

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Find some chilling relief at Chill Cryotherapy

New wellness spa opens its doors in Sedalia

By Skye Melcher
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As the cold seeps into a client's skin and the machine hits -70 degrees, they can get relief and feel energized to make it through the day.

Cryotherapy, sometimes known as cold therapy, is the local or general use of low temperatures in medical therapy.

Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness owner Angie Howard said the business is a wellness spa that offers whole-body cryotherapy, localized cryotherapy, compression therapy, infrared sauna and cyro t-shock. She is a certified cryotherapy specialist.

"Whole-body cryotherapy is a cold sauna that is cooled with liquid nitrogen to temperatures from 80 below to 200 below zero," Howard explained. "It's a three-minute treatment that is used to decrease inflammation, swelling and pain through the cold but also stimulate your body's healing mechanisms as a result of

the cold temperatures."

Howard wanted to open a cryotherapy wellness spa after she was diagnosed with autoimmune diseases Hashimoto's, Raynauds, Fibromyalgia and Mixed Connective Tissue Disease.

"All of those things cause me a lot of pain, a lot of fatigue," Howard said. "I ended up taking a year off from work to focus on my body."

During this time, Howard tried many remedies to help ease her symptoms, but the one that helped the most was cryotherapy.

"It was the first time I had immediately left a service and was hopeful, but I felt some relief for the first time in a long time," Howard added. "I, of course, doubted it, thought it was a fluke that three minutes in a cold chamber did this because it lasted a couple of days."

She went back again and felt the same relief while also having increased energy, relaxing better and sleeping deeper.

See CHILL | 6A



Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness owner Angie Howard stands at the front desk of the new wellness spa she has opened in Sedalia. Howard opened the spa after suffering from multiple autoimmune diseases and finding relief in cryotherapy. Chill is located in the State Fair Shopping Center.

PHOTO BY SKYE MELCHER | DEMOCRAT

Highway 50 construction vexing drivers in La Monte

By Chris Howell
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LA MONTE — Thursday, Pettis County Sheriff Brad Anders posted on his official Facebook page about the ongoing problems with people ignoring directional signs in the construction zone on Highway 50 in La Monte.

"We need to talk about the J-turn project in La Monte," Anders' address read. "We have had several calls and complaints about what I am about to tell you, and numerous citations have been issued to those in violation. This is a serious matter, and you need to follow the road signs as posted."

Anders went on to say numerous people were still attempting to cross Highway 50 at Front Street, although new cement turn lanes force those on state Route 127



Crews lay cement to build the median crossing at U.S. Highway 50 and Pleasant Green Road in La Monte on Friday. The temporary inability to cross Highway 50 at some points has led to people ignoring directional signs.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

or Front Street to turn left onto Highway 50 only.

"From Front Street you will have to go west on US 50 about half-a-mile at the next median crossing," Anders post instructed" "At that point

you can merge onto eastbound US 50 if that's your desired direction. Be careful merging as there is a short merge lane provided, so just don't pull out in front of eastbound traffic."

See DRIVERS | 5A

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Barnes: mammogram finds small, aggressive cancer

By Faith Bemiss
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Cancer was the furthest thing from Donna Barnes' mind when she made an appointment with her doctor for a well-woman visit in 2021.

Barnes, 67, of Sedalia, who has no breast cancer in her family, said this week she'd put off getting an exam for three years. So she was completely blindsided when her mammogram showed there might be a problem.

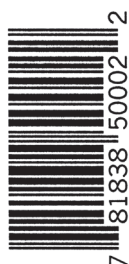
"In March of 2021, I went and had an exam," she noted. "And they set me up for a mammogram. So, I had my mammogram in April, and then they called me a week later and said, 'we need to redo it.'"

See BARNES | 5A



Donna Barnes, 67, of Sedalia, is a breast cancer survivor. Her small but aggressive cancer was found with a mammogram in 2021. After treatments, Barnes is now cancer free.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



A News / Sports
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Weather 6A
Comics 10A
Sports Calendar 12A
Horoscope 13A

B Living / Classified
Community Calendar 3B
Classified 7-16B



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TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us for Trunk or Treat on October 28th from 6pm to 8pm (or until candy runs out) at Centennial Park! Trunks will be spaced out along the trail at Centennial Park to ensure safety. Walk up to the trunks and trick or treat! Interested in decorating a trunk? Give us a call 660-826-4930 or register online for free!

Everyone is welcome to enter; the more the merrier! Prize will be awarded to Scariest, Most Creative, and Most Original! Trunks must provide their own candy to pass out.



NOW ACCEPTING SILVERSNEAKERS, ONEPASS, AND RENEW ACTIVE!

Sedalia Parks and Recreation is excited to announce we are accepting SilverSneakers, OnePass, and Renew Active memberships! Through these programs, the Heckart Community Center will now offer older adults a way to increase their levels of physical activity while motivating them to remain active. Stop by the Heckart Community Center front desk to check your eligibility for a complementary membership!



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OBITUARIES

John Louis (Joe) Brown

John Louis (Joe) Brown, 84, of Sedalia, passed away on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at Loving Arms Memory Care Center.

J.L. was born on March 23, 1938, in Odessa, son of George Brown and Ethel (Kelb) Brown Gerken. He was raised in Lincoln by his mother and maternal grandparents. He married Shirley Reed on November 4, 1983, in Marshall.

J.L. worked most of his adult life for Missouri Public Service. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and spending time with his family.

J.L. is survived by his wife, Shirley, of the home; his children, Bill Brown (Sheila), of Clinton, Roger Brown, of Kirksville, and Donna Henderson (Ken), of Emden; his stepchildren, Maryetta Pirtle (Jerry), of Syracuse, and Robin Panuco, of Independence; nine grandchildren, Jackie Brown, Amanda Henderson,

Zach Henderson, Jeremy Pirtle, Emily McCollough, Michelle Panuco, Matthew Panuco, Nathan Alexander, and Matt Alexander; eight great-grandchildren; his sister, Phebe Crafton (George), of Sedalia; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son-in-law, Jeff Panuco.

J.L. gifted his body to the University of Missouri.

A prayer service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at First Christian Church with Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin officiating.

Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in J.L.'s memory to a charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Service.



James Craig Harris

James Craig Harris, 69, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on October 17, 2022, at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia. He was born on October 7, 1953, in Hominy (Osage Indian Territory), OK, the son of James Conley and Mary Ann "Morrison" Harris, who preceded him in death.

Craig was a Smith-Cotton graduate, the class of 1972. He was self-employed as a carpenter and also worked as a lab technician at ABC Labs in Columbia. He enjoyed reading a good book and visiting with his friends. He was a good friend and brother

and will be greatly missed.

Craig is survived by a brother, Randy Harris.

Besides his parents, Craig is preceded in death by his aunts and uncles, Talley and Bessie Johnson, Jack and Betty Jones, and Fenton and JoEllen Morrison; two cousins, Monty Johnson and Linda Nichols.

A celebration of life gathering with family and friends will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2022, at Rea Funeral Chapel, Sedalia.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads Hospice, in care of Rea Funeral Chapel.



Tina Marie Milburn

Tina Marie Milburn, 50, of Rantoul, Kansas, passed away October 11, 2022, in Franklin County.

Visitation will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, October 29, 2022, with the funeral service to follow at 11 a.m. at Bruce Funeral Home, 712 S. Webster, Spring Hill, Kansas, 913-592-2244. Burial in Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Overland Park, Kansas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bruce Funeral Home for funeral expenses. Condolences may be left at www.brucefuneral-home.com.

Tina was born in Olathe, Kansas, on January 2, 1972, to Donald and Eva (Masuch) Dougan. She grew up in Olathe, Kansas, and attended State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri. Tina was a CNA. Tina worked as a sales associate at Bert's, Wellsville, Kansas.

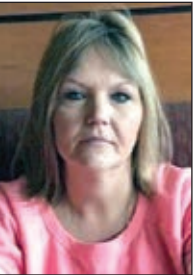
She was married to Brian Milburn.

She enjoyed going to garage sales, fishing and caring for her plants. Tina's passion was to care

for the homeless and people in need. Her favorite time was spent with her grandchildren and her mother. Tina loved her mother.

Tina is preceded in death by her father.

Tina is survived by her mother Eva, Sedalia, Missouri; children Amanda Atchison, De Soto, Kansas, Ashley (Aaron) Koehn, Shawnee, Kansas, Todd (Emilie) Atchison, De Soto, Kansas, Zack Atchison, De Soto, Kansas, Wyatt (Kayla) Patterson, Spring Hill, Kansas, and Brittany Patterson, Rantoul, Kansas; brother Donnie (Julie) Dougan, Gardner, Kansas; sister Lisa Harris, De Soto, Kansas; stepbrother Jody Laughlin, Kansas City, Missouri; stepsister Casey (Brian) Moore Brown, De Soto, Kansas, and five grandchildren.



Failing nursing homes to face tougher penalties

By Amanda Seitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The worst-of-the-worst nursing homes will face tougher penalties if conditions don't improve at their facilities, the Biden administration announced Friday.

The intensified scrutiny on some nursing homes, where more than a million people are housed, comes nearly two years after COVID-19 exposed subpar care and extreme staffing shortages that had long festered in the facilities. Nursing home residents have been significantly more likely to die from COVID-19; as of February, more than 200,000 nursing home staffers or residents had died from the virus.

POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

Sedalia Police Department Arrests Oct. 20

11:01 p.m.: Joshua Michael Durbin, 29, of Owensboro, Kentucky, was arrested after Sedalia Police stopped a vehicle at Broadway Boulevard and Carr Avenue for a traffic violation. The operator of the vehicle was found to have a suspended driver's license out of Kentucky and was transported to the police department, given a citation for driving without a license, and released.

Incidents Sept. 27

8:08 a.m.: An officer met a resident in the 900 block of South Quincy Avenue who found a threatening message on her shed door. No suspects have been identified.

Oct. 17

9:33 a.m.: An officer took a report of a U-Haul that had been rented in Sedalia in the 400 block of West Main Street but not returned. The complainant had not provided enough information to

request charges at this time.

Oct. 18

3:43 a.m.: Officers responded to the 200 block of East Second Street for a property damage report. Upon arrival, several items were damaged, so a report was created from a statement from the victim.

Oct. 19

9:21 a.m.: An officer conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of West Broadway Boulevard and South Warren Avenue. License plates registered to another person were seized and sent to the Department of Revenue for disposal.

5:45 p.m.: Officers responded to a business in the 3100 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a theft. The reporting party stated a part-time employee was seen taking money on security camera footage in the back office overnight Oct. 18.

Oct. 20

9:11 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 900 block of East Seventh Street in reference to a hit-and-run. Officers were told that a parked 2001 Chevy S10 pickup was struck by another vehicle, causing damage to the left rear side. Parts of the suspect vehicle, a Ford car, were found on scene. The investigation continues.

watchlist of sorts that requires the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare to monitor them more regularly.

Starting Friday, those nursing homes will lose federal funding if they receive more than one dangerous violation — rule-breaking that put residents at risk for harm. They will also be monitored for a minimum of three years. CMS will also consider staffing levels at the nursing homes when adding facilities to its watchlist. Currently, 88 nursing homes are on the list.

"Let us be clear: We are cracking down on

enforcement of our nation's poorest-performing nursing homes," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

The agency is studying staffing ratios at nursing homes, with the aim of implementing requirements. The study is expected to be completed next year.

The administration also announced \$80 million worth of grants that will be given to health care organizations, trade groups or labor unions to train and hire nursing staff. Organizations have until Jan. 6 to apply for the money.

2:33 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to West Saline Street and McAnally Court to make contact with a subject who found a possible homemade explosive device. The reporting party stated he found the item in the area of West Saline and North Veterans Memorial Drive. After a closer inspection, it was determined it was an explosive device. The officer brought it to the station for disposal. There are no suspects.

6:05 p.m.: Officers responded to a business in the 1300 block of South Limit Avenue in reference to a theft that occurred the previous evening. The reporting party stated four juveniles were caught on camera stealing vape pens. The juveniles were located in the store and released from the scene. Referrals were sent to the juvenile office.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Oct. 20

7:30 p.m.: Michael G. Davidson, 44, of Versailles, was arrested in Morgan County for possession of 11-35 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to register a motor vehicle. He was released

Compiled by Chris Howell.

FUNERALS

Zaring, Alta E. (Crothers)

Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church Celebration Center in Sedalia.

Brodersen, Caleb Garrett

2 p.m. Sunday at Morgan County R-I High School in Stover. Arrangements are under the direction of Scrivner-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Stover.

Harris, James Craig

7 to 9 p.m. Friday at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Brown, John Louis (Joe)

2 p.m. Tuesday at First Christian Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Milburn, Tina Marie

11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at Bruce Funeral Home in Spring Hill, Kansas. Arrangements are under the direction of Bruce Funeral Home.

Williams, Gale L. (Auer)

2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Recreation Building, Marshall Church of the Nazarene in Marshall. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

Walch, Theodore "Ted" L.

1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

McCutchen, John Matthew

10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8 at Arlington National Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

DEATH NOTICE

Brown

Esther Mae Brown, 86, of La Monte, died Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, at Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

A celebration of life service will be announced by the family at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

CRASH REPORTS

Marshall man hurt in Saline accident

Karen J. Garrett, 64, of Marshall, sustained minor injuries at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in a Saline County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Garrett was driving a 2022 Ford F250 west on Highway 41, west of Route E, when he traveled off the roadway, then returned to the roadway and overturned.

He was wearing a seat belt and was transported to Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall by Saline County Ambulance District.

Information is taken from preliminary Missouri State Highway Patrol reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

Photo Submissions

We invite readers to submit photos for "Community Snapshot," which features images of local residents and events. Images must be current, in JPEG format and must be the property of the person submitting the photo. Please include your name, city and a contact telephone number with your submission (phone numbers will not be published). Please also include the names of all persons in the photo and any additional information. Email your submissions to news@sedaliademocrat.com.



Chicago charter school teacher Angela McByrd works on her laptop to teach remotely from her home in Chicago, Sept. 24, 2020. After a six-week standoff with the teachers union, the district started bringing students back on a hybrid schedule just before spring 2021. It wasn't until the following fall that students were back in school full time.

PHOTO BY NAM Y. HUH | AP PHOTO

Online school put US kids behind. Some adults have regrets.

By Bianca Vazquez Toness and Jocelyn Gecker

AP Education Writers

BOSTON (AP) — As the harmful effects of extended pandemic school closures become more apparent, some educators and parents have regrets.

They're questioning decisions in cities across the U.S. to remain online long after clear evidence emerged that schools weren't COVID-19 super-spreaders — and months after life-saving adult vaccines became widely available.

In Chicago, Marla Williams initially supported the decision to instruct students online during the fall of 2020. Williams, a working single mother, has asthma, as do her two children. She enlisted her father, a retired teacher, to supervise her children's studies. It didn't work.

Her son lost motivation and wouldn't do his assignments. Once he went back on a hybrid schedule in spring 2021, he started doing well.

"I wish we'd been in person earlier," Williams said. "Other schools seemed to be doing it successfully."

There are fears for the futures of students who don't catch up. They risk never learning to read, long a precursor for dropping out of school. They might never master algebra, putting science and tech fields out of reach. The pandemic decline in college attendance could accelerate, crippling the U.S. economy.

In a sign of how inflammatory the debate has become, there's sharp disagreement even about how to label the problems created by online school. "Learning loss" has become a lightning rod. Some fear it might brand struggling students or cast blame on teachers. They say it overlooks the need to save lives during a pandemic.

Regardless of what it's called, the casualties of Zoom school are real.

The scale of the problem and the challenges in addressing it were apparent in Associated Press interviews with nearly 50 school leaders, teachers, parents and health officials, who struggled to agree on a way forward.

Some warned against second-guessing school closures for a virus that killed over a million people in the U.S. More than 200,000 children lost at least one parent.

"It is very easy with hindsight to say, 'Oh, learning loss, we should have opened.' People forget how many people died," said Austin Beutner, former superintendent in Los Angeles, where students were online from March 2020 until the

start of hybrid instruction in April 2021.

The question isn't merely academic. It's conceivable another pandemic might emerge — or a different crisis.

But there's another reason for asking what lessons were learned: the kids who have fallen behind. Some third graders struggle to sound out words. Some ninth graders have given up on school because they feel so behind they can't catch up. The future of American children hangs in the balance.

When COVID-19 first reached the U.S., scientists didn't fully understand how it spread or whether it was harmful to children. American schools, like most around the world, understandably shuttered in March 2020.

That summer, scientists learned kids didn't face the same risks as adults, but experts couldn't decide how to operate schools safely.

The risk assessment varied depending on how vulnerable a community felt to the virus. Politics was a factor, too. Districts that reopened in person tended to be in areas that voted for President Donald Trump or had largely white populations.

By winter, studies showed schools that used masks and distancing weren't contributing to increased COVID-19 spread in the community. Once the vaccine was available, some Democratic-leaning districts started to reopen.

Yet many schools stayed closed well into the spring, including in California, where the state's powerful teachers unions fought returning to classrooms, citing lack of safety protocols.

Nationally, kids whose schools met mostly online in the 2020-2021 school year performed 13 percentage points lower in math and 8 percentage points lower in reading compared with schools meeting mostly in person, according to a 2022 study by Brown University economist Emily Oster.

The setbacks have some grappling with regret.

"I can't imagine a situation where we would close schools again, unless there's a virus attacking kids," said Eric Conti, superintendent for Burlington, Massachusetts.

Still, many school officials said with hindsight they'd still keep schools online well into 2021. Only two superintendents said they'd likely make a different decision.

In some communities, the demographics and the historic underinvestment in schools loomed large. In the South, Black Americans' fear of the virus was sometimes coupled with mistrust of schools rooted in segregation. Cities from Atlanta to

Nashville to Jackson, Mississippi, shuttered schools — in some cases, for nearly all of the 2020-2021 school year.

In Clayton County, Georgia, home to the state's highest percentage of Black residents, schools chief Morcease Beasley said the fear in his community was overwhelming.

"I knew teachers couldn't teach if they were that scared, and students couldn't learn," he said.

Among teachers, there's some dispute about online learning's impact on children. But many fear some students will be scarred for years.

"Should we have reopened earlier? Absolutely," said teacher Sarah Curry in California's rural Central Valley.

But the nation's 3 million public school teachers are far from a monolith.

Jessica Cross, who taught ninth grade math on Chicago's west side at Phoenix Military Academy, feels her school reopened too soon.

"I didn't feel entirely safe," she said.

A representative from the American Federation of Teachers declined in an interview to address whether the union regrets the positions teachers took against reopening schools.

"If we start to play the blame game," said Fredrick Ingram, AFT's secretary-treasurer, "we get into the political fray of trying to determine if teachers did a good job or not. And I don't think that's fair."

Regrets or no, experts agree: America's kids need more from adults if they're going to be made whole.

The country needs "ideally, a reinvention of public education as we know it," Los Angeles Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said. Students need more days in school and smaller classes.

Experts say intensive tutoring, Saturday school or doubling up on math or reading during a regular school day would also help.

Too few school districts have made those investments, Harvard economist Tom Kane said. Summer school is insufficient, Kane says — it's voluntary, and many parents don't sign up.

Gecker reported from San Francisco. Collin Binkley in Washington, D.C., Sharon Lurye in New Orleans, Arleigh Rodgers in Indianapolis, Claire Savage in Chicago and Brooke Schultz in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report. Rodgers, Savage and Schultz are corps members for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on uncovered issues.

Dr. Oz made reputation as a surgeon, a fortune as a salesman

By Brian Slodysko and Marc Levy

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Dr. Mehmet Oz rolled onstage inside of an inflatable orb, put on a hydrating face mask and proceeded to pitch a new line of skin care products to a convention of supplement distributors at Salt Lake City's Vivint Arena in 2018. The crowd roared in applause.

The celebrity surgeon's appearance seemed like an extension of "The Dr. Oz Show" on daytime TV. But his attendance was in service of the convention's host, Usana Health Sciences, a Utah-based supplement manufacturer that has been investigated by federal authorities, sued by its own shareholders and accused of operating like a pyramid scheme.

The company was also a top advertiser on Oz's show, paying at least \$50 million to be a "trusted partner and sponsor" featured in regular segments that often blurred the line between medical advice and advertising, while donating millions of dollars to Oz's charity, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Oz may have made his reputation as a surgeon. But he made a fortune as a salesman. Now he's trying to leverage his celebrity as the Republican nominee in a bitterly contested U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania.

The outcome of the race could turn on whether voters view Oz as the trusted doctor he portrayed on TV or a pitchman who repeatedly promoted products of questionable medical value.

"I like Mehmet Oz, but we did a lot of bull—— when I worked there," said Dr. Gregory Katz, a cardiologist and assistant professor at the New York University's Grossman School of Medicine. He questioned whether viewers were healthier as a result of watching or "just wasting their money on bad supplements."

Oz's campaign declined to make him available for an interview. In a state-

ment, the campaign said Oz's show was "very diligent about disclosing" its "paid partners," as required by federal regulation.

"I am very proud I was able to help so many people by bringing more transparency to health and wellness," Oz said in a statement.

In a statement, Usana said any suggestion of wrongdoing was "misleading, incorrect or just false" and referred a reporter to statements the company has made in required disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The AP has reviewed those documents.

Oz, who stopped operating on patients in 2018, was a fixture on television, hosting his show for 13 seasons. It also led to a net worth that ranges roughly between \$100 million and \$315 million, according to a federal financial disclosure he filed this year.

How much Oz personally made from his agreements with Usana, or other advertisers is unclear. His financial disclosure reveals he earned a salary of \$9.3 million last year.

In recent years, Oz was named in lawsuits that alleged he made misleading claims on the show, which ended its run this year after he announced his candidacy.

In at least one case, products Oz promoted have raised health concerns. Usana settled a California case in 2018 after a watchdog group discovered they contained unsafe levels of lead.

Oz entered into an arrangement with Usana in 2012, claiming publicly to have "meticulously" screened the company, which he praised for its "tremendous integrity."

Under the agreement, Oz showcased a different Usana product each month while also selling company merchandise on his website. He also created promotional content for Usana, regularly joined company leadership calls and agreed to make appearances at company gatherings, records show.

The company, which is publicly traded, first drew attention from regulators

in 2007 after a trader issued a report accusing it of operating as an illegal pyramid scheme.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which regulates financial markets, investigated but took no action.

A year after reaching a deal with Oz, Usana in 2013 disclosed another SEC investigation over trading irregularities. No punitive action was taken.

The Justice Department and SEC investigated the company again in 2017 for possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act — an anti-bribery law — in connection with a company subsidiary operating in China.

Usana said in a 2020 filing that the case was closed without enforcement action. An SEC spokesperson declined to comment on its investigation of the company.

