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Members of the Moses Lake chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association at the club's 50th anniversary meeting (from left): Larry Wheat, Phil Stout, Darel Fuller with grandson Daniel Fuller, Ron Piercy, Jim Link, Richard Pearce, Dwain Forester, Rod Richeson, Jason Fry, and Don Floren.

Charles H. Featherstone/Columbia Basin Herald

Sharing the skies Moses Lake air club celebrates 50 years

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE
 Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — The list hanging on the clubhouse wall is faded and hard to read.

But it's the list of the pilots who, 50 years ago, signed on to become Chapter No. 355 of the Experimental Aircraft Association at the Moses Lake Municipal Airport.

"Feb. 13, 1970, was when the original club list was signed," said pilot and aircraft mechanic Ron Piercy, club president and owner of Rainbow Flying Service, which specializes in repairing and rebuilding airplanes.

It may be a few months late, but the association celebrated its 50th anniversary last week

with a corn feed — Piercy grows his own corn — and some time for its members, nearly all pilots, to get together and talk about airplanes.

"It's neat to have people who have the same interests you do," said pilot and retired farm appraiser Jerry Richardson. "I'm hoping we can get some young blood in here to carry on, because we're all getting old."

According to Piercy, the club was started by enthusiasts who built their own airplanes and would get together to help with bigger club rebuilding and refurbishing projects.

"Today, it's kind of a misnomer. We embrace all kinds of aviation, and it should probably be called the Sport Aviation Association," Piercy said.

Based in Oshkosh, Wisconsin — home to

one of the largest airshows in the country — the EAA advocates for private pilots, provides training and insurance, lobbies government for legislation friendly to pilots and helps promote local events like fly-ins.

The Moses Lake group meets every third Tuesday at 6 p.m. for dinner and then at 7 p.m. to work. The club's current project is rebuilding a 1946 Ercoupe (pronounced "aircoupe"), a plane that was designed to be so easy and foolproof to fly that the pilot needed only a driver's license.

Darel Fuller opens the side door to the hangar where the association is working on the 74-year-old blue-and-white plane. It's nearly

See CLUB, B3



Darel Fuller, a member of the Moses Lake chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, shows the club's current rebuilding project, a 1946 Ercoupe.

Charles H. Featherstone/Columbia Basin Herald



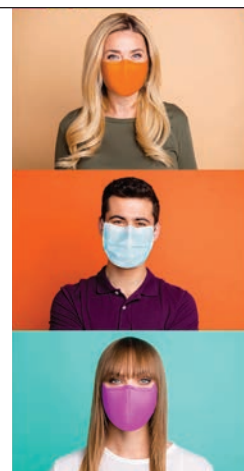
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Sports

Old (Brady), young (Mahomes), different Super Bowl 55 awaits

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

For Tom Brady, another trip to the Super Bowl — but this time, in a Tampa Bay uniform.

And for his new team, the Buccaneers, a first-of-its-kind home game, but without the usual home-field advantage.

To put a bow on this make-it-up-as-we-go NFL season — a campaign upended but never fully undone by the coronavirus pandemic — it comes as no surprise that there is no such thing as a straightforward storyline.

Because of restrictions in place due to COVID-19, Tampa Bay's home stadium will only be about a quarter full when the Buccaneers host the Kansas City Chiefs on Feb. 7 in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs opened as a 3.5-point favorite.

The 43-year-old Brady will expand on his record by playing in his 10th Super Bowl, hoping to expand on another record by winning a seventh title, but the first one in his new home of Tampa Bay.

And 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes of the Chiefs will be trying for back-to-back titles, something no quarterback has done since — who else? — Brady, back in his 2003-04 heyday with the New England Patriots.

The showdown will take place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, where Brady's Bucs will be the first team in the 55-year history of the Super Bowl to play on home turf.

"Whoever would've thought a home Super Bowl for us? But we did



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) scrambles up field ahead of Buffalo Bills defensive end AJ Epenesa (57) during the first half of the AFC championship football game Jan. 24, in Kansas City, Mo.

it," said Brady, who led the wild-card Buccaneers to a 31-26 win over Green Bay on Sunday to make it three straight road playoff wins on the way back home for the Super Bowl.

But home-field advantage won't mean as much as it normally might. This will be the first Super Bowl not played in front of a capacity crowd since the first one — Kansas City vs. Green Bay at the LA Coliseum — in 1967.

In a nod to how the pandemic has changed everything, the crowd for America's No. 1 sports spectacle will be limited to 22,000 in the 75,000-seat stadium, with vaccinated health-care workers getting 7,500 of those precious tickets.

And even the visiting team — the Chiefs — won't be staying in a hotel all week, the way both conference champions usually do for the Super Bowl. ESPN reported that Kansas City doesn't plan to

arrive in Tampa until the day before the game.

Most interview availabilities, as they have all season, will take place on Zoom from the teams' hometown practice facilities. The farce that has become the Super Bowl's "Opening Night" media session will be a virtual affair, as well. In short, teams will basically treat this like a regular road game (or, in the case of the Bucs, a regular home game), and the Super Bowl city will not much resemble the overflowing party hub it usually does as the big game approaches.

Despite all that, this has the makings of a good matchup, featuring the league's top (Chiefs) and seventh-rated (Bucs) offenses, each with multiple ways to strike: Receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce are standouts for KC and former Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski is on Brady's long list of options for Tampa.

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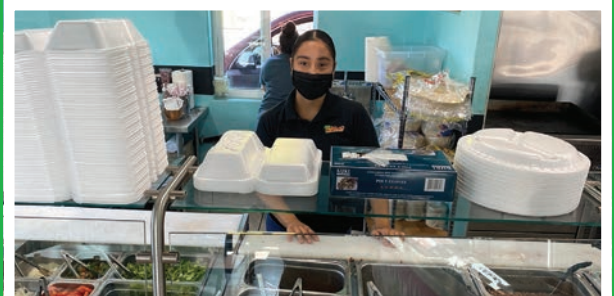
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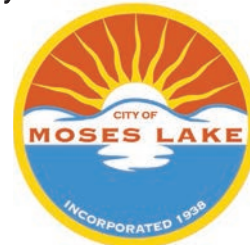
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