

Hunter Biden trial

Jurors begin deliberations on guilt of firearm charges **NEWS, A3**

Jacobson picks the right sport

She’s the lacrosse player of the year **SPORTS, B1**



SUNNY 89 • 62 FORECAST, A2 | **TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024** | heraldextra.com | \$1

UTAH COUNTY

Commissioners agree on need for government body to grow

BY CARLENE COOMBS
Daily Herald

Last year, Utah County accounted for 39% of Utah’s population growth, adding about 22,000 new residents, according to the Kem C. Gardner Institute. By 2030, the county is estimated to have more than 860,000 residents,

compared to about 659,000 in 2020. The Utah County Commission is currently comprised of three commissioners, each elected to represent county citizens at large. County Commission Chair Brandon Gordon said he thinks having a larger commission would

allow the government body to be more “efficient” and more present in the community they represent. “Some days I just, I want to be at everything. I want to be at every ribbon-cutting and event and supporting cities, but that there’s so much day to day duties, like

just approving checks and things like that,” he said. Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner said a larger commission would allow commissioners to spread the workload, focus on supervising two or three

Please see **GROWTH**, Page A6



HARRISON EPSTEIN, DAILY HERALD FILE PHOTO

Utah County Commissioners, from left, Tom Sakievich, Amelia Powers Gardner and Brandon Gordon listen during a commission meeting in Provo on July 26, 2023.

STARVING FOR HELPERS



CURTIS BOOKER, DAILY HERALD

Dennis and Pat Andersen of Pleasant Grove show off a bag used to store food they deliver for the Meals on Wheels program. The couple was pictured inside their home on June 5.

Meals on Wheels in need of volunteers to bring food and social interaction to seniors in Utah County

BY CURTIS BOOKER
Daily Herald

Once a week, Pat and Dennis Andersen of Pleasant Grove load up their vehicle at the local senior center with bags of meals, which they deliver to area senior citizens. The retired couple has been volunteering with Meals on Wheels for a little over a year. The Andersens decided to offer up their time

after learning there was a need for delivery drivers in Utah County. “They were short-handed and a lot of seniors were in need of a hot meal at least once a day, and Meals on Wheels is their only source for the most part,” Pat Andersen told the Daily Herald. “So I just asked Dennis, I said,

Please see **MEALS**, Page A6

SECOND DISTRICT

Republican candidates debate the need to compromise

BY ALIXEL CABRERA
Utah News Dispatch

In the race for the 2nd Congressional District, the question is whether incumbency or important endorsements have drawn attention to the Republican primary, scheduled on June 25. But, in a debate ahead of the election, the hottest points were centered on immigration and how to reach a compromise in a slight majority in Congress. Former Congressional staffer and current Rep. Celeste Maloy, who has been in the seat for half a year, faces combat veteran Colby Jenkins for the party’s spot on the ballot this November to represent the district that encompasses Salt Lake City and some rural western and southern areas of the state. In a debate broadcast by PBS Utah and moderated by podcaster Rod Arquette, Jenkins heavily criticized Maloy’s votes on a sweeping spending bill that funded several federal departments and agencies, including homeland security and defense. He called her nods to the bill a demonstration of “surrendering” and an example of how the slim Republican majority “becomes nothing.” “When that slim majority allows the minority to pass the \$1.2 trillion

Please see **DEBATE**, Page A6

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

UN Security Council adopts a cease-fire resolution

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council on Monday overwhelmingly approved its first resolution endorsing a cease-fire plan aimed at ending the eight-

month war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The U.S.-sponsored resolution welcomes a cease-fire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States says Israel has accepted. It calls on the militant Pales-

tinian group Hamas to accept the three-phase plan. The resolution — which was approved with 14 of the 15 Security Council members voting in favor and Russia abstaining — calls on Israel and Hamas “to fully implement

its terms without delay and without condition.” Whether Israel and Hamas agree to go forward with the plan remains in question, but the resolution’s strong support in the U.N.’s most powerful body puts added pressure

on both parties to approve the proposal. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel on Monday, where he urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the plan for postwar Gaza as he pushed for more in-

ternational pressure on Hamas to agree to the cease-fire proposal. Netanyahu has been skeptical of the deal, saying that Israel is still committed to destroying Hamas.

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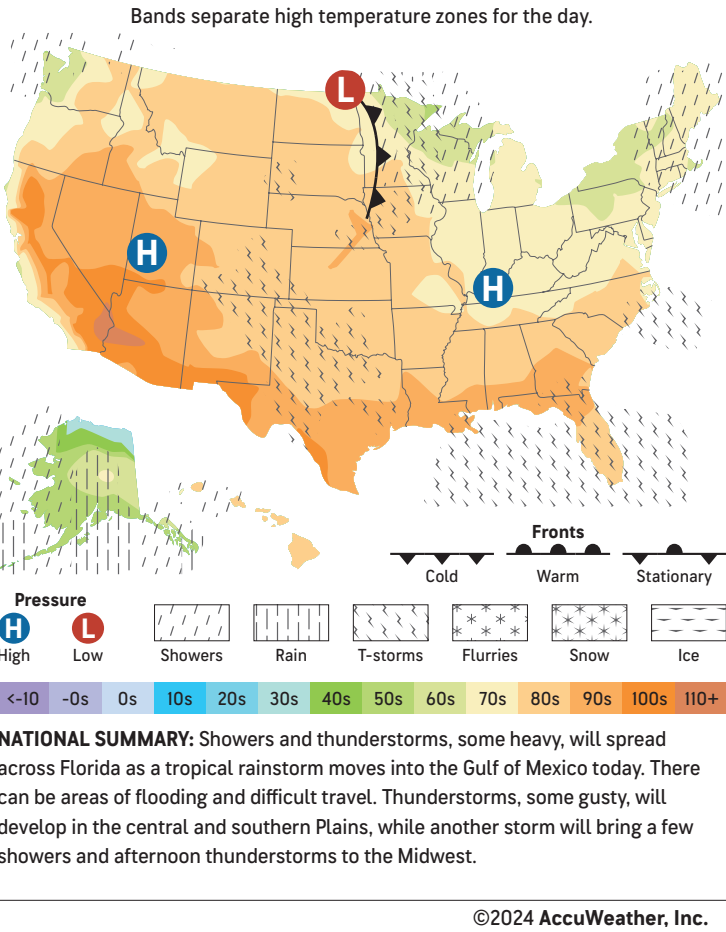
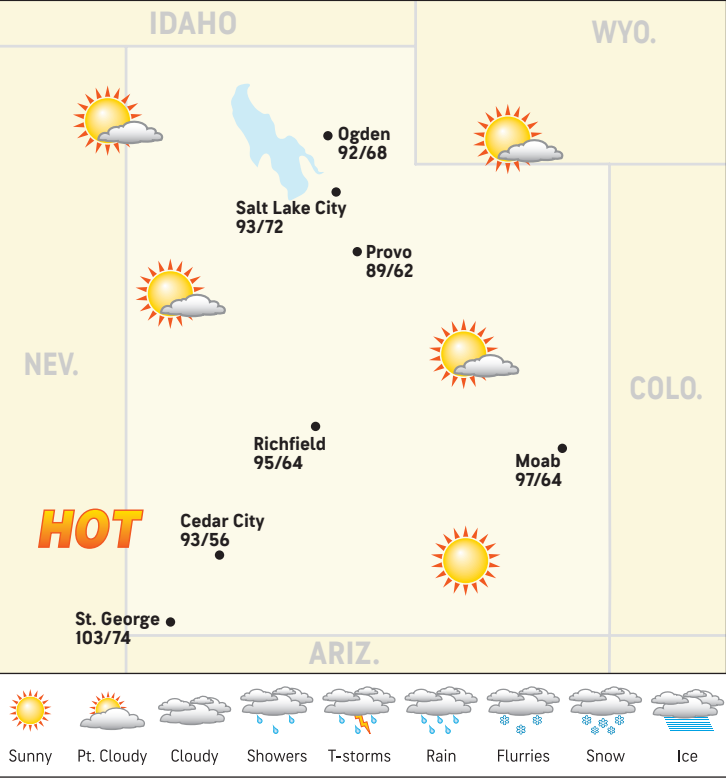
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COMICS	B4	SPORTS	B1
OBITUARIES	A4	TV SCHEDULE	B5



Forecast for Tuesday, June 11, 2024



5-DAY FORECAST



NUCLEAR POWER



NATALIE BEHRING, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taillights trace the path of a motor vehicle at the Naughton Power Plant on Jan. 13, 2022 in Kemmerer, Wyo.

Gates moves ahead with project to transform power generation

BY JENNIFER MCDERMOTT
Associated Press

Bill Gates and his energy company are starting construction at their Wyoming site for a next-generation nuclear power plant he believes will “revolutionize” how power is generated.

Gates was in the tiny community of Kemmerer Monday to break ground on the project. The co-founder of Microsoft is chairman of TerraPower. The company applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in March for a construction permit for an advanced nuclear reactor that uses sodium, not water, for cooling. If approved, it would operate as a commercial nuclear power plant.

The site is adjacent to PacifiCorp’s Naughton Power Plant, which will stop burning coal in 2026 and natural gas a decade later, the utility said. Nuclear reactors operate without emitting planet-warming greenhouse gases. PacifiCorp plans to get carbon-free power from the reactor and says it is weighing how much nuclear to include

in its long-range planning.

The work begun Monday is aimed at having the site ready so TerraPower can build the reactor as quickly as possible if its permit is approved. Russia is at the forefront for developing sodium-cooled reactors.

Gates told the audience at the groundbreaking that they were “standing on what will soon be the bedrock of America’s energy future.”

“This is a big step toward safe, abundant, zero-carbon energy,” Gates said. “And it’s important for the future of this country that projects like this succeed.”

Advanced reactors typically use a coolant other than water and operate at lower pressures and higher temperatures. Such technology has been around for decades, but the United States has continued to build large, conventional water-cooled reactors as commercial power plants. The Wyoming project is the first time in about four decades that a company has tried to get an advanced reactor up and running as a commercial power plant in the United States, according to the NRC.