In 2017, Usana entered into a settlement in California after a non-profit group found unsafe levels of lead in 75 different products and flavors of a powdered drinks, including their "Nurtrimeal" meal replacement shake. Oz featured some of the products on his show in the summer of 2015 and held a sweepstakes contest, including one that gave away 1,000 bags of the supplement.

In his Senate race, Oz has taken steps to put those connections behind him. Oz's political advisers took over his website and removed footage that had been archived there, according to two former workers on the show who insisted on anonymity to discuss their experience because they signed non-disclosure agreements.

But some segments have been documented in news stories over the years.

In one, in 2015, Oz advised a woman who was concerned about her past partying to try a "liver detox supplement," adding that Usana's Hepasil could "reverse a lot of things that may have happened." There is little clinical evidence to support the use of these diets, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

SFCC issues trespass warning to man with history of threats

By Democrat Staff

State Fair Community College notified students, staff and the public that a trespass warning has been issued to a man for all campus locations.

SFCC issued the "timely warning report" in accordance with SFCC regulation 2823 - Campus Crime and Security.

The report states a man was identified and trespassed from all SFCC locations because he has a history of damaging property and placing harassing phone calls and messages to campus.

The SFCC Communications Department confirmed the former student,

who was trespassed in 2020, made threatening calls to the college Friday, Oct. 21 and and that the college was taking normal precautions to alert everyone.

Anyone who sees the suspect on campus is instructed to call 911 and contact Deputy Curtis Hammonds, the campus resource deputy, at ext. 7110 or 660-281-6013. People are cautioned to not make contact, approach or confront him in any manner.

For a photo of the suspect and further alert updates, visit www.sfccmo.edu/alert-updates.



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RE/MAX of Sedalia

NEW LISTING



821 E. 14th St.
\$10,500 #93633
Vacant 44x125 Lot

NEW LISTING



25851 Anderson School Rd.
\$375,000 #93695
4 Bed / 3.5 Bath / Bsmt / 1 Ac

NEW LISTING



2126 S. Marshall Ave.
\$325,000 #93702
2 Bed / 2 Bath / Bsmt / 8.72 Ac

Give me a call to schedule a tour or for more info!

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

It's past time for a new voting strategy

I'm tired of broken campaign promises. Red vs. blue binary thinking. Pre-determined "hot-button issues" meant to stir up drama and emotion and distract voters from our barely-functioning government. But more than anything, I'm tired of attack ads. I'm so burned out on the dirt-digging and finger-pointing and accusations. Unnecessarily dramatic commercial spots, angry mailers in bold typefaces, radio ads featuring paid actors with spooky voices. You know the type:

"Candidate X KICKS PUPPIES.

[Foreboding music, shot of random golden retriever puppy whining pitifully in bare concrete kennel.]

In 2015, she drop-kicked a puppy at a secret puppy-kicking party.

[Slide of a newspaper clipping headlined "Local puppy-kicking syndicate sentenced to community service."]

If YOU love puppies and want to keep them safe, vote for Candidate Y [triumphant music, shot of Candidate Y lying in a large grassy field covered in squiggling corgis] and tell Candidate X that kicking puppies is WRONG FOR MISSOURI."

[Final shot, black and white, of sad German shepherd superimposed over unflattering photo of Candidate X.]

... paidforbymissouri-businessmentatallaffiliatedwithcandidatey.

Guys and gals, we already know you're all crooked sacks of stuffing. How else did you become successful in politics in the first place? You don't have to convince us that the other guy is worse. We're all already imagining he's got three or four skeletons in his closet, and honestly, we'll probably just be relieved if they're not literal ones. The bar is that low. On the floor, really.

So maybe you can tell us what *you* plan to do. Talk about yourself a little bit — your hopes for our state and nation, your skills, your strengths. You know, normal things. Normal things that normal people like to do. Because they're healthy. And normal. You know we can tell you're not healthy and normal, right? Because normal people don't spend that much time angrily obsessing over what the other guy is doing. But sick people do. And so do crooked sacks of stuffing that don't have enough to say for themselves.

Why do so many candidates lower themselves like this? Why would you want to be an angry, whining, crooked sack of stuffing? Because it gets the votes. Anger and fear sell, and we the public are buying with all our might. We say we don't want negativity and backbiting, but our polling and our voting suggest otherwise. Our actions tell the political kingmakers that we are addicted to drama and



Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

intrigue and rage, so we will keep getting dramatic and intriguing and enraged candidates. They won't have any real substance, but boy, they'll be eye-catching and darkly entertaining!

It's a race to the bottom, and baby, we ain't there yet.

But what if?

What if we tried a new voting strategy? Here's what I propose:

Every candidate starts with 100 points. Heck, make it 1,000! And every time you see or hear an attack ad sponsored by them or their affiliates, you remove one point. If you receive an attack mailer, five extra points off for killing a tree. Two points off for a text message, because they're annoying and intrusive, and 20 points off for a YouTube ad that isn't skippable. That's just coercion. Last man with any points at all gets your vote.

Ridiculous, right?

Or is it sobering? How many points would your pet candidate have left? Does he know how to talk about himself and his plans for governance in an intelligent manner, or is he limited to cheap thrills and attacks and stirring up anger? Is he healthy and normal? Or another crooked sack of stuffing? What's your part in all this as a voter? Are you rewarding the fear and rage? Do you demand any real substance from your representatives?

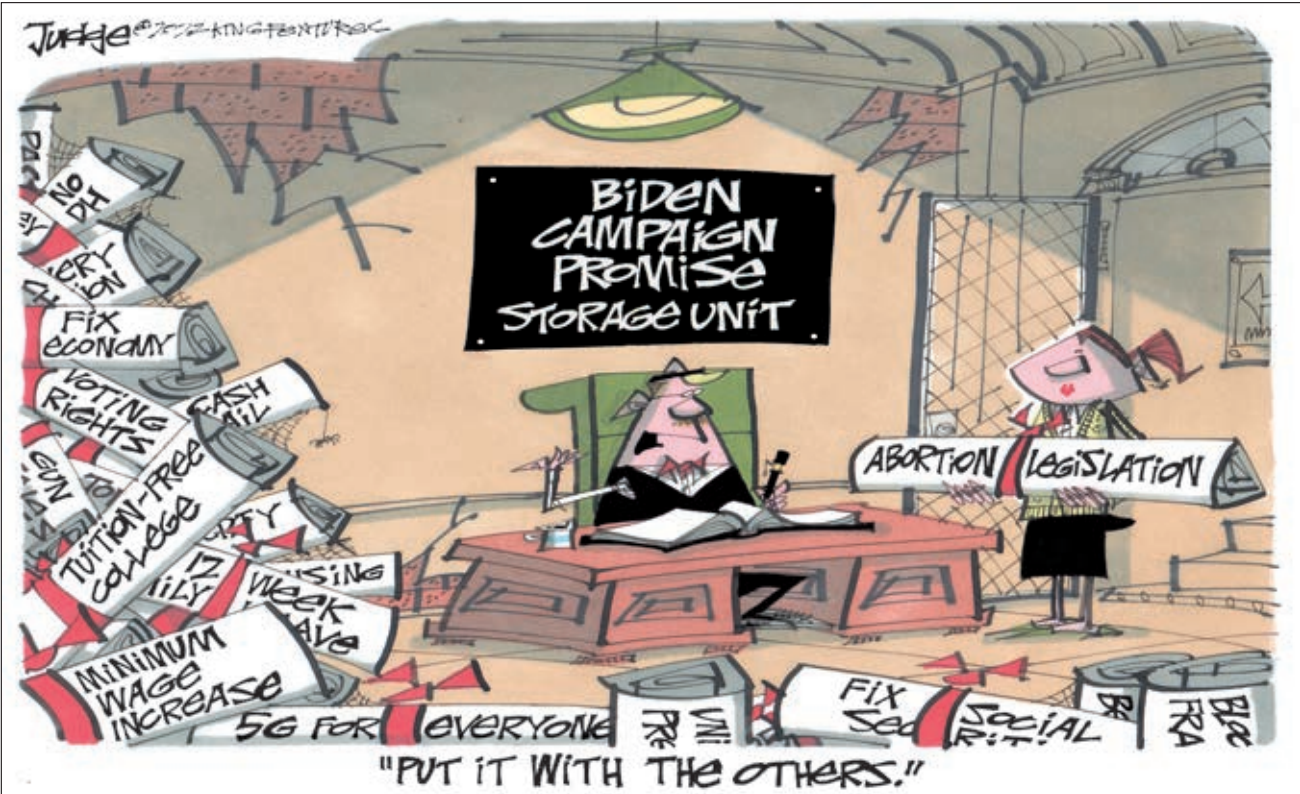
That's a lot of questions, but I think we as Americans have spent a lot of time hiding from the answers. We've given over the reins to the two major parties and expected them to choose wise candidates for office. They haven't. They've chosen candidates who are sick and empty and angry, because it's easy to find those people and those people are easy to control. It's easier to win that way. We've turned our entire democratic system into that old joke about running from the bear: "You don't have to run faster than the bear. You just have to run faster than the guy next to you."

You don't have to be good or virtuous or intelligent. You just have to be marginally better than the guy next to you.

What a horrible way to govern.

It's past time to demand more.

Liz Schleicher lives in Green Ridge and is a wife, stay-at-home mother, writer and rare cancer survivor.



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

New tax cut funds could be put to better use

Great news! The Missouri legislature cut the income tax rate! The cut will be implemented over 10 years, and then we will be in tall cotton!

Well, someone will be, but not me. And from what I can tell, it won't be 80% of Missouri's voters, either. According to the Missouri Budget Project (MBP), "a nonprofit public policy analysis organization that analyzes state budget, tax, and economic issues," the people benefiting from this purported tax cut are those at, you guessed it, the top. The MBP states that those making over \$110,000/year will get a break of about \$320 next year. It will average \$759 in 2033.

If, however, you make over \$229,000, your 2023 break will be around \$800 and \$1,855 in 10 years. But those making over \$552,000 will get a break next year of around \$4,200 and about \$9,500 in 2033.

Everybody else will get an average of \$57.25 now, ranging from \$3 to \$143, but \$115.25 in 10 years, the lowest bracket getting a measly \$3 and the highest of the lower 80% getting \$298 (<https://bit.ly/3TrGOee>).

This happened because the governor and the legislature decided that a current \$4 billion surplus should be



Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

returned to individual taxpayers instead of investing in social programs that help us all, including the families who will see a break of only \$3.

This is just the latest legislative move to do nothing to benefit middle- and lower-income Missourians as the state dives toward the bottom in too many categories to count. And yet, voters keep re-electing the people who ignore both what we need and want. I struggle to understand why.

They could have given education a boost. Missouri's auditor reviewed state aid to Missouri schools from 2011-20 and found that Missouri ranks 49th in that category of all the states (<https://bit.ly/3TmfjCt>). Missouri's teachers' starting salaries ranked 50th in the nation in May (<https://bit.ly/3TFXJJI>) and moved to 49th, ahead of Montana, within the past few

months (<https://bit.ly/3gvl-J3R>). I don't wonder that a teacher shortage exists.

The legislature hasn't even made a pretense at passing common-sense gun regulation, adopting the popular bromide that we have a mental health problem and not a gun problem. And yet, the legislature won't commit to funding the new 988 number – a mental health crisis phone line (<https://bit.ly/3MRyrG5>).

And while the legislature purports to be "pro-life," the governor in 2020 vetoed a pay increase, and the legislature didn't override it, for employees of the Children's Division of welfare services, where workers struggle with too many cases and too little money. The people who are charged with protecting the safety of thousands of children are paid so little that many workers take second jobs or donate blood to pay the bills (<https://bit.ly/3DgxHqS>).

Instead, we cut taxes for those making the big bucks.

Lest you forget, the legislature has also ignored the will of the people several times. Remember "Clean Missouri," when the people voted against lobbying? The legislature said, "No, no," and put another, more lobby-generous proposal on the ballot. It passed, but they had removed its teeth.

Remember Medicaid expansion? We voted for it, but it took two years for the legislature to enact it. And now, though the bill is fortunately stuck, the legislature tried to put on this year's ballot that Medicaid should be an annual budget decision (<https://bit.ly/3TJxou4>).

The candidates who are running to represent us in the Missouri House of Representatives gave us their campaign statements in the Democrat this week. Brad Pollitt, first elected in 2018, says that next term, he's hoping the legislature will address teacher issues. I can't imagine why it's taken so long for him to see the need. After all, he was the superintendent of schools in Sedalia and should be well aware of the struggles teachers face. I remember that after his first term, he told the Democrat the best thing the legislature did that term was restrict abortion, as if nothing else mattered.

Because the Supreme Court has now overruled Roe v. Wade, maybe the legislature will address the problems that have compounded here for the past 20 years while the Republicans have held a supermajority. Better yet, let's elect new people who will take Missouri's needs seriously.

Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.

THEIR VIEW

Sub law doesn't fix long-term issues

St. Joseph News Press

School officials aren't short of explanations for the difficulty in finding and retaining teachers.

There's the pandemic and its long-term effects, especially among older workers who took early retirement in what's now known as the great resignation. This trend impacted the field of education, where teachers who may have been thinking of retiring in five years accelerated that timeline.

There's teacher pay and how it lags behind other occupations. In Missouri, the compensation for teachers trails not just most other states, but all of them.

There's the demographic reality of fewer college-age students pursuing a degree in education, which reduces the number of future teachers coming through the pipeline at a time when older educators are leaving the profession.

According to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, there's even the tendency to view teachers as villains instead of heroes. This is a new observation, one that doesn't exactly square with opinion surveys that show teaching to be consistently ranked as one of the most admired professions in the United States. What this might mean is

that teachers don't want to get caught up in a culture war and all of the venom that goes with it.

But whatever the cause, schools are having to deal with staff shortages at a time when it's more important than ever to get a teacher in front of students to make up for pandemic-era learning loss.

It becomes necessary to find long-term solutions as well as more temporary Band-Aids to get teachers in the classrooms.

A short-term fix means getting more substitute teachers to fill the gaps amid these staffing challenges. Missouri took a step in this direction with legislation this year that loosened the requirements

for substitute teaching certification from 60 semester hours to 36.

Missouri Senate Bill 681, which was signed into law, allows applicants to be approved to substitute teach if they meet the college credit or state course requirement, complete a background check and have at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

The new law also makes it easier in some cases for retired teachers to sub on a part-time basis without affecting their benefits.

These changes would have been extremely controversial a few years ago but go down easier today because of the immediate staffing concerns.

In our view, the state did what it needed to do to address the immediate staffing crisis, but that shouldn't absolve lawmakers and local districts from examining the more long-term issues of why so many teachers or leaving or not entering the profession.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest.

Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

- All letters to be considered for publication must include

the name and address of the writer and a daytime telephone number where the writer may be reached during normal business hours.

- All letters must be signed. The name and hometown of the writer will be published.
- Letters must be 250 words or less.
- Letters may be mailed to:
Letters to the editor, Sedalia Democrat, 111 W. Fourth St., Sedalia, Mo., 65301 or emailed to news@sedaliademocrat.com.



State Route 127 at Highway 50 is seen Friday as people wait to cross. Oncoming traffic from both directions has necessitated the installation of lanes for protected J-turns.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Drivers

From Page 1A

Anders also offered the easiest way to go west on Highway 50 from Route 127, which is a bit counter-intuitive.

“From MO 127 to go west on US 50, you will have to go east on US 50 to the next median crossing, about a half-mile from the intersection,” Anders explained. “From there you can merge onto westbound US 50, if that is your desired direction, you can also access the city of La Monte this way via Front Street.”

Jeff Tucker, store manager at Crown Power and Equipment in La Monte, has the best view of the Highway 50 and Route 127 crossing.

“It’s been an issue because people don’t pay attention,” Tucker said. “I’ve been here 28 years, I haven’t wrecked.”

Tucker has seen many accidents on Highway 50 over the years but attributes most of them to distracted driving.

“There’s not a problem seeing,” Tucker said. “It’s just because people don’t pay attention, spend too much time on that,” nodding at a cell phone.

Tucker isn’t sure the traffic danger can be fixed entirely with signs and protected turn lanes.

“Something needed to happen, I can’t tell you what’s the right thing or the wrong thing,” Tucker said. “I think that’ll make things a little bit safer and all, but not 100%. I think they could kill somebody out there. Those workers out there are just targets when people are driving through 70-80 miles an hour. It is a construction zone, it’s reduced speed limit, 55 miles an hour, since before the (Missouri State) Fair.”

Deborah Galey, of Sedalia, commutes from her home in Sedalia to her job in La Monte and hasn’t had any trouble getting to work since MoDOT began installing lanes for J-turns this summer; MoDOT previously told the Democrat that construction is expected to be completed in December.

“The commute is fine,” Galey said. “You just get the exit off into La Monte, and that’s easy. It’s coming out, going back home to Sedalia that’s the tricky part. It was hard to figure out how to get out to begin with, you know, but then you could just go down and go across by the meat market, then they cut that off.”

She admitted she was sometimes nervous when she had to cross both lanes of Highway 50 in the past.

“I’ve had people coming from both ways at me trying to get to La Monte, so yes, that intersection there has been kind of tricky,” Galey said, revealing her secret. “What I do is take the outer road and just go all the way down to where it goes into 50 and go across there. You just look one way and see if anybody’s coming, go across, then look the other way.”

Pastor Michael Wood of the La Monte Christian Church said he knows the crossing has been problematic.

“A little bit dangerous, maybe,” Wood said. “I’ve heard there have been several car crashes before they built this. That being said, I think there have been several car crashes since they built it.”

Anders said his deputies have written numerous tickets to people ignoring directional signs to go the way they always have.

“It is a little confusing; I think people are doing their best,” Wood said. “They’re trying to make it clear where you drive and where you don’t, but you know, people get used to driving a certain way and comes from a distance, you don’t always know exactly where they’re leading you and then you get up there and maybe you already have decided where you’re driving. I’ve seen people pull across the highway just because they’re used to it, they’ll just drive the entire length anyway with all the construction and arrows.”

Anders hopes those traveling through the construction zone will slow down, put down their phones and obey signs.

“Just be careful,” Anders’ post read. “plan on a couple of extra minutes to navigate this project, and everybody will go home safely.”

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.

Barnes

From Page 1A

After the results from the second mammogram came back, she was told she needed to see a surgeon. She added she saw Bothwell Regional Health Center surgeon Dr. Stuart Braverman, who tried to reassure her the small lump might be nothing.

“And 90% of all of them are nothing,” Barnes said. “I had to have a biopsy, and it came back with what’s called DCIS, and it is basically stage zero cancer.”

“Something that needs to be taken care of and taken out,” she continued. “Because it can go to cancer.”

Braverman recommended that after she had the biopsy, she should have a lumpectomy to remove the lump.

“When I had the lumpectomy, they found a very small cancer,” she noted. “Plus, I only had one margin that was clear — the other three margins weren’t.”

“So, we knew I had a very large area there,” she continued. “So, he (Braverman) recommended a mastectomy and radiation.”

Braverman also asked Barnes if she would like to go to the Breast Cancer Center at the University of Kansas at Kansas City for a second opinion before surgery.

“I went up there, and I met with a surgeon, Linsey Kilgore, and Anne O’Dey, who was the oncologist,” Barnes said. “And then I met with a radiologist, Dr. (Krishna) Reddy.

“The reason he (Braverman) recommended them is because they only deal with breast cancer,” she added. “I saw them on the 24th of May.”

Kilgore told Barnes she could go ahead and do a lumpectomy and try to save as much breast tissue as possible, but she wanted to order an MRI first. Barnes decided to go through with the mastectomy to be on the safe side. The decision was a good choice. The MRI showed one of her lymph nodes was involved. She had surgery in June 2021.

“They removed 27 lymph nodes, and only one of them had cancer,” she explained. “So, I was very lucky; we found it very, very early.”

After her surgery, the doctors discovered she is HR-negative.

“Most breast cancers are HR-positive,” she explained. “So, you can get medication to control the hormones. Well, my cancer doesn’t respond to hormones. And then I was, what’s called, HER-2 positive — it’s an epidural hormone receptor-positive.”

She explained that it produces a protein that tells the cancer cells to grow faster, which makes cancer aggressive.

“Five to 15% of women who have breast cancer have this,” she noted.

Because of the HR+ and HER2+ diagnosis, she had chemotherapy and a year’s worth of target treatment to neutralize the HER2+ protein. In addition, she also had radiation treatments. After taking chemo treatments at KU, she transferred back to BRHC Susan O’Brien Fischer Cancer Center under Dr. Matt

Triplett, who oversaw the target treatments, and Dr. William Decker, who took care of the 30 radiation treatments.

Barnes said this week that things are looking good for her.

“I’m cancer free,” she noted. “I finished my last cancer treatment on the 26th of July (2022), and I’m doing well. I still get tired every once in a while; that’s just something you have to deal with.”

She is also dealing with lymphedema due to having all her lymph nodes removed and radiation treatments.

“But my hair is growing back,” Barnes said. “So, I’m actually doing very well.”

She added her advice to women is to have a mammogram and not wait for three years.

“It’s very, very important,” Barnes said. “Because you couldn’t have felt this. It was only found because I had a mammogram.”

“And make sure you do your self-exams so you know what your breasts are like,” she continued. “I did that, but if I had waited until I felt it, it would be very advanced. I was considered stage 2 because it was in my breast and my lymph node. Like I said, I was very lucky it was found very early.”

Barnes said the doctors and staff at both KU and BRHC were exemplary.

“The Cancer Center here in Sedalia is great,” she noted. “Of course, so is KU. I have really good people — they were always kind and caring.”

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn’t happen this week

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

Trump did not sign an order to deploy 20,000 troops on Jan. 6

CLAIM: Former President Donald Trump signed an order to deploy 20,000 National Guard troops before his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, but was stopped by the House sergeant at arms, at the behest of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

THE FACTS: While Trump was involved in discussions in the days prior to Jan. 6 about the National Guard response, he issued no such order before or during the rioting.

New footage released last week of House lawmakers on Jan. 6 has sparked a resurgence of false claims and conspiracy theories about the insurrection. The videos, recorded by Pelosi’s daughter, showed the congresswoman negotiating with governors and defense officials in an effort to get Guard troops to the Capitol. Some on social media used the occasion to revive baseless claims that Pelosi

had stopped a Trump order for tens of thousands of National Guard troops before the event.

“Trump signed an order to deploy 20,000 Guardsmen on Jan. 6. It was refused by the House sergeant at arms, who reports to Nancy Pelosi,” said one post that spread on Gettr, Instagram and Twitter.

As the AP has previously reported, Trump was not involved in decision-making related to the National Guard on Jan. 6, and Pelosi did not stand in their way. Trump did say during a 30-second call on Jan. 5 with then Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller that “they” were going to need 10,000 troops on Jan. 6, according to a statement Miller provided to a House committee in May 2021. But Miller added that there was “no elaboration,” and he took the comment to mean “a large force would be required to maintain order the following day.”

