

The Mexico Ledger

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Saturday, August 15, 2020

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Mexico starts bond sale to refinance debt

Refinancing 2010 and 2011 wastewater system improvements bonds will save city \$1.4 million in principal and \$3 million in interest

By Charles Dunlap
The Mexico Ledger

Mexico is one step closer to saving more than \$3 million in interest on its bond debt after the Mexico City Council on Monday voted to issue refunding revenue bonds.

This bond issuance is part of the city's plan to refinance bond debt associated with wastewater system improvements from 2010 and 2011. Refinancing will save the

city roughly \$1.4 million of the \$8.75 million principal balance, and slightly more than \$3 million in interest payments.

"Both bond issues are [renewable] at their face value, without any penalty for prepayment," City Manager Bruce Slagle said. "With the bond market as it is right now, providing favorable rates for refunding and certainly combined with our reaffirmation of our 'A' rating from Standard and Poor's, right now is a great opportunity for us to look at this and refinancing."

The refunding sale will not exceed \$8.1 million in sewerage system refunding revenue bonds.

"We started looking at the possibility of a refund in 2017," said Todd Goffoy, the city's financial adviser and managing director with Piper Sandler and Co.

Tax laws at the time, the city could have done an advanced refunding ahead of the renewal date, he said. Changes to the federal tax code took away that possibility Jan. 1, 2018.

"Waiting has been to your benefit," Goffoy said. "I think the savings are probably four times what the savings were back in 2017."

Bonds went on sale Thursday.

Bids will come in electronically, he said.

BUDGET DISCUSSION FOLLOW-UP

There were three items on which the city council had to make a decision following a city budget work session held July 29.

The first was the property tax rate for the city. The city has received final assessment information from the county so it can formulate its tax levy.

"The valuations remain the same, so we are down about \$3.5 million from where we were at," Slagle said. "When you turn around and apply the tax rates through the state formula for revenue neutral, it does adjust the rate slightly."

See SALE, A3

Two teens enter pleas from 2019 shooting death

The Mexico Ledger

Two teens involved in the Feb. 1, 2019 shooting death of Ta'Juan Williams entered guilty pleas Wednesday in the case.

Demetric Dorsey, 16, of Mexico pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of first-degree involuntary manslaughter and armed criminal action. Sentencing is scheduled Oct. 6. Dorsey's case received a change of venue to Adair County in September.

Trebion Dorsey, also 16, of Mexico pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of first-degree involuntary manslaughter. Sentencing also is scheduled Oct. 6. His case also was tried in Adair County.

The pair originally were charged with second-degree murder, first-degree assault, armed criminal action and unlawful use of a weapon.

The case of a third teen involved in the shooting, Dekhise Dorsey, is ongoing. He was charged with second-degree murder, first degree assault, armed criminal action and unlawful use of a weapon.



D. Dorsey



T. Dorsey

Galloway: Gov. Parson has failed on virus response for schools, economy

Audrain County Democrats open headquarters to increase visibility

By Charles Dunlap
The Mexico Ledger

The governor has failed in his duties in crafting concrete plans to keep Missouri residents and students safe, which has led the state to being labeled a red zone, Democratic candidate for governor Nicole Galloway said Wednesday.

Galloway spoke at the opening of the Audrain County Democrats' headquarters in Mexico and criticized Republican Gov. Mike Parson because there is no statewide guidance for school district reopening. Some will open in a matter of days, while others have either delayed or decided to work virtually.

The state needs a better plan to be able to restart its economy and get students back in schools, she said. The state's education department issued guidelines for reopening, but school districts are implementing plans in different ways.

Galloway, who has been state auditor since 2015, is the only Democrat in statewide office. She is challenging Parson, who was elected lieutenant governor in 2016 and became governor after the resignation of Eric Greitens.

"Parson has had a chance to lead this state and he has failed," Galloway said.

Missouri health chief, Dr. Randall Williams, on Tuesday said the state is ready for schools to reopen. Galloway does not share this opinion.

"School districts across the state disagree because they are not opening," Galloway said. "They are delaying start or going online."

Columbia, for example, pushed back its start date to Sept. 8, with potentially half of students learning from home while the other half will attend schools.

"We will never recover economically, we will never have schools open fully until we contain the spread of the virus," Galloway said. "Parson has not taken the steps necessary to contain the spread of the virus."

The state should have a statewide mask order, quick-result testing and increased contact tracing, she said.

"We have all these tools in our toolkit that are available to us to get our economy back on track, to get schools open, but they are not deploying these resources," Galloway said.

There also should be a statewide strategy for reopening schools, she said. School districts need data and guidance on positivity rates, containment, sanitation supplies and other support resources, but there is no statewide plan, she said.

Groups like Uniting Missouri Political Action Committee have tried to tie an endorsement by Planned Parenthood of Galloway to their calls to defund police after the death of George Floyd in May.



ABOVE: Democratic candidate for governor Nicole Galloway speaks Wednesday at the opening of the Audrain County Democrats' headquarters in Mexico. She pushed for a statewide mask mandate, and a better statewide plan for reopening schools. BELOW: Fourth Congressional District candidate Lindsey Simmons speaks Wednesday at the opening of the Audrain County Democrats' headquarters in Mexico. She will face off against Republican incumbent Vicky Hartzler in the November election. [CHARLES DUNLAP/THE MEXICO LEDGER]



Galloway does not seek to defund police, she said.

"All of the characterizations they are making are untrue. I think Missourians know that about me," she said.

"The reason Parson and his campaign are spreading misleading and false information is because he does not want to defend his record on how he is fighting COVID."

Parson is part of the old system of politics where well-connected insiders get what they want, Galloway said.

"They don't care about your needs here in this community," she said. "I want to see true economic development, so every family here has a good job, close to home, where you can provide for your family. Where teachers are paid a wage that

values the work that they do. And where working people can have health care."

Missouri health care will depend on how Medicaid expansion is implemented next year, Galloway said.

Parson, in January, spoke out against expansion, saying it would take money away from education, workforce development, and roads and bridges.

"People can have access to health care, we can create good jobs in parts of our state that need them and we can keep our rural hospitals open," Galloway said. "It will be my job as governor to implement Medicaid expansion that proves it is good for our state. We can look at the 37 states that have implemented Medicaid

See GALLOWAY, A5

Lupardus faces challenges amid push to reopen Mexico schools

By Fiona Murphy
The Mexico Ledger

In her 20-year-plus career in education, the new superintendent of Mexico School District 59, Dr. Tammy Lupardus, has yet to face the array of challenges looming over this year's back-to-school event.

As the federal government struggles to get control of the coronavirus pandemic, with cases in Missouri rising by the week, the prospect of how to safely reopen school lies largely on the shoulders of local communities and administrators. Superintendents across the nation are being tasked with making the tough decisions about reopening.

For Lupardus, the key to getting students back to school safely amid a global pandemic this fall is "collaboration." Lupardus was sworn-in to take the helm of the district July 1 at the end of February, a few short weeks before COVID-19 began its life-altering impacts.

For the past four years, Lupardus had been the superintendent of Charleston R-1 School District located atop Missouri's bootheel. This experience proved crucial to taking on her new position as superintendent in Mexico. Without it, leading the district during this time might have proved "nearly impossible."

"It has been overwhelming to say the least," Lupardus said.

Since July 1, Lupardus has assembled a task force called the Mexico Reasonable Task Force to assess and construct a re-entry plan for students and staff. The task force comprised of 38 representatives from all schools and departments within the district, the Board of Education, and community partners such as the Audrain County Emergency Management Agency and the Audrain County Health Department.

In mid-July, the group sent out a survey to staff members and parents

See LUPARDUS, A3



LOCAL

IN BRIEF

Mexico Public Safety responds to business theft

Around \$500 in change and small bills were stolen Monday night from a business on South Clark Street.

Mexico Department of Public Safety officers responded at about 10:12 a.m. Tuesday to a business in the 2700 block of South Clark in reference to the alleged theft, according to a department news release.

Someone entered the building through an unlocked back door sometime after 10 p.m. Monday and damaged a wall to gain access to a secured area, the release stated.

Around \$500 was stolen. Anyone with information are urged to call crime stoppers at 1-800-392-8477 or Mexico Public Safety at 573-473-5800 or 573-473-2100.

MU Extension offers virtual strength training for older adults

University of Missouri Extension now is offering its Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program for older adults through Zoom.

The new eight-week class starts Monday. One-hour sessions are held 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

"This low-impact strength training program challenges participants through incremental increases in exercise volume and intensity," program co-instructor Lindsey Stevenson said. "The virtual classes will be led by two certified instructors and participants will complete a warmup, a prescribed set of upper- and lower-body exercises and a cool-down." The 16-session class is \$50 or just over \$3 per session. Registration

deadline is noon Monday. Visit the program's event website or call Stevenson at 417-682-3579 or email stevensonlk@missouri.edu.

"MU Extension exercise specialists have adapted the program so that it can be available to Missourians from the comfort of their homes," she said. "Through the pandemic, MU Extension is still serving Missourians by providing programs and education in new ways to help improve their health."

USDA food assistance program deadline extended, commodities added

The United States Department of Agriculture has added additional commodities and extended the application deadline to Sept. 11 for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.

"President Trump is standing with America's farmers and ranchers to ensure they get through this pandemic and continue to produce enough food and fiber to feed America and the world," USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a news release. "That is why he authorized this \$16 billion of direct support in the CFAP program and today we are pleased to add additional commodities to receive much needed assistance."

Certain specialty crops, non-specialty crops and livestock, aquaculture and nursery crops and flowers now are eligible for the assistance program.

More information on the program and how to apply are available through the CFAP website. Funds will be distributed through the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Those who have not previously worked with the agency are recommended to call 1-877-508-8364 to begin their application process.

Farm, Family and ME conference goes virtual

The third annual Farm, Family and ME Summit for Women will focus on resilience, financial and farm stress, self-care and mental well-being in a virtual event Sept. 3.

The free event is from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is available online.

"Women are the caretakers of their families and often put themselves at the bottom of their priority lists," MU Extension Agricultural Business Specialist Karisha Devlin said. "We hope this conference reminds them to take care of themselves along with providing resources and educational information."

Rural mental health specialist Monica McConkey will kick off the Zoom session with "Put on Your Oxygen Mask," where she will offer tips on coping with farm stress through self-care and techniques to strengthen mental well-being.

Kelli Jo Buettner, vice president of scored lending and credit operations at FCS Financial, will help women in agriculture deal with money-related stress by understanding important issues in financial health.

A panel of farm women wraps up the session by sharing how they find balance in their work and personal lives.