It’s time to move to advanced nuclear technology that uses the latest computer modeling and physics for a simpler plant design that’s cheaper, even safer and more efficient, said Chris Levesque, the company’s president and chief executive officer.

TerraPower’s Sodium reactor demonstration project is a sodium-cooled fast reactor design with a molten salt energy storage system.

“The industry’s character hasn’t been to innovate. It’s kind of been to repeat past performance, you know, not to move forward with new technology. And that was good for reliability,” Levesque said in an interview. “But the electricity demands we’re seeing in the coming decades, and also to correct the cost issues with today’s nuclear and nuclear energy, we at TerraPower and our founders really felt it’s time to innovate.”

A Georgia utility just finished the first two scratch-built American reactors in a generation at a cost of nearly \$35 billion. The price tag for the expansion of Plant Vogtle from two of the traditional large reactors to four includes \$11 billion in cost overruns.

The TerraPower project is expected to cost up to \$4 billion, half of it from the U.S. Department of Energy. Levesque said that figure includes first-of-its-kind costs for designing and licensing the reactor, so future ones would cost significantly less.

Most advanced nuclear reactors under development in the U.S. rely on a type of fuel — known as high-assay

low-enriched uranium — that’s enriched to a higher percentage of the isotope uranium-235 than the fuel used by conventional reactors. TerraPower delayed its launch date in Wyoming by two years to 2030 because Russia is the only commercial supplier of the fuel, and it’s working with other companies to develop alternate supplies. The U.S. Energy Department is working on developing it domestically.

Edwin Lyman co-authored an article in Science on Thursday that raises concerns that this fuel could be used for nuclear weapons. Lyman, the director of nuclear power safety with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the risk posed by HALEU today is small because there isn’t that much of it around the world. But that will change if advanced reactor projects, which require much larger quantities, move forward, he added. Lyman said he wants to raise awareness of the danger in the hope that the international community will strengthen security around the fuel.

NRC spokesperson Scott Burnell said the agency is confident its current requirements will maintain both security and public safety of any reactors that are built and their fuel.

Gates co-founded TerraPower in 2008 as a way for the private sector to propel advanced nuclear energy forward to provide safe, abundant, carbon-free energy.

The company’s 345-megawatt reactor could generate up to 500 megawatts at its peak, enough for up to 400,000 homes. TerraPower said its first few reactors will focus on supplying electricity. But it envisions future reactors could be built near industrial plants to supply high heat.

Nearly all industrial processes requiring high heat currently get it from burning fossil fuels. Heat from advanced reactors could be used to produce hydrogen, petrochemicals, ammonia and fertilizer, said John Koteck at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

It’s significant that Gates, a technological innovator and climate champion, is betting on nuclear power to help address the climate crisis, added Koteck, the industry group’s senior vice president for policy.

“I think this has helped open people’s eyes to the role that nuclear power does play today and can play in the future in addressing carbon emissions,” he said. “There’s tremendous momentum building for new nuclear in the U.S. and the potential use of a far wider range of nuclear energy technology than we’ve seen in decades.”

— John Koteck
senior VP for policy at the Nuclear Energy Institute

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Jurors in Hunter Biden’s trial begin deliberations

BY CLAUDIA LAUER,
MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, RANDALL CHASE
AND ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Jurors in Hunter Biden’s gun trial began deliberating Monday whether the president’s son is guilty of federal firearms charges over a revolver he bought in 2018 when prosecutors say he was addicted to crack cocaine.

Hunter Biden is charged with three felonies in the case that has laid bare some of the darkest moments of his drug-fueled past. Prosecutors have used testimony from former romantic partners, personal text messages and photos of Hunter Biden with drug paraphernalia or partially clothed to make the case that he broke the law.

“No one is above the law,” prosecutor Leo Wise told jurors in his closing argument as first lady Jill Biden watched from the front row of the Wilmington, Delaware, courtroom.

Jurors deliberated for less than an hour before leaving the courthouse for the day. Deliberations were to resume Tuesday morning.

President Joe Biden’s son has publicly detailed his struggle with a crack cocaine addiction before getting sober more than five years ago. But the defense sought to show that that he did not consider himself an “addict” when he bought the gun and checked “no” on the form that asked whether he was “an unlawful user” of drugs or addicted to them.

The case has pitted Hunter Biden against his father’s Justice Department in the midst of the Democratic president’s reelection campaign. The charges were brought by special counsel David Weiss, who was nominated by Republican former President Donald Trump to be U.S. attorney for Delaware and led the yearslong investigation.

Before the case went to the jury, the prosecutor urged jurors to focus on the “overwhelming” evidence against Hunter Biden and pay no mind to members of the president’s family sitting in the courtroom.

“All of this is not evidence,” Wise said, extending his hand and directing the jury to look at the gallery.



MATT SLOCUM, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hunter Biden arrives to federal court with his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden, on Monday in Wilmington, Del.

“People sitting in the gallery are not evidence.”

First lady Jill Biden and other family members left the courthouse shortly after deliberations began. The first lady sat through most of the trial, missing only one day last week to attend D-Day anniversary events with the president in France. At one point Monday, Hunter Biden leaned over a railing to whisper in Jill Biden’s ear.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell told jurors in his closing argument that prosecutors had failed to prove their case. Lowell said the his client may have a famous last name, but he is still presumed innocent until proven guilty like any other defendant.

“With my last breath in this case, I ask for the only verdict that will hold the prosecutors to what the law requires of them” — a verdict of not guilty, Lowell said.

Hunter Biden’s lawyers have suggested he was trying to turn his life around at the time of the gun purchase, having completed a detoxifi-

cation and rehabilitation program at the end of August 2018. The defense called three witnesses, including Hunter’s daughter Naomi, who told jurors that her father seemed be improving in the weeks before he bought the gun.

Closing arguments came shortly after the defense rested its case without calling Hunter Biden to the witness stand. He didn’t elaborate on his decision when he told U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika that he was waiving his right to testify, according to a transcript of the sidebar discussion at the bench.

Hunter Biden smiled as he chatted with members of his defense team and flashed a thumbs-up sign to a supporter in the gallery after the final witness — an FBI agent called by prosecutors in their rebuttal case.

The trial has put a spotlight on a turbulent time in Hunter Biden’s life after the 2015 death of his brother, Beau, from brain cancer. The proceedings have played out in the president’s home state, where

Hunter Biden grew up and where the family is deeply established. Joe Biden spent 36 years as a senator in Delaware, commuting daily to Washington, and Beau Biden was the state’s attorney general.

Hunter Biden’s ex-wife and two former girlfriends testified for prosecutors about his habitual crack use and their failed efforts to help him get clean. One woman, who met Hunter Biden in 2017 at a strip club where she worked, described him smoking crack every 20 minutes or so while she stayed with him at a hotel.

Jurors have also heard him describe at length his descent into addiction through audio excerpts played in court of his 2021 memoir, “Beautiful Things.” The book, written after he got sober, covers the period he had the gun but doesn’t mention it specifically.

A key witness for prosecutors was Beau’s widow, Hallie, who had a brief, troubled relationship with Hunter after his brother’s death. She found the unloaded gun in Hunter’s

truck on Oct. 23, 2018, panicked and tossed it into a garbage can at a grocery store in Wilmington, where a man seeking recyclables inadvertently fished it out of the trash.

The prosecutor pointed to text messages he said show Hunter trying to make drug deals in the days around the gun purchase. In one message, Hunter told Hallie he was smoking crack. “That’s my truth,” Hunter wrote.

“Take the defendant’s word for it. That’s his truth,” Wise said. He urged jurors to reject the defense’s suggestion that Hunter did not really mean what he was texting at the time and was simply trying to avoid being with Hallie.

“You don’t leave your common sense behind when you come into that jury box,” Wise said.

The defense told jurors that there was no actual witness to drug use by Hunter during the 11 days that he had the gun. Lowell also sought to discredit testimony from Hallie and another ex-girlfriend. He told jurors to consider their testimony “with great care and caution,” noting that they were given immunity agreements in exchange for taking the witness stand for prosecutors.

Joe Biden said last week that he would accept the jury’s verdict and ruled out a presidential pardon for his son. After flying back from France, the president spent Monday at his home in Wilmington before traveling back to Washington in the evening for a Juneteenth concert. He was scheduled to travel to Italy later this week for the Group of Seven leaders conference.

Last summer, it looked as if Hunter Biden would avoid prosecution in the gun case altogether, but a deal with prosecutors imploded after the judge, who was nominated to the bench by Trump, raised concerns about it. Hunter Biden also faces a trial scheduled for September on felony charges alleging he failed to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes over four years.

If convicted in the gun case, he faces up to 25 years in prison, though first-time offenders do not get anywhere near the maximum, and it’s unclear whether the judge would give him time behind bars.

ABORTION

Trump to religious group: Stand for ‘innocent life’

BY MICHELLE L. PRICE
AND PETER SMITH
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Donald Trump on Monday urged a staunchly anti-abortion Christian group to stand up for “innocent life,” ambiguously revisiting an issue that Democrats want to make a focus of this year’s presidential election.

The former president and presumptive Republican nominee’s pre-recorded message praised the work of those attending the event hosted by The Danbury Institute, which is meeting in Indianapolis in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The newly-formed institute is an association of churches, Christians and organizations that wants to eradicate abortion in its entirety.

A panel of in-person speakers doubled-down on that anti-abortion stance on Monday, and a top Southern Baptist leader called for a hardline position against in vitro fertilization. Albert Mohler, the president of the SBC’s flagship seminary, said IVF is a “commodification of the embryo” that assaults human dignity. He criticized pastors as well as politicians showing openness to it including in Alabama, which shielded IVF providers from prosecution and civil lawsuits after a state Supreme Court ruling said frozen embryos are children.

“We’re about to find out how pro-life the pro-life movement is,” Mohler said.