There is no evidence that Trump actually signed any order requesting 10,000 Guard troops, let alone 20,000, for Jan. 6.

Reached for comment, a spokesperson for the Department of Defense provided a timeline of the agency’s involvement in preparing for and responding to the attack on the Capitol. The timeline shows no such order, and notes only that on Jan. 3, the president concurred with activating the D.C. Nation-

al Guard to support law enforcement at the behest of Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser.

When the rioting started, Bowser requested more Guard help, on behalf of the Capitol Police. That request was made to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, who then went to Miller, who approved it. Neither Pelosi nor the House sergeant at arms could have stopped an ordered deployment of National Guard troops because Congress doesn’t control the National Guard, legal experts say. Guard troops are generally controlled by governors, though they can be federalized, said William C. Banks, a law professor at Syracuse University.

The online claims “make no sense at all,” Banks said, adding, “The House sergeant at arms, he or she is not in the chain of command. Nor is Nancy Pelosi.”

As the newly released footage showed, she and Mitch McConnell, then Senate majority leader, called for military assistance, including the National Guard. The House sergeant at arms does sit on the Capitol Police Board, which also includes the Senate sergeant at arms and the architect of the Capitol. That board opted not to request the Guard ahead of the insurrection, but did eventually request assistance after the rioting had already begun.





Goodbye Perfect.

Hello Better.

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Thank you for voting Burrell the Best of Sedalia!



666104H

Chill

From Page 1A

Howard realized she wanted to offer the service Sedalia so patients didn't have to travel to larger cities for treatment.

"I think there is a happy medium of finding what's right for you," Howard said. "Just knowing that this worked for me, I just knew it would work for others..."

Howard opened the doors to customers on Sept. 24 in the State Fair Shopping Center and has received more customers than expected.

"It's been surprisingly busy," Howard said. "It's been cool because there's been a variety of people."

A month after opening, Howard sees a lot of regulars and new customers, which include retirees, high school and college athletes, and parents. She has served between 30 to 40 customers in a day while running the business by herself.

"I have people who pop in here at 9 a.m. and be out of here by 9:15 a.m. It is a quick service (whole-body cryotherapy)," Howard said.

Customer Ryan Reed said he wanted to try cryotherapy after reading about the benefits of cold therapy.

"There is no better way to start your day than Cryo," Reed said. "The benefit is that it is so quick and doesn't cool your core like cold water showers or immersion. So once the cold is done, instant mood change. You get that runner's high without running 3 miles. Because of that, those aches and pains are muted substantially."

Another customer, Magi Canon, thought it was cool there is a wellness spa like Chill in Sedalia.

"I have started to take me working out more seriously, but with that comes soreness," Canon added. "So I have loved doing this because it has really helped decrease that soreness. I feel invigorated after I do a session. I believe it has also helped with my inflammation. And it has been a good addition to my body for weight loss. I highly recommend it, it's just three minutes and not as cold as you might think."

Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness clients can pay



In this spa room, Angie Howard offers localized cryotherapy and cryo t-shock. These are two of the smaller services offered at Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness.

PHOTOS BY SKYE MELCHER | DEMOCRAT

per treatment or purchase a monthly membership.

Chill Cryotherapy is at 1400 S. Limit Ave., Unit 80, in the State Fair Shopping Center.

For more information, visit www.chillcryowellness.com or contact Howard at 660-951-1020.

Skye Melcher can be reached at 660-530-0144.



The compression therapy area in Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness. Compression therapy helps athletes and even pregnant women with a lot of water retention in their legs.



The infrared sauna at Chill Cryotherapy and Wellness. An infrared sauna uses infrared heaters to emit infrared light experienced as radiant heat, which is absorbed by the surface of the skin.

THE WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
82 65	86 66	80 56	63 47	57 43	65 43	65 39
Breezy, warm	Windy	Downpours; breezy in the a.m.	Cooler with occasional rain	Times of clouds and sun	Sunny	Periods of sun with a t-storm

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES	
High	75
Low	39
Normal high	66
Normal low	42
Record high	86 in 1963
Record low	22 in 1972

PRECIPITATION	
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.75"
Normal m-t-d	2.41"
Year to date	31.24"
Normal y-t-d	37.35"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.

Thursday	8
Month to date	171
Season to date	201
Normal season to date	243
Last season to date	44

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	6.91	-0.02	24
Valley City	2.53	-0.03	22

Lamine	
Otterville	0.29 -0.04 15

Missouri	
Boonville	5.85 -0.07 21

Forecasts and graphics provided by
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SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:29 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:25 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:21 a.m.
Moonset today	5:20 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Oct 25	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 16

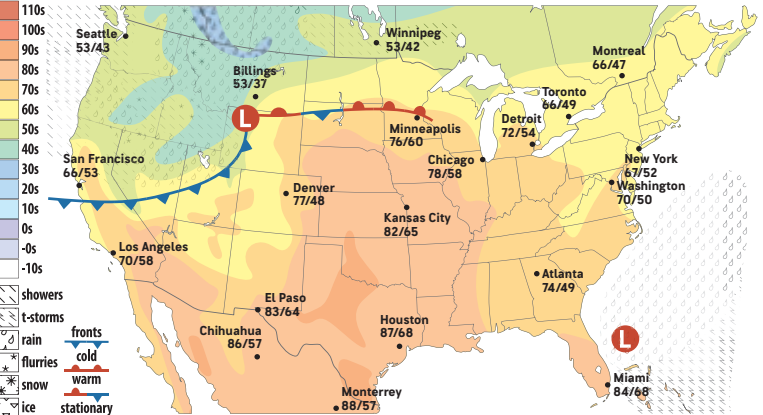
WEATHER HISTORY

On Oct. 22, 1982, Chicago's temperature dropped to 22 degrees, making the week before Halloween feel more like Christmas. However, when Christmas arrived, the temperature hit a record-setting 64 degrees.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Sunday		Today	Sunday
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Atlanta	74/49/s	75/53/s	Milwaukee	70/57/s	71/59/pc
Baltimore	70/48/s	66/51/r	Nashville	79/52/pc	79/50/s
Billings	53/37/r	42/29/sn	New Orleans	82/62/s	82/63/pc
Boston	68/50/s	63/53/r	Norfolk	68/58/pc	65/57/r
Buffalo	68/47/s	71/46/pc	Oklahoma City	86/65/s	84/62/s
Charlotte	72/44/s	73/51/s	Orlando	83/64/s	83/64/pc
Chicago	78/58/s	78/60/pc	Phoenix	88/66/s	75/57/c
Cleveland	71/53/s	73/48/pc	Pittsburgh	70/44/s	69/44/pc
Dallas	89/67/s	86/69/pc	Portland, ME	64/43/pc	61/50/pc
Denver	77/48/s	67/32/r	Portland, OR	57/44/t	58/45/pc
Detroit	72/54/s	72/51/pc	Sacramento	72/47/c	72/45/s
Honolulu	88/75/s	88/74/pc	St. Louis	82/64/s	84/66/pc
Houston	87/68/s	86/70/pc	San Francisco	66/53/pc	68/52/s
Indianapolis	76/56/s	75/56/s	Seattle	53/43/sh	55/46/pc
Las Vegas	83/56/pc	68/50/s	Washington, DC	70/50/s	68/52/r

Weather (W): s - sunny, pc - partly cloudy, c - cloudy, sh - showers, t - thunderstorms, r - rain, sf - snow flurries, sn - snow, i - ice



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Summary: As a storm pushes inland in the Northwest, colder air with rain and mountain snow will tag along today. Most areas from the deserts to New England will be dry as rain gathers off the Southeast coast.



Social media platforms brace for midterm elections mayhem

By David Klepper
Associated Press

A Facebook search for the words "election fraud" first delivers an article claiming that workers at a Pennsylvania children's museum are brainwashing children so they'll accept stolen elections.

Facebook's second suggestion? A link to an article from a site called MAGA Underground that says Democrats are plotting to rig next month's midterms. "You should still be mad as hell about the fraud that happened in 2020," the article insists.

With less than three weeks before the polls close, misinformation about voting and elections abounds on social media despite promises by tech companies to address a problem blamed for increasing polarization and distrust.

While platforms like Twitter, TikTok, Facebook and YouTube say they've expanded their work to detect and stop harmful claims that could suppress the vote or even lead to violent confrontations, a review of some of the sites shows they're still playing catch-up with 2020, when then-President Donald Trump's lies about the election he lost

to Joe Biden helped fuel an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"You would think that they would have learned by now," said Heidi Beirich, founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism and a member of a group called the Real Facebook Oversight Board that has criticized the platform's efforts. "This isn't their first election. This should have been addressed before Trump lost in 2020. The damage is pretty deep at this point."

If these U.S.-based tech giants can't properly prepare for a U.S. election, how can anyone expect them to handle overseas elections, Beirich said.

Mentions of a "stolen election" and "voter fraud" have soared in recent months and are now two of the three most popular terms included in discussions of this year's election, according to an analysis of social media, online and broadcast content conducted by media intelligence firm Zignal Labs on behalf of The Associated Press.

On Twitter, Zignal's analysis found that tweets amplifying conspiracy theories about the upcoming election have been reposted many thousands of times, alongside posts

restating debunked claims about the 2020 election.

Most major platforms have announced steps intended to curb misinformation about voting and elections, including labels, warnings and changes to systems that automatically recommend certain content. Users who consistently violate the rules can be suspended. Platforms have also created partnerships with fact-checking organizations and news outlets like the AP, which is part of Meta's fact-checking program.

"Our teams continue to monitor the midterms closely, working to quickly remove content that violates our policies," YouTube said in a statement. "We'll stay vigilant ahead of, during, and after Election Day."

Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, announced this week that it had reopened its election command center, which oversees real-time efforts to combat misinformation about elections. The company dismissed criticism that it's not doing enough and denied reports that it has cut the number of staffers focused on elections.

"We are investing a significant amount of resources, with work span-

ning more than 40 teams and hundreds of people," Meta said in a statement emailed to the AP.

The platform also said that starting this week, anyone who searches on Facebook using keywords related to the election, including "election fraud," will automatically see a pop-up window with links to trustworthy voting resources.

TikTok created an election center earlier this year to help voters in the U.S. learn how to register to vote and who's on their ballot. The information is offered in English, Spanish and more than 45 other languages. The platform, now a leading source of information for young voters, also adds labels to misleading content.

"Providing access to authoritative information is an important part of our overall strategy to counter election misinformation," the company said of its efforts to prepare for the midterms.

But policies intended to stop harmful misinformation about elections aren't always enforced consistently. False claims can often be buried deep in the comments section, for instance, where they nonetheless can leave an impression on other users.

A report released last month from New York University faulted Meta, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube for amplifying Trump's false statements about the 2020 election. The study cited inconsistent rules regarding misinformation as well as poor enforcement.

Concerned about the amount of misinformation about voting and elections, a number of groups have urged tech companies to do more.

"Americans deserve more than lip service and half-measures from the platforms," said Yosef Getachew, director of Common Cause's media and democracy program. "These platforms have been weaponized by enemies of democracy, both foreign and domestic."

Election misinformation is even more prevalent on smaller platforms popular with some conservatives and far-right groups like Gab, Gettr and TruthSocial, Trump's own platform. But those sites have tiny audiences compared with Facebook, YouTube or TikTok.

Beirich's group, the Real Facebook Oversight Board, crafted a list of seven recommendations for Meta intended to reduce the spread of misinforma-

tion ahead of the elections. They included changes to the platform that would promote content from legitimate news outlets over partisan sites that often spread misinformation, as well as greater attention on misinformation targeting voters in Spanish and other languages.

Meta told the AP it has expanded its fact-checking network since 2020 and now has twice as many Spanish-language fact checkers. The company also launched a Spanish-language fact-checking tip line on WhatsApp, another platform it owns.

Much of the misinformation aimed at non-English speakers seems aimed at suppressing their vote, said Brenda Victoria Castillo, CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, who said that the efforts by Facebook and other platforms aren't equal to the scale of the problem posed by misinformation.

"We are being lied to and discouraged from exercising our right to vote," Castillo said. "And people in power, people like (Meta CEO) Mark Zuckerberg are doing very little while they profit from the disinformation."

Ashcroft proposes new rules on Missouri public library books

By Summer Ballentine
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a top Republican prospect for Missouri governor, wants to block public funding for library books that might appeal to the "prurient," or sexual, interests of minors.

Ashcroft proposed the new rule on libraries this week. It does not include a more-detailed definition or include examples of which specific books would be restricted as appealing sexually to children or teenagers. The library proposal is what's known as an administrative rule, which would have the same effect as a law if enacted.

"When state dollars are involved, we want to bring back local control and parental involvement in determining what children are exposed to," Ashcroft said in a statement. "Foremost, we want to protect our children."

The Missouri proposal would require state-funded libraries to adopt policies on the age-appropriateness of literature, which is already common at both school and public libraries in the state. And under the rule, anyone could challenge access to books.

Libraries that violate the rules would risk losing state funding, which is doled out by the Secretary of State's Office through the state librarian.

In a statement, the Missouri Library Association called Ashcroft's rule "an infringement on the professional judgment of librarians, and an effort to further stoke division in the communities that libraries serve."

The group warned that small and urban librar-

ies, which rely most on state funding, would face the greatest impact from the policy.

Missouri Association of School Librarians President Melissa Corey said K-12 school libraries don't receive many state grants, so the rules likely would impact local public libraries the most.

Joe Kohlburn, who leads the Missouri Library Association's committee on intellectual freedom, said books by queer and Black authors and books about women's rights and reproductive health are frequent targets of book challenges in Missouri.

"It's a culture-wars thing," he said, adding that Ashcroft is attempting to "leverage the funding the State Library offers to undermine libraries in general and undermine their ability to serve historically marginalized populations."

Ashcroft has not yet announced a 2024 gubernatorial bid, but he listed his intentions for "statewide office" — not secretary of state, as he's done in the past — on recent campaign documents.

He's considered a strong potential gubernatorial candidate in large part because of name recognition. His father, John Ashcroft, previously served as Missouri governor, U.S. senator and as U.S. attorney general under former President George W. Bush.

The proposed rule comes as book challenges rise across the nation. Book challenges reached a decades-long high last year, according to the American Library Association, and challenges are set to break records again this year.

The ALA documented 681 challenges to books through August, involving 1,651 different titles. In all of 2021, the ALA

listed 729 challenges, directed at 1,579 books. Because the ALA relies on media accounts and reports from libraries, the actual number of challenges is likely far higher, the library association believes.

A new law passed by Missouri's Republican-led Legislature this year made it a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail for educators to give K-12 students books with photos, drawings or other visual depictions that are sexually explicit.

There are exceptions for anatomy, biology, art or other images that are educational, and the law does not ban written descriptions that might be considered sexually explicit.

In Missouri, the state Constitution and state laws give statewide elected officials and state agencies the power to create additional guidelines beyond laws to help run government.

Ashcroft's administrative rule proposal will be open for public comment Nov. 15 through Dec. 15. After that, his office has three months to rewrite the rule based on feedback, submit it as is or rescind it.

"We encourage all Missouri citizens to participate in the public comment period set to open on Nov. 15th," the Missouri Association of School Librarians said in a statement. "Support libraries — public, academic, and school — across Missouri and provide feedback on this restrictive and harmful rule change."

A special legislative committee also reviews proposed rules to make sure they don't go beyond agencies' authority, but the committee can't veto a rule because of a policy disagreement.

Average long-term US mortgage rates rise this week to 6.94%

By Matt Ott
AP Business Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates inched up this week ahead of another expected rate increase by the Federal Reserve when it meets early next month.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average on the key 30-year rate ticked up this week to 6.94% from 6.92% last week. Last year at this time, the rate was 3.09%.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those looking to refinance their homes, jumped to 6.23% from 6.09% last week. Last week it climbed over 6% for the first time since the housing market crash of 2008. One year ago, the 15-year rate was 2.33%.

The Fed's aggressive action has stalled a housing sector that — outside of the onset of the pandemic — has been hot for years.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in September for the eighth month in a row as house hunters faced sharply higher mortgage rates, bloated home prices and a tight supply of properties on the market.

Sales fell 23.8% from September last year, and are now at the slowest annual pace since September 2012, excluding the steep slowdown in sales that occurred in May 2020 near the start of the pandemic.

Freddie Mac says that for a typical mortgage, borrowers who locked in at the higher end of the rate range during the past year would pay several hundred dollars more than borrowers who signed contracts at the lower end of the range.

Late in September, the Federal Reserve bumped its benchmark borrowing rate by another three-quarters of a point in an effort to constrain the economy and tame inflation. It was the Fed's fifth increase this

year and third consecutive 0.75 percentage point increase. The Fed's next two-day policy meeting opens Nov. 1, with most economists expecting another big three-quarters of a point hike.

Despite the Fed's swift and heavy rate increases, inflation has hardly budged from 40-year highs and the labor market remains tight.

Earlier this month, the government reported that America's employers slowed their hiring in September but still added 263,000 jobs. The unemployment rate fell to 3.5%,

matching a half-century low.

Another report from the government last week showed that consumer inflation remained much too high at 8.2%. Combined with the 8.5% inflation at the wholesale level, most economists expect another big increase when the Fed meets in early November.

By raising borrowing rates, the Fed makes it costlier to take out a mortgage and an auto or business loan. Consumers and businesses then presumably borrow and spend less, cooling the economy and slowing inflation.

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FACT FOCUS: States, not CDC, set school vaccine requirements

By Angelo Fichera
The Associated Press

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory committee on Thursday voted that the agency should update its recommended immunization schedules to add the COVID-19 vaccine, including to the schedule for children.

But in the lead-up to the vote by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, false claims spread widely that it would mean the vaccine would be required to attend school.

In reality, the CDC doesn't have the authority to set school immunization requirements, and the vote doesn't mandate the vaccine for schoolchildren. That's a decision left to the states.

Here are the facts.
CLAIM: If the CDC adds the COVID-19 vaccine to the immunization schedule for children, the

shots will be mandatory to attend school.

THE FACTS: The false claim gained momentum after it was shared by Fox News host Tucker Carlson this week.

"The CDC is about to add the Covid vaccine to the childhood immunization schedule, which would make the vax mandatory for kids to attend school," Carlson tweeted on Tuesday night. The tweet included a segment from his show in which he began by making the same claim.

Another popular tweet similarly claimed the CDC committee's vote would make the vaccine "mandatory for school registration."

But the public health agency doesn't determine school vaccine requirements.

"States have the authority to enact state laws requiring vaccination, not the CDC," said Wendy Mariner, a professor emer-

ita of health law, ethics and human rights at Boston University. "ACIP has no authority to make law."

CDC spokesperson Kate Grusich told The Associated Press in an email that the agency "only makes recommendations for use of vaccines, while school-entry vaccination requirements are determined by state or local jurisdictions."

Grusich explained that the action was meant to streamline clinical guidance for healthcare providers by adding COVID-19 vaccines to a single list of all currently licensed, authorized and routinely recommended vaccines.

"It's important to note that there are no changes in COVID-19 vaccine policy," she said.

The immunization practices advisory committee is a body of experts that makes recommendations to the CDC about vaccines. Its recommendation to update the schedules,

which included other revisions, still needs to be formally adopted by the agency and the amended schedules wouldn't take effect until 2023, Grusich said.

Fox News referred the AP to a follow-up segment by Carlson on Wednesday night, in which he revisited the topic and claimed the CDC was "lying." Carlson claimed that "more than a dozen states follow the CDC's immunization schedule to set vaccination requirements — not suggestions, requirements — for children to be educated."

"For example, the Virginia Department of Health states that 'vaccines must be administered in accordance with the CDC's schedule,'" he stated. He cited Massachusetts as another example.

But those states do not list every vaccine from the schedule in their school requirements. Virginia, for exam-

ple, does not require the annual flu vaccine in order to attend school — even though the vaccine appears on the CDC's schedule. Nor does Massachusetts.

A Virginia Department of Health spokesperson, Maria Reppas, said in an email that there "is no direct, immediate impact on COVID-19 vaccine being added to the Immunization Schedule on school required vaccines in Virginia." Reppas said changes to the school requirements would need legislative or regulatory action.

Dr. William Schaffner, a vaccine policy expert and professor of infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, said he was not aware of any states that automatically require all vaccines on the schedule for school. "Those are recommendations that go to pediatricians and family doctors as they care for children,"

Schaffner said. "They're just recommendations, there are no automatic mandates that follow."

There has also been reluctance by many states to require the human papillomavirus, or HPV, vaccine, even though it appears on the childhood schedule, Schaffner said.

States can use legislation to require specific vaccines or can authorize a state agency or local health entity to require specific vaccines for certain age groups, Mariner said. She added that some states include private schools when establishing requirements, though in other cases, private schools may also voluntarily require vaccinations.

— This is part of AP's effort to address widely shared misinformation, including work with outside companies and organizations to add factual context to misleading content that is circulating online.

GOP-led states appealing dismissal of suit over loan relief

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Attorneys for six Republican-led states are asking a federal appeals court to reconsider their effort to block the Biden administration's program to forgive hundreds of millions of dollars in student loan debt.

A notice of appeal to the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was filed late Thursday, hours after U.S. District Judge Henry Autrey in St. Louis ruled that since the states of Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas and South Carolina failed to establish standing, "the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear this case."

Separately, the six states also asked the district court for an injunction prohibiting the administration from implementing the debt cancellation plan until the appeals process plays out.

President Joe Biden on Monday officially launched the application process for the debt cancellation program and announced that 8 million borrowers had already applied for loan relief during the federal government's soft launch period last weekend. Biden was scheduled to discuss the program Friday in a speech at Delaware State University.

The plan, announced in August, would cancel \$10,000 in student loan debt for those making less than \$125,000 or households with less than \$250,000 in income. Pell Grant recipients, who typically demonstrate more financial need, will get an additional \$10,000 in debt forgiven.

The Congressional Budget

Office has said the program will cost about \$400 billion over the next three decades. James Campbell, an attorney for the Nebraska attorney general's office, told Autrey at an Oct. 12 hearing that the administration is acting outside its authorities in a way that will cost states millions of dollars.

The cancellation applies to federal student loans used to attend undergraduate and graduate school, along with Parent Plus loans. Current college students qualify if their loans were disbursed before July 1. The plan makes 43 million borrowers eligible for some debt forgiveness, with 20 million who could get their debt erased entirely, according to the administration.

The announcement immediately became a major political issue ahead of the November midterm elections.

Conservative attorneys, Republican lawmakers and business-oriented groups have asserted that Biden overstepped his authority in taking such sweeping action without the assent of Congress. They called it an unfair government giveaway for relatively affluent people at the expense of taxpayers who didn't pursue higher education.

Many Democratic lawmakers facing tough reelection contests have distanced themselves from the plan.