For more information, call Devlin at 660-397-2179 or email devlink@missouri.edu.

The Mexico Ledger



Cadet Kevin Wang, right, helps a new cadet with his belongings during move-in day Aug. 5 at Missouri Military Academy. Fall 2020 registration and move-in procedures were designed to minimize contact and mitigate COVID risk. [PHOTO COURTESY OF MMA]

Cadets return to Missouri Military Academy campus

For the Mexico Ledger

Missouri Military Academy Cadets are starting to return to campus.

New cadets reported Aug. 5, while cadet leaders and athletes have been on campus since July 29, where they participated in Cadet Cadre Leadership Training and preseason sports camp.

The academy enacted several registration and arrival protocols to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19, according to a news release. This included online registration, drive-thru drop-offs and a virtual new cadet resolution ceremony to limit contact and exposure between families, faculty and staff.

See MMA, A5

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LOCAL

DRIFTWOOD OUTDOORS

Smallmouth bass guru touts Sugar Creek fishing destination

By Brandon Butler
Special to the Mexico Ledger

If you don't recognize the name Tim Holschlag, he is a professional smallmouth bass fisherman. I know that may sound like an oxymoron, "professional smallmouth bass fisherman," but he makes his living fishing for and communicating about smallmouth bass. After fishing one of my favorite smallmouth waters with Holschlag, it was easy to see why he is considered one of the best in the business.

Holschlag is the author of the books "River Smallmouth Fishing" and "Smallmouth Fly Fishing." He's published hundreds of magazine articles on the subject, has produced a DVD titled "Stream Smallmouth Fishing," commercially ties smallmouth flies, hosts on-stream smallmouth fishing schools and guides smallmouth fishing trips. If that doesn't qualify someone as a professional smallmouth fisherman, I don't know what could.

Upon my invitation, I learned Holschlag had fished this secret little creek before, many years ago. I was pleased when he said he looked forward to returning, and further professed admiration of the creek's scenery and fishing. The water had left an indelible mark on his memory.

Fishing with an authority of any species is an incredible opportunity. Tactics you thought were correct can be improved and new lessons are sure to be learned. Methods that somewhat work for you are proven trivial by an expert.

"Go ahead and take that off," Holschlag said, pointing at my Clouser Minnow. "Slow, slow, slow. That's how we have to fish them today. If we're going to catch fish today, we have to be on the bottom of the deepest holes to float a fly right in front of their faces."

With that I was introduced to the Holschlag "Float-and-Fly" method. In his book, "Smallmouth Fly Fishing," Tim describes the technique, "Its essence is simply suspending a fly below a strike indicator buoyant enough to support the fly, and moving the fly extremely slow."

He rigged me up and we got to it. I laid a cast out next to a large boulder at the head of a long eddy and started to strip it back in.

"No, no, no," Tim said. "Just let it float. If you do any more than



Smallmouth bass expert Tim Holschlag travels in search of bronzebacks. [COURTESY PHOTO]

occasionally twitch the fly, you're going to pull it off the bottom, out of the strike zone."

Again from his book, "Precise depth control and the ability to work the fly extremely slowly are the key components of the float-and-fly concept. When the fish are suspended at specific depths, when they are sluggish and holding tight to the bottom or even when you want to fish subsurface in very shallow water, being able to keep your fly at an exact depth comes in mighty handy. This is possible with a fly suspended directly below a large indicator."

I'll admit the float-and-fly method wasn't too exciting. It reminded me of jigging for walleyes with my grandpa in Minnesota years ago. As a kid, the torture of sitting in the boat raising and lowering my rod tip for hours made me want to crawl out of my skin. I prefer action, ripping streamers and hopping poppers, but you can't argue with positive results. Tim caught fish during a time when most might not.

During our outing, Tim pointed out spots along the creek that would be prime to target at different times of the year. He pointed out seams, boulders, back channels and bluffs like a kid pointing out a wish list in a toy aisle; left side, right side, down a ways, behind us. In spending only a day with Tim Holschlag, it's apparent he not only understands smallmouth bass, but truly loves the species and the waters in which they swim.

See you down the trail.
For more Driftwood Outdoors, check out the podcast on www.driftwoodoutdoors.com or anywhere podcasts are streamed.

Columbia schools post daily update on district case counts

State cases continue growth; insurance company loses ruling over COVID-19 loss coverage

From staff and wire reports

Columbia Public Schools will publish a daily update on the level of restrictions in place for the district as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the case rates that determine those levels, the district stated in a new message to parents.

When classes begin Sept. 8, a Daily Mode Indicator on the district's website — resembling a speedometer-like dial — will tell parents, teachers and students when the district is open for traditional school, with visitors welcome, to all classes online and every step in between.

For example, any level above traditional school will mean no visitors in school buildings as teachers are holding class with support from online materials.

A tracking site will tell parents what the rate of new infections is within the district's boundaries. The district, one of the largest in the state, has about 130,000 of Boone County's 180,000 residents.

Whenever the rate is above nine per 10,000 residents over a 14-day period, the district will shift families choosing in-class learning to a hybrid schedule of two days in school and three days at home with online learning. When the rate is above 50, all learning will be online.

On Wednesday, the rate for the district was 24.2 cases per 10,000 residents. The site had not been updated by press time Thursday.

There were 25 new COVID-19 cases in Boone County on Thursday, raising the total to 1,503. The countywide rate of cases per 10,000 over the past 14 days was 19.8 on Thursday.

Families have until Sunday to make any changes to their enrollment choice for fall based on the changes introduced this week.

STATE SITUATION

Missouri continued to see high rates of new cases on Thursday, with 1,267 new infections and at least one new case in 97 of the state's 117 local health jurisdictions. The Department of Health and Senior Services reported two additional deaths, bringing the total since the first death was reported in Boone County in March to 1,325.

The positive rate on tests, a key benchmark of how prevalent the disease is, stood at 11.8 percent.

As schools prepare to open, the number of cases among school-age children has been increasing.

In the past week, 13.8 percent of cases statewide have been among people under 20, which is larger than their 11.2 percent share of cases overall.

INSURANCE RULING

Four Missouri companies may proceed with a lawsuit after their insurer rejected claims for coronavirus-related losses, a federal judge ruled, in a decision that could have ramifications for hundreds of companies nationwide.

"This is potentially huge," said Tom Baker, a professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, who has followed cases across the country against the insurance industry during the pandemic.

"My prediction is that this is not going to be the only case that is going to survive. This is a big deal."

The lawsuit was filed in April by three Kansas City-area restaurants shut down for 11 weeks because of the coronavirus, and a company that runs hair salons in Springfield.

They believed the "all risk" policy they had with Cincinnati Insurance Co. would allow them to recoup thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

"I've had business interruption insurance for 57 years," said Greg Hunsucker, owner of V's Italiano Ristorante in Independence.

"My impression was that this is exactly what it's for, when events out of your control cause you to suffer financial hardship. That's why I thought I was buying it. Nowhere in my policy does it exclude a pandemic."

The other restaurants involved in the lawsuit are Grand Street, Trezo Mare Restaurant & Lounge, along with Studio 47 in Springfield.

On Wednesday, Judge Stephen Bough in the Western District of Missouri denied the insurer's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, The Kansas City Star reported.

"This is a significant win for insureds," Brandon Boulware, the attorney for the businesses, said in an email statement to The Star. "The Cincinnati policy ... does not contain any exclusion for losses caused by the virus. The Court's order correctly recognizes that. We look forward to moving ahead with this case."

Betsy Ertel, a spokeswoman for Cincinnati Insurance, said in an email: "As this case continues, we believe that the court will ultimately enforce the language of our policy contract. Our commercial property insurance policies require direct physical damage or loss to property and do not provide coverage in this case."

Bough ruled the plaintiffs made "plausible" claims for coverage in all five matters and denied the insurance company's motion "in its entirety."

Baker, of the University of Pennsylvania, said about 900 similar cases have been filed across the country, with about half in federal court. Two recent similar cases, one in Michigan and another in Washington, D.C., were decided in favor of the insurance companies.

"From my perspective, what this means," Baker said of the decision in Kansas City, "is that this litigation is not going to be a kind of quick win for the insurance

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LUPARDUS

From Page A1

inquiring about their comfort with in-person learning, as well as their access to the internet and devices such as a computer. According to Lupardus, 9% of families said they did not feel comfortable attending school in-person, while 77% said they would feel comfortable attending school under the precautions of social distancing. The rest responded saying they were uncertain and would wait to make a decision.

With that information, the group constructed a re-entry plan giving students two options, the first is to register for the online learning program and the other allows students to observe social distancing on buses and in the classroom in hopes of remaining in school for as long as it is deemed safe.

"What I'm hearing is people appreciate having the choice," Lupardus said.

For some students however, access to wireless internet as well as devices are scarce. Parents and students had until yesterday to register for online learning, and so far, 230 families have signed up to learn from home. Of those families, 114 have responded saying they need a device and 51 need access to wireless hot-spots.

Mexico School District is responsible for the entire cost of remote learning as it serves as an alternative to in-person learning. The district, however, still is able to receive funds through the Average Daily Attendance, state program, or ADA for students who attend class at home.

Audrain County received nearly \$3 million in Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act funding, and according to Lupardus, \$524,000 was allocated to Mexico's School District.

Much of that funding is expected to be used for personal protective equipment such as hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and N95 masks, as well as Chromebook laptop computers for online students and hot spots, ensuring wireless connectivity. Lupardus said she projects in-person learning for the rest of this school year will cost \$1.2 million. The district already is facing a reduction of \$1.3 million in funds as a result of budget cuts

to K-12 education enacted by Gov. Parson in June.

"School districts are hemorrhaging quickly through this process," Lupardus said. "We do not know the end number of how much this is going to cost the school district."

The district anticipates utilizing its reserve fund, which is 40 percent of last year's budget this school year. The Audrain County Commission now is accepting applications for the second phase of the CARES Act, funding distributions, and the Mexico School District is eligible to apply. Lupardus said she is anxiously awaiting the additional help.

Despite the deficit the district faces, Lupardus believes educating students must be their first priority no matter what the circumstances.

"Our kids need us," Lupardus said. "Even for a short time or short periods of time, we have to make it our priority to educate kids. We know that educating kids, for the most part, takes place best in person."

As a part of the re-entry plan, staff and students are expected to answer daily at-home screening questions, first taking their temperature to ensure it is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Lupardus confirmed that two staff members have tested positive for COVID19, and the district is abiding by their health provider's instruction before allowing them back to work.

An additional staff member has been in close contact with a person positive for COVID19 and that person quarantining at this time. One staff member resigned earlier this week due to a preexisting condition that jeopardizes their safety.

