRIVE THRU THE LOOP
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Cole Camp City Wide Garage Sale Sponsored by Cole Camp Chamber of Commerce Maps Available at: Brothers Market, Citizens Farmers Bank, Main Street Mutual Insurance & Caseys Sale Fri. & Sat. June 2nd & 3rd

GARAGE SALE 2305 W 11TH ST FRIDAY & SATURDAY JUNE 2 & 3 7AM-2PM

Women's and men's clothes and shoes, Baby boy clothes, NB-2T, baby and toddler toys, books, Miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE 2515 SOUTHWEST BLVD FRIDAY JUNE 2, ONLY 8-5

bedroom set and dresser, life vest, tools, refrigerator, furniture, kitchen table and chairs, pots, pans, dishes, glasses, fans, dehumidifier, Christmas decor, women's clothes, many dollar items.

HUGE GARAGE SALE 401 W MAIN ST THUR FRI SAT

Wedding decor, fabric, bikes, toys, baby bed, baby stuff, furniture, couches, tables, chairs, entertainment centers, coffee tables, jewelry, home decor, dishes, pots and pans, cabinets, clothes all sizes, some new, aquarium, dog kennel.

Huge Multi Family Yard Sale 176 NE 1011 1 Mile North of Knob Noster McDonalds on Hwy 23 June 2nd-4th

Tools, glass items, scrubs, chairs, kitchen items, and lots of miscellaneous.

IF I HAVEN'T USED IT SINCE THE LAST TIME I DID SPRING CLEANING OUT IT GOES! 302 KATY CIR FRI-SAT JUNE 2ND & 3RD 8-4

Treadmill, air conditioner, big pots, Air Fryer, TV stand.

Monsees Lake Estates Community Sales Hwy 50 E to Hwy O Fri & Sat

10+ homes in one area! Many multi-family sales.

MOVING SALE 2075 MAIN STREET RD FRI/SAT 8 A.M.

Tons of NICE furniture! Antique dresser, dressers with mirrors, chests, beds, antique pieces, claw foot table, name brand purses like new, TV, glass entertainment center, lamps, bicycles, upright water cooler, U-Step walker, luggage

Pettis County

Neighborhood Garage Sale Covered Bridge Estates (S. Ingram) Fri & Sat 8-?

SMITHTON CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES Fri. & Sat. (June 2nd & 3rd)
Lots of participants! Come check it out!

Yard Sale 19879 32nd St 1st -3rd

Decluttering home and closets. Come out and look, you may find something you like. Items also include pool pump, sand filter and ladder along with other pool items. Pool was not salvageable. Items are priced to sell.

Yard Sales Monsees Lake Estates - Hwy 50 E to Hwy O Multi Family at 30516 Summers and 30744 N Lake Thursday

Baby/kids, teacher material, outside toys, hoverboard, household items, name brand clothing, TONS of misc.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Adoree L Basye, an unmarried man, dated June 27, 2016, recorded on June 28, 2016, as Instrument No. 2016-3084, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri. The undersigned Successor Trustee, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, will on June 29, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, 415 South Ohio Street Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the following real estate:

Lots Number Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Number Five (5) of Pleasant View Addition to the City of Sedalia, Missouri.

To satisfy said debt and costs. Marinosci Law Group of Missouri, P.C., Successor Trustee, (816) 287-0800, may be deemed to be a debt collector and, if so, is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Marinosci Law Group of Missouri, P.C. Successor Trustee (816) 287-0800
4x-6/1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE: Harold D Dilthey, an unmarried person; an unmarried person

Trustee's Sale:
For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Harold D Dilthey, an unmarried person; an unmarried person dated August 24, 2001 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Pettis County, Missouri in Book 111, Page 126 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Friday, June 23, 2023 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 2:15 PM), at the West Front Door of the Court House, City of Sedalia, County of Pettis, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Pettis County, State of Missouri, to wit:

LOT NUMBER TWENTY NINE (29) AND THIRTY (30) IN

Legal Notice

BLOCK NUMBER THIRTY ONE (31) OF THE SECOND PART OF WEST VIEW, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI.