Trump has repeatedly taken credit for the overturning of a federally guaranteed right to abortion — having nominated three of the justices who overturned Roe v. Wade — but has resisted supporting a national abortion ban and says he wants to leave the issue to the states. At odds with Mohler’s view, Trump does support IVF access.

In his recorded remarks, Trump thanked the audience for their “tremendous devotion to God and Country” and said everyone needs to pull together to preserve their values, including religious liberty, free speech, innocent life and America’s heritage and traditions.

“You just can’t vote Democrat. They’re against religion. They’re against your religion in particular,” Trump said. “You cannot vote for



RICK SCUTERI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally on June 6 in Phoenix.



PETER SMITH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evangelist Tim Lee leads audience members in prayer at the Life & Liberty Forum on Monday in Indianapolis.

Democrats and you have to get out and vote.”

Both Southern Baptists and Republicans at large are split on abortion politics, with some calling for immediate, complete abortion bans and others more open to incremental tactics. Polls over the last several

years have found a majority of Americans support some access to abortion, and abortion-rights groups have won several statewide votes since Roe was overturned, including in conservative-led states like Kansas and Ohio.

Like the GOP, the Southern Bap-

tist Convention has moved steadily to the right since the 1980s, and its members were in the vanguard of the wider religious movement that strongly supported Republican presidents from Ronald Reagan to Trump. The Conservative Baptist Network, one of the event’s sponsors, wants to move the conservative denomination even further to the right.

Although they criticized President Bill Clinton’s sexual behavior in the 1990s, Southern Baptists and other evangelicals have supported Trump. That has continued despite allegations of sexual misconduct, multiple divorces and now his conviction on 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex. Trump gave his address on the same day he was appearing virtually for a required pre-sentencing interview with New York probation officers.

Many Southern Baptists say they see him as the only alternative to a Democratic agenda they abhor.

H. Sharayah Colter, spokesperson for The Danbury Institute, said in a statement that the presidential

race was a “binary choice” and said Trump has “demonstrated a willingness to protect the value of life even when politically unpopular.”

And Mohler, who leads Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and once an outspoken Clinton critic, wrote a column after Trump’s conviction attacking Democrats for supporting transgender rights.

“Say what you will about Donald Trump and his sex scandals, he doesn’t confuse male and female,” wrote Mohler. On Monday, he denounced Trump’s prosecution and conviction, other speakers tapped into themes of Christian nationalism, a fusion of American and Christian identity.

Trump has said he would not sign a national abortion ban and in an interview on the Fox News Channel last week, when commenting on the way some states are enshrining abortion rights and others are restricting them, said that “the people are deciding and in many ways, it’s a beautiful thing to watch.”

For over a year until he announced his position this spring, Trump had backed away from endorsing any specific national limit on abortion, unlike many other Republicans who eventually ended their presidential campaigns. Trump has repeatedly said the issue can be politically tricky and suggested he would “negotiate” a policy that would include exceptions for rape, incest and to protect the life of the mother.

Democrats and President Joe Biden’s campaign have tried to tie Trump to the most conservative state-level bans on abortion as well as a recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling that would have restricted access to in vitro fertilization and other fertility procedures that are broadly popular.

“Four more years of Donald Trump means empowering organizations like The Danbury Institute who want to ban abortion nationally and punish women who have abortions,” said Sarafina Chitika, a spokesperson for Biden’s campaign. “Trump brags that he is responsible for overturning Roe, he thinks the extreme state bans happening now because of him are ‘working very brilliantly,’ and if he’s given the chance, he will sign a national abortion ban. These are the stakes this November.”

Raymond Darrell Mecham

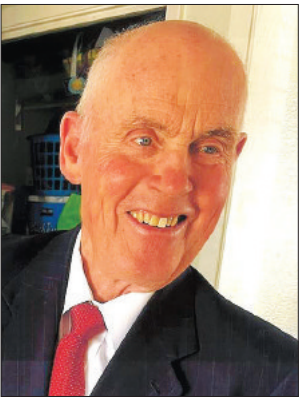
Raymond Darrell Mecham, fondly known as Ray, was born on November 11, 1942, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Darrell Francis Mecham and Barbara London. On June 2, 2024, Ray passed away peacefully at his home in Palmyra, Utah, leaving behind a legacy of love, service, and dedication.

Ray spent his formative years in Lake Shore and later established his own family in Palmyra. On December 27, 1963, he entered into a joyous union with Charlotte Sorensen in the Manti Temple, a bond that lasted until her passing from cancer on January 21, 2008. Finding love again, Ray remarried Elaine Simmons Harmer on August 16, 2008, in Palmyra, Utah.

Education was a cornerstone of Ray's life. He graduated from Spanish Fork High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in School Administration from Brigham Young University. Throughout his career, Ray wore many hats, working at IFA, as a water master, serving as an elementary school teacher, principal and farmer.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Ray found immense joy in various hobbies including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, playing cards, and putting puzzles together. He was deeply committed to his community, serving as a 4-H leader, scout master, and earning the prestigious Silver Beaver Scout Award. Ray also dedicated many years to coaching youth sports teams that his children played on, fostering a spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship in the community.

Ray's devotion to his faith in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was unwavering. He served in numerous capacities including as a missionary, scout master, ward clerk, executive secretary, young men's president, counselor in the bishopric, stake high councilor and bishop. He even extended his service to teaching Sunday school in the Utah County Jail. Ray completed



two senior missions and served in the Provo Temple, continuing his service at the Payson Temple until his passing.

Ray leaves behind his beloved spouse, Elaine Simmons Harmer, and a legacy of love through his children: Lynn (Karen) Mecham of Santaquin, Charla (Chad) Jacobson of Orem, Yvonne (David) Waters of Rigby ID, Leslie (Cory) Stulce of Palmyra, Kevin (Valerie) Mecham of Santaquin, and Paula (Lee) Davis of Santaquin. Elaine's children: Danelle (Jim) Long, Wendy (Alan) McBride, Joel Harmer (deceased) (Diane) and Trudy (Todd) Mair, and Jackie (Bob) Morgan. His memory lives on through his 43 grandchildren and 55 great-grandchildren, with three more on the way.

Ray is reunited in death with his cherished wife, Charlotte Mecham, and his parents, Darrell and Barbara Mecham. He is also survived by his siblings: Frank (Michelle) Mecham of Lake Shore, Linda (Richard) Lamb of Sandy, and Peggy Jones of Lake Shore.

Raymond Darrell Mecham's life was a testament to faith, family, and service. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Visitation Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, 1866 West 5000 South Spanish Fork, UT 84660 and Thursday, June 13, 2024, 9:30 am - 10:30 am, 1866 West 5000 South Spanish Fork, UT 84660. Funeral Service Thursday, June 13, 2024, 11:00 am, 1866 West 5000 South Spanish Fork, UT 84660. Interment Spanish Fork Cemetery 420 S 400 E Spanish Fork, UT 84660.

NYC vet pens a memoir full of tails in ‘Pets and the City’

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As a city kid, Amy Attas had big dreams of roaming the countryside, healing animals a la James Herriot's classic "All Creatures Great and Small."

How did it go? Well, the veterinarian made it from Queens to Manhattan, spending the last 32 years traversing the streets of her hometown as a full-time house call doc.

And, boy, does she have stories to tell, from escaping a massive, ailing and territory-threatened Rottweiler, fangs fully bared, to three weeks on intravenous antibiotics after a nasty bite from a cat patient.

Then there's the humans behaving badly ("No dog of mine will be neutered!") and the pampered celebrity-owned pets, including the beloved dogs of the late Joan Rivers, whom Attas counted as a friend. Cher once bared all to show Attas a rash after she adopted a dog with mange, and Billy Joel serenaded her on piano.

"You'll never guess what happened today!" was Attas' nightly refrain to her husband. Now, she's collected those tales into a juicy and compassionate memoir, "Pets and the City," out June 18.

Woven among her stories are tips and advice for animal lovers. (Forget the Easter lilies, cat people.)

IN-HOME PET CARE IS NO LONGER A RARITY

The pug-loving Attas had no grand business plan for her City Pets practice when she first packed up supplies and began traveling by subway and taxi. She had just left a tony Upper East Side animal hospital and some of her clients, including Rivers, wanted to keep using her. She assumed the house calls would be temporary.

"When I started, it was a novelty," Attas said. "From day one I was busy."

She has more company now as concierge services in general have grown in popularity. Other vets around the country do it full time like Attas, while some maintain brick-and-mortar practices and provide home services for end-of-life care.



MARY ALTAFFER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Amy Attas greets Puddy Beyer, a 19-year-old male domestic short-haired cat, as she arrives for a house call on April 23 in New York.

Attas, meanwhile, has graduated to a private car and driver. She starts her days at 8 a.m., accompanied by one or both of her nurses. She allowed The Associated Press to tag along on a recent afternoon.

"Initially thought my practice would be filled with people who had difficulty getting to the veterinarian and maybe older people who had pets, or people with physical disabilities," she said. They do seek her out but, Attas said, "what I didn't realize was how attractive it would be to all kinds of other pet owners."

Meet Puddy, the beloved 19-year-old domestic short hair cat of artist Wendy Beyer. The arthritic black-and-white feline has high blood pressure and requires monthly checks. Beyer found Attas through an online search.

"It's life-changing," Beyer said of having Puddy cared for in the comfort of his own home, a cozy sun- and art-filled apartment in the Hudson Yards neighborhood. "He's never liked being in a carrier. It's so traumatic trying to get him in the carrier myself."

Beyer also likes Attas' no-pressure approach to her decision to let Puddy age naturally without heroic measures.

"I think it's helping to extend his life. He's a really relaxed chill kitty. He's not being stressed out," Beyer said.

Hop on over to Fifth Avenue for a check on Cody, an adorable, barky white Maltese who, at age 8, is a bundle of fun-loving energy. He's at

the center of Lisa Healey's life.

Cody has itchy allergies and a heart murmur. Attas, who helped the Healeys bid farewell to a previous dog, regularly sees Cody in the couple's spacious apartment.