The six states sued in September. Lawyers for the administration countered that the Department of Education has "broad authority to manage the federal student financial aid programs." A court filing stated that the

2003 Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act, or HEROES Act, allows the secretary of education to waive or modify terms of federal student loans in times of war or national emergency.

"COVID-19 is such an emergency," the filing stated.

The HEROES Act was enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help members of the military. The Justice Department says the law allows Biden to reduce or erase student loan debt during a national emergency. Republicans argue the administration is misinterpreting the law, in part because the pandemic no longer qualifies as a national emergency.

Justice Department attorney Brian Netter told Autrey at the Oct. 12 hearing that fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic is still rippling. He said student loan defaults have skyrocketed over the past 2 1/2 years.

Other lawsuits also have sought to stop the program. Earlier Thursday, Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett rejected an appeal from a Wisconsin taxpayers group seeking to stop the debt cancellation program.

Barrett, who oversees emergency appeals from Wisconsin and neighboring states, did not comment in turning away the appeal from the Brown County Taxpayers Association. The group wrote in its Supreme Court filing that it needed an emergency order because the administration could begin canceling outstanding student debt as soon as Sunday.

COVID-19 linked to increase in US pregnancy-related deaths

By Amanda Seitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — COVID-19 drove a dramatic increase in the number of women who died from pregnancy or childbirth complications in the U.S. last year, a crisis that has disproportionately claimed Black and Hispanic women as victims, according to a government report released Wednesday.

The report lays out grim trends across the country for expectant mothers and their newborn babies.

It finds that pregnancy-related deaths have spiked nearly 80% since 2018, with COVID-19 being a factor in a quarter of the 1,178 deaths reported last year. The percentage of preterm and low birth-weight babies also went up last year, after holding steady for years. And more pregnant or postpartum women are reporting symptoms of depression.

"We were already in the middle of a crisis with maternal mortality in our country," said Karen Tabb Dina, a maternal health researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "This really shows that COVID-19 has exacerbated that crisis to rates that we, as a country, are not able to handle."

The nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office, which authored the report, analyzed pregnancy-related deaths after Congress mandated that it review maternal health outcomes in the 2020 coronavirus relief bill.

The maternal death rate in the U.S. is higher than many other developed nations and had been on the rise in the years leading up to the pandemic, but COVID-19 has only worsened conditions here for pregnant women.

Women who contract the virus while pregnant face elevated health risks. Staffing shortages and COVID-19 restrictions created more hurdles for expecting mothers to get in-person health care; And pandemic stress has intensified depression, a common condition during pregnancy.

Mental health issues likely contributed to the increase in pregnancy-related deaths, Tabb Dina

said. Many women who experience depression and anxiety during or after their pregnancy struggle to get the care they need.

"Mental health is the greatest complication in pregnancy that we don't understand," she said.

The biggest spike in deaths came during July through December of last year, as the COVID-19 delta variant infected millions, noted Carolyn Yocom, a director at the Government Accountability Office.

"It's really clear from the data that the time in which the delta variant spread seemed to correspond to a huge increase in deaths," Yocom said.

The maternal death rate is particularly stark for Black women, who have long faced worse maternal outcomes than their peers.

Pregnancy-related deaths for every 100,000 births climbed from 44 in 2019 to 68.9 among Black women last year. White women had death rates of 26.1 last year, a jump from 17.9 in 2019.

Death rates among Hispanics had been on the decline, but they swelled again during the pandemic from 12.6 per 100,000 in 2019 to 27.5 last year.

Black and Hispanic people have also died at higher rates from COVID-19, in part because they have less access to medical care and often work essential jobs that exposed them to the virus.

Long before COVID-19 began spreading, the stage was set for Black, low-income and rural women to receive subpar pregnancy care -- putting them at further risk for their pregnancies to go wrong, according to a separate GAO report.

Hospitals have been shedding their obstetric services in rural areas, low-income and majority Black communities, that report said.

More than half of rural counties didn't have a hospital offering pregnancy care as of 2018, the review found.

"The loss of hospital-based obstetric services in rural areas is associated with increases in out-of-hospital births and pre-term births, which may contribute to poor maternal and infant outcomes," the report found.

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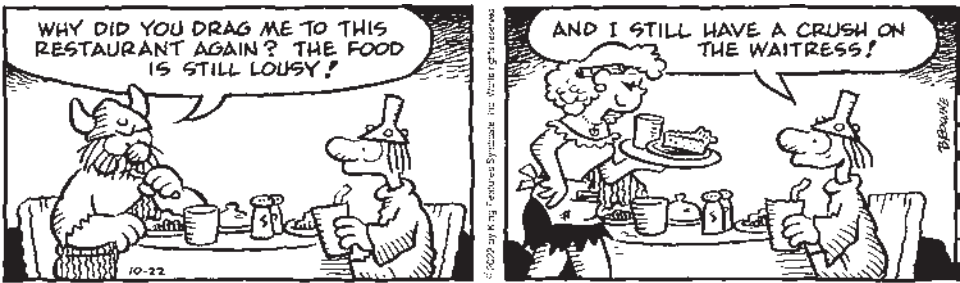
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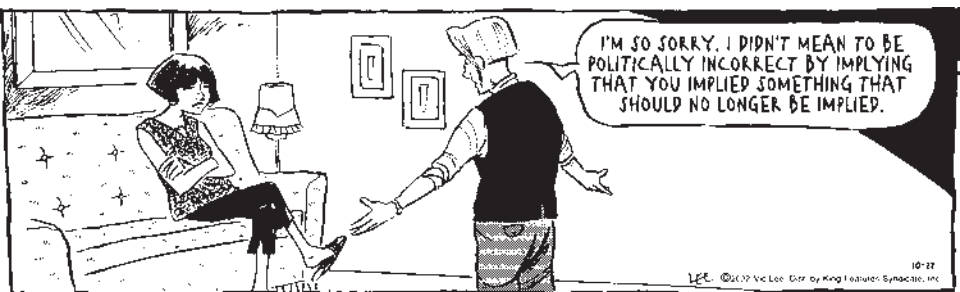
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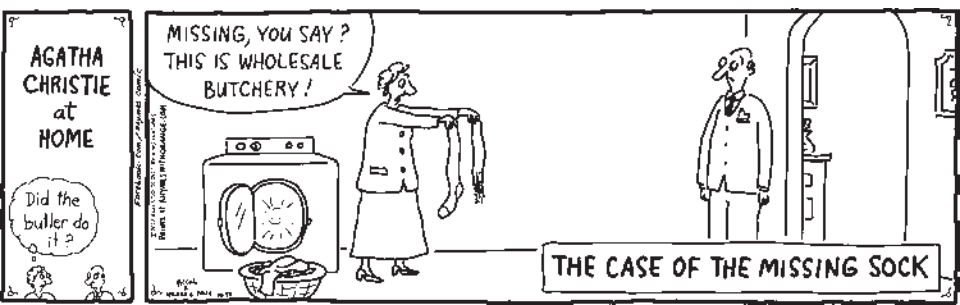
HI AND LOIS



PARDON MY PLANET



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE



DUSTIN



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Increase
5 Brown ermine
10 Signs of the future
12 Stable resident
13 Sacred song
14 Last letter
15 Tiny laborer
16 Altar words
18 Argon, for one
19 Pitcher Phil
21 Heart
22 Drop producer
24 Amber source
25 Nation's center
29 Printed matter
30 Friends
32 Grammys category
33 Cal. column
34 Busy one in Apr.
35 Suspect's story
37 In the area
39 Harvest goddess
40 Nick of films

DOWN

- 41 Pick up the tab
42 Ottoman rulers
1 Caesar, for one
2 "Right away, boss!"
3 Sofa's cousin
4 Hydro-carbon suffix
5 "Scram!"
6 Huck's friend
7 Mount Hood setting
8 Thor's home
9 Rib
11 Coffee shop freebie
17 Sirius
20 Gold unit
21 Venice sight
23 Playwright Hellman
25 Doctor
26 Run out

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A	N	I	M	E			E	V	E	N
K	I	T	E	S			T	A	R	T

Yesterday's answer

- 27 Kidman of film
28 Posse member
29 Piece of land
31 Fills up
33 Boxing weapon
36 Arthur of "Maude"
38 Move up and down

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19			20				21		
	22					23			
			24					27	28
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32				33				34	
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41							42		

10-22

MARVIN



THE LOCKHORNS



SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts increases from Monday to Sunday.

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

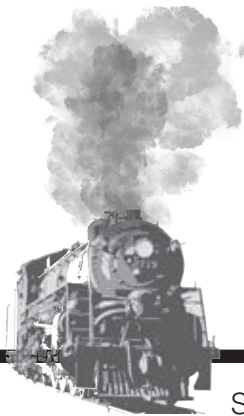
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/22

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



Georgia head basketball coach Mike White on the field before Georgia's spring NCAA college football game on April 16, 2022, in Athens, Ga.
FILE PHOTO BY BRETT DAVIS | AP PHOTO

SEC's 6 new men's basketball coaches prepare for a grind

By Dave Skretta
AP Basketball Writer

Mike White has an advantage over about a third of the other men's basketball coaches in the SEC this season.

He may be in a new place, but the Georgia coach is at least in the same conference.

That should give White, who moved on from Florida after last season, a little bit more comfort than Lamont Paris, Dennis Gates, Chris Janes, Matt McMahon and Todd Golden.

In a unique year of high turnover among the league's coaches, those five will be learning about the SEC on the fly when the season begins in a couple of weeks.

"There are some changes in terms of how we played last year at the University of Florida, of course, and then obviously wholesale changes — two completely different programs," White acknowledged. "So we'll see."

There are a lot of reasons for six new coaches in the SEC, but it boils down to a single word: expectations.

The league long known for an almost singular focus on football — mighty Kentucky notwithstanding — simply expects to be good at everything these days, and that includes basketball. Schools are pumping money into their programs, and with that money comes a win-or-else mentality that has led to many coaching changes.

Yet it's also led to league-wide success.

The SEC has five teams in the preseason AP Top 25, tied for the most of any league, and two more are receiving votes. The Wildcats top the list at No. 4, but No. 10 Arkansas has a team coming off of back-to-back Elite Eights, No. 11 Tennessee is loaded again, No. 15 Auburn is coming off its first SEC title in five years and No. 20 Auburn has perhaps the nation's best backcourt in Jahvon Quinerly and Nimari Burnett.

Among those receiving votes are the Gators, where White left plenty of talent in Colin Castleton and Myreon Jones for Golden, who arrives in

Gainesville after leading San Francisco to the NCAA Tournament last spring.

"In regards to the turnover, I think it's a little fluky," Golden said. "Obviously, the coaching in this league has really taken off, I would say over the last seven to eight years, and that's a big reason as to why they've had a lot more success."

It also makes it harder on the other newcomers, who unlike Golden arrived at schools with mostly bare cupboards. White at Georgia, Paris at South Carolina, Gates at Missouri, Jans at Mississippi State and McMahon at LSU are all facing massive rebuilding projects in a league that has suddenly become very unforgiving.

"There was a time where you had two or three teams representing the SEC. Now you grow that into about eight or nine," Gates said. "What it says is it's a tremendous, tremendous conference with great resources."

OSCAR WINNER

The reigning AP national player of the year is back in Kentucky forward Oscar Tshiebwe, who merely averaged 17.4 points and 15.1 boards last season. Tshiebwe had a minor knee procedure and may miss the Wildcats' exhibition game, but coach John Calipari hopes to have him on the floor around the time of the regular-season opener.

"I'll keep him out longer than he probably should," Calipari said, "but he's pretty resilient. We'll see."

TRANSFER TIME

Some of the top players in the transfer portal landed at SEC schools, highlighted by the arrival of Morehead State's Johni Broome at Auburn and Ohio Valley player of the year KJ Williams following McMahan from Murray State to LSU.

Arkansas landed Ricky Council IV from Wichita State and Jalen Graham from Arizona State, while Alabama's Nate Oates picked off two of the premier transfers in Mark Sears from Ohio and Dominick Welch from St. Bonaventure.

See SEC | 15A

AREA ROUNDUP

S-C THIRD AT CMAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Democrat staff

Senior Clay Pilliard shattered a school record and Smith-Cotton swim and dive finished third place Thursday afternoon at the CMAC Championship.

Pilliard exploded out of the gate and hit the 50-yard mark in under 26 seconds, finishing with a record-breaking time of 2:04.58, which won

the event just under two seconds ahead of Rock Bridge's Sam Schultz.

"He's really good at knowing his body and knowing how fast he's timing himself, when to explode or when to save energy," S-C head coach Haley Ryan said. "That's what makes him so good. He's been so close so many times, it was a matter of

time before he went ahead and broke the record."

He also gave the school its other gold at the event by winning the 100-yard backstroke, another that Pilliard currently is positioned strong for in terms of state qualifying time.

The Tigers ended with 251 points, good for a third-place finish out of the four participating pro-

grams; Rock Bridge won with 446 points.

This marked the first year for the championship at the Heckart Community Center. It moved back to Sedalia after being held in Columbia last season. The inaugural meet was hosted in Sedalia at the Joseph W. Arbisi Memorial Swimming Pool in 2020.

See AREA | 15A



Smith-Cotton swimmers show off their medals at the Heckart Community Center following Thursday's CMAC Championship that included three other conference schools. The Tigers took third and senior Clay Pilliard broke a school record.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SMITH-COTTON BOYS SWIM

Rangers hire 3-time World Series champion Bochy as manager

By Stephen Hawkins
AP Baseball Writer

The Texas Rangers have hired Bruce Bochy as their manager, bringing the three-time World Series champion with 2,003 career victories out of a short retirement to take over a team that has had six consecutive losing seasons.

Texas made the surprising announcement Friday, just more than two weeks after its season ended. Bochy agreed to a three-year contract.

The 67-year-old Bochy hasn't managed since 2019, when he stepped away after 13 seasons and those World Series titles with the San Francisco Giants. The first championship came in five games over Texas in 2010, and the Giants won again in 2012 and 2014.

Rangers general manager Chris Young was a pitcher for San Diego in 2006,



San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy gestures toward fans next to his wife Kim during a ceremony honoring Bochy after a baseball game between the Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers in San Francisco, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019.
FILE PHOTO BY JEFF CHIU | AP PHOTO

which was Bochy's final season with the Padres before going to San Francisco.

"As we went through the interview process, Bruce's passion and excitement about returning to the dugout was very evident," Young said. "It became clear he was the ideal individ-

ual to lead our club as we continue to build a championship culture here in Arlington."

Bochy was 951-975 in 12 seasons with the Padres (1995-2006) and took them to the last World Series in 1998. The former big league catcher had a 1,052-1,054

record in San Francisco from 2007-19.

The Rangers said they'd hold an introductory news conference on Monday. Bochy said in a statement he was excited to be joining the team after several days of extensive conversations with Young and a meeting with owner Ray Davis.

"Their vision and commitment to putting together a club that can contend and win year in and year out is impressive, and I became convinced I wanted to be a part of that," Bochy said. "If I was going to return to managing, it had to be the right situation. I strongly believe that to be the case with the Rangers, and I can't wait to get started."

The Chicago White Sox, Kansas City Royals and Miami Marlins have the three remaining manager openings among the 30 teams.

See HIRE | 15A

Tanking? Panthers positioned for No. 1 pick after CMC trade

By Steve Reed
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Some might say it's a rebuild. Others might go so far as to call it tanking.

Either way, the Carolina Panthers, who've already fired a coach this season and own the NFL's worst record at 1-5, are now well positioned to get the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft — and land the franchise quarterback they've coveted for years.

The Panthers' offense was already dead last in the league — and that was before the team traded its best player, Christian McCaffrey,

to the San Francisco 49ers and starting wide receiver Robbie Anderson to the Arizona Cardinals.

General manager Scott Fitterer said Friday the decision to deal McCaffrey was in the best interest of the future of the organization.

He refused to call it tanking.

"The NFL is a business where you lose guys, whether it is injuries or trades or whatever happens," Fitterer said. "The expectation of winning never changes. Those guys in the locker fight too hard and work too hard every day."

See TRADE | 15A



Carolina Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey, left, is tackled by Los Angeles Rams linebacker Justin Hollins during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif.
PHOTO BY ASHLEY LANDIS | AP PHOTO

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday ON TAP COLLEGE MEN’S SOCCER 2 p.m. State Fair Community College at East Central College HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER 3 p.m. Smith-Cotton vs Hickman (at Blue Springs) HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY Smithton, Stover, Tipton at Fatima Invitational HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL 1 p.m. Smithton/Tipton at Stover 2:30 p.m. Russellville/Warsaw vs Cole Camp (at Stover) ON AIR AUTO RACING 3 a.m. FS2 — FIM World Supercross Championship: The Australian Grand Prix - Round 2, Melbourne Noon FS1 — NASCAR Camping World Truck Series: The Baptist Health 200, Playoffs - Round of 8, Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Fla. 1:55 p.m. ESPNEWS — Formula 1: Practice, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas 3:30 p.m. USA — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Contender Boats 300, Playoffs - Round of 8, Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Fla. 4:55 p.m. ESPNEWS — Formula 1: Qualifying, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas	COLLEGE FOOTBALL 11 a.m. ABC — Syracuse at Clemson BTN — Indiana at Rutgers CBSSN — Louisiana-Monroe at Army ESPN — Cincinnati at SMU ESPN2 — Kansas at Baylor ESPNU — Houston at Navy FOX — Iowa at Ohio St. SECN — UT-Martin at Tennessee 1:30 p.m. PEACOCK — UNLV at Notre Dame 2 p.m. FS1 — West Virginia at Texas Tech 2:30 p.m. ABC — Texas at Oklahoma St. ACCN — Boston College at Wake Forest BTN — Northwestern at Maryland CBS — Mississippi at LSU CBSSN — W. Michigan at Miami (Ohio) ESPN — Purdue at Wisconsin ESPN2 — Memphis at Tulane ESPNU — BYU at Liberty FOX — UCLA at Oregon 3 p.m. PAC-12N — Arizona St. at Stanford SECN — Vanderbilt at Missouri 5:30 p.m. FS2 — Fresno St. at New Mexico 6 p.m. CBSSN — Boise St. at Air Force ESPN — Mississippi St. at Alabama ESPN2 — Mississippi St. at Alabama (CFB with The Pat McAfee Show)	6:30 p.m. ABC — Minnesota at Penn St. ESPNU — UCF at East Carolina SECN — Texas A&M at South Carolina 7 p.m. ACCN — Pittsburgh at Louisville FS1 — Kansas St. at TCU PAC-12N — Colorado at Oregon St. 8:45 p.m. FS2 — Utah St. at Wyoming 9:30 p.m. CBSSN — San Diego St. at Nevada ESPN — Washington at California 10 p.m. ESPN2 — Montana at Sacramento St. ESPNU — NC Central at SC State (Taped) COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN’S) 6 p.m. BTN — Nebraska at Illinois 8 p.m. BTN — Purdue at Minnesota FIGURE SKATING 2 p.m. NBC — ISU: The Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Skate America, Norwood, Mass. 7 p.m. USA — ISU: The Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Skate America, Norwood, Mass. FISHING 7 a.m. FS1 — Bassmaster Opens: The 2022 St. Croix Bassmaster Central Open, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Jasper, Texas GOLF 7 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Mallorca Golf Open, Third Round, Golf Santa Ponsa, Mallorca, Spain
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2 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The CJ CUP, Third Round, Congaree Golf Club, Gillisonville, S.C. 6 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Playoff 1), Second Round, James River Course, Henrico, Va. (Taped) 10 p.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The BMW Ladies Championship, Final Round, LPGA International Busan, Busan, South Korea HORSE RACING 11:30 a.m. FS2 — NYRA: America’s Day at the Races MIXED MARTIAL ARTS 9 a.m. ESPNEWS — UFC 280 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates MLB BASEBALL 4 p.m. TBS — A.L. Championship Series: Houston at NY Yankees, Game 3 6:30 p.m. FOX — N.L. Championship Series: San Diego at Philadelphia, Game 4 NBA BASKETBALL 5 p.m. NBATV — San Antonio at Philadelphia 7:30 p.m. NBATV — Memphis at Dallas NHL HOCKEY Noon NHLN — Minnesota at Boston 6 p.m. NHLN — Dallas at Montréal SOCCER (MEN’S) 6:30 a.m. CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at Hearts USA — Premier League: Liverpool at Nottingham Forest 9 a.m. USA — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Everton 11:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: Manchester United at Chelsea SOCCER (WOMEN’S) 5:45 a.m. FS2 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: Colombia vs. Tanzania, Quarterfinal, Fatorda, India 9:15 a.m. FS2 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: Japan vs. Spain, Quarterfinal, Fatorda, India TENNIS 7 a.m. TENNIS — Stockholm-ATP, Antwerp-ATP, Naples-ATP Semifinals 5 p.m. TENNIS — Guadalajara-WTA Semifinals Sunday ON TAP COLLEGE WOMEN’S SOCCER 2 p.m. St. Louis Community College at State Fair Community College	ON AIR AUTO RACING 12:30 p.m. ABC — Formula 1: The Aramco United States Grand Prix, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas CNBC — FIM MotoGP: The Petronas Grand Prix of Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia (Taped) 1:30 p.m. NBC — NASCAR Cup Series: The Dixie Vodka 400, Playoffs - Round of 8, Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, Fla. COLLEGE FIELD HOCKEY 11 a.m. ACCN — Rutgers at Syracuse 1 p.m. ACCN — Saint Joseph’s at North Carolina COLLEGE SOCCER (MEN’S) 3 p.m. BTN — Wisconsin at Northwestern 5 p.m. PAC-12N — Stanford at UCLA COLLEGE SOCCER (WOMEN’S) 1 p.m. BTN — Rutgers at Michigan St. PAC-12N — UCLA at Utah 3 p.m. SECN — Mississippi St. at Vanderbilt COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN’S) 11 a.m. SECN — Alabama at Georgia Noon ESPN2 — Wisconsin at Michigan ESPNU — Louisville at Pittsburgh 1 p.m. SECN — South Carolina at LSU 2 p.m. ESPNU — Kentucky at Texas A&M 3 p.m. PAC-12N — UCLA at California FIGURE SKATING 1 p.m. EI — ISU: The Grand Prix of Figure Skating - Skate America, Norwood, Mass. GOLF 6 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Mallorca Golf Open, Final Round, Golf Santa Ponsa, Mallorca, Spain 1:30 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour: The CJ CUP, Final Round, Congaree Golf Club, Gillisonville, S.C. 5:30 p.m. GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Playoff 1), Final Round, James River Course, Henrico, Va. (Taped) HORSE RACING 11:30 a.m. FS2 — NYRA: America’s Day at the Races MLB BASEBALL 1:30 p.m. FS1 — N.L. Championship Series:	San Diego at Philadelphia, Game 5 6 p.m. TBS — A.L. Championship Series: Houston at NY Yankees, Game 4 NBA BASKETBALL 6 p.m. NBATV — Washington at Cleveland 9 p.m. NBATV — Phoenix at LA Clippers NFL FOOTBALL Noon CBS — Regional Coverage: Detroit at Dallas, Indianapolis at Tennessee, Cleveland at Baltimore FOX — Regional Coverage: Atlanta at Cincinnati, Green Bay at Washington, Tampa Bay at Carolina, NY Giants at Jacksonville 3:05 p.m. CBS — Regional Coverage: NY Jets at Denver OR Houston at Las Vegas 3:25 p.m. FOX — Regional Coverage: Seattle at LA Chargers OR Kansas City at San Francisco 7:15 p.m. NBC — Pittsburgh at Miami NHL HOCKEY 4 p.m. ESPN — Anaheim at Detroit SOCCER (MEN’S) 8 a.m. CNBC — Premier League: Fulham at Leeds United USA — Premier League: Leicester City at Wolverhampton 10:30 a.m. USA — Premier League: Newcastle United at Tottenham Hotspur Noon ESPN — MLS Eastern Conference Playoff: NY City FC at Montréal, Semifinal 1:45 p.m. CBSSN — Napoli at AS Roma 7 p.m. ESPN — MLS Western Conference Playoff: FC Dallas at Austin, Semifinal 8 p.m. FS1 — Liga MX Playoff: Pachuca at Monterrey, Semifinal - Leg 2 SOCCER (WOMEN’S) 5:55 a.m. CBSSN — FASL: Arsenal at Liverpool 4 p.m. CBSSN — NWSL Playoff: San Diego FC at Portland FC, Semifinal 6:30 p.m. CBSSN — NWSL Playoff: Kansas City at OL Reign, Semifinal 9 p.m. CBSSN — Bundesliga: Bayern at Wolfsburg (Taped) TENNIS 9 a.m. TENNIS — Stockholm-ATP, Antwerp-ATP, Naples-ATP Finals 6 p.m. TENNIS — Guadalajara-WTA Final
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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or major decisions from 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. EDT today (11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Virgo into Libra.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022:

You are intelligent and highly individualistic. You are compassionate and have many talents. This year is slower-paced. Your focus will be on personal relationships. Concentrate on your needs and what brings you happiness. Don't hesitate to ask for help this year.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ This is a pleasant day to enjoy the company of others, especially partners and close friends. A serious, practical discussion with someone older or perhaps a member of a group might be helpful. If you make an important decision, wait until the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Today, it's easy to work and get better organized, because you're in the mood to do so; plus, very likely, others will help you. Bonus! This is the perfect day to make your workstation look more attractive. You're ready to roll up your sleeves and dig in to get practical, productive results. Tonight: Get organized.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ This is a fabulous day to socialize! It's Saturday, and everyone wants to kick back and relax. This is a great day for a date or any kind of romantic meeting. You also might teach young people, or share some practical ideas, especially about sports, the arts or the entertainment world. Tonight: Play!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is great day for a family discussion, particularly with a parent or an older relative. You might want to improve the appearance of where you live through redecorating projects or renovations. You also might want to entertain today. Let someone help you. Tonight: Cocoon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Today you're in a feel-good mood! Conversations with others are pleasant and friendly. You particularly appreciate your surroundings. (Appreciation is a wonderful thing.) It's a good day to make long-range plans; however, wait until the Moon Alert is over to commit. Tonight: Conversations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ This is a lovely day, because for a good part of this day, the Moon is in your sign, giving you a slight advantage over all the other signs. You might want to shop or make money decisions today. Please refrain from doing so during the Moon Alert. Tonight: Check your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ This is a lovely day to relax! You are in fine form and will likely share your ideas with others. You might even teach young minds today. Relations with others are pleasant and smooth. It's a good day to hone your technique in music or sports. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A conversation with a female colleague will be warm and friendly today. You're happy to relax and ponder long-term goals. If so, don't commit to anything during the Moon Alert. This is an excellent day for research and digging for answers. Tonight: Solitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ It's a friendly day, and you're in the mood to schmooze! Enjoy the company of friends as well as groups and organizations. You might be involved with creative, younger people. In fact, you are high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Give some thought to future goals. Tonight: Friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You make a wonderful impression on others today, especially bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police. It's a good day to ask for their help. Meanwhile, you're keen to travel and do something different today because you want adventure and stimulation! Tonight: You shine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ This is a great day to travel or make travel plans. If making travel plans, wait until the Moon Alert is over to commit. You might be attracted to someone who is "different" today. Philosophical, religious and metaphysical discussions will appeal to you because you feel smart today. Tonight: Explore!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Kick back and relax today. This is a passionate, affectionate day for romantic partners. Meanwhile, you might make plans related to shared responsibilities, the division of labor and how to share expenses. Wait until the Moon Alert is over to commit. Tonight: Check your finances.

BORN TODAY

Actress Catherine Deneuve (1943), actor Bob Odenkirk (1962), actor Jeff Goldblum (1952)



TCU guard Mike Miles Jr. drives to the basket during the first half of the team's first-round NCAA college basketball tournament game against Seton Hall on March 18, 2022, in San Diego.

FILE PHOTO BY DENIS POROY | AP PHOTO

Big 12 on upswing thanks to growing power of Texas schools

By Dave Skretta

AP Basketball Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Perhaps nobody in the Big 12 more strongly identifies with the Lone Star State than Chris Beard, who grew up in Irving and was a student assistant to Tom Penders at Texas before eventually becoming the Longhorns' head coach.

Beard has been at no fewer than seven different Texas colleges, four of them in the top job.

So when the AP Top 25 was released this week, and all four Big 12 schools in Texas were in the rankings, you can bet that Beard felt a certain amount of pride. Baylor was the headliner, tied for fifth with Kansas, while the Longhorns were No. 12, TCU two spots behind them and Texas Tech squeezing into the final spot in the poll.

"Those things are always personal to me," Beard said. "I'm a Texan, period. And thinking back to where basketball was in high school, the Dallas area and Houston area — basketball has grown so much.

"I give a lot of credit to the high school coaches, the grassroots coaches. Undeniably, the best AAU basketball in the country is in Texas. It starts with the coaching and the grassroots and the high school basketball and it goes from there."

It's turned foot-

ball-mad Texas into a fertile recruiting ground for hoops, and the colleges in the state have without doubt been the biggest beneficiary. Beard had Texas Tech playing Virginia for the national championship three years ago, and two seasons ago, Scott Drew led Baylor past then-unbeaten Gonzaga for its first men's basketball title.

The Bears figure to be in the Final Four mix again this season. The Longhorns think they could make a run. Texas Tech is coming off a Sweet 16 appearance and TCU has its highest preseason ranking in school history.

"When it was the Southwest Conference, they were pretty good back in the day," said Horned Frogs coach Jamie Dixon, who played for TCU during that era. "But I'm not surprised by it. I think there's just better players in Texas now."

If the Big 12 wants to get greedy, it could claim Houston a bit early. The third-ranked Cougars, who will join the league next season, followed a Final Four trip with an Elite Eight appearance last spring.

"I couldn't be more proud of how far the state has come in the last 20 years," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "You could have multiple teams in the Final Four from the state. It's a great time to play basketball in the state of Texas, for sure."

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPS

The Big 12 has long been considered one of the toughest conferences in the country, whether that was using head-to-head results or advanced metrics, only to come up short on the national stage. But now, the Big 12 is riding the strength of back-to-back titles after Kansas followed the Bears by cutting down the nets in April.

"You'd hear the knock: not enough national championships, or different teams that could win one," Drew said. "The last three tournaments, we could very easily have three different champions. But to win the last game does mean a lot."

TALENT SEARCH

For all its strength, the Big 12 doesn't necessarily have any locks to be NBA lottery picks next summer. The closest could be a pair of freshmen: Texas swingman Dillon Mitchell and Baylor shooting guard Keyonte George.

OLD HANDS

The preseason All-Big 12 team, voted on by the league's coaches, shows just how experienced its teams are this season. There were six players because of a tie: graduate student Marcus Carr and senior Timmy Allen from Texas, redshirt senior Adam Flagler of Baylor, senior Avery Anderson III from Oklahoma State, redshirt junior Jalen Wilson of Kansas and TCU

junior Mike Miles, the league's preseason player of the year.

BACK IN THE SADDLE

Oklahoma State is eligible for the NCAA Tournament again after serving a one-year ban as part of the fallout of an FBI investigation into college basketball corruption. But such stiff penalties could be a thing of the past amid changes in name, image and likeness rules around athlete compensation and the way the NCAA metes out punishment.

"Although I'm disappointed that it looks like our program will be the last one to go through that," Cowboys coach Mike Boynton said, "I'm happy future kids won't have to go through that for something they had nothing to do with."

SCHEDULING STRONG

Kansas prides itself on having the toughest schedule in the country, and the Jayhawks are making another run at that title with games against No. 7 Duke in Indianapolis, No. 13 Indiana at Allen Fieldhouse and at No. 4 Kentucky in January.

Other marquee non-conference games include Baylor against No. 2 Gonzaga and No. 10 Arkansas; Texas against the Bulldogs, No. 23 Illinois and No. 11 Tennessee; and Texas Tech against No. 9 Creighton at the Maui Invitational.

Steelers QB Pickett clears concussion protocol, will start

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers rookie quarterback Kenny Pickett will start on Sunday night against Miami after being released from the NFL's concussion protocol on Friday.

Pickett, the 20th overall pick in the draft, left last week's upset win over Tampa Bay in the third quarter after being knocked to the ground by Buccaneers linebacker Devin White. Doctors gave Pickett the OK to practice this week without limitations and he will make his third career start when Pittsburgh (2-4) visits the Dolphins (3-3).

"I felt great going through my routine and (practicing)," Pickett said. "If I didn't, obvi-

ously, I wouldn't have been out there."

Pickett added that he feels "great" but declined to get into specifics about the play in which he was injured or what his first time in the NFL's concussion protocol was like.

"I trusted what the doctors were telling me," Pickett said. "That's what they were advising me to do and that's what they wanted me to do, so, I followed their lead and now I'm good to go this week."

Backup Mitch Trubisky played well in relief of Pickett, throwing for 144 yards and a touchdown as Pittsburgh ended a four-game losing streak. Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin praised Trubisky's performance but said the team would stick with

Pickett if he was available, a vote of confidence in the 24-year-old who is the team's long-term successor to the retired Ben Roethlisberger. Pickett has looked capable since taking over for Trubisky at halftime of a loss to the New York Jets on Oct. 2, completing 66% (55 of 83) of his passes for 514 yards with a touchdown and four interceptions, three of them in the second half against the Jets.

Pickett is one of three Steelers who will return to action after being released from the concussion protocol. Tight end Pat Freiermuth, who sustained a concussion in a loss to Buffalo on Oct. 9, will play against the Dolphins. So will cornerback Levi Wallace, who also entered the protocol against the

Bills.

Pittsburgh will also have most of its starting secondary back to face Miami. Safety Minkah Fitzpatrick (knee) and cornerback Cam Sutton (hamstring) will play after sitting last week. Cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon, who has been out since the season opener with a hamstring injury, is doubtful.

The Steelers will be without wide receiver/returner Steven Sims, who is dealing with a hamstring issue. Sims provided a spark in the return game against the Buccaneers, returning a kickoff 89 yards and a punt 20 yards. Gunner Olszewski, who held the return responsibilities for the first four games before being benched, will fill in.

Dusty Baker takes another run at that elusive title

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Columnist

Johnnie B. Baker Jr. — he answers to Dusty — has built a lifetime of memories by bearing witness to some of baseball's significant moments.

It might be more appropriate to call him Forrest Gump.

When Hank Aaron hit his 715th homer, Baker was kneeling in the on-deck circle.

When Steve Bartman reached over a Wrigley Field railing in an ill-fated pursuit of that foul ball, Baker watched in stoic disbelief from the dugout.

He was there, too, for epic pennant races and champagne-soaked celebrations from coast to coast.

Yet one thing — and it's a biggie — has eluded baseball's Renaissance man.

A World Series championship as a manager.

At 73, Baker may be staring at his last — and probably best — chance to fill in that one glaring omission on his resume.

He's six wins away with a stellar Houston Astros squad that chalked up 106 victories during the regular season, more than any team in a nearly three-decade-long managing career that should carry Baker to Cooperstown.

Dusty puts a philosophic spin on his quest.

Like a fine bottle of wine — another subject he knows a thing or two about — one can't uncork the bottle until the time is just right.

"You can't rush it before it gets here, because it ain't here yet," he said. "So you've just got to put yourself in a position to do it."

His players made it clear that giving Baker one of the few things he doesn't have is one of their most potent motivators.

"We love going out there every single day and competing for him," third baseman Alex Bregman said. "He loves this team.



Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker Jr. greets players ahead of Game 1 of baseball's American League Championship Series between the Houston Astros and the New York Yankees, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022, in Houston.

PHOTO BY KEVIN M. COX | AP PHOTO

He loves winning. He loves the game of baseball. And a hundred percent we want to win for him."

Backing up his words with his bat, Bregman hit a homer that accounted for all the runs in Houston's 3-2 victory over the New York Yankees in Game 2 of the AL Championship Series, which now heads to the Bronx with the Astros up two games to none.

Six wins to go for Baker. Six wins to go.

Stop right there, he'll tell you. With age comes wisdom, and he's learned that ever single day is to be cherished. Six more wins might as well be another lifetime away. For a guy with far more days behind him than in front of him, there's no need to hasten the journey.

"I'm just taking it one game at a time and just living my life," Baker explained. "You can't live too far in the future or else you're not really enjoying

today."

Baker got a glimpse of what he was in for as a manager in his very first season at the helm.

The year was 1993, and Baker took over a San Francisco Giants team that went 72-90 the previous season but had signed the game's best player, Barry Bonds.

With a not-yet-bulked-up Bonds leading the way, the Giants won 103 games. They also happened to play in the same division as the Atlanta Braves, who won 104. In the last season before the wild card, the Giants sat at home with the game's second-best record.

And so it's gone for Baker ever since, plenty of regular-season joy mixed with staggering postseason heartbreak.

He's managed five teams. All of them have won division titles and reached the playoffs, making Baker the only manager to accomplish that feat with

so many clubs. He's just the ninth manager to win pennants in both leagues. He also ranks ninth on the career wins list with 2,093 (plus another 45 in the playoffs).

But here's the thing: No manager has won so many games without capturing a World Series title. And it's hard to find one who's endured so much October misery.

In 2002, Baker's Giants were up 3-2 on the Angels in the World Series. And they were chilling the champagne with a 5-0 lead in Game 6 going to the bottom of the seventh.

It all fell apart. Baker made some questionable pitching moves and the Angels mounted the largest comeback ever by a Series team in an elimination game. The following night, the Angels wrapped up the championship in Game 7.

The very next year, after Baker was forced out in San Francisco and landed

with the Cubs, he guided that long-downtrodden franchise team within five outs of its first World Series since 1945. Alas, Bartman got in the way, the Cubs collapsed and it was the Marlins who went on to capture the Series title that should've been Baker's.

It would be more of the same in Cincinnati and Washington, the next two stops on Baker's managerial odyssey. More playoff appearances that came up short, often in what seemed the cruelest possible ways.

Baker's career appeared over when the Nationals let him go after another postseason meltdown in the 2017 NL Division Series against the Cubs, of all teams.

Then, in a scenario no one could've seen coming, Baker got one more chance with the Astros, whose sign-stealing scandal forced them to clean house.

He was handed a dazzling squad that had

become the most hated in baseball. In perhaps his greatest feat as a manager, Baker calmed the vitriol — yes, it's actually OK to cheer for the Astros again — while maintaining Houston's place near the top of the MLB hierarchy.

They reached the ALCS in his first season, the World Series in his second. Now, Houston is the clear-cut favorite to win it all, holding a 2-0 lead on the Yankees while the fifth- and sixth-best teams in the NL battle it out for the other spot in the Series.

But there we go, getting ahead of ourselves again.

Baker will have none of it.

"Victories drive me," is about as much as he'll allow. "So if I can enjoy every day like I have the last (five) games" — the Astros are 5-0 in the postseason — "I'll be a very happy man."

AP Sports Writer Kristie Rieken in Houston contributed to this report.

NASCAR hot topic shifts to retaliation as playoffs roar on

By Jenna Fryer
AP Auto Racing Writer

The focus in NASCAR has yet to shift to the actual playoff racing as only three events remain to crown a new Cup champion.

But as the series heads to Homestead-Miami Speedway, the conversation over safety concerns has shifted to retaliation and what is over the line. Bubba Wallace has been

suspended for Sunday's race for intentionally wrecking reigning Cup champion Kyle Larson last week in a dangerous act of retaliation that NASCAR and most of Wallace's competitors found over the line.

Retaliation has been an ongoing issue across all three of NASCAR's national series this season with drivers either seeking payback on the

track or after in physical confrontations. Wallace shoved Larson several times after their crash.

The Wallace incident collected fellow Toyota driver Christopher Bell, who is eligible for the championship and dropped to last in the eight-driver playoff field after he crashed at Las Vegas last Sunday. Wallace had to apologize to Bell and the entire Toyota group of teams and drivers, and the incident now follows NASCAR into the middle race of the third round of the playoffs.

"I definitely think that the penalties need to be severe," said Chase Briscoe of Stewart-Haas Racing. "I feel like over the last couple years, it kind of got out of hand a little bit just because I think guys have felt comfortable to do certain things and know there are probably not going to be major repercussions."

"I think (NASCAR is) trying to get the ball back in their court to where they have a little more control probably. Which I think is probably needed. Look at how we race at the end of these road course races, there's just no respect a lot of times, things like that."

Briscoe raced his way into the round of eight



Bubba Wallace gets out of his car after crashing during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022, in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY JOHN LOCHER | AP PHOTO

two races ago on the final lap on the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte with a frantic last-gasp drive that eliminated Larson from the playoffs by two points. But NASCAR has alleged that Briscoe's SHR teammate Cole Custer deliberately held up traffic to help Briscoe gain positions, and SHR's appeal of its \$200,000 in fines and indefinite suspension of Custer's crew chief will be heard next week.

Briscoe is not alone in believing NASCAR had to act on the Wallace incident. Veteran Kevin Harvick posted on social media that the sanction-

ing body needs to "protect us from ourselves." Harvick admitted he's been in his share of retaliatory incidents.

Harvick indicated NASCAR needs tough leadership to get the drivers back in line.

"I've been guilty of several of these instances you see happening but I also had an iron fist of (NASCAR vice chairman) Mike Helton waiting for me after I'd acted like a fool," Harvick wrote. "I believe an iron fist is needed going forward and that will trickle down."

BELL DISAPPOINTMENT

Bell was the most

consistent driver in the first round of the playoffs, but faltered in the second round to be pushed into a must-win situation at Charlotte to advance into the round of eight.

Now he's last in the standings because he crashed in the brawl between Wallace and Larson, and the Joe Gibbs Racing driver is feeling rather down about his chances to make it to the championship finale. Only four drivers will race for the Cup title at Phoenix in next month's season finale, and Joey Logano last week grabbed the first spot.

See ROAR | 15A

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Roar

From Page 14A

"It's definitely been the highest of highs and the lowest of lows pretty back-to-back-to-back," Bell admitted. "But with that being said, I feel like I've always done a really good job throughout my career of managing my emotions whenever it comes time to perform at the level that I have to perform at."

Bell had said he was deflated before winning at Charlotte and thought the victory gave him fresh momentum to make a run at the title. Now he knows he's a longshot to make

the championship four, as he's below the cutline with William Byron, Chase Briscoe and Ryan Blaney.

"Just sad and disappointed because we had it in the grasp of our hands, or at least we had a good finish at Vegas well within reach," he said. "We did everything that we needed to do to put ourselves in position to go race for a championship in Phoenix and that's gone now. It's going to be very, very difficult to get there."

"I feel more optimistic now that time has passed, and I feel good about Homestead and competing for a win at Homestead. But I was definitely very sad. Very, very sad."

Joe Gibbs Racing,

meanwhile, recently signed the 27-year-old to a multi-year contract extension.

ODDS AND ENDS

NASCAR is expected to hold a third consecutive safety briefing with drivers on Saturday at Homestead. The briefings began at Charlotte two weeks ago to address safety concerns surrounding the new Next Gen car. Alex Bowman and Kurt Busch are both sidelined with concussions. ... Tyler Reddick, who has already been eliminated from the playoff field, is the FanDuel favorite to win Sunday. ... Rivals believe Denny Hamlin should be a strong contender based on an open test held at Homestead last month.

Area

From Page 11A

Smith-Cotton also got a second-place finish out of Dominic Seltzer in the 500-yard freestyle. Teammate Dawson Rettke took third behind him.

Findlay Hume was third in both the 100 and 200-yard freestyle. He was part of the 200-yard free relay team, along with Jakobe Linn, Rettke and Adam Rowe, that picked up bronze medals also. S-C's 200-yard medley relay team of Pilliard, Seltzer, Julius Washington and Aiden Scholl also took third.

The team hosts another meet next week with the West Central Classic on Oct. 27 as the end of the regular season nears.

"We really want to get our 400 relay team qualified for state," said Ryan in regards to goals for the WCC meet. "Then we can take our entire team with alternates and everything and make it a team affair going to state. It'll be a good motivator for our underclassmen to get them back to state as well."

Volleyball postseason begins

Smith-Cotton volleyball's season met its end following a sweep Thursday night in districts by Hickman, 25-16, 25-19, 25-19.

S-C led 8-5 early in the opening set before falling behind to drop it, and the Lady Tigers also came out strong in the second prior to a Kewpies' run. With the defeat, they finish the year with a record of 7-16-3.

In Adrian at the Class 2 District 13 tourney, No. 3 Holden beat sixth-seeded Windsor in straight sets, 25-15, 25-8, 25-12. Alexis

Millington was the kills leader for the Greyhounds, who wrap with a record of 5-24.

La Monte finished the year with a mark of 2-22-1 after being swept in a Class 1 District 14 quarterfinal by Santa Fe. The Lady Chiefs' semifinal opponent Monday will be Northwest, who took down Kingsville in three sets as well Thursday.

At Osceola, Green Ridge will battle the hosts Monday in a 2-3 matchup. The Lady Tigers faced Lincoln Thursday and walked away winners, 25-17, 25-14, 25-12.

Oterville defeated Chamois in the Class 1 District 5 quarterfinals and advanced to meet host Sacred Heart Friday night. The Gremlins' district will be decided Saturday night at 6 p.m. New Haven and Columbia Independent are the other semifinalists on the other side of that bracket.

SFCC soccer teams enter Region 16 playoffs

The Roadrunners men's soccer team travels Saturday to Union to face East Central College in a Region 16 quarterfinal that will serve as a rematch from an exciting match several weekends ago in Sedalia.