To satisfy said debt and cost. MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C., Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No:
214164.062323.430228 FC

Notice

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
4x-6/1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

TRUSTEE'S SALE IN RE: Samantha McNeal, unmarried Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Samantha McNeal, unmarried dated July 23, 2014 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Pettis County, Missouri as Document No. 2014-4057 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Friday, June 16, 2023 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 2:15 PM), at the West Front Door of the Court House, City of Sedalia, County of Pettis, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Pettis County, State of Missouri, to wit:

SITUATED IN PETTIS COUNTY MISSOURI TO WIT BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE CENTER LINE OF A COUNTY ROAD, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY SIX AND FIVE TENTHS (266.5) FEET EAST OF THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION THIRTY ONE (31) IN TOWNSHIP FORTY SIX (46) NORTH, OF RANGE TWENTY (20) WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RUNNING THENCE NORTH THREE HUNDRED SIXTY AND FOUR TENTHS (360.4) FEET, THENCE EAST THREE HUNDRED THREE AND EIGHT TENTHS (303.8) FEET, THENCE SOUTH THREE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN AND ONE TENTH (367.1) FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION THIRTY ONE (31), THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID QUARTER QUARTER SECTION TWO HUNDRED NINETY NINE AND ONE TENTH (299.1) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; EXCEPT THAT PART OF THE SOUTH SIDE USED FOR ROAD PURPOSES, IN THE COUNTY OF PETTIS AND STATE OF MISSOURI.

To satisfy said debt and cost. MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C., Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No:
200561.061623.431113 FC

Notice

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
4x-5/25, 6/1, 8, 15, 2023

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of that certain note secured by Deed of Trust executed by James A Perkins and Shawna M Perkins, hus-

Legal Notice

band and wife, dated June 30, 2006 and recorded on July 3, 2006 as Document No. 2006-4618, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri. The Successor Trustee will on June 27, 2023, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 5:00 P.M. more particularly at 10:00AM, at the Pettis County Courthouse, 415 South Ohio Avenue, West Front door, Sedalia, MO 65301, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate:

LOT TWO (2) IN BLOCK FIFTY (50) OF MRS. M.E. MARTIN AND MISS S.E. SMITH'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI. For the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust. S&W Foreclosure Corporation Successor Trustee
Pub Commences June 1, 2023 LLG File No.22-037464
By: LOGS Legal Group LLP
www.LOGS.com
Purported address:
621 W 7th St,
Sedalia, MO 65301
4x-6/1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division
PROBATE

Case Number: 23PT-PR00099
JAMES DEAN TURNER, SR
Deceased

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted (Supervised Administration - Non-Resident Fiduciary)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JAMES DEAN TURNER SR, Decedent:
On 5-30-2023, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JAMES DEAN TURNER SR, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri.

Legal Notice

ri. The personal representative's business address is: JAMES DEAN TURNER JR, 23019 SENECA AVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33980.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: JAMES P BUCKLEY, 121 E 4TH ST, PO BOX 348, SEDALIA, MO 65302-0348, 660-826-7373.

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name and business address is: JAMES P BUCKLEY, 1765 SYCAMORE DR, SEDALIA, MO 65301

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 473.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death:
03-MAR-2023
Date of first publication:
01-JUN-2023

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk
4x-6/1, 8, 15, 22, 2023

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SEC

From Page A7

That was a late add to the agenda, Sankey said. “We now have the issues emerging as it’s become inculturated,” he said. “We don’t have a choice but to pay a high level of attention.”

At Alabama, baseball coach Brad Bohannon was fired during an investigation by gaming officials in Ohio of suspicious bets on the Tide’s game against LSU in late April.

Bohannon was in contact with a Indiana man who was betting on the game at a sportsbook located at the Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati.

The Tide’s starting pitcher was a late scratch because of an injury in that game.