"This is our child and we would do anything for our children, so it's worth the cost. It's worth every penny. I don't even think about it," Healey said.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE VET PRACTICE

House calls are a far different beast for vets than regular practices. There's the travel, of course, no small thing in Manhattan. On a recent round, Attas and nurse Jeanine Lunz made use of their in-car time answering phone calls, working on scheduling and tending to the numerous other tasks most vets deal with when they have a few minutes between exams.

"It takes much longer than just waiting for a patient to come in and going from exam room to exam room in a hospital," Attas said.

The cost of her transportation (she's Manhattan-only) is included in the fee. She charges an additional fee for seeing multiple pets at once. It's less than making more than one trip to a vet's office or what other vets may charge for seeing more than one pet on the same day, she said. Attas restricts her practice to dogs and cats.

In all, Attas said her services can be about 30% more than brick-and-mortar practices. She doesn't perform surgery,

but she provides typical care, from vaccinations to blood and urine draws, relying on specialists for things like severe heart and eye issues. She uses animal hospitals when large equipment is needed or for acute emergencies when every second counts.

So far, Attas has seen more than 7,000 animals in her travels, including the pets of Joel, Wayne Gretzky, Steve Martin and Kevin Kline. At minimum, she or one of the two other vets in her practice visit 12 to 15 homes daily. Her personal best in terms of animals seen in a day is 23.

Attas and her human clients point to other advantages of house calls. Once clients are established, the humans don't have to be home.

"Sometimes they have their doorman let us in. Sometimes their nanny or their housekeeper is at home. And many of our clients actually give us keys to their apartments," Attas said.

HOUSE CALLS AREN'T JUST FOR THE RICH

Attas dispels the notion that her client list is solely filled with pets of the wealthy.

"I go to billionaires' homes. I go to housing projects. I work with not-for-profits to help seniors continue to live with their pets," she said. "Some of my favorite clients through the years were people who didn't really have a lot, but what they cherished most were their pets."

Attas never wants to be so busy that she loses the intimate value of home visits.

"When you're in the home, you're experiencing how that pet lives," she said. "I can't even think of how many times I have been in someone's home where I see something that is a complete danger for a pet."

That includes potential killers like open windows with no screens, toxic plants and unsecured terraces. She ended one owner's practice of serving up massive quantities of catnip after the cat went seriously loopy.

And she found an unlikely object inside a bull terrier that wasn't coming out the way it went in: His human's giant over-ear headphones. The human wondered where they had gone.

FDA advisers back Alzheimer's drug

BY MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A closely watched Alzheimer's drug from Eli Lilly won the backing of federal health advisers on Monday, setting the stage for the treatment's expected approval for people with mild dementia caused by the brain-robbing disease.

Food and Drug Administration advisers voted unanimously that the drug's ability to slow the disease outweighs

its risks, including side effects like brain swelling and bleeding that will have to be monitored.

"I thought the evidence was very strong in the trial showing the effectiveness of the drug," said panel member Dean Follmann, a National Institutes of Health statistician.

The FDA will make the final decision on approval later this year. If the agency agrees with the panel's recommendation, the drug, donanemab, would only be the second Alzheimer's drug cleared in the U.S. that's been shown to convincingly slow cognitive decline and memory problems due to Alzheimer's. The FDA approved a similar infused drug, Leqembi, from Japanese drugmaker Eisai last year.

The slowdown seen with both drugs amounts to several months and experts disagree on whether patients or their loved ones will be able to detect the difference.

But Lilly's approach to studying its once-a-month treatment prompted questions from FDA reviewers.

Patients in the company's study were grouped based on their levels of a brain protein, called tau, that predicts severity of cognitive problems. That led FDA to question whether patients might need to be screened via brain scans for tau before getting the drug. But most panelists thought there was enough evidence of the drug's benefit to prescribe it broadly, without screening for the protein.

"Imposing a requirement for tau imaging is not necessary and would raise serious practical and access concerns to the treatment," said Dr. Thomas Montine of Stanford University, who chaired the panel and summarized its opinion.

At a high level, Lilly's results mirrored those of Leqembi, with both medications showing a modest slowing of cognitive problems in patients with early-stage Alzheimer's. The Indianapolis-based company conducted a 1,700-patient study showing patients who received monthly IV infusions of its drug declined about 35% more slowly than those who got a sham treatment.

The FDA had been widely expected to approve the drug in March. But instead the agency said it would ask its panel of neurology experts to publicly review the company's data, an unexpected delay that surprised analysts and investors.

Several unusual approaches in how Lilly tested its drug led to the meeting.

One change was measuring patients' tau, and excluding patients with very low or no levels of the protein. But panelists said there was enough data from other measures to feel confident that nearly all patients could benefit from the drug, regardless of their levels.

In another key difference, Lilly studied taking patients off its drug when they reached very low levels of amyloid, a

sticky brain plaque that's a contributor to Alzheimer's.

Lilly scientists suggested stopping treatment is a key advantage for its drug, which could reduce side effects and costs. But FDA staff said Lilly provided little data supporting the optimal time to stop or how quickly patients might need to restart treatment.

Despite those questions, many panelists thought the possibility of stopping doses held promise.

"It's a huge cost savings for the society, we're talking about expensive treatment, expensive surveillance," said Dr. Tanya Simuni of Northwestern University. She and other experts said patients would need to be tracked and tested to see how they fare and whether they need to resume treatment.

The main safety issue with donanemab was brain swelling and bleeding, a problem common to all amyloid-targeting drugs. Most cases identified in Lilly's trial were mild.

Three deaths in the donanemab study were linked to the drug, according to the FDA, all involving brain swelling or bleeding. One of the deaths was caused by a stroke, a life-threatening complication that occurs more frequently among Alzheimer's patients.

FDA's panel agreed that those the risks could be addressed by warning labels and education for doctors as well as medical scans to identify patients at greater risk of stroke.

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OPINION



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Discredited and clueless

This week, an important revelation happened in Hunter Biden’s criminal trial. After 51 supposed intelligence experts declared his laptop and the information thereon to be a Russian disinformation campaign, it turns out the laptop and its contents are real.



ERICK ERICKSON

In 2020, media outlets ganged up on the New York Post, encouraging the former leadership of Twitter to block the account and circulation of the laptop story the Post broke. But the Post was right. The laptop and its contents were and are real. The United States Department of Justice has the laptop at the trial and presented it as evidence.

In 2020, Sen. Tom Cotton suggested the coronavirus that first appeared in Wuhan, China, had come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It made sense. The lab studied the very sorts of viruses that were circulating. But progressives declared it racist. Progressives, hysterically, decided the virus came from a Chinese wet market — a damning indictment on Chinese food preferences as opposed to a bioweapons lab.

Apoorva Mandavilli, The New York Times health reporter, tweeted, “Someday we will stop talking about the lab leak theory and maybe even admit its racist roots. But alas, that day is not yet here.” This past week, Mandavilli’s own news organization published a pretty definitive account of how the lab leak is most likely the source of COVID-19. Alina Chan is a molecular biologist at the Broad Institute of M.I.T. and Harvard. Just four years ago, her view was considered racist. Now her view is in accord with the assessment of both the United States Department of Energy, which has expertise in biologics, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“The pandemic could have been caused by any of hundreds of virus species, at any of tens of thousands of wildlife markets, in any of thousands of cities, and in any year. But it was a SARS-like coronavirus with a unique furin cleavage site that emerged in Wuhan, less than two years after scientists, sometimes working under inadequate biosafety conditions, proposed collecting and creating viruses of that same design,” Chan wrote.

On May 1, 2020, Sen. Ted Cruz ridiculed The Washington Post for an animation that purported to disprove the lab leak. Replying to him on Twitter, the Washington Post’s “fact checker” Glenn Kessler tweeted, “I fear Ted Cruz missed the scientific animation in the video that shows how it is virtually impossible for this virus jump from the lab. Or the many interviews with actual scientists. We deal in facts, and viewers can judge for themselves.”

The “scientific animation” got it wrong. But Kessler has not corrected himself. The American press corps never likes to admit they are wrong, and when they do, they bury the corrections in newspapers. Perhaps the press corps could be less arrogant and less willing to silence anyone who disrupts the left’s preferred narratives. The Hunter Biden laptop was not Russian disinformation. It is notable that many of those who wrongly insisted it was are still used by the press as credible experts and talking heads on television. There simply is no accountability.

For the past few weeks, the American press corps has made mountains out of Justice Samuel Alito’s wife’s upside-down American flag molehill. The same press corps has sought to downplay Judge Juan Merchan giving money to Joe Biden in 2020 and to a fund earmarked for stopping Republicans. If Alito’s wife’s flag is an appearance of impropriety imputed to Samuel Alito, Merchan’s partisan donation is a clear impropriety. But the press vilifying Alito is giving Merchan a pass. The press is more likely to question Judge Aileen Cannon, the Florida judge overseeing the classified documents case, than Merchan.

Time and time again, the press gets the story wrong, ignores the story or seeks to discredit the truth, and the only thing each of these events has in common is favoring the left’s talking point, narrative or lie. The bias always defaults to the left-wing party line. Now the press is upset at the rise of disinformation and misinformation. They should, instead, perhaps examine their own role in that rise. But they will not. The press corps, collectively, lacks the basic humility it demands in others.

To find out more about Erick Erickson and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Scientists: ‘Doomsday Glacier’ in Antarctica melting faster than expected.



GUEST COMMENTARY

The destiny of the new Utah NHL team is to win the Stanley Cup

The buzz in Utah about the new National Hockey League franchise is that owner Ryan Smith, who made a most Herculean effort to successfully relocate the Arizona Coyotes to Utah, said several days ago on “The Pat McAfee Show” that the name of the team has been narrowed down to four possibilities.

JOHN HORAN

However, the most compelling statement about Utah’s entry into the NHL was made by the squad’s left wing Lawson Crouse who stated that the team is looking forward to “making history” in Utah. Crouse’s statement may turn out to be the biggest understatement in the history of the new Utah NHL team because hockey fans in Utah should be paying attention to the fact that the Edmonton Oilers are currently in the Stanley Cup finals and could win their sixth championship.