SFCC hosted ECC on Oct. 28 and the two teams played with the score tied 1-1 for 80 minutes until Bruno Saucedo assisted German forward Kilian Jung in the 102nd minute for a celebrated winner. Kenzo Florio also scored for State Fair in that game, while goalkeepers Wesley Morrison and AJ Young combined for 10 saves to extend the affair.

The Lady Roadrunners begin Region 16 playoff action following a 12-day

layoff and will host St. Louis Community College on Sunday. SFCC took care of business in the way of a 4-0 victory over the Archers on Sept. 17. All the goals came in the second half of that previous meeting, including a pair by Sabra Moon.

Roadrunners golf hosts 36-hole tourney

SFCC men's golf hosted the Roadrunner Invitational on Oct. 17-18 at Sedalia Country Club, the first full-field event hosted in program history.

Battling difficult conditions similar to high school golfers at the state tournament on Monday, SFCC head coach Wayne Ogle felt the team played well considering. The Roadrunners shot 315 as a team that day, then 327 on Tuesday. Freshman Jackson Kempton led the hosts with a combined 115 to take 19th place, followed by Kaden Killingsworth (161, 29th place) and Korbin Kisner (163, 32nd place). Sophomore Matthew Potter, competing as an individual, shot a 163 to tie for 32nd place.

Speaking on the positives of the event itself, Ogle said, "Hosting an event will bring more publicity to our program. I think it also shows the demand for tournaments right now. There are so many colleges and universities in the area looking for places to play without traveling six or eight hours. We have a fantastic golf course here at the Sedalia Country Club that they enjoy playing. It is convenient for schools in the state of Missouri, especially our Region 16 schools. It is also a good opportunity for our players to compete with players from four-year universities and test their game."

Hire

From Page 11A

Fourth-year Rangers manager Chris Woodward was fired Aug. 15, two days before president of baseball operations Jon Daniels was also let go. Texas went on to finish 68-94, eight wins more than 2021 but what Young said after the season "was about half of our internal expectations." They lost 35 one-run games, a franchise record.

Texas was 17-31 under interim manager Tony Beasley, the longtime Rangers third base coach who was once Young's manager in the minor leagues. Several young players got extended looks during that span, and the GM said in August that Beasley wouldn't be judged solely on win-loss record. Beasley was interviewed for the job two days after the season

ended.

When speaking after the season, Young had declined to comment when asked specifically if the managerial search could proceed without knowing whether Bochy had interest in the job. But he acknowledged then how much he loved playing for Bochy and expressed his respect for the man he considers one of the most successful and respected managers in the major leagues.

"With a calm and steady presence, he has a remarkable ability to connect and communicate with players, coaches, and staff, and his teams have always played with maximum effort," Young said Friday. "His knowledge of the game, as well as his integrity is unmatched."

Texas last offseason committed a half-billion dollars to free-agent shortstop Corey Seager (\$325 million, 10 years) and second baseman Marcus Semien (\$175

million, seven years), and also signed right-hander Jon Gray (\$56 million, four years) to be their No. 1 starter. Left-hander Martin Perez was an All-Star after returning on a one-year deal before spring training.

While there were never any expectations that the Rangers would go from 102 losses in 2021 immediately to a title contender after that big spending spree, they never had a winning record at any point this season and peaked at 24-24 at the end of May. The six consecutive losing seasons are the most in the half-century since the franchise moved to Texas in 1972.

Davis has indicated the team is ready to add to its starting rotation, and potentially sign a middle-of-the-lineup bat.

"I don't plan on spending as much money as we did last offseason," he has said. "But we plan on spending some money."

Trade

From Page 11A

We owe it to them. That's our expectation to go out and win every game."

But how does Fitterer tell players they're expected to win when he's just traded away the team's undisputed star?

"That's the tough part," Fitterer said.

Said interim coach Steve Wilks: "There's no such thing as tanking when it comes to myself or the men in that locker room."

Injured quarterback Sam Darnold was bummed when he learned of the trade Friday morning, but doesn't think management is tanking, saying "we're worried about going out there and winning football games. We're not worried about any of the narratives going on outside of the locker room."

Owner David Tepper spoke last week about the delicate balance between establishing a winning culture and finding a franchise quarterback in the draft to build around.

"You have to try to win, all of the time," Tepper said on Oct. 10 after firing coach Matt Rhule. "You have to try to win for the players. You have to try to win for the fans. And, yes, I understand what it is about draft picks and getting quarterbacks and stuff like that, and I understand the importance of quarterbacks in this league. But you have to try to win always."

Former NFL general

manager and analyst Bill Polian doesn't think the Panthers are tanking, and he liked how Panthers pit two organizations — the 49ers and Los Angeles Rams — against each other to drive up McCaffrey's asking price.

The Buffalo Bills were also involved in talks early on.

In the end, the Panthers got picks in the second, third and fourth rounds next year and a fifth-round pick in 2024 for McCaffrey, a 2019 All-Pro who is fourth in the league in yards from scrimmage this season. And while Fitterer didn't get the first-round pick he wanted, the move did take McCaffrey's scheduled salary cap hits of \$19,550,750 in 2023 and 2024 and \$15,450,750 in 2025 off the books.

"They picked up a nice group of picks for him, so that's a pretty good return on a running back who is obviously a great player but who has had some nicks here and there over the last couple of years," Polian said. "From their perspective it is a good return."

But looking ahead to next season, the problem remains finding a quarterback.

The Panthers haven't been able to get consistent production at the game's most important position for quite a while. They signed Teddy Bridgewater, traded for Darnold and Baker Mayfield and even brought back Cam Newton for a second stint.

Still, they find themselves starting undrafted

P.J. Walker — who entered training camp fourth on the depth chart — on Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

If the season ended today, the Panthers would have the top pick in the 2023 draft and a strong quarterback class to choose from, led by Kentucky's Will Levis, Ohio State's C.J. Stroud and Alabama's Bryce Young.

Polian advised the Panthers to do plenty of research.

"I'd go slow on those guys," Polian said of next year's QB class. "Sam Darnold and Baker Mayfield are living proof of why you should. They were anointed (before the draft). I have never believed in anointing anyone."

The big question now is whether the Panthers will continue to rebuild — or tank — by unloading core players like defensive end Brian Burns, wide receiver D.J. Moore and defensive tackle Derrick Brown. The 24-year-old Burns is likely to command multiple first-round picks if the team decides to move him.

Fitterer said that while "philosophically, we will always listen," it would take an "astronomical" offer to part with a core player.

"We like the young core of our team," he said. "We're building. This isn't a situation where we're trying to sell. We're trying to add players to this really good mix. These are guys we win with moving forward."

Time will tell if that holds true — the NFL trade deadline is Nov. 1.

SEC

From Page 11A

"Need a lot of production out of the new faces," Oats said this week.

FRESHMAN PHENOM

Kentucky landed top-15 prospects Chris Livingston and Caeson Wallace, five-star forward Julian Phillips chose Tennessee, McDonald's All-American Brandon Miller signed with Alabama and GG Jackson reclassified to the class of 2022 and ended up at South Carolina. But of all the

talented freshmen in the SEC this season, consensus top-five prospect and potential one-and-done guard Nick Smith Jr. will turn the most heads this season for Arkansas.

"He is used to playing with expectations throughout his high school career," Razorbacks coach Eric Musselman said.

BUILDING A BUZZ

Along with Florida, Texas A&M also received votes in the preseason AP poll after Buzz Williams broke through in Year 3 with an appearance in the SEC title game. Tyrece Radford and Henry Coleman are

back to make another run at it.

GAMES TO WATCH

Kentucky's nonconference schedule is a gauntlet: Michigan State in Indianapolis, at No. 2 Gonzaga, Michigan in London, No. 8 UCLA in New York and visits from Louisville and fifth-ranked Kansas to Rupp Arena.

Other marquee nonconference games include Arkansas heading to No. 5 Baylor; Alabama playing Gonzaga and visiting No. 3 Houston; and Tennessee heading to No. 17 Arizona before playing No. 12 Texas.

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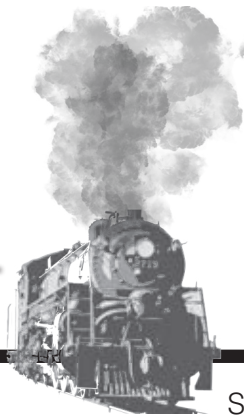
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Proposed library rule unnecessary, damaging

As book challenges continue to rise in America, seeing a decades-long high last year, according to the American Library Association, Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has also decided to turn his focus to libraries.



Nicole Cooke
Democrat Editor

According to the Associated Press, Ashcroft wants to block public funding for library books that might appeal to the “prurient,” or sexual, interests of minors. However, he did not include any definitions or examples of which specific books would be restricted. One would think that librarians and parents are already using common sense when it comes to youth reading material, but banned books and Ashcroft’s proposed rule point to the contrary. “When state dollars are involved, we want to bring back local control and parental involvement in determining what children are exposed to,” Ashcroft said in a statement. “Foremost, we want to protect our children.”

Again, I feel common sense would tell us that enacting a state administrative rule, which would have the same effect as a law if enacted, tends to be the opposite of local control, and that parents typically are involved in what their children are exposed to. AP further states that the proposal would require state-funded libraries to adopt policies on the age-appropriateness of literature, which the AP points out is already common at both school and public libraries in the state, and anyone could challenge access to books. Libraries in violation would risk losing state funding.

According to AP, Ashcroft’s administrative rule proposal will be open for public comment from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15. Then, within an additional 90 days, his office must choose to rewrite the rule, submit it as is, or rescind it. On top of all that, the Missouri Legislature passed a law this year that makes it a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail for educators to give K-12 students books with sexually explicit visual depictions. There are exceptions for anatomy, biology, art or other educational images, and it doesn’t ban written descriptions.

I think you’d be hard-pressed to find a school or public librarian who is determined to indoctrinate — every conspiracy theorist’s favorite word — children through the books they recommend. Truthfully, it’s been a long time since I’ve been a regular visitor at the library, but I have fond memories of my grandma taking my sister and me to the library. She was an avid reader, eager to share that passion with us whenever she had the chance.

And I can tell you she was careful about the selections she helped us choose. She’d frequently employ the librarian’s knowledge to ask about the latest popular children’s or young adult books we might enjoy. She’d save newspaper clippings with reviews of new releases she wanted us to try, or she wanted to read herself. My grandma and that librarian weren’t handing me the latest murder mystery or adult romance novel when I was 12. Instead, they were helping me find age-appropriate mystery books, the next installment of a popular series I needed to catch up on, or a new-to-me author the librarian said I just had to check out.

Continued on Page 6B

Skeletons, ghosts, and ghouls rule
Sedalia decorates for Halloween



A giant ghoulish figure keeps watch as a drove of scary skeletons “climb” into a residence in the 600 block of West Broadway Boulevard. As Halloween draws near, Sedalians are going all-out to decorate for the holiday.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



A Halloween graveyard comes “alive” as skeletons and zombies “rise” from the ground below at this home in the 1600 block of West 16th Street. The home also features a giant black spider on the roof of the front porch that looks ready to pounce on Halloween visitors.



A happy scarecrow decorates the lawn of Washington Elementary School this Halloween season. The school competed in the Sedalia Parks and Recreation Scarecrow Contest and had four scarecrows in the front yard.



The macabre is in full swing at a home in the 1700 block of West Third Street, where one will find an assortment of ghastly ghouls, ghosts, witches, graveyards, and creepy doll heads.

See HALLOWEEN | 6B

BIRTHDAYS

Klein
Karl Klein observed his 80th birthday Oct. 21. He was born Oct. 21, 1942, in Springfield. Before retiring, Karl worked in construction and his hobbies include playing golf and going to the casino. He has two children, Debbie Grooman, of Michigan, and Stormy Allen, of Sedalia. Birthday cards may be sent to Karl at the Sylvia G. Thompson Resident Center, 3333 W. 10th St., Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Gruhn
Karen Gruhn will observe her 77th birthday Oct. 22. She was born Oct. 22, 1945, in Sedalia. Karen is married to Michael Gruhn, of Lincoln. Before retiring, she was an Iowa State police officer and was on the governor's security detail. Her hobbies include

crafts and entering paintings at the fair. She is an animal lover and loves politics and charity work. Karen has two children, Gina Hurley, of New Jersey, and Michael Todd, of Lincoln. Birthday cards may be sent to Karen at the Sylvia G. Thompson Resident Center, 3333 W. 10th St., Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Simmons
Elsie Simmons will observe her 97th birthday Oct. 23. She was born Oct. 23, 1925, in Sedalia. Elsie was a homemaker and her hobbies include gardening. She has five children, Darlene, Sharon, Diana, Carol and Joyce. Birthday cards may be sent to Elsie at the Sylvia G. Thompson Resident Center, 3333 W. 10th St., Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

BRL2GO SCHEDULE

Boonslick Regional Library Monday	9:30 a.m.: Boonville, Hartmann Village.
9 a.m.: Cole Camp R-I School.	9:40 a.m.: Riverdale Care Center.
9:15 to 11:45 a.m.: Cole Camp City Park.	9:45 a.m. to noon: Boonville. Walmart.
Noon: Cole Camp Senior Center.	1:30 to 4 p.m.: Lone Elm.
1:30 p.m.: Lincoln Community Care.	Friday
1:45 to 3:45 p.m.: Lincoln City Park.	9 to 11:45 a.m.: Brook- ing Park Village.
Wednesday	1:15 to 4 p.m.: Otterville.

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library Fiction	“Suspect,” by Scott Turow.
“The Winners,” by Fredrik Backman.	Nonfiction
“Treasure State: A Cassie Dewell Novel,” by C.J. Box.	“The Year of the Puppy: How Dogs Become Themselves,” by Alexandra Horowitz.
“The Rising Tide,” by Ann Cleeves.	“And There was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle,” by Jon Meacham.
“Oath of Loyalty,” by Vince Flynn.	“Black Women Will Save the World: An Anthem,” by April Ryan.
“Robert B. Parker’s Fallout,” by Mike Lupica.	“Black Snow: Curtis Lemay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Road to the Atomic Bomb,” by James M. Scott.
“A Song of Comfortable Chairs,” by Alexander McCall Smith.	“Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self,” by Andrea Wulf.
“The Ways We Hide,” by Kristina McMorris.	
“A Truth to Lie For,” by Anne Perry.	
“Lucy by the Sea,” by Elizabeth Strout.	

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library Fiction	ness,” by Terry Brooks.
“Santa’s Little Yelpers,” by David Rosenfelt.	“The Furies,” by John Connolly.
“The Christmas Spirit,” by Debbie Macomber.	“The Boys from Biloxi,” by John Grisham.
“The Butcher and the Wren,” by Alaina Urquhart.	Nonfiction
“A Heart Full of Headstones,” by Ian Rankin.	“The United States of Cryptids,” by J.W. Ocker.
“The Last Chairlift,” by John Irving.	“The Last Folk Hero: The Life & Myth of Bo Jackson,” by Jeff Pearlman.
“Daughter of Dark-	New Movies
	“Bullet Train.”

ALCORN BIRTHDAY



Clayton and Lynda Alcorn are celebrating their 80th birthday on Nov. 5. Join them in celebrating from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Fox Theater Event Center in Sedalia.

CLUB NOTES

Daughters of Isabella
The Oct. 10 meeting of the Daughters of Isabella was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Chancellor Shirley Harms led the rosary before the opening. Regent Theresa Rider called the meeting to order, after which the members read the Opening Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Charter was draped honoring member Lyra Rupprecht who recently passed away. The members then prayed for Lyra. Chancellor Shirley Harms gave a lesson about the Beatitudes. September’s minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Joyce Grinstead gave the treasurer’s report. A thank you was received from Birthright for the baby shower donations, as well as a thank you from Father Tom Brenberger. A flyer was read from the Ivory Grille advertising their availability for a Christmas dinner. Theresa Rider read passages from the state Daughters of Isabelle newsletter. The 2023 state convention will be held at St. Patrick’s Parish in St. Patrick, where the new state officers will be elected. Jean Gallagher sent notices to the St. Vincent de Paul parish newsletter and to the Sedalia Democrat. Jean Gallagher presented the group with a check from the two-day fundraising motor coach trip members took to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to see the Passion Play, enjoy various sight-seeing stops and attend St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Berryville, where Fr. Joe Coral, who accompanied the group, celebrated Mass. Another Catholic trip has been scheduled and planned by Jean for Nov. 18-19 to Our Lady of the Sows in Belleville, Illinois. Included will be a narrated tour of the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, the Cathedral of St. Peters’, historic sites in Belleville and a drive through

The Way of Lights. The second day will include Mass and a narrated tour of the Sisters of Notre Dame, which is Sister Mary Ruth Wand’s motherhouse. Three meals and overnight at the Our Lady of the Snows hotel are also included, plus the motor coach transportation and the professional driver. The cost of this trip is \$287 per person (single occupancy) and \$248 per person (double occupancy). All are welcome to come on this special Christmas trip. Reservations are due by Nov. 1. Checks can be dropped off at the rectory or mailed to Jean Gallagher, P.O. Box 1756, Sedalia, MO 65302. Linda Hoffman suggested partnering with Usborne Books to sell greeting cards. The decorative boxes are each filled with 30 beautiful cards and sell for \$30. Check with D of I members or Linda Hoffman to make a purchase. It was moved and seconded that money made from this project will go to the Cops for Kids program. Katy Hodges reported that she had mailed several cards. St. John Chapel in Bahner will host a Soup and Chili Feast and Bake Sale for Sacred Heart School on from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. The cost is a free-will donation. The church ladies will also have cinnamon rolls, breads, cakes, pies and cookies for sale. Everyone is urged to stock up their freezers. The membership prayer was recited. Our Daughters of Isabella birthday party will be at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Knights Hall. Fried chicken will be purchased and members are asked to bring a side dish. Susan Sanderson’s committee will provide desserts. Spouses are invited. Donations will be collected for those members who are in nursing homes. There will be an event for the youth on

Oct. 29 at St. John’s Chapel after Mass. The youth prayer was recited. The recently held Life Chain had seven other churches take part along U.S. Highway 50, south U.S. Highway 65, East Broadway Boulevard and in Cole Camp. Bonnie Diefendorf spoke about voting with a clear conscience and comparing both Republican and Democrat platform issues. She suggested members go online and read missourilife.org. The next Community Cafe will be on Nov. 1. Mary Jo Ballenger will be sending out an email reminding members and asking for donations of food. The members were reminded that the Memorial Mass and Appreciation Dinner will be held in November. The Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors were reminded to come early to meet before the November meeting. Those who are planning the Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Patrick’s Chapel are asking for cookies and workers. Check the church bulletin or call the rectory. St. Vincent de Paul will have an Epiphany Party on Jan. 8. Members are asked to bring a wrapped \$1 or \$2 gift for a boy or girl. Put a note on the package stating if it is for a boy or a girl and the appropriate age. (Example: Age 3 boy). These gifts are to be brought to the Nov. 14 regular meeting. The Wise Men costumes need to be located. The committee consists of Theresa Rider, Linda Hoffman, Annette Owens, Susan Sanderson, Glenita Knapp and Lu Canon. Joyce Grinstead reported that the mortuary fund for Lyra Rupprecht needs to be paid. Joyce Wiltz moved that the bill be paid. It was seconded by Marge Watson and passed. The obligation was said, followed by the closing prayer. The flag was retired. The refreshment committee was Susan Sanderson (chair), Shirley Harms, Mary Bahner, Lu Canon, Amy Carr and Glenita Knapp. November’s refreshment committee is Loretta Kendrick (chair), Pauline Mattingly, Tina Mattingly, Theresa Rider, Glenda Wagner and Marge Watson. **Bothwell Health Center Auxiliary Board** The Bothwell Health Center Auxiliary Board met on Oct. 12 in the Hospital Board Room with nine members present. President Karen Kay Taylor called the meeting to order. The September Board Minutes were read and approved. Virginia McAllister, treasurer, read the Treasurer’s Report for September and it was approved. The total volunteer hours worked for September were 1,386 hours. The following auxiliary members received their new volunteer hour pins in September: Wilma Baslee, 300-hour pin; Dale Bersano, 700-hour pin; Karen Cairer, 500-hour pin; Susan Newsom 200-hour pin; Linda Reed, 400-hour pin; and Gerald Wolf 600-hour pin. The Amazing Volunteer for October is Kay Butler. Butler started volunteering in 2011. She volunteers in the Cancer Center and has volunteered almost 1,300 hours. On Nov. 13, the Auxiliary will start selling Christmas items in the gift shop. Dates to Remember: Oct. 21, scrub sale; Nov. 9, November Auxiliary Board Meeting; Nov. 17, Book Fair Mike Sale. Do not forget to get a flu shot. The hospital visiting hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The gift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. If interested in learning more about becoming an Auxiliary Volunteer, call Sara at 660-827-0343. (Greg) Mertes, of Kansas City, and Greg Nosovitch (Karen), of Jefferson City; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Please send cards in care of her daughter’s address at 2506 W. 11th St., Sedalia, Mo. 65301, so all may then be delivered to Mrs. Wallenburn on her birthday.

WALLENBURN BIRTHDAY

Mary Ann Wallenburn, of Otterville, will celebrate her 100th birthday on Oct. 29. She was born Oct. 29, 1922, in San Antonio, Texas. Mary was married to the late CSM (Ret.) L.H. Harry Wallenburn. She attended Southwest Texas Teachers College, now called Texas State University. Mary began working for the U.S. Army when the United States entered WWII. She became Gen. Jonathan Wainwright’s secretary when he was Commanding Officer at Ft. Sam Army Post in San Antonio, Texas, following the war. She became a very busy “stay at home” mom until her two youngest children were in high school. She then worked at the Tipton Correctional Center until her retirement. She has been a member of Saint Andrews Catholic Church in Tipton since she moved to Missouri in December 1968. Her volunteer work through the years included being a 4-H and Cub Scout leader, school assistant, church altar society member and Sunday school teacher. She held many offices in the American Legion Auxiliary, including unit president, food bank organizer and volunteer, and political activist. With her late husband, she conducted bike-a-thons for St. Jude Children’s Hospital and community blood drives for more than 20 consecutive years. Mary is Roman Catholic and served as the Republican precinct judge alongside her late Southern Baptist husband, who was the Democratic precinct judge in their



rural polling place. They were happily married for almost 49 years before he passed away. Mary has six children, David (Joann) Wallenburn, of Seeley Lake, Montana, Teresa Wallenburn Callahan, of Sedalia, Elizabeth (Sam) Frazier, of Parkville, Tina Wallenburn Pacht, of Vinita, Oklahoma, Jenny

Community Calendar

OCTOBER

Editor’s note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some meetings may be canceled or postponed. Please call the organization for information on cancellations.

To have your event or meeting listed or changed, send details to fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com or call 660-826-1000 ext. 1481.

SUNDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 E. Pettis St.