“What we have done is we’ve reported to the proper people, and anything that we need to do to help cooperate and support those investigations we’ve done and will continue to do whatever we’re asked,” Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne said Wednesday.

The same Indiana man, Bert Neff of Mooresville, is also at the center of an investigation by the University of Cincinnati that led to two members of the baseball staff being fired earlier this month.

Conference leaders talk a lot about educating athletes and reinforcing the NCAA’s stringent rules against betting on most sports. An athlete that gambles on a sport the NCAA sponsors — at any level from college to professional — risks their eligibility.

Sports wagering is now legal in 38 states, including Iowa, where more than 40 athletes at the universities of Iowa and Iowa State were identified in an investigation of potential illegal wagering.

“We had coaches in that meeting room that were asking questions from a betting standpoint, gambling standpoint, what’s legal, what’s not legal?” South Carolina coach Shane Beamer

said. “So if we have questions about it and I have questions about it, then surely our student-athletes do as well.”

Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher said information can run wild on a college campus.

“The thing about college kids, they’re a lot more vulnerable than pro (players) because they’re out going to class and who they talk to in a casual conversation ... It’s easy to get something (from them),” Fisher said.

Fisher doesn’t believe getting out in front of the leaks with an injury report would help much.

“Because how bad is the hamstring? How bad is the knee? Is it probable? Is it questionable?” Fisher said.

Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin said: “You’re going to solve a few problems and create a lot more with that.”

LSU coach Brian Kelly said he thinks about how he can tighten the circle of people in the football building who have access to the team’s internal injury report.

“Our injury report goes to over 25 different people. I’m not sure that I need that to go to 25 different people. I think maybe that the injury report needs to come to the head coach and the head coach can make decisions on where that information goes to,” Kelly said.

Sankey said an injury report is not coming anytime soon in the SEC, nor does it address the vast potential problems of wide-spread, legalized gambling.

He said increased gambling activity has led athletes to face more scrutiny and criticism — even threats — online when they don’t perform well.

“I told our football coaches that the simple solution of ‘we want an injury report’ is not what I’m going to think about,” Sankey said. “But as information becomes more and more in demand because of the increases in sports gambling, we’re going to have to think about a sophisticated response to managing our information.”

Texas prefers 9-game conference schedule when it joins SEC

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

DESTIN, Fla. — When Texas does join the Southeastern Conference next year, the Longhorns prefer to play as many league games as possible and Texas A&M every year.

“For where we’re at, and having Oklahoma at a neutral site, I prefer more games,” Texas athletic director Chris Del Conte said Wednesday.

That might have to wait. The SEC remained undecided on increasing the number of conference games it plays in 2024 from eight to nine, with some athletic directors saying they would like more time and information.

“That’s an interesting way for them to communicate their perspective,” Commissioner Greg Sankey said.

Sankey reiterated that among the options under consideration is a short-term agreement to stay at an eight-game conference schedule, with a commit-

ment to reconsidering the model in the next year or so.

A year ago when the SEC was debating eight or nine, the conference was operating under the expectation that Texas and Oklahoma would arrive in 2025, after the schools’ contractual obligations to the Big 12 had expired.

A deal between the Big 12, the schools and television partners was struck earlier this year to allow the Longhorns and Sooners to join the SEC next year and become a 16-team conference.

A bigger conference made playing more conference games seem like a natural, but some schools, among them Kentucky and Arkansas, are concerned about the rigor of more SEC games.

A simple majority vote is all that is needed to implement a schedule model. While Texas and Oklahoma lean toward nine, they also don’t get a vote until they are full-fledged members.

Bid

From Page A7

“When you’ve been at the top of the mountain ... to being out of the league and trying to fight and claw and scratch your way back ... I have a lot of respect for that,” Washington said. “Even before the signing came to fruition, there were a lot of things that he conceded about the first part of his NFL career that let me know that he was real.”

And Washington sees the glimpses of talent Ray showed in Denver, when he combined for 12 sacks and 28 quarterback hits in his first 30 games.

With his wrist still bothering him, Ray signed with Baltimore in May 2019, but was cut before the start of the season.