Lupardus said the district will continue to monitor and work with staff members who feel sick or test positive for the coronavirus.

"We are going by doctor's orders, most certainly," Lupardus said. "This is new for us, it's new for our employees, and it's going to be new for kids here in a couple weeks. We all have to hold on to one another and hang together to do our best to navigate these uncharted waters."

The district now knows how many students will be learning online this school year and how many will be in-class six feet apart. The Mexico School District, rain or shine, will start classes Aug. 26.

SALE

From Page A1

The city expects to increase the levy 1.5 cents. Despite the levy increase, it produces less revenue, Slagle said.

"This is assuming 100% collection," he said.

The proposed tax rate will go from \$0.7272 per \$100 assessed value to \$0.7422.

A public hearing will take place at the next council meeting, which will set the tax levy rate.

Second was the sanitation rates. The city was trying to not increase rates on customers for the next year. Dayne's Disposal, which has a 10-year contract with the city, is facing increased landfill costs.

While the city does not have to incorporate the landfill fee costs into rates per the contract, city staff were asked to explore the option of portioning the landfill fee increase into annual increases. If the city does not portion the increase, customers could get hit with \$0.64 per month rate increase in 2024 as the city renegotiates solid waste removal contracts.

The sanitation rates also include a \$12,000 contribution to Handi-Shop Inc. for its recycling services, which has decreased to cardboard only due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Chinese tariffs.

If the city includes the \$12,000 contribution and the half of the landfill fee cost, that means the sanitation rate will increase by 2.81% increase in April.

"Looking at history, last year was 1.73%. We have always tried to stay under 3% the last five years," Slagle said.

The final question was adjustments to employee income. The proposed budget included no income increases. After applying updated tax rate information, sales tax collections, the city could do a cost-of-living adjustment for staff of 1%.

All three were information items and will be decided at future council meetings.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The city conducted emergency repairs on 260 feet of a sewer line in the area of North Olive.

The city is reviewing a storm sewer collapse on North Clark near the Mexico-Audrain County Library between Jackson and Monroe streets. Storm sewer lines 300-foot long need repairs.

Current repair estimates are \$52,000 and the city is looking into options to utilize city staff to help with costs. The city plans to move a \$55,000 Fairground pipe replacement project to next year, which frees up those funds for the emergency repair of the storm drains, Slagle said.

SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

OPINION

COMMENTARY

Harris is closest thing to a consensus choice for Democrats

By Carl P. Leubsdorf
The Dallas Morning News

In choosing Sen. Kamala Harris, Joe Biden picked the running mate who best meets the main requirements for a successful vice presidential nominee, fits the explicit conditions he established and can help the ticket win.

As the University of Virginia's Larry Sabato put it, Harris "represents a vetted, qualified and safe VP choice."

It's also a historical one; the first person of color and only the third woman on a major party ticket. Unlike the first two, Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin, Harris is favored to win.

Her selection meets the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee's goal of a running mate who, despite some differences on issues during the primaries, shares his overall political philosophy and is simpatico personally.

One key factor: the friendship between Harris and Biden's late son, Beau, when both were state attorneys general. "There is no one's opinion I valued more than Beau's," Biden said in an email to supporters.

Initial reaction to the 55-year-old senator, who had been elected statewide three times in the nation's biggest state, showed she easily passes muster as someone whom all but the most partisan rivals deemed qualified to be president. That was an important consideration for the 77-year-old Biden, who would become the nation's oldest president.

Her past personal and political record has been well vetted, both in California and in the greater scrutiny of a presidential campaign. While she has Democratic critics, they represent a small portion of the party.

And as Biden himself can attest, she demonstrated during the primary debates — and hearings of the Senate Judiciary Committee — the prosecutorial skills that will enable her to press the Democratic case in the campaign, especially against Vice President Mike Pence in their Oct. 7 vice presidential debate. That's generally the campaign's single high-profile event for the No. 2 candidates.

The choice also says something about Biden, who selected her to be his partner despite the way that she challenged his civil rights bona fides in a Democratic debate last summer.

After a recent Politico report that some Biden advisers opposed Harris, in part because of that debate, the former vice president wrote himself a note about her before a recent news conference stressing the need to say he would "not hold grudges." Obviously, that's true, since he picked the California senator for a job where trust between the two principals is essential.

As soon as Biden disclosed his selection Tuesday, her main rivals and other top Democratic leaders rushed to hail the Harris choice, emblematic of the unusual party unity that opposition to President Donald Trump has produced.

In recent weeks, the Biden campaign created substantial mystery around the selection process, but her ultimate choice was not really a surprise. Even before Harris launched her own presidential candidacy in early 2019, she was regarded as a prime prospect for a spot on the Democratic ticket.

That was enhanced by the strong pressure among Democrats to put a woman or a person of color on their ticket. In a CNN Town Hall last February, Biden talked of the possibility of picking someone for vice president who was either a woman or a person of color or both. The daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, Harris fulfills both goals.

Over recent weeks, supporters of other potential running mates floated their attributes. In the end, however, all fell short for one or another reason.

Former national security adviser Susan Rice, rated in some speculation as Harris' top rival, has never held elective office, and her involvement in several Obama administration controversies would have made her an special campaign target.

California Rep. Karen Bass suffered from reports about her youthful attraction to Cuba and speeches hailing Scientologist and U.S. Communist Party leaders.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Georgia legislator Stacey Abrams and Florida Rep. Val Demings all lacked the breadth of Harris' state and national experience.

And Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren faced a number of problems including her age, 71, and pressure for a candidate of color. Her election would have given the Republican governor of Massachusetts the chance to name a GOP replacement to her Senate seat, and her liberal reputation and record would have pulled the ticket ideologically to the left.

However, Harris also has one of the most liberal voting records in the Senate. Trump lost no time calling her the "meanest, most horrible, most disrespectful" Senate opponent of Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination and expressing surprise she was picked after doing poorly in the Democratic nominating race.

But some California liberals have never been happy with Harris' efforts to chart a centrist course on criminal justice issues during her career as a prosecutor in San Francisco and as California's attorney general.

Still, she is the closest thing to a consensus choice in a Democratic Party that has largely put aside most of its internal differences in the interest of driving Trump from the presidency.

And though vice presidential choices don't generally affect election outcomes, Democrats hope enthusiasm about Harris will drive a large turnout of minorities and younger voters in the same way Barack Obama did in 2008.

OSHA THE SACRAMENTO BEE ©2020-8/12
THE WASHINGTON POST WRITERS GROUP



COMMENTARY

Missouri voters have spoken on Medicaid expansion

The Joplin Globe

Missourians spoke their minds on Medicaid expansion.

More than 53% of those who went to the polls endorsed it.

We urge lawmakers to accept that as the will of the people and move on.

We've seen too many recent instances where voters have spoken their minds — unambiguously — only to hear some lawmakers argue that the public has been hoodwinked, that voters didn't understand what they were doing, that lawmakers know best and it is up to them to set things right for the good of everyone.

- Like Right to Work: Two years ago, in August

2018, Missourians went to the polls and by a margin of nearly 7-3 rejected a right-to-work measure. Lawmakers that spring had passed a right-to-work measure and former Gov. Eric Greitens signed it into law, but unions took their case directly to the people, gathering more than 300,000 signatures to force a statewide vote. Despite that lopsided result, some Republican lawmakers vowed to resurrect the issue soon afterward, and no doubt it will be discussed in the next legislative session.

- Like Clean Missouri: Clean Missouri was a constitutional amendment that enacted long-needed lobbying reforms as well as tighter campaign finance

limits, and most controversially, it also created a new redistricting process. More than 62% of voters approved. Before the final votes were even in, some lawmakers said voters just didn't understand the issue and had bought a pig in a poke. Lawmakers proposed their own alternative, which will appear as Amendment 3 on the November ballot, but already some of the state's Republicans leaders — most notably John Danforth — are urging voters to reject it and stick with Clean Missouri.

- Like Minimum Wage: A similar tale unfolded for the minimum wage increase that went before voters in November 2018 and was passed — again

by with an approval rate of 62%. It raises the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2023. Come January, some lawmakers were working to repeal it.

As for Medicaid expansion, we say: Leave it alone.

It was just last fall that Missouri Gov. Mike Parson vowed to uphold the will of the voters.

"If the people of the state of Missouri — that is their will and they vote to do that — that's what I'm supposed to do is uphold the will of the people of this state, and that's what I intend to do regardless of whether I agree with the issue or whether I don't."

We urge him to remember his pledge.

COMMENTARY

OSHA is failing to protect workers

By Michael Felsen

On April 9, a worker at Maid-Rite Specialty Foods meatpacking plant in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, filed a complaint with OSHA, the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The worker listed a number of COVID-19-related safety issues, and went on to say:

"About half the plant is out sick, they hire more people and (are) not taking care of the problem," read the complaint, included in a recently filed lawsuit against OSHA. "I'm scared to go to work everyday. I'm risking my life."

OSHA didn't inspect the facility. It relayed the worker's concerns to Maid-Rite, which responded, and OSHA took no further action.

Then, on May 19, three other workers at the same plant, who hadn't known about the first worker's complaint, filed their own, this time with legal representation. Maid-Rite, they said, didn't provide adequate face coverings or hand-washing, and didn't require proper social distancing on the assembly line.

The complainants also said the company incentivized workers to work while sick, and failed to inform them of their risk of exposure. Two of the three complaining workers said they believe they contracted COVID-19 while at work. They argued that conditions at the plant amounted to an "imminent danger" that should, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, trigger an immediate

inspection.

By the date of their complaint, it was well-known that meatpacking plants, like Cargill, JBS, Smithfield Foods, and Tyson, were breeding grounds for COVID-19 infections. Nonetheless, OSHA treated the complaint like the previous one, sending a letter to the company, and receiving the company's response.

It was only after multiple follow-up inquiries from the workers' attorneys that OSHA opened an inspection, which the agency told the attorneys could take up to six months to complete.

With their health, and possibly their lives, hanging in the balance, the workers didn't think they could afford to wait that long — or even longer if the company challenged violations OSHA might find.

And so on July 22, they sued OSHA and Eugene Scalia, President Donald Trump's secretary of labor, to force them to seek a court order requiring Maid-Rite to clean up its act right away, not months from now. Waiting, they said, was just too dangerous.

Not surprisingly, the Labor Department is pushing back. It says the workers' claims are invalid, that the agency is doing enough to protect the workers, and that the court should dismiss their lawsuit.

Under Scalia, OSHA is widely considered to have all but abandoned workers, especially since the pandemic struck.