In 1979 when the NHL agreed to admit four of the remaining teams in the rival World Hockey Association — the Winnipeg Jets, the Edmonton Oilers, the Quebec Nordiques and the New England Whalers — many in the NHL were not pleased and turned their noses down to those four teams. However, three of the four WHA teams that transplanted into the NHL in 1979 have gone on to win the Stanley Cup. Of course, as is well known, the Edmonton Oilers have five Stanley Cups, in 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988 and 1990. The Quebec Nordiques franchise moved to Denver in 1995 and as the Colorado Avalanche have won three Stanley Cups, in 1996, 2001 and 2022. Upon joining the NHL, the New England Whalers changed their named to the Hartford Whalers, moved to North Carolina in 1997 and as the Carolina Hurricanes won the Stanley Cup in 2006. To complete this impressive “Revenge of the WHA,” all that is needed is the historical Winnipeg Jets of the WHA, the missing puzzle piece to this dynamic equation, to win the Stanley Cup. It must be fate. The Utah franchise, whose roots as a franchise started as the Winnipeg Jets of the WHA in 1972, should embrace their unique roots in the WHA and get the

ball rolling toward the Stanley Cup as the three other former WHA franchises in the NHL have done.

Superstar Bobby Hull of the Chicago Black Hawks was the first major NHL star to sign with the WHA and gave the new rebel league automatic legitimacy. He was a powerhouse for the Winnipeg Jets for the first six years of the league, playing for four years on the famed “Hot Line” with imported Swedish stars Anders Hedberg and Ulf Nilsson, which some critics credit as the top line in the history of pro hockey. In 1989, the NHL Jets retired his number 9 and, subsequently, the Arizona Coyotes retained the retirement of Hull’s number upon the franchise’s move to Phoenix in 1996. Undoubtedly, the new Utah franchise will also retain the retirement of Hull’s esteemed number 9. That would be a positive recognition of the franchise’s roots in the WHA and its quest to be the fourth WHA heritage team to win the Stanley Cup.

Furthermore, the new Utah franchise should realize that recent history is on its side in terms of chances of winning a Stanley Cup in that movers have definitely been shakers in the last 38 years in the NHL. The first example is the Calgary Flames who won the Stanley Cup in 1989 nine years after relocating from Atlanta when they were the Atlanta Flames. The Kansas City Scouts moved to Denver in 1976 to become the Colorado Rockies, who then became the New Jersey Devils in 1982, winning Stanley Cups in 1995, 2000 and 2003.

As was previously mentioned, the Quebec Nordiques moved to Denver in 1995 to become the Colorado Avalanche and won Stanley Cups in 1996, 2001 and 2022. Nine years after the Hartford Whalers moved to North Carolina in 1997, the Carolina Hurricanes won Lord Stanley’s Cup in 2006.

The most storied example of a relocated franchise winning a Stanley Cup is the Dallas Stars in 1999. The Oakland Seals entered the NHL in 1967 and changed their name to the California Golden Seals in 1970. The Seals moved to Cleveland in 1976

for two unsuccessful seasons. Not wanting the Cleveland Barons to fold, in 1978 the NHL allowed the owners of the last-place Minnesota North Stars, a franchise that also joined the league in the original 1967 expansion, to purchase the Barons and merge the two teams. The North Stars moved to Dallas in 1993, meaning that when the Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999, not only did the former Minnesota North Stars win the Cup, but also one half of the old Oakland Seals franchise were winners. The Utah franchise represents two relocations as the NHL Winnipeg Jets moved to Phoenix in 1996, which puts them in a higher pool of probability for this Stanley Cup phenomenon for “travel teams.”

It must also be noted that when the Ottawa Senators entered the NHL in 1992 as a new franchise, the new team proudly displayed the banners for the eleven Stanley Cups won by the first Ottawa Senators team that disbanded in 1934. The WHA may have had a couple of tumultuous seasons early on, but later the Winnipeg Jets could have played against the top teams in the NHL. The Winnipeg Jets won three Avco Cup championships in the seven-year history of the WHA and it might be a positive signal for the new Utah franchise to display those Avco Cup banners of the franchise’s history.

Most fans who will be following the new Utah NHL franchise that will start next season will follow the current NHL Stanley Cup finals between the Edmonton Oilers and the Florida Panthers. With Edmonton in the finals, these prospective fans of the yet unnamed Utah franchise should be aware of the legacy of the four former WHA teams in winning Stanley Cups and know that their team is the missing puzzle piece to complete the “Revenge of the WHA” by winning their own Stanley Cup. It seems both history and fate are on its side.

John Horan, a public relations strategist in Avon, Connecticut, is the blog-master of BeatlesHistorian.com.

How to comment

We invite readers to share their thoughts. You can:

- Email letters to dhletters@heraldextra.com;
 - fax to (801) 344-2985;
 - mail to 1200 Towne Centre Blvd, #1058, Provo, UT 84601
- So letters can be verified, writers must include their full name, address and daytime phone number. (Street addresses and phone num-

bers will not be published.)

We prefer shorter letters — 100 to 200 words. Letters may be edited for length.

Because of the volume of responses, we cannot acknowledge unpublished letters.

Letters become the property of the Daily Herald.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, June 11, the 163rd day of 2024. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History

On June 11, 1955, in motor racing’s worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

On this date

In 1509, England’s King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, “discovered” the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing’s first Triple Crown winner.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched the first of two consecutive no-hitters as he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservative Party held onto a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit hate crimes motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that states can target people who haven’t cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls.



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2024 UTAH VALLEY GIRL LACROSSE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



DARNELL DICKSON, DAILY HERALD

Payson's Morgan Jacobson (10) and Bear River's Makenzie Mickelsen pursue the ball after the draw in the 4A girls lacrosse state finals at Zions Bank Stadium in Herriman on May 23.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

Payson's Morgan Jacobson picks the correct sport, wins Utah Valley Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year

BY DARNELL DICKSON
Daily Herald

One day when Morgan Jacobson was a freshman — a “baby freshman,” in her words — she discovered lacrosse.

“Morgan just randomly came home with a stick and wanted to play lacrosse,” her father, Marc Jacobson, said. “By the time she was midway through her first season with her high school team, Morgan was pretty set that this was what she wanted to do.”

Morgan Jacobson made the most of her four years

Please see **JACOBSON**, Page B3

■ **INSIDE:** Check out the 2024 All-Valley Girls Lacrosse Team **SPORTS, B3**



Payson senior Morgan Jacobson drives toward the goal during the 4A semifinal match against Timpanogos at Dumke Field in Salt Lake City on May 21.

JARED LLOYD, DAILY HERALD

High school rodeo highlights toughness and kindness

Let me tell you a story about one tough cowboy I got to see in action as part of covering the state high school rodeo finals at the Wasatch County Events Complex in Heber last week.



JARED LLOYD

Cooper Sagers represented the West Desert club as he competed in the saddle bronc riding competition in the last performance of the week, the short performance on Saturday.

Things quickly went wrong as he came out of the chute for his ride, and suddenly he was flying awkwardly through the air. He landed hard in the dirt of the arena and lay there as the officials gathered quickly to protect him while the pickup men guided the bucking horse away.

After some tense moments, however, Sagers slowly got to his feet and slowly left the arena, much to the relief of the crowd.

It was announced that Sagers had been fouled and thus was awarded a re-ride that would take place a couple of hours later, right before the bull riding, which is the final event of the performance.

A couple of hours later, there Sagers was, back on a bucking



JARED LLOYD, DAILY HERALD

Brennan Orton of the South Utah County club competes in the steer wrestling competition on the final day of the Utah State High School Rodeo Finals at the Wasatch County Events Complex in Heber on Saturday.

bronco ready to go.

This would be a great time to tell you that he had the best ride of his life but that's not what happened. No, once again, Sagers got bucked off — and once again he got hurt.

This time it looked like his foot got caught up in the stirrup (and he might have been stepped on as well), leaving him sprawled in pain in the dirt for the second time of the day in the same event.

With the help of friends and paramedics, eventually he was

able to limp out of the arena.

But he left to the sounds of applause from the crowd, appreciative of both his effort and the fact that he was fighting through the pain.

As I watched him leave, I thought once again about how rodeo requires tremendous heart, courage and determination.

I thought back through the performances I had watched since the finals started on Wednesday and all the hard-luck moments the athletes had gone through:

- There was rough stock that either bucked too hard or not enough.
- There were calves who stepped right through well-thrown lasso loops.
- There were steers who refused to run straight or moved just the wrong way to prevent the wrestlers from catching them.
- There were goat-tying competitors who came down hard face-first in the dirt.
- There were pole benders and barrel racers whose horses missed the pattern.

No matter how many challenges and disappointments they faced, I saw them get back up and go again. I saw them fight through

Please see **RODEO**, Page B3

U.S. OPEN

Tiger Woods out early on the first day of practice

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

PINEHURST, N.C. — Tiger Woods was among those on Pinehurst No. 2 for the first full day of U.S. Open practice before the sun could break through the clouds and climb over the trees.

It’s his first time playing a U.S. Open on this Donald Ross gem in 19 years, and so much of it is new to him because of a restoration project from a decade ago that replaced rough with native sandy areas and wiregrass bushes.

As for Adam Scott, there is nothing new about playing in the majors — this is 92nd in a row, the longest active streak — only about the way he got into the 156-man field.

A week ago, he walked off the 36-hole qualifier in Springfield, Ohio, as the first alternate after losing in a playoff to Cam Davis for the final spot from that site.

“Leaving from Springfield, there was a lot of uncertainty, I would say,” Scott said. “By Friday, and fully understanding how this field works, I was feeling a lot better about myself. It’s funny, not having been in that position there is a lot to finding out how a field gets filled. And it’s complicated.

“I’m grateful I haven’t been in this position too much.”

