

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Cut by Raiders, Brown becoming a Patriot on eve of opener

ALAMEDA, Calif. – Antonio Brown has agreed to terms with the New England Patriots hours after the Oakland Raiders cut him, going from the NFL's cellar to the defending Super Bowl champions on Saturday despite wearing out his welcome with two teams in one offseason.

Brown's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press. Brown had been scheduled to earn up to \$50 million from Oakland over the three-year deal. Instead, the Patriots guaranteed him \$9 million this season, with the potential to earn up to \$15 million.

Brown posted a picture of himself in a Patriots uniform on Instagram shortly after ESPN reported the signing. The post was soon liked by New England receiver Julian Edelman.

A Patriots spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

New England opens the season against the Steelers on Sunday night, when the Patriots will raise their sixth Super Bowl championship banner.

### Jones, Falcons agree to three-year, \$66 million extension

Julio Jones and the Atlanta Falcons are finalizing a multi-year extension that will make him the NFL's highest-paid receiver, a person familiar with the deal told USA TODAY Sports. The person was granted anonymity because the extension has not been announced.

The deal is reported to be for three years and for a guaranteed \$66 million. ESPN reported that \$64 million of that is due at signing.

The extension has been expected for weeks and came the day before the Falcons open the season at Minnesota.

Earlier this week he was asked if he would play the opener without a new deal and he responded, "I don't know. I don't know."

He added: "What I'm trying to do right now is be ready."

The former Alabama standout receiver was in the fourth year of his five-year contract worth \$71 million.

In July, New Orleans Saints' Michael Thomas agreed to record-setting \$100 million deal, making him the league's highest-paid wideout.

Jones, a five-time Pro Bowler, led the league last season with 1,677 receiving yards on 113 receptions. He has caught 104 or more passes three

times while surpassing 1,400 yards in a season five times.

### Ex-Cardinals player Duncan dies after battle with brain cancer

Former St. Louis Cardinals player Chris Duncan has died after a battle with brain cancer, Fox Sports Midwest said on the Cardinals' broadcast Friday night during the game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was 38.

Duncan was first diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2012, the same illness his mother, Jeanine, died of in 2013 at the age of 64.

The son of legendary pitching coach Dave Duncan and the brother of major leaguer Shelley Duncan, Chris Duncan played for the Cardinals from 2005-09, winning a World Series with the team in 2006.

He hit .257 with 55 home runs and 175 RBI, retired in 2010 and became a popular radio personality in the St. Louis area. He took a permanent medical leave from his ESPN radio show in January.

### Duke probe finds no evidence Nike paid Williamson

DURHAM, N.C. – Duke says an investigation has found no evidence that former basketball star Zion Williamson received improper benefits.

School spokesman Mi-

chael Schoenfeld said in a statement Saturday that a "thorough and objective" probe led by investigators outside the athletic department found "no evidence to support any allegation" that would have jeopardized Williamson's eligibility.

Duke athletic director Kevin White said in April that the school would investigate after lawyer Michael Avenatti accused Nike Inc. of paying Williamson's mother to persuade him to attend a college affiliated with the Beaverton, Oregon-based shoe company.

Avenatti said in a statement that he "never heard from anyone associated with Duke" about the investigation and repeated his claim that Williamson was paid to attend the school.

"The documents and the hard evidence do not lie," he said.

Williamson was taken first overall by the New Orleans Pelicans in the NBA draft after earning Associated Press player of the year honors as a freshman at Duke.

### Americans top Antetokounmpo, Greece at World Cup 69-53

SHENZHEN, China – Kemba Walker scored 15 points, Donovan Mitchell scored 10 on his 23rd birthday and the U.S. contained NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, defeat-

ing Greece 69-53 in a second-round game at the World Cup on Saturday.

Harrison Barnes and Derrick White each scored nine for the U.S. (4-0), which can clinch a quarterfinal berth Monday in multiple ways. It needs either a win over Brazil or a Greece win over the Czech Republic or through a three-way tiebreaker, if necessary.

Antetokounmpo, the Milwaukee Bucks star and reigning NBA MVP, scored 15 points but Greece (2-2) was eliminated from contention for a spot in the quarterfinals.

The U.S. national team has won 57 consecutive games in international tournaments with NBA players, starting with the 2006 world championships bronze-medal game and continuing through every FIBA Americas, world championships, World Cup and Olympic event since.

The streak started after a 101-95 loss to Greece in 2006 – a defeat that forced the U.S. to change its program.

The Americans haven't lost in the biggest tournaments since.

"I thought we played well," Walker said. "Stuck to the game plan."

Antetokounmpo's eyes were closed as he mouthed along with the words of Greece's national anthem. After the U.S. anthem played and the rosters from both sides met at midcourt for the

customary pregame exchange of gifts, the NBA MVP shook hands with Bucks teammate Brook Lopez and gave him a quick hug.

Other than that, there was no pregame interaction between Antetokounmpo and the Americans.

### K-State announces \$105M in capital improvement project

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Kansas State announced a \$105 million capital improvement project Saturday that includes a large renovation of Bill Snyder Family Stadium and additional projects to help other athletic programs.

The school already has raised \$69 million for the work, which will begin in May.

The biggest projects involve the football program. The stadium will get new south end zone suites along with a new indoor practice facility, and outdoor practice fields will be built next door.