In the face of the most cataclysmic public and workplace health crisis in

more than a century, the department had the power to issue an emergency temporary infectious disease standard that employers across the country would have been required to comply with. Instead, it published a series of unenforceable recommendations.

OSHA could also have significantly ramped up its inspection staff, now at its lowest level in 45 years, to take on this unprecedented threat to worker health. Instead, onsite inspections remain rare, and thousands of worker complaints are opened and closed summarily.

As of July 21, OSHA had issued just four citations on a total of 7,943 complaints. That's few enough to count on one hand.

Meanwhile, as of Monday, almost 40,000 workers at 471 meatpacking plants had contracted COVID-19, 187 of them fatally.

The workers at Maid-Rite have ample reason to be scared. It's OSHA's responsibility to make sure their employer protects them. But it looks like that isn't going to happen, unless a court orders the agency to do its job.

Michael Felsen of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, retired in 2018 after a 39-year career as an attorney with the Department of Labor, serving from 2010-2018 as its New England Regional Solicitor. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

OBITUARIES

Eleanor D. Ballew

Mrs. Eleanor D. Ballew, age 85 years, of Jefferson City, MO, passed away Monday, August 10, 2020 at the University Hospital in Columbia, MO.

She was born on July 5, 1935 in Boonesboro, MO, a daughter of James Franklin and Flora Wyatt Dockins. She was married on June 24, 1956 in New Franklin, MO, to William H. Ballew who preceded her in death on January 13, 2003.

A lifelong resident of the Central Missouri area, she graduated from Glasgow High School in 1953. She was a State Executive Administrator with Farm Credit Services until her retirement in 2001, and also worked for the Montgomery County R-II School district.

Eleanor loved spending time visiting family and will be remembered for the wonderful meals she always cooked for them. She enjoyed baking around the holidays and passing on her talents and family recipes to those she loved. She also treasured her bible studies with friends and was an active member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Jefferson City, MO.

Eleanor will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Debbie Draffen, Columbia, MO; son, Kirk (Tracy) Ballew, Montgomery City, MO; sisters-in-law, Nora Dell Dockins, New Franklin, MO, Judy Slater, Odessa, MO, and Florence Slater, Yuma, AZ; brother-in-law, Chuck (Lynne) Slater, Yuma, AZ; grandchildren, Melissa (Andrew) Garnett, Julie Giesecker, Chris (Alexis) Giesecker, Jenny (Michael) Winters, Brooke (Justin) Barnes, and Bria (Lance) Dobson; ten great-grandchildren, Tucker and Connor Garnett, Paxton and Grayson Giesecker, Walker and Warner Winters, Quinn and Lincoln Barnes, and Kendall and Logan Dobson; also surviving are nieces and nephews and many other friends and family who will miss her dearly.

Eleanor is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and son, Mark Alan Ballew, as well as three brothers, Harold, Bill Tom, and Delano Dockins.

Visitation will be held at Freeman Mortuary from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 15, 2020. Friends are welcome to attend while following social distancing guidelines.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 15, 2020 in the Freeman Chapel with the Reverend Beau Underwood officiating. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in New Franklin, MO.

A webcast of the funeral service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday for friends that are not able to attend by going to her memorial page on Freeman Mortuary's website.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the National MS Society in c/o of Freeman Mortuary or online at www.nationalmssociety.org in c/o Freeman Mortuary or online at www.freemanmortuary.com. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Freeman Mortuary.

Phyllis J. Belcher

Phyllis J. Belcher, 84, of Mexico, passed away on Saturday, August 8, 2020, at the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia.

Funeral Services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 15, at Arnold Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Elmwood Cemetery.

Visitation is Saturday from noon until time of services at the funeral home.

Phyllis Jean Belcher was born in Mexico, MO on October 8, 1935, the only daughter of Caral A. and Ethel Mae (McKim) Jones. Phyllis graduated from Garfield High School in the class of 1953. She was united in marriage to John H. Belcher on September 30, 1956. Through their union two children were born, a daughter, Johnita Carol and a son, Donnell DeWayne to whom Phyllis was a loving and devoted mother.

Phyllis was a homemaker and worked for several years as a Classroom Aide at Head

Start in Mexico. She loved to cook – and eat! She prepared full meals every single day, and got up early every Sunday morning to prepare a full-course Sunday Dinner. Phyllis loved bringing her family together for celebrations – cookouts in the summer, and holiday gatherings that normally ended in a sing-along with her cousins and family friends. She maintained numerous relationships with most of her childhood friends and with classmates she had known since elementary school.

Phyllis loved to travel – as long as it involved shopping and did not include large bodies of water or bridges! She enjoyed going to yard sales, playing Bingo at the Mexico Senior Center, and watching The Young and The Restless. Phyllis loved the Lord, listening to Gospel music, and was an active and faithful (and the eldest) member of St. Paul C.M.E. Church for more than 70 years serving as a member of the Chapel Choir; Vice-President of the Stewardess Board; member of the Missionary Society; Chaplain of the Lay Council; member of the Mass Choir; Condolence Secretary for four decades; and as a former Director of the Morning Glory Youth Choir.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, John H. Belcher in 1991, and her long-time companion, George M. Wilkerson in 2014. The matriarch of her family, Phyllis leaves to cherish her memory her two children, Johnita (Raimon) Prince of Cleveland, OH; Donnell Belcher of Mexico, MO; and Goddaughter, Sonya Dee Brown of Mexico, MO. She was “Grammy” to three grandsons, Ryene K. M. Prince, Johnathan B. A. Prince (Washington, D. C.), Wesley C. D. Prince and six great-grandchildren R’meyeni Prince, Riley D. J. Prince; Mikiyah Bearden, Ariyanna Mock, Mahogany Williams, and Kashmere Walker, all of Cleveland, OH. She loved her role as Godmother to Richard (Kristin) Mayson of Ottumwa, IA and Joshua Mayson of Columbia, MO. She is also survived by her cousins, who were more like her brothers and sister, George F. (Linda) Williams, Phillip W. Williams, Sr., David M. Williams all of Columbia, MO; and Kathy D. Whittler of Springfield, MO; and adopted daughter, Glenda (Robert) Chambers of Mexico, MO; her St. Paul C.M.E. Church Family; a host of nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

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

Irene Folta

Memorial Mass for Irene Mae Marie (Prior) Folta, 89, of Wellsville, will be at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 19th at Church of the Resurrection in Wellsville.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service, Wednesday, at the church. Services are under the direction of the Myers Funeral Home in Wellsville.

Mrs. Folta passed away on Wednesday, August 12th at St. Andrew's at New Florence.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.myersfuneralhome.biz.

Eddie Dwayne Layman

Eddie Dwayne Layman, 53, of Mexico, passed away with his family by his side on Monday, August 10, 2020 at the University of Missouri Hospital.



Dwayne was born in Mexico, Missouri on November 26, 1966 to Eddie Layman and Shirley Lower Layman Haney, both of whom survive.

He married Kristen Beasley. They had one daughter,

Maria, who survives at the home. Other survivors include two step-daughters: Shelby Williams, Katelyn (Luke Moore) Williams; three grandchildren: Brayden, Braelynn, and Baylor. Dwayne is also survived by one brother: Robert (Donna) Layman; one nephew, Austin (Samantha Thomasson) Layman; one great niece, Sawyer Layman; two aunts: Robin (Dave) Abbot and Kay (Donnie) Yelton and their families.

Dwayne is also survived by his life partner, Michelle Niemeyer; and her daughters: Hayden, Kerstie Niemeyer; and Michelle's 5 sisters.

Dwayne grew up in Laddonia and Vandalia. He was a graduate of Van-Far High School. He was a well-known cabinet maker. He could take a board and turn it into

a piece of art. He also loved fishing, and cars.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Maria Ann Layman Educational Fund, c/o United Credit Union, 802 W. Breckenridge Street, Mexico, Missouri 65265.

Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory; 12 East Ash Street, Columbia, Missouri, 65203; (573) 449-4153. Condolences may be left online for the family at www.ParkerMillard.com.

Robbie Juanita Lee

Robbie Juanita Lee, 81 of Madison, died Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at her home.

Funeral services will be held 12:00 Noon Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at Fenton-Kendrick Funeral Home in Centralia, with burial to follow in the Mt. Horeb Cemetery in Sturgeon.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM until the time of the service on Wednesday at the funeral home.

To those attending the visitation or funeral service we ask that you maintain social distancing, be aware that capacity and seating may be limited. We will follow all guidelines set forth by Boone County, face masks are not required, although the CDC suggests the use of face masks.

Robbie was born on September 19, 1938 in Big Flat, AR, the daughter of William and Vada (Barnes) Lawrence.

On May 24, 1954 in Onia, AR, Robbie married Wilmon Lee, and he preceded her in death on February 18, 2010.

Robbie is survived by her children, Jerry Lee and wife Tracy of Moberly, Susie Pinkerton and husband Dave of Centralia, Tim Lee of Madison, William Lee and wife Nela of Abilene, TX, Nathan Lee of Madison; grandchildren, Kristen, Travis, Amanda, Rachel, Camila, Lucas, Micaiah, Leora; great-grandchildren, Adrienne, and Nolan; a sister, Lenora McGregor of Clarksville, TN.

Along with her husband, Wilmon, Robbie was preceded in death by her son, Robert Lee, parents, and seven siblings, Gertrude Setterfield, Marvin Lawrence, Ruth Treat, James Lawrence, Paul Lawrence, Orville Lawrence, and Asa Lawrence.

Robbie enjoyed sewing, cooking, crocheting, and being with her dogs. Her greatest joy in life were her children, and grandchildren. She loved to take care of her family and was a loving and devoted mother.

Memorial donations are suggested to the Arthritis Foundation and may be sent in care of Fenton-Kendrick Funeral Home, 104 S. Collier St. Centralia, MO 65240.

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

Edna Bernise Swiger

June 23, 1941 – August 6, 2020 (age 79)

Edna Bernise Swiger, age 79, of Mt. Olive, NC passed away Thursday evening, August 6, 2020 at UNC Rex Hospital in Raleigh, NC.

Bernise was born on June 23, 1941 in Grantham, North Carolina, the daughter of Clarence W. and Velaria Mae (Westbrook) Denning. Bernise is survived by her husband, Robert L. Swiger (Bobby), four children: a son, Robert Kirk Swiger (Gina), three daughters, Jennifer Denise Berry (Ricky), Lisa Mae Swiger and Tina Marie Swiger; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren; her brothers, Laydon Denning (Lalon) of Mt. Olive, NC, Jessie (Ruth) Denning of Richmond, VA, Ed (Pansy) Denning of Roseboro, NC, Duke (Jean) Denning of Richmond, VA; a sister, Betty Lou (Denning) Booska-Salmons (Ron) of Mexico, MO; and a host of loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mae and Clarence Denning, her sisters, Viola Mae Gilbert, Wilma Rochelle Denning and Janice Lee Denning, and a brother, Dennis E. Denning.