The USGA set aside six spots for anyone who moved into the top 60 in the Official World Golf Ranking published Monday, and the rest go to alternates.

Scott was No. 60 last week, almost certain to fall out. But there also was the delicate issue of Grayson Murray, who took his life on May 25, still listed among the top 60. The USGA wanted to honor Murray’s position in the world ranking — it will stay there for another week — though it said it would remove his name as it related to its top 60 category.

Scott fell to No. 61 — Billy Horschel, already in the U.S. Open, was one shot away from bumping Scott to No. 62 — but still extends a streak in the majors that dates to the 2001 British Open.

It looks close only on paper. In fact, Scott learned his qualifier would be the fourth site selected for alternates. Of the six spots held back, only one would be taken by Canadian Open winner Robert MacIntyre. That left five spots.



MATT YORK, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 13th hole during a practice round for the U.S. Open golf tournament on Monday in Pinehurst, N.C.

“I can do that math,” Scott said with a smile.

He also had to go through U.S. Open qualifying five years ago, what he said then is no different now. Getting into the major is great. But the goal is to win.

What awaits is a Pinehurst No. 2 course among the most challenging. In three previous U.S. Opens, only four players have finished under par — Payne Stewart (1 under) in 1999, Martin Kaymer (8 under), Erik Compton (1 under) and Rickie Fowler (1 under) in 2014.

“This is pretty typical U.S. Open in the sense that par is a great friend to you all week,” said Webb Simpson, a former U.S. Open champion who had to qualify this year for the first time since 2011. “It’s a brutally hard golf course.

“You have to be incredibly disciplined. You have to accept 30-footers all day.”

Woods has a full week beyond the golf. He had scheduled a mid-morning news conference, only to postpone that until later in the week. He also is being given the Bob Jones Award on Tuesday night, the USGA’s highest honor.

Still to be determined is whether — when? — he will accept the Ryder Cup captaincy for the 2025 matches. And he was in New York on Friday for a PGA Tour Enterprises board meeting with the Saudi financiers of LIV Golf.

He played with Fowler, Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth, with son Charley walking along with him now that he’s out of school for the summer.

Scottie Scheffler wasn’t on the course after winning the Memorial by one shot on a Muirfield Village course that was tough enough to feel like a U.S. Open.

Among those playing in the afternoon was David Puig of Spain, a 22-year-old who plays on the LIV Golf circuit and is a reminder of what else is at stake this week. The world ranking published Monday will be used to determine who plays at the Paris Olympics.

For Puig, it’s simple — and daunting. If he makes the cut, he will get the second spot that goes to Spain. If he misses, it goes to Jorge Campillo.

Also in the field was Maxwell Moldovan, who just graduated from Ohio State, turned pro and was second alternate in Ohio a week ago. It took a sequence of events for him to get

to Pinehurst, and it worked out perfectly for him.

No one at the Memorial was able to bump Scott out of the top 61. Because Scott was the first alternate at Springfield, that spot went to Moldovan. He didn’t find out until Neal Shipley — the low amateur at the Masters and his Buckeyes teammate — messaged him at 5:20 a.m. Monday.

Moldovan had to win a playoff over Troy Merritt just to be second alternate. The final round of the Memorial had a huge bearing on his immediate future.

“I did a lot of leaderboard watching and OWGR searching, and a lot of my friends were trying to crunch numbers and see what I needed,” he said. “I’m thankful how it all worked out.”

Oilers head home in 0-2 series hole in Stanley Cup final

BY ALANIS THAMES
Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Edmonton Oilers left Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final feeling pretty good.

They were shut out three goals to none, but it took a monumental performance from Florida Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky to neutralize their offensive firepower.

The Oilers weren’t shutout Monday night, but the result was the same — another loss, this one putting Edmonton in

an 0-2 hole as the series shifts to Canada.

One of the highest-scoring teams in the NHL, Edmonton has managed just one goal in the first two games of the final.

The Panthers outshot the Oilers 22-7 through the first two periods Monday.

Edmonton’s seven shots on goal through 40 minutes were the fewest by a team through two periods of a Stanley Cup Final since Game 6 of the 2006 championship series when the Carolina Hurricanes managed

that many on goal against the Oilers.

That’s one game after Edmonton outshot the Panthers 32-18 in a Game 1 performance that star Connor McDavid described as a confidence booster.

McDavid, who was kept off the scoresheet in Game 1, assisted Mattias Ekholm on Edmonton’s only goal of the night. It was a 4-on-4 shot on the Oilers’ first shot on goal of the game.

McDavid, who leads all post-season scorers with 32 points, now has 17 points in games following a loss this postseason.

But Edmonton’s other star, the 2020 league MVP Leon

Draisaitl, still has no points in the series and hasn’t been much of a factor. Draisaitl was penalized for roughing in the third period when he shoved Florida captain Aleksander Barkov.

Goalie Stuart Skinner, for his part, followed his 15-save performance in the opener with 24 on Monday night.

The experience of the Panthers, who were in the final just a year ago, has clearly frustrated the Oilers, and Florida has found a way to limit them at what they do best — Edmonton came into the series with the best power play in the postseason at 37.3%, but is now 0 for 7.



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Edmonton Oilers forward Connor McDavid is tripped during second-period Game 2 action in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals against the Florida Panthers in Sunrise, Fla., on Monday.

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SOCCER (MEN’S)

International Friendly

Portugal vs. Ireland	12:30 p.m.	FS2
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SOFTBALL

Athletes Unlimited

Team Warren vs. Team Wiggins	5 p.m.	ESPN2
Team Leach vs. Team Wiggins	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2

TENNIS

Multiple Coverage	3 a.m. (Wednesday)	TENNIS
Multiple Coverage	4 a.m. (Wednesday)	TENNIS

WNBA BASKETBALL

Minnesota at Las Vegas	8 p.m.	NBATV
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LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

UTAH ROYALS

SUNDAY

at Bay FC 8 p.m.
TV: CBSN

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

at Orlando 6 p.m.
TV: Prime Video (online)

REAL SALT LAKE

SATURDAY

at Montreal 5:30 p.m.
TV: MLS Season Pass (online)
Radio: KSL Sports Zone 95.7

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

at Kansas City 6:30 p.m.

TV: MLS Season Pass (online)

Radio: KSL Sports Zone 95.7

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

vs. L.A. Galaxy 7:30 p.m.
TV: MLS Season Pass (online)
Radio: KSL Sports Zone 95.7

UTAH WARRIORS

SUNDAY

at New England 1 p.m.
TV: FS1
Radio: ESPN 700

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

vs. Dallas 8 p.m.
TV: KMYU
Radio: ESPN 700

Rodeo

From B1

pain and frustration.

But they never did it alone.

Many had their partnerships with their horses right there with them. I heard about a cowgirl who once slipped off in the middle of a pole-bending run, only to have her horse complete the run and then come stand next to her until she got up.

And the rodeo community is also tremendously loyal to each other.

Every year you hear of competitors helping each other, lending saddles or gear or even a horse to athletes who could end up beating them in the arena.

It was announced on Saturday that nearly \$131,000 in scholarships were awarded to high school athletes last week, but that was just one aspect of the efforts of the community.

This year it rallied for the family of Levi Wright, a 3-year-old boy from a rodeo family in Beaver who drowned in an accident in



JARED LLOYD, DAILY HERALD

Westin Simpson of the Wasatch club competes in the bull riding competition on the final day of the Utah State High School Rodeo Finals at the Wasatch County Events Complex in Heber on Saturday.

May.

Not only did the bull fighters wear shirts that read, “In loving memory Levi Wright T-Rex Strong!” on the back but the rodeo did a boot run — where cowboy boots are passed through the crowd to col-

lect cash donations — and raised almost \$3,900 for the Wright family.

I’ve seen similar responses to injuries and tragedies in the two decades that I’ve been covering high school rodeo, but it never ceases to inspire me.

Over and over I’ve seen that high school rodeo athletes and their families can be defined by two words: Toughness and kindness.

I hope they never lose either but continue to take great care of the animals, the sport and each other.

Best of the Best: 2024 All-Valley Girls Lacrosse Team

BY DARNELL DICKSON
Daily Herald

Here are the top girls lacrosse players in the Utah Valley area in 2024:

Player of the Year:
Morgan Jacobson
Sr. A/MF, Payson

Jacobson led the Lions to the 4A state title match and finished the season with 67 goals and 16 assists (83 points).

Offensive MVP:
Eliza Berg Sr. MF, Pleasant Grove

Berg was a master of the draw (93 draw controls) while leading the Valley with 69 goals and 17 assists for 86 points. She also contributed 63 ground balls and 93 draw controls.

Defensive MVP:
Abby Stringham Sr. G, Maple Mountain

The Golden Eagles went undefeated (10-0) in Region 7 and Stringham was a huge reason why. She finished with 195 saves (an impressive .601 save percentage) and allowed just 7.7 goals per contest.

Coach of the Year:
Marc Jacobson, Payson

Jacobson was a rookie coach with the Lions but had a terrific debut. Payson lost just one game during the regular season, topped Region 8 with a 10-0 record and advanced to the 4A state title match before losing a close one to top-ranked Bear River 12-9.

First Team All-Valley
(alphabetical order)

Kaia Anderson Jr. A/MF, Wasatch

Anderson made life difficult for defenses with 58 goals, to go along with three assists (61 points), 48 ground balls and 55 draw controls.

Ianna Baldwin Sr. G, Lone Peak

Baldwin allowed 8.7 goals against in 2024, making 108 saves (.413 save percentage).

Makenna Christensen So. G, Timpanogos

Christensen was tough on opposing offenses and allowed just 4.3 goals against per game, making 72 saves (.436 save percentage).

Sophie Crismon Sr. A/MF, Westlake

Crimson was all over the field for the Thunder, totaling 42 points (33 goals, nine assists) to go along with 48 ground balls and 43 draw controls.

Kendall Davies So. MF/A, Cedar Valley

Davies had an excellent sophomore season with 41 points (38 goals, three assists) and 34 ground balls.