Noon and 7 p.m.: Alcoholics Anonymous 12x12 Non-smoking group, Sunday through Saturday; at 417 W. Pettis St., sedalia12x-12aa@gmail.com.

10:30 a.m.: Missionary Vivian Crowley, director of the Missouri Deaf Youth Camp, will speak at Broadway Baptist Church, 2119 E. Broadway Blvd.

1:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

6 p.m.: Pettis County Democratic Club at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

MONDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

10 a.m.: Show-Me Mad Tatters, University

Extension Office Conference Room, 1012A Thompson Blvd.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Rotary Club, Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.

1:45 p.m.: TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 0102 Sedalia meets at the Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., in the lower level meeting room. All are welcome to attend. The first meeting is always free. Call 660-525-4142.

6 p.m.: DeFeet.org has a general meeting open to the public at First Christian Church, located at 200 S. Limit Ave., in Sedalia (across from the new community center on Hwy 65). For more information, contact info@defeet.org, visit www.defeet.org, or message via our Facebook page.

6 p.m.: Smithton Senior Citizens Group Pitch and Pool, Smithton Senior Center on Washington Street.

6:30 p.m.: Bingo at VFW Post 2591, 121 S. Ohio Ave. Bonanza blackout starts at 6 p.m.

6:30 p.m.: Mid-Missouri Photo Club for all photo enthusiasts, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Cole Camp.

6:30 p.m.: Show Me Sound, Sweet Adelines International, are meeting in-person rehears-

als at Wesley United Methodist Church basement, 1322 West Broadway Blvd. All women who like to sing are welcome. For more information, call 660-851-2205.

7 p.m.: Father Tony Kraff Assembly of Knights of Columbus, Knights Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Chorale Rehearsal, rehearsal room 67 in the Stauffacher Center at State Fair Community College.

7 p.m.: Understanding and Enjoying the Bible; Learn to Apply the Truth of God’s Word to the Circumstances and Situations of Life, 120 E. Sixth St., 660-619-6167.

7 p.m.: West Central Missouri Genealogical Society, Culp Building at the Johnson County Historical Society on Main Street, in Warrensburg.

TUESDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

8 a.m.: Central MO Business Builders (BNI), at Heckart Family Center, 903 S. Ohio Ave.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Flat Creek Family and Community Club, for luncheon. Call 660-827-0591 for location information.

Noon: Sedalia Optimist Club, in Room C at the Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.:

Birthright Pregnancy Center, 1810 W. 11th St., Tuesday through Friday; and other hours by appointment. The office number is 660-826-9060.

6 p.m.: NarAnon meetings at LifePointe Church, 2921 W. Broadway Blvd.

6 p.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Track Tuesdays every Tuesday at Smith-Cotton Track.

7 p.m.: Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a 12-step fellowship of men and women at the First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St.; for more information, call Barbara at 660-827-6522.

7 p.m.: Mozarkite Society of Lincoln Inc., Rock, Gem and Mineral Club, First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave. Use the southeast entrance; visitors are welcome.

7 p.m.: OIC Studios will present the SpoFest writing prompt/open mic event streaming live via Zoom, Facebook and OIC Radio. Signup and event guidelines at www.oicstudios.com/spofest-online.

7 p.m.: Women of the Moose, at the lodge, 119 Winchester Dr.

7:30 p.m.: Sedalia Chapter 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Temple, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

WEDNESDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

10 a.m.: TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Chapter 958, First Baptist Church, 200 E. Sixth St. First visit is free; 816-916-6237.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Lions Club, Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

1 p.m.: Helen G. Steele Music Club meets with a program on second and fourth Wednesdays at the Heard Memorial Club House, 200 W Broadway. Visitors are always welcome. Sorosis.The-HeardHouse@gmail.com.

4 to 7 p.m.: Knights of Columbus Family Night Buffet, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd. On the menu is fried fish, fried chicken, meatloaf, beef stir-fry (and more), several side dishes, dessert and tea, coffee, water or lemonade. The cost is \$11 for adults, \$5 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.

5:30 p.m.: Amigos de Cristo, Teen Mom Classes at 3003 W. 11th St., 660-826-2788.

THURSDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Kiwanis of Sedalia, at Lamy’s, 108 Pacific St.

1 p.m.: Sedalia Duplicate Bridge Club at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

6 p.m.: Women in Crisis Group, call 660-

827-5555 for location.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Civil Air Patrol building, U.S. Highway 50.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Landlords Inc., Community of Christ Church, 2000 S. Ingram Ave.

7 p.m.: Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 4286, Lincoln.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Bible Academy, Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., Sedalia. For more information, call 660-826-9988. It is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Pettis County Pachyderms, Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.

3 to 6 p.m.: Sedalia Area Farmers’ Market, in Nucor Pavilion on Missouri State Fairgrounds by Centennial Gate along South Limit Avenue.

SATURDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.

7 a.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Group Run every Saturday at Clarendon and Katy Trail.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

2 p.m.: Warsaw Cruisers 2 p.m., Cow Pattie’s Restaurant, 604 W. Main St.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization that delivers meals to seniors, the homebound and handicapped citizens of Sedalia. The food is prepared by Superior Vendall and is delivered by volunteers. Meals cost \$4. For more information on receiving

meals or becoming a volunteer, call 660-826-5039.

Meals will be delivered by First United Methodist Church.

Monday: Cheeseburger, baked beans, macaroni salad, cookie and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti, salad, corn,

breadsticks, brownie and milk.

Wednesday: Stuffed pepper casserole, broccoli, tropical fruit and milk.

Thursday: Beef and noodles, green beans, pudding and milk.

Friday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and cake.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Pettis County Recorder of Deeds Barbara Clevenger recently issued marriage licenses to:

Carl Richard Tolliver, 75, and Leonda Lynette Williams, 59, both of Sedalia;

Jordan Michael Hockaday, 24, and Mackenzie Brianna

Tapscott, 24, both of Sedalia;

Paul Anthony Rangere, 38, and Sara Savanna Stockwell, 32, both of Sedalia;

Domenico Angelo Cancilla, 31, and Alexis Cheyenne Smith, 28, both of Sedalia;

Kayla Marie Jarema, 24, and Robert Mi-

chael Martin, 23, both of Sedalia;

Katalyn Brandi Utterback, 31, and Ronald Eugene Breshears, 41, both of Sedalia;

Larry Gordon Spencer, 70, and Linda Claudette Davenport, 68, both of Sedalia

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEF

Stephen Curry launches graphic novel series on sports stars

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Curry’s latest move is one for the books.

The NBA superstar is launching a graphic novel series, “Stephen Curry Presents!: Sports Superheroes,” in partnership with Penguin Workshop.

The first of four planned installments will focus on Curry’s career and is scheduled for fall 2024.

The series will be created through the publishing arm of Unanimous Media, the company founded by Curry and Erick Peyton. Last month, Penguin released Curry’s picture book “I Have a Superpower.”

“We hope that when kids pick up the books in this series to read all about their favorite

athletes, it not only instills excitement and grows their love for reading, but also inspires them to reach for the stars and accomplish their dreams,” Curry and Peyton said in a statement released Friday by Penguin Workshop, a Penguin Random House division.

The new series will be written by Rich Korson and Josh Bycel, with illustrations by Darnion Scott.



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McDonagh, Farrell, Gleeson get 'Bruges' band back together

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Time be flyin'," it's said in Martin McDonagh's "The Banshees of Inisherin." It's a sentiment shared by McDonagh and his two stars, Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, who have reteamed 14 years after McDonagh's pitch-black feature debut, "In Bruges."

"It feels like not two days of passing," McDonagh said, shaking his head, on a recent fall day in New York while Farrell and Gleeson, sitting beside him, eagerly agree. "It feels like we just went back in the room and said, 'It's going to be a good one, isn't it?'" says Gleeson. The 2008 "In Bruges," which began the celebrated British-Irish playwright's transition from stage to screen, was a memorable dark comedy of two hitmen holed up in the medieval Belgian city. For Farrell's character, who has just accidentally shot a boy on his first job, Bruges is a purgatory. "The Banshees of Inisherin" is likewise set in a specific locale: the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland. And a sense of existential doom is again palpable. But the feud this time requires no guns and the rural 1920s backdrop is even more picturesque. After years of friendship and regular trips to the pub together, Colm Doherty (Gleeson) has decided that he just doesn't like Pádraic Súilleabháin (Farrell) anymore. This confounds Pádraic, who persistently tries to reingratiate himself to Colm. Eventually, Colm decides to make his demand for peace gruesomely clear. "People go, 'You can't just make a film about a guy who doesn't want to be friends with another guy,'" says Farrell. "Well, that's how." "The Banshees of Inisherin," which opens in select theaters Friday before expanding nationwide, is a story of friends falling out made by a trio with abiding affection for one another. McDonagh wrote it with Gleeson and Farrell in mind.

He first sent the two actors a draft seven years ago. ("That was crap," says McDonagh. "I loved it," says Farrell.) He later returned to it, preserving only the first five pages and digging deeper into the pair's relationship. McDonagh, Gleeson and Farrell's pleasure in each other's company was easy to see when they convened at a hotel on the Upper West Side shortly after Gleeson's skateboard-shredding "Saturday Night Live" hosting stint. The three had just stepped away from individual interviews over Zoom. "Together again!" they exclaimed. "From the start, there was a deep sense of kinship and an understanding of each other," Farrell says. "In a strange way, I understand myself more through Martin and his mind and his heart and his work. And I understand myself more through my interactions with Brendan." "I think we all, basically, are romantics," adds Gleeson. "We're not blind, either. We know the other side of the coin." "In Bruges" was well-received at the time and launched McDonagh as a filmmaker. (Roger Ebert wrote: "Every once in a while you find a film like this, that seems to happen as it goes along, driven by the peculiarities of the characters.") But it also has only grown in stature over the years, and it remains a touchstone for all three. Farrell, who was then adjusting to the onset of fame, credits the film with reorienting his career. "It meant a lot to me. I had genuinely lost sight of the fun and exploration and the journey of discovery that what we do for a living can be and should be. I was just going through the motions. It was at a stage of my life where there was a lot of change personally, and as a result of that professionally," says Farrell. "The pilot light got ignited by 'In Bruges.'" "Banshees" preserves some of the "Bruges" dynamic between Farrell and Gleeson. Gleeson again plays the more erudite of the two. Farrell is sweeter,



Actor Colin Farrell, left, filmmaker Martin McDonagh, center, and actor Brendan Gleeson pose for a portrait to promote "The Banshees of Inisherin" on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, in New York. PHOTO BY PHOTO BY MATT LICARI | INVISION/AP

less intelligent. There are other connections, too. It's a throwaway line but Farrell begs Gleeson to go down to the pub in "In Bruges." Gleeson's response: "No." From the start, their banter together had a natural rhythm. "An instantaneous mainlining into headquarters," says Gleeson. "I think part of it is – Martin has the line – that we're an odd-looking couple," adds Farrell. "What people see here are two people that look like they're very different, sound like they're very different and maybe even feel very different, and yet somehow that's never articulated, we find out that they're not so different, at all." In "Banshees," Colm's abrupt plea for solitude stems from his being tired of "aimless chatting." Feeling time slipping away, he wants to devote himself to writing music. (The song he's writing is titled "The Banshees of Inisherin.") Their discord has symbolism; the Irish Civil War is raging on the mainland. But it most reflects the struggle of an

artist, perhaps a self-serious one, to balance work with the demands of social convention. "Aimless chatting," of course, is no small part of movie promotion – especially for a critically acclaimed film like "The Banshees of Inisherin" forecast to play a major role through awards season. McDonagh's previous film, the Oscar-winning "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," took that path, and, this time, Farrell's performance has already been especially singled out. The trio pledged that this chat, at least, wasn't aimless but, as Farrell said, "good, normal chatting." Still, it's clear that the conflict in "Banshees" is one McDonagh feels, himself. "Time slips away with irrelevant nonsense all the time," McDonagh says. "A long time ago I said: I have to write one thing a year. If it takes two weeks, the rest of the year is free for anything. But you have to stick to that." Reading, he grants, has gotten harder to make time for because of the Internet

and phones. "A curse!" chimes Farrell. But the pandemic and the yearslong process to bring his last play, "Hangmen," to Broadway, has led McDonagh to turn his focus entirely to films. "That I can't show you how good we got 'Lieutenant of Inishmore' 20 years ago is unfair," he says. "It's a question I haven't come to a concrete conclusion about. But there's also a lack of democracy about theater. It's too expensive and not enough people can see it. Unless you live in New York or London, you probably won't see my stuff. Whereas a movie, not only is it going to last 20 years, 100 years if it's a good one, you can get it anywhere. You can get it in Kansas City. You can get it in Ulaanbaatar. That's democratic." "Actually, I don't think we open in Kansas City," Farrell adds, grinning. But the 52-year-old McDonagh, like Gleeson's Colm, is increasingly — "always, daily," he says — focused on what he's going to leave behind, what work

of his might endure. "If there's, like, 25, 30 years left of one's life, I think maybe 20 good films," McDonagh says hopefully. "I'm not swearing off plays. I'm pretty sure I will do at least one or two more. But I think in the next bunch of years it's going to be films. I think COVID has solidified that idea. I can go back and watch 'In Bruges' now and be overjoyed at what we captured. That's why I'm leaning toward movies." With that kind of long-term plan, a trilogy for Farrell and Gleeson could be natural. Where next? Venice? Iceland? "I've got no idea what it will be when we get together again. But I think you're right, that I'll find a place, I'll see the town and that will tell us the story," says McDonagh, musing on the geographical possibilities. "Maybe it's the American West." "The Geezers of Reykjavík!" exclaims Farrell. "I'm in. I'm in. I'm in," says Gleeson, cackling. "Which geezer do I play?"

'Where the goodies are great': Sweets lovers welcome Diwali

By Katie Workman
Associated Press

Many preparations go into the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, which starts Monday. There's cleaning and decorating the house, buying new clothes, visiting friends and family — and of course preparing and sharing food. And although the foods

associated with Diwali vary from culture to culture, one central theme is snacks and sweets. The holiday honors the goddess Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity. It celebrates light over darkness, new beginnings, and the triumph of good over evil. Roni Mazumdar is the founder and CEO of Unapologetic Foods, a restaur-

ant group that includes Dhamaka and Semma in New York City. He moved to the U.S. from Kolkata when he was 12 and misses the Diwali celebrations of his youth. "In India, every single relative would be there, and that's what made it Diwali to me," he says. The sweet that encapsulates the delight of the holi-

day for him is fresh rasgulla, a Bengali sweet with jaggery, a type of brown cane sugar. "Imagine these little cheese dumplings that are dipped in a sweet jaggery syrup that you can just pop into your mouth all day long. It's like a divine intervention of mankind," he says. The rasgulla he most associates with Diwali are made from nolen gur, a jaggery syrup made from the sap of date palms, which is harvested as Diwali approaches, when the weather gets cooler. Milk is also a big part of the sweets from Kolkata and eastern India, he says. He loves kacha gulla, made from milk that has been curdled and has a loose texture "like ricotta cheese." It's used in many kinds of sweets. Raghavan Iyer, a cookbook author and James Beard Award winner, has fond memories of Diwali celebrations in Mumbai, where he lived until age 21. "The food itself is important, but it's also about the exchange of foods with relatives and friends — that is the fun part of it," he says. "Growing up, we always knew which neighbors to go to — the houses where the goodies would be really great." He remembers fondly a steamed-rice, flour-based dumpling called kozhukat-



An assortment of sweets from an Indian food shop are displayed in New York on Oct. 19, 2022. These sweets are typically enjoyed on Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. PHOTO BY KATIE WORKMAN VIA AP

tai. His family made two versions: a sweet one made with fresh coconut and jaggery, and a savory one filled with lentils and chilies. Iyer says Diwali always featured kaaju barfi, bars made from pureed cashews, ghee (clarified butter) and sugar. (Hint to his sister: He is hoping you send him some this year!) And many desserts, he says, are finished by soaking them in a sweet syrup. One of his favorites is jalebi, which features chickpea flour. It's dipped in sugar syrup laced with cardamom, saffron and lime. Leela Mahase from Queens, New York, grew up in a Hindu family in Trinidad. Her Diwali sweets include ladoos, which she

makes with a paste made from ground split peas and turmeric. It is fried in oil, then ground again, and combined with a syrup made from brown sugar, various spices and condensed milk. It's formed into balls for eating. Mahase also makes prasad, made by toasting flour in ghee, then adding cream of wheat. In a separate pot, she simmers evaporated milk with water, raisins, cinnamon and cardamom. This milk-based syrup is added to the cream of wheat mixture, and cooked until the liquid has evaporated. It has a texture she compares to mashed potatoes, and is eaten with the fingers.

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Gross or great? Fancy butter boards soar as shortage looms

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Legit gross or crazy delicious? Butter boards, the polarizing stepchild of charcuterie, have taken TikTok to new food-craze heights as some horrified safety and nutrition experts look on. And now, heading into the holidays, the boards are landing on tables as quick, inexpensive alternatives to the meat- and fancy cheese-laden OG despite a winter butter shortage projected for the U.S. that could drive up prices and make it more difficult to find in supermarkets.

"I wish they'd just go away. The idea of smearing something on a wood board with other food, sharing that with other people and having them all dip into it. It's a bacteria heaven," said Laura Cipullo, a registered dietitian in New York City.

Justine Doiron, who creates food content as @justine-snacks on TikTok and Instagram, got the butter board party started on Sept. 15. She is credited with coining the term in a video that has her spreading it with abandon on a cutting board and topping it with, among many other things, edible flowers.

She got the idea — jazzed up butter on wood — from chef Joshua McFadden's 2017 cookbook with Martha Holmberg, "Six Seasons: A New Way with Vegetables."

"I think the draw is that it's super customizable," Doiron told The Associated Press. "You can be so



A cream cheese board, left, and a butter board. Butter boards, the polarizing stepchild of charcuterie, have taken TikTok to new food-craze heights.

PHOTO BY VALERIE ALLEN VIA AP

creative with it, and people are always looking for something they've never seen before. It's a low effort way to have some fun with food."

Side note: She has a plant named Butter.

Doiron went viral with her busy butter board and hand swipes with thick, crusty slices of bread. Copycat videos under the #butterboard hashtag have since racked up more than 240 million views on TikTok. Searches related to the topic have reached 10 billion on the platform, with decorated mountains of butter also going strong on Instagram.

And the boards themselves have spawned sweet sister versions, vegan cousins and ice cream aunts and uncles.

Magnolia Bakery posted

a video of buttercream frosting being spread artfully on a cake stand with pieces of cookie, brownies, rainbow sprinkles and other goodies for swiping. Toothpicks were involved, as opposed to all hands in. Ben & Jerry's filmed a frozen version.

Private chefs are fielding lots of requests from clients now looking for spreadables on boards. Kevin Hart's Los Angeles chef, Kai Chase, said she created several of the boards for him as a splurge.

While some eateries have been smearing butter on boards for years, Magnolia, for one, has no plans to sell boards of its own. As for the notion of promoting sugar overload, Magnolia's CEO and chief baking officer, Bobbie

Lloyd, said: "We believe that moderation is the key to a sweet, balanced life."

Doiron has some butter board regrets, food handling wise, though she's reluctant to put the "yuck in anybody's yum."

"I prefer a knife. The big mistake in my video was swiping it because I only had 28 seconds. But I think just like a charcuterie board, serve it with a knife, let people serve themselves. But it's really up to personal preference," she said.

Suzie Cornell in Boca Raton, Florida, brought along a lox and cream cheese board to break the Yom Kippur fast in early October when her family got together with a small group of friends. Assembling food on a board (in her case, stone) appeals for

a simple reason: "I don't cook. I mean, literally, I don't cook."

Cornell tossed out the communal swipe situation and went for cutlery because the hand-swiping grosses her out.

In Salina, Ohio, Emily Westerfield has a small catering company that specializes in boards and bites. Boards smeared with spreads and toppings are on the tongues of many clients these days.

"I'm getting requests like crazy. A friend who's hosting her book club asked for a cream cheese board since they meet in the morning," she said.

Darin Detwiler, an assistant teaching professor of food policy at Northeastern University and an expert on food

industry regulation, sees the potential for pathogens everywhere when it comes to butter boards. Wood boards crack and those cracks can't adequately be cleaned, he said.

Detwiler went into his field after losing his 16-month-old son in the 1993 E.coli outbreak tied to contaminated beef at Jack in the Box restaurants. More than 700 people fell ill in four states and three other children died as well.

"Personally, I would use a plastic board, something that can be sanitized in a dishwasher," he said. "The second hidden danger is the idea of so many hands in a butter board. People think big. People don't think about doing small butter boards. They're thinking about doing these big beautiful displays. If any of those hands aren't washed, you're just inviting opportunity."

Paul Zahn, an entertaining expert in Los Angeles, has a workaround for that: "jarcuterie."

"Make individual jars or boards for guests," he said. "That way people keep their germs to themselves and you're giving them portion control."

Some decry the fatty nature of butter in general and the almighty devil, bad cholesterol. Moderation would help there, too. Less fraught spreadables are also being used, including hummus.

"It's kind of a silly trend in a way," said Lori Shemek, a nutritionist in Dallas. "I saw one comedian who said, 'Oh, butter boards. That's like butter on bread.'"

What goes around comes around: Roller skating's retro appeal

By Tracee M. Herbaugh
Associated Press

At a nondescript, basketball court in Waltham, Massachusetts, the leaves take on an autumnal glow and the air is crisp. But there are no pickup basketball players. This is now a spot for people who roller skate.

"I had my eye on skates for a while — I saw they were making a comeback," said Tammy Donroe Inman, 48, of Waltham, Massachusetts, who recently bought a pair of sparkly Impalas. She comes here every few days, turns on music, and skates.

"As an older skater, I thought I was going to be self-conscious, but I'm not," she said, wearing a helmet and knee pads. "I fall all the time but it's pure joy."

With its retro flair, roller skating has been enjoying a 2020s revival and shows no signs of receding.

That may be partly due to the pandemic, which drew more people to an accessible, social and physical activity that can be done outdoors. It's also part of a larger fashion and music throwback to the disco era of the '70s and '80s, the last time roller skating was so hot. In the 1990s, inline skates, a kind of roller skate, were all the rage, but their buzz had gotten quieter.

Now, there are roller skating pop-up rinks in parks and on roadways, and lots and lots of skates on social media. Skate meet-ups in large cities are common — outside the Louvre Museum in Paris, for instance, or in Venice Beach, California, where skaters have congregated for decades.

New York City's Rockefeller Center hosted a roller rink this summer for the first time since 1940, advertising that it was "bringing the magic of the 1970s with it."

And then there are all the celebrities on skates.

Country star Tyler Hubbard does laps under a disco ball in a

video to the new song "Baby Gets Her Lovin'". Madonna took a spin around a popup rink in New York's Central Park at a disco celebration this summer.