She was a member of Jordans Chapel Baptist Church. A service to celebrate her life was held Tuesday, August 11, at 2:00pm at Shumate-Faulk Funeral Home with Pastor Ray Smeltzer and Pastor Frank Sandy officiating.

The family had a time of visitation one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial followed in the Jordans Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be directed to the Jordans Chapel Baptist Church Building Fund, 5663 US Highway 13 S, Mount Olive, NC 28365 or to the Cures For The Colors, 203 Cox Boulevard, Goldsboro, NC 27534.

SCHOOLS

From Page A3

companies. It's really going to be a nationwide, careful analysis by judges."

MAYORS LOBBY FOR FUNDS

While they appealed to the Jackson County Legislature for funds from the federal CARES Act, officials in Independence and Blue Springs, among a chorus of cities, have also lobbied the federal government for direct funds over the past few months.

In May, Missouri Mayors United sent a letter to the state's congressional delegation, appealing for direct funds to help deal with the pandemic. Among those who signed were Independence Mayor Eileen Weir, Mike Larson from Sugar Creek and Darrel Box from Buckner. The letter asked for "direct and flexible fiscal assistance to all cities across the nation," noting that the CARES Act stipulations put many neighboring cities in competition with each other when their services often cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Weir and Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross said they have also signed on to other letters of appeal through organizations such as the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Thus far, such requests have been unfulfilled.

"We've had a number of very good conversations with Senator (Roy) Blunt and his staff, Congressman (Emanuel) Cleaver and his staff and Senator (Josh) Hawley's staff," Weir said, acknowledging the country is full of cities making similar overtures. "We know these are complicated things."

Only cities with a population of 500,000 or greater received CARES Act funds directly. Others appealed to the local counties, and in Jackson County the process to request and allocate \$122.7 million has been at times contentious.

In a late July letter, the U.S. Conference of Mayors criticized the current stimulus plan in the Senate because it lacks direct funding to cities, which have been "on the frontlines of this response and are now facing devastating budget shortfalls."

"Cities must recover if America is to recover," the letter read. "Cities are the backbone of the American economy and Congress cannot afford to ignore their needs if they want to see its eventual recovery."

MMA

From Page A2

Cadets, during their first two weeks on campus, will be tested for COVID-19 and remain in a single occupancy room. Masks are mandatory on campus and social distancing reminders are posted for cadets, faculty and staff.

Cadets, faculty and staff will have their temperatures checked daily. Cadets will receive health checks, while faculty and staff will self-assess. Staff will maintain continuous cleaning, disinfection and sanitation across campus, plus daily monitoring of ventilation systems, according to the release.

The academy will maintain a contained campus for the fall 2020 semester. Homecoming was postponed to spring 2021 and on-campus family activities held during the fall semester were canceled. Athletic activities and other events will be livestreamed.

GALLOWAY

From Page A1

expansion and they are enjoying economic and health care benefits, alike."

SIMMONS SHARES HER VISION

Democrat Lindsey Simmons, who is attempting to unseat Republican incumbent Vicky Hartzler, also was at the Audrain County opening and spoke about her hopes for November.

When President Donald Trump pulled back support from northeastern Syria and Kurdish troops, that is when Simmons reached out to Hartzler's office. Simmons husband is in the U.S. Army as a Pilot and was serving in the area, she said.

Simmons heard no answer until she decided to run for office, she said.

"The day after I announced, they called back to apologize for never getting back to me," she said. "I let her office know at the time, that I should not have to run for congress to hear

from my congressperson."

Simmons wants to see the first woman vice president in Kamala Harris, who Joe Biden announced as his running mate Tuesday, the first woman Missouri governor in Galloway and a new face in congress if she unseats Hartzler.

INCREASED VISIBILITY

More visibility of the county's Democratic party was the purpose of Wednesday's opening.

"We may be outnumbered, but we are not outgunned," Jamie Blair said, who is part of

the party's leadership. "Politics is about who shows up and we have two fantastic candidates who showed up today and all of you who showed up today."

Having headquarters will help other county Democrats from feeling like they are alone when surrounded by so many of a different political ideology, Blair said.

"[This is] a blue beacon on Liberty street, and lets them know they have a place to build power and share in the momentum and say at the top of their lungs, 'I am a Democrat,'" she said.

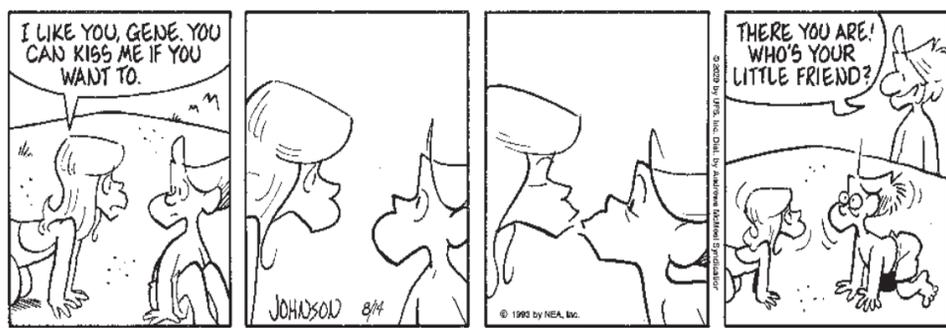
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Small ads produce big results. Ask about our advertising rates to fit any budget.

COMICS

COMICS

ARLO AND JANIS



BY JIMMY JOHNSON

BIG NATE



BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

THE BORN LOSER



BY CHIP SANSON

FRANK AND ERNEST



BY THAVES

MONTY



BY JIM MEDDICK

THATABABY



BY PAUL TRAP

SUDOKU

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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8-14-20
Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

Answers to previous puzzle.

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Goody-goody
 - Briny expanse
 - On vacation
 - Klemperer or Preminger
 - Elev.
 - Auel's "The Clan of the — Bear"
 - Hoe
 - Set ablaze
 - Jeannie
 - portrayer
 - Look pleasant
 - Garden favorite
 - Pep
 - Sundial numeral
 - Not urban
 - Special skills
 - Sooner than
 - Belief
 - Foul ball caller
 - W-2 info
 - Out of the ordinary
- DOWN**
- Bam!
 - Road map info

Answer to Previous Puzzle

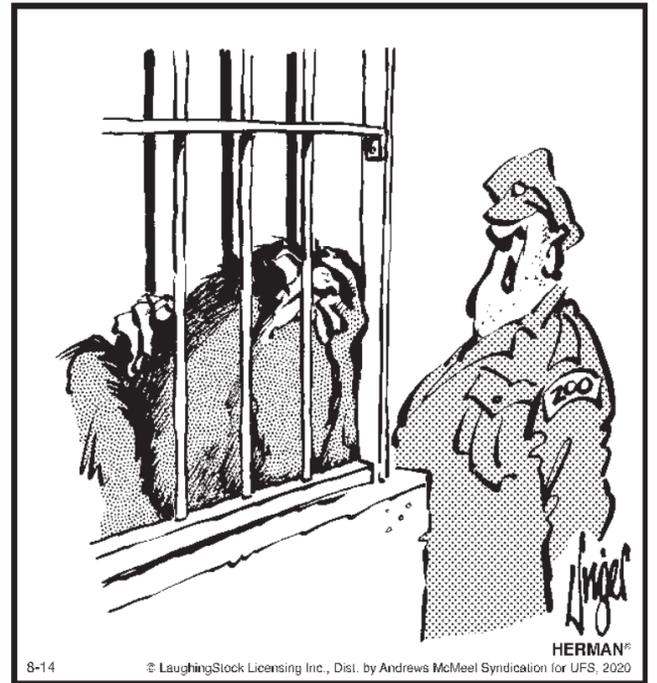
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57				58			59			

- Big-ticket —
- Lady of Coventry
- Oregon capital
- New Haven student
- Achieves
- Acid in vinegar
- Stay near the shore
- Declare
- Kyoto cash
- Like Capp's Abner
- Where Anna taught
- Second notes
- Pliny's bear
- Cleave
- Grade-schoolers
- fu
- Gloating
- Qt. fractions
- Pointed arch
- Dispossess
- Zealous
- Strong soap
- Even more spooky
- Sock part
- Wrist-to-elbow bone
- Lunch hour, often
- Nonflying bird
- Dog-paddled
- Cul-de- —
- Go bad
- DJ's gear

HERMAN

BY JIM UNGER



"Come on, Herbert. The gates open in five minutes."

ASTRO-GRAPH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020
Make things happen. If you lack what you need to follow a dream that excites you, pick up the skills, knowledge or whatever else is required. Shoot for the stars, and see what transpires.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Converse with people who share your beliefs. If you show potential and that you are reliable, someone will offer support. Don't settle for less than what you want.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Refuse to let your emotions take the reins. Common sense and practicality will save you from making a mistake. Let go of the past, and concentrate on making your future bright.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Make plans to do something special with someone who brings out the best in you. Taking a healthy approach to life will make you feel good. Distance yourself from negative, demanding individuals.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) — Learn from observation and experience. A romantic gesture will enhance your life and encourage you to carry out a promise. Attack projects with determination and finesse.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Honesty, communication and commitment will help solve a personal problem. Compromise will bring you closer to a lifestyle that offers peace of mind, contentment and a better future.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take a load off your mind by directly addressing financial or contractual matters. Lay your

By Eugenia Last

cards on the table, and find out where others stand on important issues.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Touch base with someone who always lifts your spirits. Dealing with children will lead to an awakening that will bring about a positive change. A discussion will bring you closer to a loved one.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Mix the old with the new. The people you associate with will affect the way your day unfolds. Avoid indulgent situations, and embrace a healthier lifestyle.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Keep your emotions under control. An intelligent and practical approach to getting things done will help you reach your goal. Don't let an emotional incident ruin your day or plans.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Consider what will make you happy, content and ready to get on with your life. Be forgiving of others as well as yourself, and look for the good in all things. Romance is on the rise.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Figure out who is trustworthy and who isn't before you pick sides or get involved in a new project. If something doesn't feel right, ask questions.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It's OK to make a change once in a while. Stop fearing the unknown, and start discovering what life has to offer. Be imaginative, and follow your heart.




