

# Pickleball a popular summer sport in Dallas

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The improvised courts set up in the parking lot of the Polk County Sheriff's Office were busy for much of the first of Dallas' Tuesday on the Square events on June 13.

The sport? Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in the country, according to those who belong to the increasingly popular Dallas Pickleball Club.

Karen Freeman, a member of the club, said the sport developed 51 years ago. It's a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It played on smaller courts and with lower nets than tennis,

### Want to play?

**What:** Pickleball.  
**Where:** Tennis courts at Roger Jordan Community Park, 1005 SE LaCreole Drive.  
**When:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon; Sunday and Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. until dark.  
**For more information:** [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org).

making it accessible to a wide variety of athletes. While there's strategy to the game, most players can pick it up quickly, she said.

Freeman said that doesn't mean it's not challenging or competitive.

"Your mind has to be focused on the ball," she said. "It can come back at you so fast."

Currently, the club meets at the tennis courts in Roger Jordan Community

Park Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 to noon, and Sunday and Tuesday evenings from 6:30 until dark.

"In the mornings, we have four courts full and people waiting out (for their next game)," Freeman said. "That's not everyone. If everybody came, we would have quite a few people waiting out."

By the end of this summer, club members — and

anyone who wishes to try Pickleball — will have courts designed for the sport.

Thanks to a grant and money from city park system development charges, the city is building courts across the street from the Dallas Aquatic Center. Work is slated to begin by mid-summer, granted that the ground is dry enough.

Freeman said Dallas isn't the only place seeing a surge in the sport.

She said the city of Bend just opened a 16-court complex and hosts tournaments. The sport has a website that lists all the places in the country to play.

"In the last 10 years, it's really taken off," Freeman said. "It's pretty amazing."



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

**Dallas offers chances to play pickleball five days a week at Roger Jordan Community Park.**

# Race: Race follows parade route to Independence

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The cost is \$15 (10 and older) and \$5 (9 and younger) until Friday.

Day-of registration will be available from 8 to 10:30 a.m. for \$20 and \$10.

The race is a one-way course, and participants will have to make their own post-race travel arrangements.

Also, be prepared to handle the weather.

"Make sure you are hydrated," Cable said. "We will also have plenty of hydration and refreshments."

The mini-marathon has been a long-standing com-

### On your mark...

**What:** 47th annual Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon, a 2.6-mile, mostly downhill race that begins in front of Monmouth's City Hall and ends at the old city hall building in Independence. The race follows the grand parade route.

**When:** Tuesday, July 4, 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 9 and younger in advance; \$20 and \$10 day-of until 10:30 a.m.  
**For more information:** Terry Cable, 503-930-2360.

munity tradition. Cable said he's excited to see what 2017's version brings.

"We have plenty of tradition with people running the race," Cable said. "We have people who run and now

their kids run with them. We have a lot of local people coming out and give great support."

Cable said he expects 400 or more participants in this year's event.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

**Race organizer Terry Cable said he hopes to see upwards of 400 participants.**

# Ribich: Won two national titles in track and field



GENEVA REINHARDT/for the Itemizer-Observer

**Western Oregon junior David Ribich won a national title in the men's 1,500-meter run.**

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Ribich ran the anchor leg in a thrilling race that saw WOU edge out Western State at the finish line with the fastest time in Division II history.

At the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Ribich won a national title in the men's 1,500-meter run.

Most recently, he competed at the USATF Championships in Sacramento, Calif. on Saturday where he took ninth. Ribich was the only Division II athlete in the race.

Once there, he had some surprise visitors come to cheer him on.

"I traveled with our assistant coach, Brady Beagle, and Johnson drove down," Ribich said. "Then, when I get there, my roommate, Zach Holloway, walks through the door. Once I made the final, my mom drove like 17 or 18 hours down from Sacramento and surprised me by picking up Zach's mom because she wanted to go. I didn't know it, but my

girlfriend Olivia came as well. It just surprised me to see people support me like that and dedicate their weekend just to watch me compete. The words I received from other Division II athletes whom I've never met before were incredible."

With the 2016-17 school year officially behind him, Ribich has had a little time to truly take in all that he — and the track and field team as a whole — accomplished, but it won't be long before he resumes his training for the upcoming cross-country season.

He hopes to make his final year with the Wolves his best one yet.

And when the going gets tough, it will be those who have supported him and given him encouragement that will keep him driven and motivated to succeed.

"That's the driving force that makes me stay confident in my abilities and working hard, because I want more," Ribich said.

# Fundraising begins for turf field

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The drive to raise funds for a turf field at Dallas High School is underway. An official kickoff event will happen during the Sept. 29 home football game, but the project has

already raised money toward its goal.

"We have about \$193,000 raised in pledged money and in-kind work," Bill McNutt said. McNutt is working with the Dallas Booster Club to raise funds.

Project organizers hope to raise \$850,000 in money and in-kind work by the end of April 2018 to install the turf in time for the 2018-19 school year. The project is focused on installing a turf field, leveling

the football field and addressing any drainage issues.

"The project is focused on everything within the track," McNutt said.

That would include dealing with a drop from the

north end of the field to the south end. Engineer Greg Locke said during a school board meeting on June 19 that the south end of the field would be lifted to allow that side to drain by gravity.

Once the field is installed, maintenance would be performed twice a year with a cost of roughly \$5,500. The field would have a lifespan of about 10 years before needing to be replaced, McNutt said.

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**Sudoku**  
Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution on Page 8A**

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

**How to do Sudoku**  
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy  
The Christian Science Monitor