Madi Floyd Jr. G, Pleasant Grove

Floyd was outstanding in goal for the Vikings, allowing 6.7 goals against with 153 saves (.560 save percentage).

Kyli Haws Sr. MF, Skyridge

Haws had a terrific senior season, totaling 45 points on 35 goals and 10 assists. She led the Falcons with 91 ground balls and 50 draw controls.

Tessa Jamison So. A, Skyridge

Jamison is one of the state's top young players and contributed 68

points for the Falcons on 63 goals and three assists while adding 37 ground balls.

Kacee Kelley Sr. D/MF, Skyridge

Kelley did good work for the Falcons with 54 points (38 goals, 16 assists) while also contributing 55 ground balls and 49 draw controls.

Camree Kenison Sr. A, Lehi

Kenison finished an outstanding career for the Pioneers with 62 points (49 goals, 13 assists) along with 56 draw controls.

Ella Maddox Jr. MF, Timpanogos

Maddox had a nice junior year with 19 goals, 46 ground balls and 38 draw controls for the Timberwolves.

Katrina Maddox Sr. A, Lone Peak

Maddox totaled 47 points on 42 goals and five assists for the Knights.

Brindley McCarty Sr. A, Springville

McCarty topped the Red Devils with 45 points (34 goals, 11 assists) and added 24 ground balls.

McKenna Mecham Sr. G, Payson

Mecham was solid in goal for the Lions with 6.6 goals allowed per game, totaling 137 saves (.598 save percentage).

Izzy Moyes Jr. MF, Provo

Moyes topped the Bulldogs with 46 points (34 goals, 12 assists), along with 61 ground balls and 35 draw controls.

Sarah Neuenschwander Jr. MF, Lone Peak

Neueschwander topped the Knights with 66 points (57 goals, nine assists) and added 74 ground balls.

Myarae Pilati Jr. MF, Maple Mountain

Pilati had a nice all-around season with 40 points (29 goals, 11 assists) and 37 ground balls for the Golden Eagles.

Hailey Romrell Jr. A/D, Westlake

Romrell topped Westlake with 50 points (37 goals, 13 assists) and added 37 ground balls in 2024.

Sydney Schultz Jr. MF, Pleasant Grove

Schultz topped the Vikings with 44 points on 30 goals and 14 assists in 2024.

Leah Sorenson Jr. MF, Payson

Sorenson contributed 45 goals and seven assists (52 points) along with 23 ground balls and 158 draw controls for the Lions.

Jayne Tanner Sr. A/MF, Maple Mountain

Tanner finished her senior season with 41 points (29 goals, 12 assists) along with 62 ground balls.

Carlie Uhrich Jr. A/MF, Wasatch

Uhrich was a playmaker for the Wasps with 24 goals and 19 assists for a total of 43 points in 2024.

Brooke Warren Jr. A/MF, Salem Hills

Warren was an offensive threat for the Skyhawks, scoring 60 goals and adding six assists for 66 points. She also contributed

finish all season.

After her introduction to lacrosse, Jacobson didn't take long to love it.

"I didn't know the sport but I had a friend of a friend that played," she said. "I wasn't somebody who wanted to try new sports and I didn't know how to play. But I was immediately into it and crazy about it. I needed all of this stuff. My dad, bless his heart, and my mom were so supportive and that opened up opportunities for me."

Jacobson played on multiple club teams, including Lynx Club Lacrosse.

"I had a lot of great coaches

that helped me fall in love with lacrosse," she said. "It's not just a great sport but there are so many great people involved. My high school team, I remember every single senior who was ever on the team. The bonds we built, they are built forever. On and off the field we are super close. I've built so many relationships from lacrosse."

"She played some rec sports and was kind of into horses," Marc Jacobson said. "My other kids all played sports and she tried them all but didn't love them. Lacrosse was her thing. Morgan has a great lacrosse IQ and a

great attitude, just second to none. She'll help younger kids so her patience level is awesome and she stays positive. She's dedicated a lot of time to lacrosse. I get to see it at home. She spends a lot of time out back hitting the rebounder. She does a lot of running."

Marc Jacobson would know his daughter's strengths as a player since he took the head coaching job at Payson in January.

"Coaching Morgan was, honestly, a ton of fun," Coach Jacobson said. "I had been able to watch her from the bleachers but on the sidelines



JARED LLOYD, DAILY HERALD

Lone Peak junior Sadie Neuenschwander runs the ball up the field during the 6A playoff game in Highland on May 16.

702 ground balls and 180 draw controls.

Cecily Williams Jr. MF, Timpanogos

Williams took the lead on offense for the Timberwolves and had 56 goals along with four assists for 60 points. She also contributed 37 ground balls.

AnnaLee Wright Sr. MF, Cedar Valley

Wright totaled 58 goals and five assists for 63 points, adding 58 ground balls for the Aviators.

Taylor Yee Sr. MF, Maple Mountain

Yee was lethal for the Golden Eagles and had 64 points (50 goals, 14 assists), 47 ground balls and 26 draw controls.

Carol Yost Sr. A/MF, Payson

Yost was a powerful offensive threat for the Lions with 51 goals along with nine assists for 60 points.

Second Team All-Valley
(alphabetical order)

Taira Anderson Sr. MF, Salem Hills

12 goals, two assists (14 points), 36 ground balls

Sarah Bartholomew Sr. D, Lone Peak

20 ground balls, 21 caused turnovers,

Brinley Buhler Sr. A/MF, Lehi

19 goals, 12 assists (31 points)

Ella Clark Jr. A/MF, Cedar Valley

39 goals, one assists (40 points), 32 ground balls

Shaylee Drew Sr. A, Pleasant Grove

24 goals, 11 assists (35 points)

Mackenzie Goode Sr. A/MF, Wasatch

12 goals, six assists (18 points), 69 ground balls, 63 draw controls

Annie Hansen Jr. A/MF, Timpanogos

20 goals

Liesel Hansen Sr. MF/D, Maple Mountain

26 goals, three assists (29 points), 45 ground balls

Hayley Harris Sr. D, Springville

45 ground balls

Elenoar Haslam Jr. MF, Timpanogos

16 goals, six assists (22 points), 33 ground balls

Anna Jaussi So. MF, Provo

35 goals, 10 assists (45 points)

Hannah Jorgensen So. MF, Lehi

16 goals, three assists (19 points), 24 ground balls, 37 draw controls

Olivia Kelemen Sr. MF, Provo

18 goals, two assists (20 points), 47 draw controls

Hannah Lane Sr. G, Provo

7.6 goals against average, 148 saves (.522 save percentage)

Ashelyn Larsen So. A/MF, Salem Hills

14 goals, 10 assists (24 points)

Rivers Larsen Sr. MF, Spanish Fork

29 goals, four assists (33 points), 34 ground balls

Hannah Lindsay Sr. MF, Lehi

21 goals, three assists (24 points), 27 ground balls, 27 draw controls

Norah Lisonbee So. A/MF, Lone Peak

40 goals, two assists (42 points), 37 ground balls

Lilli Miller Sr. MF, American Fork

25 goals, eight assists (33 points), 28 ground balls, 20 draw controls

Mindi Montague Sr. MF, Timpanogos

28 goals, four assists (32 points), 70 ground balls, 58 draw controls

Noelle Muhlestein Jr. MF, Payson

28 goals, three assists (31 points), 31 ground balls

Allie Parke Jr. MF, Wasatch

28 goals, six assists (34 points), 48 ground balls

Tiger Parkin Sr. A, Skyridge

16 goals, eight assists (24 points), 48 ground balls, 38 draw controls

Kailey Parkinson Sr. A, Springville

24 goals, five assists (29 points)

Lauren Robertson Sr. MF, Timpview

30 goals, 63 ground balls, 44 draw controls

Natalie Rowley Jr. A, Payson

30 goals, five assists (35 points)

Milly Schofield Sr. A, Provo

20 goals, four assists (24 points)

Sarah Seiler Sr. A, Maple Mountain

12 goals, one assist (13 points), 38 ground balls

Maya Siri Jr. A/MF, Lone Peak

16 goals, five assists (21 points)

London Smith So. A/MF, Pleasant Grove

23 goals, 11 assists (34 points)

Elli Stevenson Sr. A, Westlake

39 goals, nine assists (48 points), 36 ground balls

Emery Stohlton Jr. MF/A, Cedar Valley

26 goals, two assists (28 points), 23 ground balls

Taylor Sulz So. MF, Pleasant Grove

28 goals, two assists (30 points), 47 ground balls, 41 draw controls

Ava Swasey Jr. MF, Spanish Fork

23 goals, 37 ground balls, 81 draw controls

Ella Welsch Sr. MF, Springville

35 goals, five assists (40 points), 38 ground balls

All-Valley Honorable Mention

AMERICAN FORK: Emmylou Blackhurst, Emma Call, Claire Corbridge, Karlei Havili, Bella Mascherino.

CEDAR VALLEY: Taylor Hess, Rachel Taylor.

LEHI: Alexis Atkin, Ashley Atkin, Tilly Poulton, Mia Richards.

LONE PEAK: Lily Brown, Kate Hamilton, Emrie Peterson, Simone Winger.

MAPLE MOUNTAIN: Shay Brown, Charly Gallman, Elsie Griffin, Lilly Hickman, Sierra Liggett, Taylah Smith, Hannah Warren, Rebekah Wall.

PAYSON: Erika Davies, Morgan Beveridge, Alice Hales, Miley Miller, Kathy Morgan, Lily Potter.

PLEASANT GROVE: Gwenyth Elcock, Andelun Lloyd, Riley Powell.

PROVO: Ellie Jaynes, Courtney MacFarlane, Connie Mendez, Emma Parke, Raymie Skeen, Jocelyn Snyder.

SALEM HILLS: Kalala Centeno, Ruby Lindstrom, Kate Mangum, Whitney Murray, Sarah Strassburg, Rachel Turner, Tiffany Turner.

SKYRIDGE: Grace Brimhall, Aubree Cox, Chloe Hammond, Hadley Orcutt, Eliza White.