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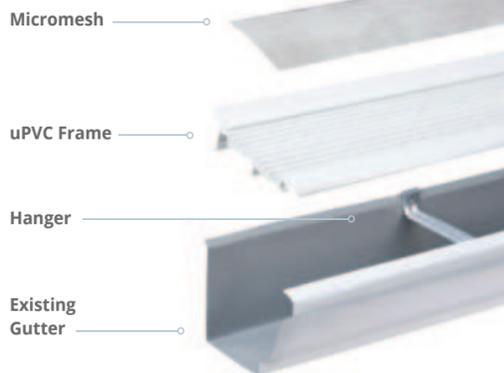


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SPORTS

Drinkwitz, Tigers look toward fall camp

By Eric Blum
Columbia Daily Tribune

Even as the college football landscape shifted dramatically this week, Missouri head football coach Eli Drinkwitz has remained steadfast.

Drinkwitz continues to prepare his team for its Sept. 26 season opener.

There are more unknowns than ever before in college sports amid the coronavirus pandemic, and Tuesday's cancellations of fall football by the Big Ten Conference and Pac-12 Conference appeared to amplify questions and concerns for players, coaches and fans alike.

Yet Drinkwitz is guiding his team through an acclimation period that started this week to be ready for the start of fall camp this coming Monday.

The Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Big 12 Conference are the lone Power Five leagues still planning to play this fall, but there is consensus even among those three that the plans are not a guarantee.

"I have no idea what the future is going to hold for college football," Drinkwitz said on a Zoom call with local reporters Wednesday afternoon. "Every day, it seems like the information is changing, but I'm excited about the stance of (SEC Commissioner) Greg Sankey and our leadership in the SEC, grateful to the leadership of the ACC and Big 12 for allowing us to continue to pursue the plans to have a 2020 season."

"There's going to be a lot of challenges ahead. I don't think we're all the

way through all of them, but we're doing everything we possibly can to try to make this season successful and we'll continue to do that and our team has been tremendous in doing those things."

Drinkwitz noted Tiger football has a COVID-19 positivity rate of less than 3%, well lower than the 11.5% statewide and 9.7% in Boone County.

MU students are scheduled to begin classes on campus Aug. 24.

The Big 12 unveiled its nine-game conference slate for each team Wednesday, with an option for a nonconference matchup, including Oklahoma hosting Missouri State on Sept. 12, which is the Bears' lone remaining scheduled game this fall.

Missouri will play a 10-game, SEC-only slate with details yet to be

released. MU does know the three league teams it won't face this season: Auburn, Mississippi and Texas A&M.

"Regardless of how it turns out, I can't believe we're looking at our watch on Aug. 12 and we've got people that are saying we're not playing football Sept. 26," Drinkwitz said. "I mean, that's like the St. Louis Cardinals canceling the doubleheader on Sunday because it's forecast to rain, (and) we're talking about it being on Wednesday. I mean, that's just crazy to me."

With more decisions and precautions expected over the coming weeks, Drinkwitz's advice to his team is simple.

"The best advice I gave our team, our coaches is to put your cell phones away and get off social media, and when there's



Missouri head football coach Eli Drinkwitz: "There's going to be a lot of challenges ahead. I don't think we're all the way through all of them, but we're doing everything we possibly can to try to make this season successful." (DON SHRUBSELL/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO)

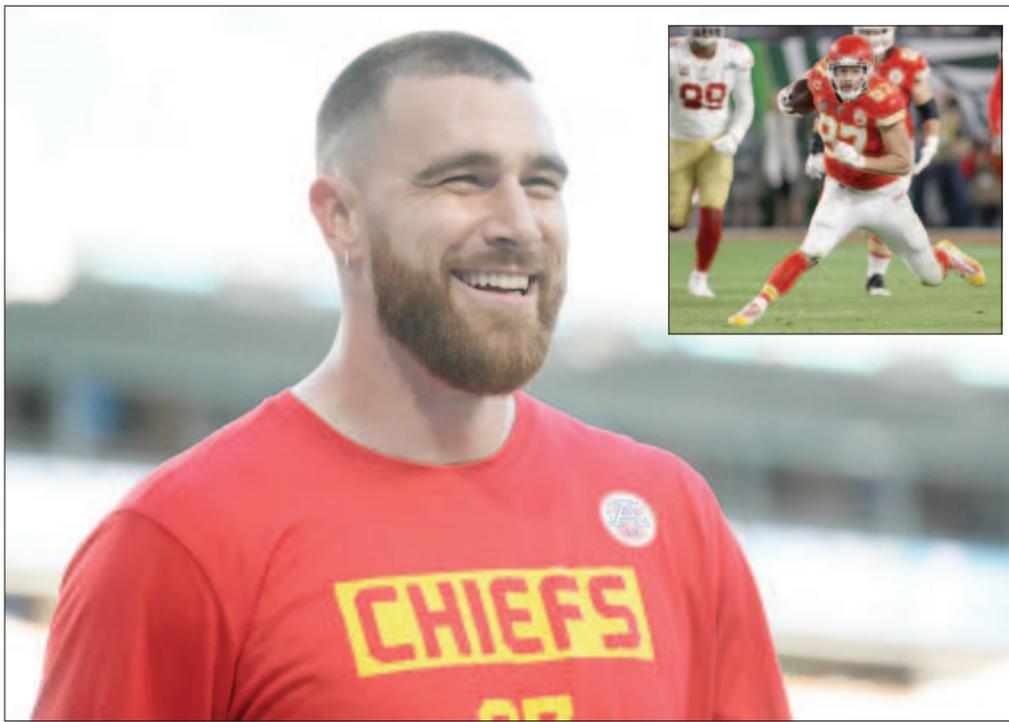
information that needs to be given to you, you'll get it straight from me," Drinkwitz said.

Some speculation on social media hinted at a mass exodus of players from Power Five schools without a fall football season. Drinkwitz shut down the possibility of

recruiting players from any other school unless they were already in the transfer portal.

Drinkwitz said there are three spots left for possible signings in Missouri's 2020 class, but with how close the start of the

See DRINKWITZ, B2



AT LEFT: Kansas City Chiefs' Travis Kelce smiles before Super Bowl 54 on Feb. 2 in Miami Gardens, Fla. [WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS] INSET: Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) runs after a reception against the San Francisco 49ers during Super Bowl 54 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla. [MATTHEW EMMONS/USA TODAY SPORTS]



St. Louis Cardinals' Paul DeJong, left, is congratulated by teammate Yadier Molina after hitting a home run during an exhibition game against the Kansas City Royals on July 22 at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. [JEFF ROBERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Cards set to resume season

By Jay Cohen
The Associated Press

St. Louis' series opener against the Chicago White Sox was postponed to Saturday, giving the Cardinals an extra day to recover from a coronavirus outbreak.

The Cardinals, who haven't played since July 29, were set to resume their season Friday night in Chicago. But the series opener was pushed back to a straight doubleheader on Saturday afternoon, the beginning of an extended stay in the Windy City for the Cards.

John Mozeliak, president of baseball operations for the Cardinals, confirmed the move in a conference call with reporters Thursday. Mozeliak also said the team is going to play doubleheaders on Monday and Wednesday against the Cubs at Wrigley Field after the NL Central rivals had a series postponed last weekend.

The Cardinals' season has been derailed by the coronavirus. Star catcher Yadier Molina and infielder Paul DeJong are among the players who have tested positive.

St. Louis, the defending NL Central champion, has played just five games, winning two. It seems unlikely that it will be able to make up every one of its games that have been postponed during the pandemic-delayed season.

While announcing Sunday that St. Louis' series against Pittsburgh had been postponed, MLB said the league and the Cardinals believed it was "prudent to conduct additional testing while players and staff are quarantined before the team returns to play."

MORE TO COME Chiefs, Travis Kelce agree to 4-year, \$57.25M extension

By Dave Skretta
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY — The Kansas City Chiefs weren't done when they signed star quarterback Patrick Mahomes to a record-setting extension, or when they put together a pricey package to keep Pro Bowl defensive tackle Chris Jones on the line.

Now, they're shelling out more big money to keep tight end Travis Kelce in the fold.

The Chiefs and the two-time All-Pro agreed to a four-year, \$57.25 million extension Thursday that will keep him with the Super Bowl champions through 2025, a person familiar with the contract told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The deal came the same day the San Francisco 49ers and their All-Pro tight end, George Kittle, agreed to a five-year, \$75 million extension, a person familiar with that contract told AP. Kittle and

Kelce, who were on opposing sidelines during the Super Bowl in February, long ago established themselves as the clear-cut top two tight ends in the game.

The Chiefs rallied in the second half to win their first championship in 50 years. And as the Chiefs spent the offseason securing their core players by giving Mahomes a 10-year extension that could be worth a half-billion dollars, and Jones a four-year, \$85 million deal, it left Kelce confident that it was merely the first of what could be many Super Bowls.

"The guys coming in this office, they know what this team is capable of," he said as the Chiefs reported to training camp, which is being held at their practice facility because of the coronavirus pandemic. "It shows in what we did last year and who all we have coming back, which means we have just about every single leader that we had in this locker room."

Kelce quickly grew into a leader after a standout college career marked by some off-the-field issues that caused his draft stock to plummet.

The Chiefs selected him in the third round in 2013 and, after missing most of his rookie season because of a knee injury, he moved into the lineup and became a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses.

The affable and outspoken Kelce has been voted to five consecutive Pro Bowls, and he's put together four straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons. He also has excelled under the brightest of lights, catching 10 passes for 134 yards and three TDs in a playoff win over Houston, three more passes in an AFC championship win over Tennessee, and then grabbing six passes for 43 yards and a touchdown in helping the Chiefs to a 31-20 victory over the 49ers.

"He's athletic. I think he's instinctive. His routes don't look like anybody else's routes," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "I mean, the route is to get open at whatever depth the quarterback wants. He can freeze guys and then burst across the field. He's got great catch radius. I mean, he's tall, he's long, he's athletic, he's tough, and it's a tough challenge."

MSHSAA: Schools may play alternate seasons

By Langston Newsome
Columbia Daily Tribune

The Missouri State High School Activities Association approved rearranging seasons this coming school year for schools that cannot compete this fall due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision Thursday comes as the Aug. 28 scheduled start date for fall sports is about two weeks away.

"The traditional seasons are still being offered at this time for those schools able to participate," wrote Kerwin Urhahn, MSHSAA executive director, in a statement Thursday morning.

"Today's action by the board of directors puts into place a plan of action our staff devised in the event a school is not able to participate partially or in whole.

"This could give those students an opportunity to complete a season in their sport."

Under the new plan, schools with teams that are unable to compete in the fall may push their seasons back to the spring, with the option for spring sports to then be pushed to next summer.