Kansas State will also build a new \$17.5 million volleyball arena and a \$13 million training center for its Olympic sports programs. Both of those facilities will be located near the football stadium and Bramlage Coliseum, consolidating the Wildcats' athletic programs on one campus.

– Wire services

## Lawsuit

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dent Jeff Thiessen about a charity in August 2018.

Dansons is a barbecue grill manufacturer started in 1999 by Dan Thiessen and his two sons. Among the brands of grills they manufacture are Louisiana Grills and Pit Boss, both of which make wood pellet grills.

In an interview with Patio & Hearth Products Report, Dansons president Jeff Thiessen said that meeting led to job offers to Joe and Brian Traeger.

The lawsuit alleges Joe Traeger reached out to Traeger Grills about jobs for he and Brian Traeger in September 2018.



Traeger Grills founder Joe Traeger is shown in 1997. STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

"The terms were unreasonable and unacceptable to Traeger Grills," the lawsuit states.

In 2018, Joe and Brian Traeger went to work for Dansons – Joe in product

development and Brian as a divisional sales manager – and Dansons used photos of Joe and Brian Traeger and the Traeger barn in Mt. Angel in its announcement of the hir-

ing and subsequent marketing material dated Sept. 21, 2018.

"Joe and Brian Traeger were hired in 2018 based on their personal talent, passion and experience in the grilling industry," Dansons president Jeff Thiessen said in a statement. "They brought fresh ideas and concepts that we were happy to engage, and they have become a valued part of the Dansons family."

In that marketing material, it states Joe Traeger and Brian Traeger are not associated with Traeger Grills.

The lawsuits allege Traeger Grills sent a cease and desist letter to Dansons on Sept. 21, 2018, asking them to not use the Traegers in their marketing, but Dansons

continued to use their names and likenesses. It's still on their web site.

The suit alleges on March 14, 2019 Dansons announced it would introduce a Founders Series of grills "brought to you proudly by Joe Traeger, the founder of the original pellet grill."

### Dansons files suit in 2019

On July 16, Traeger Pellet Grills filed a lawsuit against Joe, Brian and Mark Traeger in a Florida district court – Randy Traeger died in 2017 – alleging they were selling their brand and likeness a second time since selling their company in 2006.

That same day Traeger Pellet Grills filed a similar lawsuit against Dansons

in Arizona District Court, alleging improper conduct and unfair competition on the part of Dansons for using the Traeger family members in promoting Pit Boss and Louisiana Grills.

The suits ask for unspecified monetary damages, and for the Traegers and the Traeger barn to no longer be used in marketing for Dansons.

"While we welcome fair competition, Dansons' multi-year effort to copy Traeger through the illegal use of names, likenesses and unique design elements is confusing to customers and damaging to our company," Andrus said in a press release.

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## Obituaries

### James "Jim" Alfred Mucken

James "Jim" Alfred Mucken passed away unexpectedly Sunday, September 1, 2019, while hunting near Little Blitzen River located on Steens Mountain in southeastern Oregon.

Jim was born January 11, 1979, in Silverton to Ted and Sharon Mucken. He graduated from North Salem High School in 1997 and was a skilled craftsman with Pilgrims Custom Cabinets for the last 22 years.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 18 years Rebecca (Stueve) Mucken; his daughters Grace (14), Molly, (12), and Paige (6); his parents Ted and Sharon (Bernt) Mucken; mother-in-law Gretchen Stueve; brothers, Carl (Liz), Roger (Alyssa), David (Megan); brothers-in-law Jon (Rhonda), David (Lindy); many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and his grandmother Ailene Bernt of Mt. Angel.

Jim was a devoted husband and father. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially outdoors, and he was an avid hunter and fisherman. The Steens Mountain is a cherished place for the whole Mucken family. They loved its beauty and rugged, untamed terrain. Jim passed doing what he loved in the place he held very dear. He inspired others to embrace life, hold loved ones close, and be the best versions of themselves.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 14 at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Salem, with a rosary beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a memorial following at 10:30.

Donations can be made to Harney County Search and Rescue.



## Lakes

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forest a half-mile to pretty little Pika Lake – named for a tiny, rolling, ball-of-fur-mammal that inhabits this area and makes a distinctive "eep" call. They are adorable, though we didn't see or hear any.

Pika Lake is small and somewhat tough to access, but a faint trail does lead to a few openings where you can enjoy looking at the lake but probably not much else.

### Best of the bunch: Fir Lake

Jump back on the pathway and you'll soon pass a wildflower mead-

ow and grassy bog. Again, keep your ears and eyes open for wildlife. It's everywhere.

After a few uphill climbs, and 1 mile from the trailhead, you'll reach Fir Lake, the largest and most scenic of the trio.

Fir Lake has a few campsites around it, and some logs that you can walk out into the water upon. Swimming is pos-

sible here but a little muddy.

Overall, Fir Lake is an unspectacular but pleasant place to hang out for an hour or so before hiking back.

Fey, Pika and Fir lakes aren't likely to be crowded – despite this article – but they're an easy and fun destination for the tail-end of summer.

### Fey/Pika/Fir lakes

**In a nutshell:** Three forested mountain lakes on the edge of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness near Big Meadows Horse Camp.

**Upside:** Quiet experience in shaded forest with three distinct lakes and kid-friendly hiking.

**Downside:** Not great for swimming, not particularly scenic.

**Hiking:** The Pika-Fir Trail #3489 is 2 miles round-trip with some moderately steep climbs.

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