SPANISH FORK: Kelsie Applegarth, Yoselyn Corona, Addalice Flores, Adia Gardner, Lily Seidel, Emily Walker.

SPRINGVILLE: Megan Conrad, Reagan McSweeney, Kelsie Reed, Abby Roberts.

TIMPANOGOS: Ashley Bean, Jada Intharath, Leticia Janotti, Camilla Senior.

TIMPVIEW: Youjin Bann, Abigail Davis, Jillian Freedman, Ella McClellan.

WASATCH: Faith Hedrickson, Lana Shallenberger, Ella Willard.

WESTLAKE: Katie Atchley, Savannah Fowler, Allison Johnson, Emerald Morton, Joelle Morton.

Jacobson

From B1

of lacrosse in high school. As a senior, she led the Lions to an 18-2 record and the state 4A finals to earn the 2024 Daily Herald Valley Player of the Year award.

Jacobson led the Lions with 67 goals and 16 assists for 83 points. She converted 55% of her shots and added 27 draw controls as Payson didn't lose in Region 8 (10-0). Payson pushed top-ranked Bear River to the brink in the 4A state title match before losing 12-9, the undefeated Bears closest

and fun. I couldn't have asked for a better senior year."

Morgan Jacobson will continue her lacrosse career at Division II Colorado Mesa and will join the Maverick program in August. She plans to study criminal justice in college.

"My club coach told us we needed to go to a camp at Colorado Mesa," she said. "I immediately fell in love with the team and the school and the program. Putting Payson on the map as a lacrosse program has opened up so many opportunities. I know we can grow the game in Utah. Once it's in, it's everywhere."

EURO 2024

Europe’s biggest soccer show begins in Munich on Friday

BY JAMES ROBSON
Associated Press

A returning Cristiano Ronaldo, a rampant Kylian Mbappé and a resurgent Germany.

Throw in a Harry Kane-powered England and defending champion Italy and Euro 2024 is wide open.

That’s without mentioning three-time winner Spain.

The unpredictability of the European Championship, which begins in Munich on Friday, is what makes it such compelling viewing. Even in its expanded format of 24 teams, there is always the potential for a surprise.

This is the tournament, after all, that was won by rank outsider Greece in 2004. In 1992, it was won by Denmark, a team that hadn’t even qualified for the finals but was granted entry at the 11th hour when war-torn Yugoslavia was banned.

Host nation Germany hopes to create a welcoming and festive atmosphere for millions of soccer fans who will watch the games in stadiums or fan zones across the country – like it did when it hosted the 2006 World Cup.

However, this tournament will be played in a different political context. Europe’s biggest sporting event since the Russian invasion of Ukraine is taking place in the shadow of the most devastating conflict in Europe since World War II.

Ukraine is participating and can expect a warm reception in Germany, which hosted the team’s home matches during the qualifying campaign. Russia was excluded from qualifying – it has been suspended from all international competitions by European soccer body UEFA as well as global counterpart FIFA.

Meanwhile, Georgia is coming to its first major soccer championship as a political crisis deepens at home. The South Caucasus country has seen weeks of protests against a controversial law that opponents say would crack down on media freedom and hinder efforts to join the European Union.

And across the EU, voters will still be digesting the results of elections to the European Parliament – the 27-member bloc’s legislature – as the tournament gets underway. Early results Monday showed a surge in nationalist and far-right sentiment, which has often manifested itself in Europe’s soccer stadiums, particularly among hardcore ultras.

As always, the threat of hooliganism looms over the



MATTHIAS SCHRADER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine’s goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin punches the ball away under pressure from Germany’s Kai Havertz during an international friendly soccer match between Germany and Ukraine in Nuremberg, Germany, on June 3.



MARKUS SCHREIBER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Euro 2024 European soccer championship trophy is displayed during a trophy presentation at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Germany, on April 24.

European Championship, where clashes between rival fans have become a common feature. The threat of terrorism and political violence is an even bigger security concern, following a series of attacks on politicians in Germany.

German authorities are stepping up border controls during the tournament. More than 20,000 police officers will be on duty.

Given the tensions surrounding the Gaza war, UEFA and Germany avoided even higher security concerns when Israel was knocked out in the playoffs for Euro 2024.

On the field of play, there is reason to expect an exciting tournament, without the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place during the previous Euros in 2021.

England and France are among the favorites.

Three years ago, England was just a penalty shootout away from winning its first trophy since the 1966 World Cup but lost the final to Italy. Since then, manager

Gareth Southgate has seen the emergence of Jude Bellingham as one of the top talents in world soccer, while Phil Foden is living up to the hype he generated when first emerging at Manchester City. Meanwhile, Harry Kane scored 44 goals in 47 games in his first season at Bayern Munich.

France also suffered the heartbreak of a shootout defeat when it lost the World Cup final in Qatar to Argentina. Mbappé remains its star attraction, but he is surrounded by top class talent throughout the French squad in the form of Antoine Griezmann, Eduardo Camavinga, Aurélien Tchouameni, Ousmane Dembélé and Kingsley Coman.

Ronaldo will be back competing in Europe after heading to Saudi Arabia to play his club soccer. Even at the age of 39 the former Real Madrid and Manchester United striker is still a goal machine – scoring 10 during Portugal’s perfect qualifying campaign.

Germany is a question mark after a string of disappointments at recent major tournaments, but new coach Julian Nagelsmann has lifted the mood of the host nation just in time for Euro 2024, with morale-boosting wins in friendlies against France and the Netherlands.

It’s a dangerous game to make predictions about Italy after the traditional powerhouse of international soccer failed to qualify for the last two World Cups but won the Euros in between.

Spain is looking to restore its former glory after having dominated international soccer from 2008-2012 when it won two Euros and was also crowned world champion. There is no shortage of talent at coach Luis de la Fuente’s disposal, with Man City midfielder Rodri establishing himself as arguably the best in his position and Barcelona’s Lamine Yamal among its emerging stars.

Other teams to watch include Croatia, which came third at the Qatar World Cup, and still has Luka Modric producing at the highest level with Real Madrid. Belgium’s golden generation has disbanded, yet it still qualified as a group winner, with striker Romelu Lukaku the top scorer with 14 goals.

If this is the year of another surprise winner, potential candidates could include Ralf Rangnick’s Austria, which impressed during qualifying; Denmark, a semifinalist in the last Euros; or Serbia, which has some serious attacking talent.

In a tournament that has produced some of international’s biggest shocks – anything seems possible.

LAKERS COACHING VACANCY

Hurley will stay at UConn to seek 3rd straight NCAA title

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Dan Hurley is staying at Connecticut and has decided to turn down an offer to take over the Los Angeles Lakers, ending several days of speculation about his future and meaning he will try to guide the Huskies to a third consecutive NCAA championship.

“Our MVP Coach is staying in CT,” Gov. Ned Lamont posted on social media.

ESPN first reported Hurley’s decision on Monday, plus was first to report last week that he had emerged as a serious candidate for the Lakers job. Hurley met with Lakers officials on Friday, then spent the weekend weighing his options.

And it seems likely that Hurley will soon be richly rewarded for staying at UConn: Shortly before the ESPN report of Hurley’s decision to stay put, Lamont, who was in contact with Hurley throughout the weekend, said the state will “make sure he’s the top-paid college coach” if he remains with the Huskies.

The only immediate comment from UConn was the university posting an image of Hurley with his hands in the air, and another post saying the team’s 2 p.m. practice was underway. Assistant coach Luke Murray, who has worked with Hurley at Wagner, Seton Hall and UConn, also posted a video of Hurley lifting his arms in the air in celebration of the national title – without a caption, probably because the post’s meaning was clear enough.

“Now let’s get ready for a #3peat, because Connecticut knows champions are built here!” Lamont wrote.

Hurley had the option of taking over one of the most famed franchises in pro sports, not to mention perhaps the chance to coach NBA all-time scoring leader LeBron James. But in the end, his stay in the coaching version of the transfer portal was brief – and he will remain at UConn, where he has gone 68-11 over the last two title-winning seasons.

On the way to those two titles, the fiery Hurley and the tough-as-nails Huskies have left no doubt – 12-0 in NCAA tournament games, winning by a staggering average of 21.7 points per contest. UConn will try to become the second program to win three straight men’s national titles; UCLA, the only men’s program to

do better than going back-to-back, won seven in a row from 1967 through 1973.

“I am humbled by this entire experience,” Hurley said in a statement distributed by UConn. “At the end of the day, I am extremely proud of the championship culture we have built at Connecticut. We met as a team before today’s workout and our focus right now is getting better this summer and connecting as a team as we continue to pursue championships.”

Hurley will chase something rare by turning down the opportunity to something just as rare: leaving the reigning NCAA champions for the NBA.

The last time a coach made such a move was after the 1987-88 season, when Kansas won the NCAA title and Larry Brown decided to leave for the NBA. He took over the San Antonio Spurs, and Roy Williams became coach of the Jayhawks.

The Spurs gave Brown \$3.5 million for five years, which was enormous money at the time yet nothing compared to what Hurley would have commanded from the Lakers – likely more than \$10 million per season, or about double what he currently makes at UConn. And Brown went on to become the only coach to win both an NCAA title and an NBA championship; he got that title with Detroit in 2004.

Hurley had the chance to try to follow that same path. He may get the chance again one day – but for now, at least, the NBA can wait.

Hurley is 141-58 in his six seasons at UConn and 292-163 overall in 14 seasons as a collegiate coach – adding in his years at Wagner and Rhode Island.

He’s gone through four losing seasons in that span; his first year at Wagner, his first two at Rhode Island and his first year at UConn. Once he gets it rolling, the wins just pile up: take away how those stops started, and Hurley’s record is 241-90 – a .728 winning percentage.

And he’s been rewarded for that success; last June, he signed a \$32.1 million, six-year deal. Another deal is almost surely on the way now, one that will come shortly after UConn signed women’s coach Geno Auriemma last week to a five-year extension worth nearly \$19 million.

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