MSHSAA will allow schools and conferences to decide whether to use the alternative seasons or remain within the traditional seasons.

Schools electing to participate in the alternate fall season for any sport will, by default, be placed in the alternate spring season for all spring sports, MSHSAA wrote in an email to member schools Thursday.

Schools may still request to participate in the traditional spring season for any spring sport if they opted into the alternate fall season.

Schools have been instructed to notify MSHSAA by Sept. 11 if they intend to participate in the alternate fall season.

Schools that start the traditional fall season but are forced to shut down activities after that deadline may request the

alternate fall season on a case-by-case basis.

The alternate fall season would begin competitions March 12 and conclude May 1. The alternate spring season would begin May 14 and end July 10.

The decision does not affect the traditional winter sports seasons. Practices for winter sports are still scheduled to begin Nov. 1, with the season concluding March 20. Schools may be granted late entry into winter sports seasons if needed.

All championship venues and locations for the traditional seasons are subject to change, MSHSAA wrote in the email to members.



Last week, MSHSAA changed its rules for 2020-21 to allow schools that are online-only due to the pandemic to still participate in athletics. At least 20 St. Louis area districts are beginning the year entirely virtually.

SPORTS

Atletico catching breaks in UCL

By **Tales Azzoni**
The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — So far so good for Atletico Madrid in the quest for its first Champions League title.

Diego Simeone's team has caught all the breaks going into the decisive final-eight tournament in Lisbon.

Old foes Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo are gone. It drew Leipzig instead of a more traditional powerhouse for the quarterfinals. And its rival lost its top player after Timo Werner left for Chelsea. Even when things went wrong and the squad was hit by COVID-19, Atletico avoided the worst as only two players were infected and it could still make the trip to Portugal.

Things have been looking good for Simeone and his players.

A victory against Leipzig on Thursday will put Atletico back in the semifinals for the first time since it was eliminated by Ronaldo's Madrid in the last four in 2017. Ronaldo and Madrid had defeated Atletico in the final in 2014 and 2016, and also ended the rival's run in the quarterfinals in 2015.

Ronaldo again was Atletico's nemesis last season after joining Juventus. Atletico lost to the Italian team in the round of 16 after Ronaldo scored a hat trick in the decisive second leg in Turin.

But this time Ronaldo and Juventus were eliminated by Lyon in the last 16, the same stage in which Madrid was knocked out of the tournament by Manchester City. Only two past champions are still left in the competition — Barcelona and Bayern Munich — and they play against each other in the opposite side of the draw, meaning Atletico could only meet one of them in the final.

Leipzig is a relative newcomer to the Champions League, having reached the group stage only twice. This is the first time it made it to the knockout round. It eliminated Tottenham in the round of 16, but now it won't count on top scorer Werner, who didn't extend his contract by a few weeks to finish the season with the German club before moving to Chelsea.

Atletico stunned defending champion Liverpool in the last 16, advancing after a 3-2 win in England.

"The game against Liverpool will go down in history and was one of the best we've had in a long time," Atletico striker Diego Costa said. "It gave fans high expectations and we will give our best to try to meet those expectations. Hopefully we will play well and luck will stay on our side."

Chiefs wide receivers showcase speed during indoor race

By **Dave Skretta**
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY — Mecole Hardman is probably faster than 99% of players in the NFL. Tyreek Hill happens to be in the 1%.

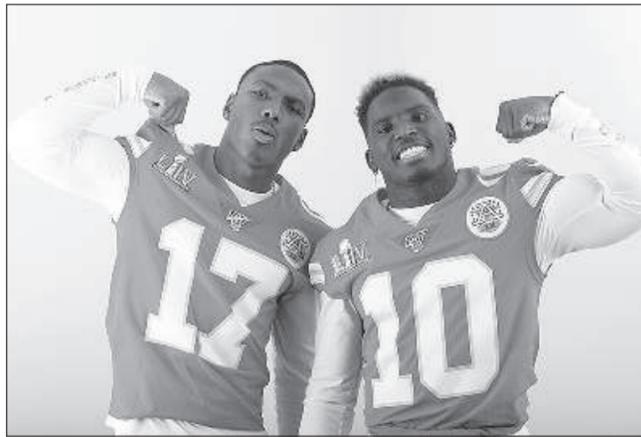
The two Chiefs wide receivers have traded barbs about their speed ever since Hardman was chosen in the second round of last year's draft. Hardman and Hill both have world-class speed — that much was never in question — but just who was the fastest man in Kansas City wasn't settled until the two lined up in the team's indoor facility this past week.

Hill won easily. Hardman copped to it on social media with a sad-face emoji.

"Every day we find ways to better ourselves," Hill said in a social media posting. "Really enjoyed the competition level and the way we push each other. It's all love."

The real winners, though, are probably the Super Bowl champs. Throw in veteran Sammy Watkins, rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire and even tight end Travis Kelce, and the Chiefs just might have the fleetest group of skill position players in a league that has grown increasingly dependent on speed.

"The Tyreek and Mecole race, I mean, both the guys are super fast. I'm just lucky to have both of them," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said during a break



Kansas City Chiefs' Mecole Hardman (17) and Tyreek Hill (10) pose for a photo Jan. 27 in Miami. Hardman and Hill both have world-class speed, but just who was the fastest man in Kansas City wasn't settled until the two lined up in the team's indoor facility this past week. [DOUG BENC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

from training camp meetings and workouts this week.

"Tyreek got the first one," Mahomes said with a smile, "but I'm going to try to keep them from racing anymore. I'd rather them just run down the sidelines scoring touchdowns during the game week."

All of the Chiefs' wide receivers did plenty of that last year.

Hill caught seven touchdown passes last season. Hardman had six. Another member of the dynamic group, Demarcus Robinson, hauled in four TD catches and Watkins finished with three.

On one of Hardman's touchdown receptions, an 83-yard

catch in Week 3, he hit a top speed of 21.74 mph that put the play among the fastest all season, according to NFL Next Gen Stats.

Watkins hit 21.33 mph on a 38-yard TD catch in Week 1.

Hill didn't quite reach those speeds last season, mostly because he's often so far ahead of defenders by the end zone that he's able to throttle back a bit.

But gaze back at previous seasons and the two-time All-Pro regularly has some of the fastest single plays in the NFL.

In fact, he had the two fastest during the 2016 season, at one point hitting 23.24 mph. It's not just straight-line speed, either.

There is a significant difference between being fast and playing fast. And the ability of Hardman and Hill in particular to stop on a dime, change directions and immediately accelerate to full speed is uncanny.

Those also happen to be traits that allowed Edwards-Helaire to become a first-round draft pick.

Most draftniks thought the Chiefs would select a defensive player in the first round, but they instead made the talented running back out of LSU their choice.

They were enamored by his blocking in the pass game, his ability to catch passes out of the backfield and, yes, his speed and elusiveness — and it wound up being a decision that carried even more importance when Super Bowl star Damien Williams decided to opt out because of coronavirus concerns.

"It's something that I was born with," Edwards-Helaire said of his unique athletic ability. "I feel like that was a gift I had (and) you always try to make yourself better, find a way to make it elite, as some guys would say. I wanted to work on it."

Being quicker and faster than the next person is always the name of the game. It's the way I make my game in, being quick and fast in small areas. It's the way I run the ball. It's the way I got to the Kansas City Chiefs."

It's a big reason why Hardman made it to the Chiefs. Why Hill made it, too.

NCAA cancels fall championships, but major college football continues

By **Eric Blum**
Columbia Daily Tribune

The NCAA will not hold any of the Division I fall sports championships it has jurisdiction over this year due to more than half its membership deciding not to compete amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision affects Missouri in volleyball, soccer and cross country.

NCAA President Mark Emmert announced the news Thursday afternoon, leaving FBS football as the only sport that could still have a national champion this fall season. That's because the highest tier of college football has its champion decided through the independent College Football Playoff.

The Southeastern Conference has yet to cancel fall sports, and it remains unclear whether Missouri will still participate in conference or nonconference competition in any of the sports impacted by Thursday's announcement.

The SEC previously delayed the start of all fall sports to Sept. 1.

"There's not enough schools participating," Emmert said in an online video about calling off the national championships. "The (NCAA) Board of Governors said, 'Look, if you don't have half of the schools playing the sport, you can't have a legitimate championship.' So we can't in any Division I NCAA championship sport now, which is everything other than FBS football that goes on in the fall. So, sadly, tragically, that's going to be the case this fall. Full stop."

"That doesn't mean we shouldn't and



Missouri volleyball players run onto the floor before a Southeastern Conference match against Kentucky in September 2019 at the Hearnes Center. [ERIC BLUM/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO]

can't turn toward winter and spring and say, 'How can we create a legitimate championship for those students?' There are ways to do this. I am completely confident we can figure this out."

Divisions II and III canceled their fall championships last week. Division I — which is comprised of 357 schools — held on, but as conference after conference canceled their fall seasons, the tipping point came.

Two Power Five leagues, the Big Ten Conference and Pac-12 Conference, have postponed fall athletics to the spring, as have 10 of the 11 conferences that play FCS football. The Mountain West Conference and Mid-American Conference also postponed football to the spring from the Group of Five Conference level.

The College Football Playoff isn't controlled by the NCAA and makes its own independent decisions with its 10 member conferences. Six FBS football conferences are still slated to play this fall, including the

Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12 Conference and SEC.

The NCAA membership, through the D-I Council, which represents all 32 conferences, has to approve moving affected fall sports to the spring.

Emmert said he would like to avoid canceling winter and spring championships for a second straight year if at all possible.

To buck that trend while living in the age of COVID-19, Emmert mentioned modifying championship models, shrinking the number of qualified teams, using predetermined sites "instead of running kids around the country" and moving toward bubble-type models.

Controlled bubbles have been utilized by the NHL and NBA with no interruption to scheduled play. Major League Baseball has had to postpone games due to outbreaks on the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins.

"It is doable," Emmert said. "And we want to do that. We want to make it work for these students."

DRINKWITZ

From Page B1

season is, adding another player would be possible, but not plausible.

"There was such a rush and such emotion yesterday," Drinkwitz said. "Everybody wants to comment on Twitter about the cancellation of those guys' season, and then today all those social media warriors have moved on to something else. And those players and coaches and people who are invested in those programs are left picking up the pieces right now of what they're going to do."

"My heart goes out to them. It goes out to the

coaching staff and the players. It's a hard deal to have college football taken from you, even if it's pushed back for a time. These young men worked so hard for these opportunities, and to not have them, it's tough and I feel for those guys. I feel for those players, I feel for those coaches."