It wasn’t until 2021 when he turned to the CFL, appearing in five

games with the Argos without a sack. Ray returned the following year and had six sacks in 13 games before being sidelined by a biceps injury for a team that went on to win the Grey Cup.

Argos defensive coordinator Corey Mace credited Ray for the leadership he displayed and the explosiveness he still possessed.

And Mace can relate to Ray’s perseverance to keep his football dreams alive. Though undrafted in the NFL, Mace spent two stints with the Bills and played his final six CFL seasons in Calgary before turning to coaching in 2016.

“I don’t know that he ends up where he is without making that decision to be vulnerable and be humble enough to stick to it and come to the CFL,” Mace said.

“He’s got a lot of work to do, obviously, ahead of him. But he’s ready for it

Yoshida said.

In her early teen years she realized that the boys were growing taller and stronger. How to compete? Then she saw former Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield throw a knuckleball that helped him to 200-career wins.

“I was not tall enough or powerful enough to throw a 160-kph (100 mph) straight ball, but it seemed like maybe I could throw a 105-kph (65 mph) knuckleball,” she explained. “And after watching Wakefield pitching for the first time, I wanted to be like him by pitching knuckleballs.”

She still wears his No. 49 and has talked with him about the unpredictable pitch.

The aim of the knuckleball — it’s actually thrown off the fingertip and fingernails — is to put as little spin as possible on the ball, allowing the wind currents to move it. The best

mentally and physically,” he added. “It’s a culmination of everything he’s experienced in his life that’s prepared him. He’s earned the right to go there and try to make a team. We’re all pulling for him.”

So is Miller, who noted he had no input on the Bills’ interest in Ray.

“Everything that Shane’s got, it’s all been all off of Shane,” said Miller, who spent offseasons training with Ray. “So Shane should feel proud about that. His opportunity is solely based off of him.”

Where Miller played a role was encouraging Ray to not give up on his dream.

“I’ve definitely seen him at his lowest. And I’ve seen him at his highest, too. And I constantly reminded him of who he is, and who he can be,” Miller said.

It wasn’t easy, Ray acknowledged, recalling how his temper would

ever was Phil Niekro, who earned 318 victories — the most ever by a knuckleballer — and a spot in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Like the knuckleball, Yoshida has been inconsistent. And she has to face the fact that knuckleball pitchers are almost extinct, too prone to wild pitches and passed balls and seen as risky in an era driven by analytics.

She was 0-4 in her 2010 stint in California, but Templeton recognized that any 18-year-old would have had trouble against older competition. The record book shows her at 5-10 in three seasons in various independent leagues in North America.

Yoshida returned to Japan in 2013 and has been slowed periodically with injuries to her elbow and collarbone. Only now does she feel physically ready to

sometimes flare out of frustration and he began to question who he was.

“(Those) were probably the hardest years of my life, mentally, physically, not feeling like me, feeling beaten up, feeling torn down by the media,” he said, referring to being out of football. “I felt like I wasn’t me anymore and I had no value.”

Ray turned to self-reflection, his passion for writing and also sought counseling to find a sense of peace.

“I know everybody has hard times, and I understand that people don’t often get second chances. And mine came after a really long time. But like I’ve been telling everybody, the one thing I didn’t do is I didn’t quit on myself,” he said.

“No matter how this ends, I can go back and be like, ‘I gave you everything that I had,’” Ray added. “And I can live with that.”

Field

From Page A7

“I feel that my personality is really like a knuckleball,” Yoshida said. The famously mercurial pitch has been her lifeline to keep playing baseball, a great equalizer for a small woman — she’s only 1.55 meters (5-foot-1) — but a very difficult one to control.

As a high school student, Yoshida was the first female professional baseball player in Japan, dubbed the “Knuckle Princess” in newspaper headlines. She’s never played softball, though some female baseball players have started that way.

She added to her renown after this, again playing with the men as an 18-year-old on an independent team in Chico, California, managed by former major league shortstop Garry Templeton. “He was like my father,”

Top MLB prospects Crews, Skenes lead LSU into NCAA tournament

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — When 6-foot-6, 247-pound right-hander Paul Skenes steps on the mound at LSU’s Alex Box Stadium — as he will this weekend in the NCAA baseball tournament — sellout crowds 13,000 strong buzz with anticipation of 100 mph fastballs and strikeouts galore.

Taking in that scene from center field is Dylan Crews, who might be even more coveted by Major League Baseball teams than his fire-balling teammate.

Crews, hitting .420 and named the SEC player of the year, is the consensus top prospect in this year’s MLB amateur draft, which will be held in Las Vegas from July 9-11. Next is Skenes (10-2), who leads the nation with 167 strikeouts and was named SEC pitcher of the year. If they are the first two drafted, it will be the first time the top two picks came from the same college baseball team.

Crews embraces the hype. “I love it. It’s what I’ve worked for every day, really,” he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. “Every time I come to the field, I just know that somebody is always there to kind of watch me and Paul. So, it’s a good feeling.”

Pittsburgh currently holds the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, followed by Washington and Detroit.

Crews has had years to

get used to the attention. He was a prominent MLB prospect while at Lake Mary High School in Florida in 2020.

He opted for college because he “wanted to be the best player that I could be leading up to the draft. And I felt like, at the time, I wasn’t.”

“A lot of people think that college is like, not a good route” for top high school-age prospects, Crews added. “I think kids don’t realize college is an unbelievable experience, you know? So, I took a different route.”

In LSU, Crews saw a place where he could develop lifelong ties, where he could always come back — and give back.

Already, he provides tickets to special needs children and embraces chances to connect with fans because it “lets people see a different side of you.”

The majors seemed like more of a long shot to Skenes during high school in Lake Forest, California.

While he could throw in the mid-90s as a senior, that hardly guaranteed big-league success. Having thrived academically, and following the example of uncles who had joined the Navy and Coast Guard, he chose to enroll at the Air Force Academy.

“I wanted to serve. I wanted to have a guaranteed job after college,” Skenes said. “I was like, ‘I want to play four more years in college ... and have a really cool job and fly \$100 million jets.’”

Skenes didn’t specialize in pitching until he transferred to LSU last summer. At Air Force, he also was a designated hitter, catcher and first baseman. He received the 2022 John Olerud Award as college baseball’s top two-way player. But as got he stronger and threw harder, Skenes reached a crossroads: remain at Air Force “and kind of bite the bullet there, or leave” and try to maximize his pitching potential.

Around that time, LSU coach Jay Johnson lured pitching coach Wes Johnson to his staff from the Minnesota Twins.

“If he weren’t here, I don’t think I would have come,” Skenes said, crediting Wes Johnson for improving his slider with a new grip and a quicker unwinding of his body, creating more lateral break.

Jay Johnson called Skenes’ slider “a major league put-away pitch right now.” He calls Skenes’ mechanics “flawless,” and notes how he hides the ball during his windup, further reducing hitters’ reaction time.

“He keeps it behind his body and then — boom — it’s on you,” Johnson said.

ESPN college baseball analyst Kyle Peterson said Skenes has been the most dominant college pitcher since Stephen Strasburg at San Diego State in 2009, and might challenge former LSU great Ben McDonald’s 1989 NCAA record of 202 strikeouts in a season.

“If they keep playing on, I

continue the odyssey.

In one of baseball’s great ironies — certainly contrary to logic — a uniform worn by Yoshida and her bat were given to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. But it was for her hitting prowess playing for the Chico Outlaws, and not for her pitching.

In her first at bat — pitchers had to bat in the league — and with the bases loaded, Yoshida singled to right field for her first hit and her first RBI.

“That was as a hitter not a pitcher, but they were all firsts so I donated my uniform and bat,” she said.

“But it’s only because of the knuckleball that I have been able to play baseball up until now,” she added.

Maybe her ball and glove will next be in Cooperstown.

Associated Press video journalist Koji Ueda contributed to this report.