Drinkwitz also provided a few updates on his roster, saying that offensive lineman Angel Matute will medically redshirt and maintain his scholarship.

Defensive lineman Jatorian Hansford will miss fall camp after shoulder surgery, and freshman offensive lineman Mitchell Walters also will not participate in fall camp after suffering a "lower extremity injury."

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MARKET MOVERS

• **Cisco Systems Inc.:** Down \$5.38 to \$42.72 — The maker of routers and other computer hardware gave investors a weak fiscal first-quarter financial forecast.
 • **Lyft Inc.:** Down \$1.64 to \$28.88 — The pandemic hurt demand and crimped financial results for the ride-hailing service during the second quarter.

BRIEF CASE

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA Bankrupt Alaska airline seeks bonus for exec

The largest rural airline in Alaska has declared bankruptcy and laid off more than a thousand workers but wants to award \$250,000 in bonus money to its chief executive and other employees.

Anchorage-based RavnAir Group filed the request Tuesday in Delaware bankruptcy court, arguing that the bonuses are justified because of long hours and the hard work that went into selling the company's assets after it shut down during the coronavirus pandemic, Alaska Public Radio reported.

BEIJING China extends tariffs on Indian optical fiber

China's Commerce Ministry said Thursday it has extended punitive tariffs on Indian optical fiber products for five years.

The announcement follows a yearlong review after a previous tariff expired in 2019. It takes effect Aug. 14.

It is unclear if the move is in any way related to a recent bout of antagonisms between the Asian giants linked to a border clash in which 20 Indian soldiers died.

LONDON UK begins testing app to fight COVID-19

Britain started testing a new smartphone app Thursday to help people find out whether they've been close to someone infected with COVID-19 after security concerns torpedoed an earlier effort to use technology to track the disease.

The Department of Health and Social Care said that trials of the app began on the Isle of Wight, with testing in the London borough of Newham scheduled to begin soon. The app, which was developed in conjunction with privacy experts and companies such as Google and Apple, is similar to technology being used in Germany and Ireland.

The Associated Press



The path of a possible tornado is evident in a cornfield after a powerful storm on Tuesday in Wakarusa, Ind. [ROBERT FRANKLIN/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

Iowa farms hit hard by storm

By David Pitt
 The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farmers across a wide swath of Iowa are dealing with the heartbreaking aftermath of a rare wind storm that turned what was looking like a record corn crop into deep losses for many.

The storm, known as a derecho, slammed the Midwest with straight line winds of up to 100 miles per hour on Monday, gaining strength as it plowed through Iowa farm fields, flattening corn and bursting grain bins still filled with tens of millions of bushels of last year's harvest.

"It's a problem of two years of crops here. You're still dealing with what you grew last fall and you're trying to figure out how to prepare for what you're growing this fall," said Iowa State University agriculture economist Chad Hart.

Farms in Illinois and Indiana also reported crop and property damage, but not to the extent seen in Iowa.

Before the storm hit, the U.S. Department of Agriculture had been expecting a record national corn crop this year of 15.3 billion bushels harvested from about 84 million acres. Iowa was to provide about 18% of that

production. Iowa's crop was valued at about \$9.81 billion in 2019.

The Iowa Corn Growers Association said it is too soon to accurately describe how much of this year's crop was lost. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said Tuesday that tens of millions of bushels of grain stored at farm cooperatives and privately on farms were damaged or destroyed.

Western Iowa has been declared an extreme drought zone and corn plants there were already weakened due to a lack of moisture. Those fields are likely a loss, Hart said.

According to a USDA report dated Aug. 1, farmers in much of central and eastern Iowa had been expecting near-record yields with healthy plants that could bounce back. For now, much depends on whether the plants snapped off or were just bent over by wind.

"There's a lot more breakage or pinching of stalks than I thought there was now that I've been out and looked at more of it. That, of course, essentially has killed the plant," said Meaghan Anderson, an Iowa State University extension agronomist who works with farmers in nine central Iowa counties.

Corn is flat on the ground in numerous fields in the region, Anderson said. The corn stalks had grown to full height and were in the final stages of producing ears and filling them out with kernels. Modern corn varieties can grow up to 8 feet tall making them vulnerable to powerful straight line winds.

For plants that were bent, and stalks not broken, there's some hope, with a significantly reduced yield. But it will be difficult to harvest. If the stalks snapped, the plant will die. Those fields will be chopped and used as livestock feed.

Iowa Corn Growers Association CEO Craig Floss surveyed the storm damage on his father's farm east of Des Moines on Wednesday. He found two machine sheds destroyed and grain bins significantly damaged. The corn was flattened and the family home in need of repair.

"The main message out there to folks is this really comes at a time when farmers are already significantly hurting due to the pandemic and trade disputes," he said.

"There's a lot of stress in the countryside. ... It was already very stressful," Floss said. "This just adds insult to the injury that was already there."

Hotels, sports venues turn to Clorox, Lysol to vouch for their cleanliness

By Hugo Martín
 Los Angeles Times

If you jump on a United Airlines flight, you are likely to see the Clorox logo on signs and posters as you board.

Check into a Marriott or Hyatt hotel and expect to see stickers emblazoned with the name of the Global Biorisk Advisory Council, an arm of the world's cleaning-products industry trade group.

Customers of Delta Air Lines, Avis car rentals and Hilton hotels might run into placards and stickers touting the Lysol brand.

Trying to reassure a nervous public about their efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, hotels, airlines, car rental companies and sports arenas have

teamed up with the makers of popular cleaning products to vouch for their cleaning protocols.

These protocols focus mostly on disinfecting public spaces and high-touch surfaces, whereas medical experts note that COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through the air after an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales.

And the new partnerships and accreditation programs touted by such travel and hospitality companies do not guarantee that the makers of the popular cleaning products have inspected the facilities — so they're very different from, say, restaurant letter grades, which assure that local health inspectors scrutinize the eateries on a regular basis.

Also unlike government

health departments, the cleaning-product makers expect to profit by charging fees to the venues or boosting sales of their products.

Venues embrace these programs for good reason, hospitality experts say, because travelers are no longer as preoccupied with getting the best price for their next trip as they are with protecting themselves from COVID-19.

"It's a critical move," said Anthony Melchiorri, a hospitality expert who hosts the Travel Channel series "Hotel Impossible." "Not only do your guests have to feel safe but your employees must feel safe."

Although brand names can inspire confidence and comfort, human behavior is key to safety, health experts note.

S&P 500 comes up just short of record

By Stan Choe, Damian J. Troise and Alex Veiga
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Another afternoon fade for stocks left Wall Street just shy of a record on Thursday, after the S&P 500 briefly crossed above its all-time closing high for the second straight day.

The S&P 500 dipped 6.92 points, or 0.2%, to 3,373.43. At one point during the day, it climbed above 3,386.15. That's the record closing level it set in February, before investors appreciated how much devastation the new coronavirus would cause for the global economy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 80.12, or 0.3%, to 27,896.72. The Nasdaq composite climbed 30.27, or 0.3%, to 11,042.50.

It's just the second loss for the S&P 500 in the last 10 days.

The index began stumbling in the early afternoon, as Treasury yields were accelerating following an auction of 30-year bonds by the U.S. government.

Higher yields mean prices for bonds were falling.

"We saw a sell-off in bonds, and that led to a little bit of weakness in stocks," said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. "It's not a terrible day by any stretch of the imagination, but it's also a summer day," which are traditionally slow for markets.

Yields had already perked up before the auction, following a report showing that 963,000 U.S. workers filed for unemployment benefits last week. It's an incredibly high number of layoffs, but it's also the first time the tally has dropped below 1 million since March, before widespread business lockdowns caused a tsunami of layoffs.

Economists said the drop in jobless claims, which was better than the market was expecting, is an encouraging step. But they also cautioned that it could be more of an outlier than a trend, and more data reports are needed to confirm it.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to 0.71%. It was at 0.57% just on Monday.

World markets

How key international stock markets performed:

Amsterdam AEX	Milan FTSE MIB
575.06	20,437.36
-0.9%	-0.9%
569.95	20,257.31
Brussels BEL20	Paris CAC40
3,466.87	5,073.31
-0.6%	-0.6%
3,447.14	5,042.38
Frankfurt DAX	Sydney ASX All Ordinaries
13,058.63	6,257.00
-0.5%	-0.5%
12,993.71	6,223.90
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Tokyo Nikkei
25,244.02	22,843.96
-0.1%	1.8%
25,230.67	23,249.61
London FTSE 100	Zurich Swiss Market Index
6,280.12	10,278.66
-1.5%	-0.2%
6,185.62	10,260.11

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 % change

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

As per RSMo Section 67.110, the Audrain Developmental Disability Services Board will conduct a public hearing at 12:00 noon, August 20, 2020, at Audrain Developmental Disability Services, 222 East Jackson, Mexico, Missouri for the purpose of setting the tax levy rate. The tax is determined by dividing the amount of revenues required for the current assessed valuation. The result is multiplied by 100 so the tax would be expressed in cents per \$100 valuation.

Assessed Valuation	Prior Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Real Estate	\$227,614,526	\$223,583,468
Personal	\$ 93,032,655	\$ 92,728,326
Railroad & Utility	\$ 89,899,933	\$ 90,596,475
TOTAL	\$410,547,114	\$406,908,269

Fund	Amount of Tax	Proposed Tax Rate
General	\$ 857,633	0.2100

These estimates are based on information available at the time of publication. Changes in figures from county offices may result in changes in some or all of the estimates.

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A public hearing will be held at the Audrain Ambulance District located at 440 Kelley Parkway, Mexico Mo. On line at <https://audrainambulancedistrict.my.webex.com/audrainambulancedistrict.my/j.php?MTID=m82fdc7c8baaa27d8b3860c854a3eb882> Join by video system

Dial 1265513956@webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll Access code: 126 551 3956

On August 24th, 2020 at 5 p.m. at which time citizens may be heard on the property tax rate proposed to be set by the Audrain Ambulance District for the year 2020. The tax rate is expressed in cents per \$100 valuation.

Assessed Value	Prior Tax Year 2019	Current Tax Year 2020
Real Estate	171,081,570	167,486,290
Personal	70,889,350	70,310,604
Railroad & Utility	46,303,330	45,825,986
Total	288,274,250	283,622,880

Amount Of Property Tax Revenues Budgeted For 2020	Proposed Tax Rate For 2020 (Per\$100)
\$326,166	0.1150

AUDRAIN AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD
AMANDA DEIMEKE, SECRETARY
Publication Dates 8/15 and 8/19

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6. in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
-Proverbs 3:5-6

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