R&B singer Usher's smooth skating videos pull in the views on TikTok and YouTube, while Joanna Gaines wears skates on the summer edition of her Magnolia magazine. Actors Ryan Gosling and Margot Robbie cruise up and down Venice Beach in neon-yellow inline skates as Ken and Barbie in next summer's "Barbie" movie.

The filmmakers behind a 2019 HBO documentary, "United Skates," about roller skating as a vibrant Black subculture, told The Associated Press then that they expected to be chronicling the end of an era. But they found the opposite. As one young Black skater told them, "Skating's not dead. It just went underground."

At Harlick Skates, a San Carlos, California-based skate-boot company started in 1933, fourth-generation owner Jason Kuhn said roller skate sales started to take off again in 2020.

"I started seeing the orders roll in," he said archly.

While roller skates used to be only 20% of Harlick's business, they're now more popular than ice skates. "It was hard to find workers. Not everyone knows how to do this kind of work," he said.

Many adult roller skaters haven't skated since they were children. This has sparked a boom in online classes.

Nicole Fiore, 30, of Orange County, California, teaches skills and choreography classes online and on YouTube. Her parents worked as roller skating instructors, and she's a four-time roller skating World Champion. She often missed school growing up because she was at competitions.

"I've never seen people roller skating in grocery store parking lots

before, and suddenly they're here," she said. "I've been waiting for this moment my entire life."

A day of skating can be a killer workout. There are varied forms of roller skating, including competitive, speed, dancing and roller derby, a contact sport played between two teams.

Yet you don't need to be in top shape to start roller skating.

Dana Johnson, whose roller derby name is Val Kyrie, started participating in a local league seven years ago after getting a divorce. She picked up roller derby after seeing a match, even though she didn't consider herself athletic.

Kyrie, 35, of Minneapolis, is an engineer who now does public relations on the side for the Minnesota Roller Derby.

"Those skates are a great equalizer," she said. "It's all about how you use your body on those skates."

There are, of course, roller-skating influencers. Across all social-media platforms, you can find people posting roller-skating videos, tutorials and pretty pictures of skates.

Thirty-one-year-old Ana Coto lives in Los Angeles and goes by the social media handle @anaocto, an homage to the eight wheels on a roller skate. A 2020 TikTok video of her skating effortlessly to the Jennifer Lopez hit "Jenny From the Block" garnered 2.5 million likes and millions of views.

"There was no intention — just to feel good and feel happy, not to find something to put on TikTok," she said. "I started posting a skate journal, really for myself."

Then Coto saw that people were interested in watching her skate. An actress, she was contacted for appearances in a movie and has since appeared in the Dua Lipa music video "Levitating."

"It is funny. Skating has given me this little foothold in the industry that I never had before," she said.

Report: Theme park attendance was a roller coaster in 2021

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Last year was a roller coaster ride for theme parks worldwide, with U.S. water parks approaching pre-pandemic levels and parks in China struggling with lockdowns, according to a new report.

The speed of recovery was greatly influenced by the level of government restrictions, the success of vaccine rollouts and consumer confidence levels, according to the TEA/AECOM 2021 Theme Index and Museum Index: The Global Attractions Attendance Report.

The annual report, which was released last Friday, usually ranks theme parks by attendance but held off on doing that in the 2021 report because of disparities in operating conditions worldwide — and even within countries.

Instead, it compared 2021 attendance with pre-pandemic 2019 attendance. Many of the theme parks don't release attendance figures, and for those that don't, the index used financial reports, local tourism groups and investment banking reports to calcu-

late them.

In the U.S. last year, theme parks recaptured about two-thirds of their attendance from 2019, but the year marked an upward trajectory with attendance increasing by 134% over figures from 2020, when most theme parks were shuttered for several months in an effort to limit the spread of the new coronavirus, according to the report.

But even in the U.S., theme parks operated under different conditions in 2021, even when they were owned by the same company. For instance, the Florida parks owned by Universal had higher attendance than those in California because Florida's COVID-19 restrictions ended earlier.

Because COVID-19 restrictions limited visits from international travelers, U.S. theme parks relied more on their local markets and emphasized season pass sales. The pandemic forced many theme parks to expand advance reservation systems and dynamic pricing, which has added to the bottom line, the report said.



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Not for the faint of heart, skeletons rule at this West 16th Street home, as a boney undertaker and horse transport the dead in a hearse to the graveyard across the sidewalk — a graveyard full of the undead.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



With a Day of the Dead theme, a large cat guards a home in the 1300 block of West Third Street on Thursday.

Cooke Column

Continued From Page 1B

Libraries are a place for learning and wonder, adventure and enlightenment. You can escape into a fantasy world, learn more about yourself, or learn more about others and the world around you. The possibilities for knowledge and creativity are endless when you're lost in a book.

At my K-12 schools, the librarians were usually some of the nicest staff members. They, too, simply wanted to encourage a love of reading in all students. In high school, I can't recall a single time a librarian offered me a sexually explicit book recommendation. In reality, I mostly asked them for research advice when writing papers.

Putting further restrictions on our librarians feels absurd. Do we not trust the people our libraries have hired? Do we really think these kind bookworms are handing out books full of sex, inappropriate language and gore to kids? Doesn't it seem to make sense that these government institutions have policies in place rather than just operating willy-nilly with no direction?

The AP reported that "in a statement, the Missouri Library Association called Ashcroft's rule 'an infringement on the professional judgment of librarians, and an effort to further stoke division in the communities that libraries serve.'"

I think we can all agree that certain topics aren't suitable for children and teenagers, making this proposal seem even more unnecessary. I hope we can also agree that banning books that make us uncomfortable will only hurt our society rather than help it. AP reported that books by LGBTQ and Black authors and books about women's rights and reproductive health are frequent targets of book challenges in Missouri.

There's a fine line we have to walk between encouraging bad behavior, such as discrimination and violence, and educating ourselves about it.

I know Ashcroft is speaking about sexual material, but the lack of specifics in his proposal could open a can of worms regarding which books could be found inappropriate. For anyone who read examples from Banned Book Week, you already know books have been banned for some pretty silly reasons.

People frequently repeat the popular phrase, "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Well, if our pool of available reading material keeps shrinking, it feels like we might all be doomed.

IS IT TIME TO SEE A NEUROLOGIST?

Persistent or sudden headaches, muscle weakness, lack of coordination, loss of sensation, tremors or seizures, memory loss or decreased alertness can all be signs something is not right with your nervous system.

Dr. Jonathan Beary is a board-certified, fellowship-trained adult neurologist who can diagnose, treat and manage disorders of the brain and nervous system, including:

- Migraines and other headache disorders
- Stroke
- Epilepsy / VNS management
- Alzheimer's disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Peripheral nerve disorders



“I find that many patients have never really been given the opportunity to tell their story, and I aim to listen to them.”

— Dr. Jonathan Beary

Some appointments require a referral from a health care practitioner; however, patients with headache issues may call the clinic directly at 660.827.7925 or 660.829.8888 for an appointment.

GET WELL. STAY WELL. BOTHWELL.



Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Missouri
and Statutory Propositions
To be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the
General Election to be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 2022.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
NO. 1
[Proposed by the 101st General
Assembly (First Regular Session)
HCS HJR 35]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:
Do you want to amend the
Missouri Constitution to:

- allow the General Assembly to override the current constitutional restrictions of state investments by the state treasurer; and
- allow state investments in municipal securities possessing one of the top five highest long term ratings or the highest short term rating?

State governmental entities estimate no costs and increased interest revenue of \$2 million per year. Local governmental entities estimate no costs and increased interest revenue of at least \$34,000 per year.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to the state treasurer's ability to invest.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2022, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Section 15, Article IV, Constitution of Missouri, is repealed and one new section adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Section 15, to read as follows:

Section 15. The state treasurer shall be custodian of all state funds and funds received from the United States government. The department of revenue shall take custody of and invest nonstate funds as defined herein, and other moneys authorized to be held by the department of revenue. All revenue collected and moneys received by the state which are state funds or funds received from the United States government shall go promptly into the state treasury.

All revenue collected and moneys received by the department of revenue which are nonstate funds as defined herein shall be promptly credited to the fund provided by law for that type of money. Immediately upon receipt of state or United States funds the state treasurer shall deposit all moneys in the state treasury in banking institutions selected by him and approved by the governor and state auditor, and he shall hold them for the benefit of the respective funds to which they belong and disburse them as provided by law. Unless otherwise provided by law, all interest received on nonstate funds shall be credited to such funds. The state treasurer shall determine by the exercise of his best judgment the amount of moneys in his custody that are not needed for current expenses and shall place all such moneys on time deposit, bearing interest, in banking institutions in this state selected by the state treasurer and approved by the governor and state auditor or in obligations of the United States government or any agency or instrumentality thereof maturing and becoming payable not more than [five] seven years from the date of purchase. In addition the treasurer may enter into repurchase agreements maturing and becoming payable within ninety days secured by United States Treasury obligations or obligations of United States government agencies or instrumentalities of any maturity, as provided by law. The treasurer may also invest in banker's acceptances issued by domestic commercial banks possessing the highest rating issued by a nationally recognized rating agency and in commercial paper issued by domestic corporations which has received the highest rating issued by a nationally recognized rating agency. The treasurer may also invest in municipal securities possessing one of the five highest long term ratings or the highest short term rating issued by a nationally recognized rating agency and maturing and becoming payable not more than five years from the date of purchase. The treasurer may also invest in other reasonable and prudent financial instruments and securities as otherwise provided by law. Investments in banker's acceptances and commercial paper shall mature and become payable not more than one hundred eighty days from the date of purchase, maintain the highest rating throughout the duration of the investment and meet any other requirements provided by law. The state treasurer shall prepare, maintain and adhere to a written investment policy which shall include an asset allocation plan limiting the total amount of state money which may be invested in each investment category authorized by this section. The investment and deposit of state, United States and nonstate funds shall be subject to such restrictions and requirements as may be prescribed by law. Banking institutions in which state and United States funds are deposited by the state treasurer shall give security satisfactory to the governor, state auditor and state treasurer for the safekeeping and payment of the deposits and interest thereon pursuant to deposit agreements made with the state treasurer pursuant to law. No duty shall be imposed on the state treasurer by law which is not related to the receipt, investment, custody and disbursement of state funds and funds received from the

United States government. As used in the section, the term "banking institutions" shall include banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, credit unions, production credit associations authorized by act of the United States Congress, and other financial institutions which are authorized by law to accept funds for deposit or which in the case of production credit associations, issues securities. As used in this section, the term "nonstate funds" shall include all taxes and fees imposed by political subdivisions and collected by the department of revenue; all taxes which are imposed by the state, collected by the department of revenue and distributed by the department of revenue to political subdivisions; and all other moneys which are hereafter designated as "nonstate funds" to be administered by the department of revenue.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI }
Secretary of State } ss

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 1, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the General Election to be held the eighth day of November, 2022.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 30th day of August, 2022.



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
NO. 3
[Proposed by Initiative Petition]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:
Do you want to amend the
Missouri Constitution to:

- remove state prohibitions on purchasing, possessing, consuming, using, delivering, manufacturing, and selling marijuana for personal use for adults over the age of twenty-one;
- require a registration card for personal cultivation with prescribed limits;
- allow persons with certain marijuana-related non-violent offenses to petition for release from incarceration or parole and probation and have records expunged;
- establish a lottery selection process to award licenses and certificates;
- issue equally distributed licenses to each congressional district; and
- impose a six percent tax on the retail price of marijuana to benefit various programs?

State governmental entities estimate initial costs of \$3.1 million, initial revenues of at least \$7.9 million, annual costs of \$5.5 million, and annual revenues of at least \$40.8 million. Local governments are estimated to have annual costs of at least \$35,000 and annual revenues of at least \$13.8 million.

Be it resolved by the people of the state of Missouri that the Constitution be amended:

Article XIV is amended by amending Section 1 of Article XIV and enacting one new section to be known as Section 2 of Article XIV, to read as follows:

XIV Section 1. Right to access medical marijuana.—1. Purposes. This section is intended to permit state-licensed physicians and nurse practitioners to recommend marijuana for medical purposes to patients with serious illnesses and medical conditions. The section allows patients with qualifying medical conditions the right to discuss freely with their physicians and nurse practitioners the possible benefits of medical marijuana use, the right of their physicians and nurse practitioners to provide professional advice concerning the same, and the right to use medical marijuana for treatment under the supervision of a physician or nurse practitioner.

This section is intended to make only those changes to Missouri laws that are necessary to protect patients, their primary caregivers, and their physicians and nurse practitioners from civil and criminal penalties, and to allow for the limited legal production, distribution, sale and purchase of marijuana for medical use. This section is not intended to change current civil and criminal laws governing the use of marijuana for nonmedical purposes. The section does not allow for the public use of marijuana and driving under the influence of marijuana.

2. Definitions.

(1) "Administer" means the direct application of marijuana to a qualifying patient by way of any of the following methods:

- (a) Ingestion of capsules, teas, oils, and other marijuana-infused products;
- (b) Vaporization or smoking of dried flowers, buds, plant material, extracts, [or] oils, and other marijuana-infused products;

(c) Application of ointments or balms;

(d) Transdermal patches and suppositories;

(e) Consuming marijuana-infused food products; or

(f) Any other method recommended by a qualifying patient's physician or nurse practitioner.

(2) "Church" means a permanent building primarily and regularly used as a place of religious worship.

(3) "Daycare" means a child-care facility, as defined by section 210.201, RSMo., or successor provisions, that is licensed by the state of Missouri.

(4) "Department" means the department of health and senior services, or its successor agency.

(3) (5) "Entity" means a natural person, corporation, professional corporation, nonprofit corporation, cooperative corporation, unincorporated association, business trust, limited liability company, general or limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, or any other legal entity.

(4) (6) "Flowering plant" means a marijuana plant from the time it exhibits the first signs of sexual maturity through harvest.

(7) "Infused Preroll" means a consumable or smokable marijuana product, generally consisting of: (1) a wrap or paper, (2) dried flower, buds, and/or plant material, and (3) a concentrate, oil or other type of marijuana extract, either within or on the surface of the product. Infused prerolls may or may not include a filter or crutch at the base of the product.

(5) (8) "Marijuana" or "marihuana" means *Cannabis indica*, *Cannabis sativa*, and *Cannabis ruderalis*, hybrids of such species, and any other strains commonly understood within the scientific community to constitute marijuana, as well as resin extracted from the marijuana plant and marijuana-infused products. "Marijuana" or "marihuana" do not include industrial hemp, [containing a cropwide average tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed three-tenths of one percent on a dry weight basis,] as defined by Missouri statute, or commodities or products manufactured from industrial hemp.

(6) (9) "Marijuana-infused products" means products that are infused, dipped, coated, sprayed, or mixed with marijuana or an extract thereof [and are intended for use or consumption other than by smoking], including, but not limited to, [edible products, ointments, tinctures and concentrates,] products that are able to be vaporized or smoked, edible products, ingestible products, topical products, suppositories, and infused prerolls.

(10) "Medical Facility" means any medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, or medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, as defined in this section.

(7) (11) "Medical marijuana cultivation facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, cultivate, process, package, store on site or off site, transport to or from, and sell marijuana, marijuana seeds, and marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones) to a medical marijuana dispensary facility, medical marijuana testing facility, medical marijuana cultivation facility, or to a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility. A medical marijuana cultivation facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the production and sale of prerolls, but shall not include the manufacture of marijuana-infused products.

(8) (12) "Medical marijuana dispensary facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, process, package, store on site or off site, sell, transport to or from, and deliver marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones), marijuana-infused products, and drug paraphernalia used to administer marijuana as provided for in this section to a qualifying patient, a primary caregiver, anywhere on the licensed property or to any address as directed by the patient or primary caregiver, so long as the address is a location allowing for the legal possession of marijuana, another medical marijuana dispensary facility, a [medical] marijuana testing facility, a medical marijuana cultivation facility, or a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility. Dispensary facilities may receive transaction orders at the dispensary in person, by phone, or via the internet, including from a third party. A medical marijuana dispensary facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the production and sale of prerolls, but shall not include the manufacture of marijuana-infused products.

(9) (13) "Medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, process, package, store on site or off site, manufacture, transport to or from, and sell marijuana-infused products to a medical marijuana dispensary facility, a [medical] marijuana testing facility, a medical marijuana cultivation facility, or to another medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility.

(10) (14) "[Medical marijuana] Marijuana testing facility" means a facility certified by the department to acquire, test, certify, and transport marijuana, including those originally licensed as a medical marijuana testing facility.

(11) (15) "Medical use" means the production, possession, delivery, distribution, transportation, or administration of marijuana or a marijuana-infused product, or drug paraphernalia used to administer marijuana or a marijuana-infused

product, for the benefit of a qualifying patient to mitigate the symptoms or effects of the patient's qualifying medical condition.

(16) "Nurse practitioner" means an individual who is licensed and in good standing as an advanced practice registered nurse, or successor designation, under Missouri law.

(17) "Owner" means an individual who has a financial (other than a security interest, lien, or encumbrance) or voting interest in ten percent or greater of a marijuana facility.

(12) (18) "Physician" means an individual who is licensed and in good standing to practice medicine or osteopathy under Missouri law.

(13) (19) "Physician or nurse practitioner certification" means a document, whether handwritten, electronic or in another commonly used format, signed by a physician or a nurse practitioner and stating that, in the physician's or nurse practitioner's professional opinion, the patient suffers from a qualifying medical condition.

(20) "Preroll" means a consumable or smokable marijuana product, generally consisting of: (1) a wrap or paper and (2) dried flower, buds, and/or plant material. Prerolls may or may not include a filter or crutch at the base of the product.

(14) (21) "Primary caregiver" means an individual twenty-one years of age or older who has significant responsibility for managing the well-being of a qualifying patient and who is designated as such on the primary caregiver's application for an identification card under this section or in other written notification to the department.

(15) (22) "Qualifying medical condition" means the condition of, symptoms related to, or side-effects from the treatment of:

- (a) Cancer;
- (b) Epilepsy;
- (c) Glaucoma;
- (d) Intractable migraines

unresponsive to other treatment;

(e) A chronic medical condition that causes severe, persistent pain or persistent muscle spasms, including but not limited to those associated with multiple sclerosis, seizures, Parkinson's disease, and Tourette's syndrome;

(f) Debilitating psychiatric disorders, including, but not limited to, posttraumatic stress disorder, if diagnosed by a state licensed psychiatrist;

(g) Human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome;

(h) A chronic medical condition that is normally treated with a prescription medication that could lead to physical or psychological dependence, when a physician or nurse practitioner determines that medical use of marijuana could be effective in treating that condition and would serve as a safer alternative to the prescription medication;

(i) Any terminal illness; or

(j) In the professional judgment of a physician or nurse practitioner, any other chronic, debilitating or other medical condition, including, but not limited to, hepatitis C, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, Huntington's disease, autism, neuropathies, sickle cell anemia, agitation of Alzheimer's disease, cachexia, and wasting syndrome.

(16) (23) "Qualifying patient" means [a Missouri resident] an individual diagnosed with at least one qualifying medical condition.

(24) "Unduly burdensome" (when referring to a facility licensee or certificate holder) means the measures necessary to comply with the rules or ordinances adopted pursuant to this section subject the party to such a high investment or expense of money, time, or any other resource or asset that a reasonably prudent businessperson would not operate the facility; and, (when referring to qualifying patients, primary caregivers, physicians, nurse practitioners, or other party) "unduly burdensome" means the measures necessary to comply with the rules or ordinances adopted pursuant to this section undermine the purpose of this section.

3. Creating Patient Access to Medical Marijuana.

(1) In carrying out the implementation of this section, the department shall have the authority to:

(a) Grant or refuse state licenses and certifications for the cultivation, manufacture, dispensing, sale, testing, tracking, and transportation of marijuana and marijuana-infused products for medical use, as provided by this section and general law; suspend, impose an authorized fine, restrict, or revoke such licenses and certifications upon a violation of this section, general law, or a rule promulgated pursuant to this section; and impose any administrative penalty authorized by this section or any general law enacted or rule promulgated pursuant to this section, so long as any procedure related to a suspension or revocation includes a reasonable cure period, not less than thirty days, prior to the suspension or revocation, except in instances where there is a credible and imminent threat to public health or public safety.

(b) Promulgate rules and emergency rules necessary for the proper regulation and control of the cultivation, manufacture, dispensing, and sale of marijuana for medical use and for the enforcement of this section so long as patient access is not restricted unreasonably and such rules are reasonably necessary for patient safety or to restrict access to only licensees and qualifying patients.

(c) Develop such forms, certificates, licenses, identification cards, and applications as are necessary for, or reasonably related to, the administration of this section or any of the rules promulgated under this section[.];

(d) Require a seed-to-sale tracking system that tracks medical marijuana from either the seed or immature plant stage until the medical marijuana or medical marijuana-infused product is sold to a qualifying patient or primary caregiver to ensure that no medical

marijuana grown by a medical marijuana cultivation facility or manufactured by a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility is sold or otherwise transferred except by a medical marijuana dispensary facility. The department shall certify, if possible, at least two commercially available systems to licensees as compliant with its tracking standards and issue standards for the creation or use of other systems by licensees.

(e) Issue standards for the secure transportation of marijuana and marijuana-infused products. The department shall certify entities which demonstrate compliance with its transportation standards to transport marijuana and marijuana-infused products to or from a medical marijuana cultivation facility, a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, a medical marijuana dispensary facility, a [medical] marijuana testing facility, or another entity with a transportation certification. The department shall develop or adopt from any other governmental agency such safety and security standards as are reasonably necessary for the transportation of marijuana and marijuana-infused products. Any entity licensed or certified pursuant to this section shall be allowed to transport and store [cannabis] marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones) and marijuana-infused products for purposes related to transportation in compliance with department regulations on storage of marijuana and marijuana-infused products.

(f) The department may charge a fee not to exceed \$5,000 for any certification issued pursuant to this section.

(g) Prepare and transmit annually a publicly available report accounting to the governor for the efficient discharge of all responsibilities assigned to the department under this section[.];

(h) [Establish a system to numerically score competing medical marijuana licensee and certificate applicants, only in cases where more applicants apply than the minimum number of licenses or certificates as calculated by this section, which scoring shall be limited to an analysis of the following:] Establish a lottery selection process to select medical marijuana licensee and certificate applicants, only in cases where more applicants apply than the minimum number of licenses or certificates as calculated by this section. To be eligible for the medical marijuana license lottery process, an applicant cannot have an owner who has pleaded or been found guilty of a disqualifying felony. A "disqualifying felony offense" is a violation of, and conviction or guilty plea to, state or federal law that is, or would have been, a felony under Missouri law, regardless of the sentence imposed, unless the department determines that:

(i) The person's conviction was for a marijuana offense, other than provision of marijuana to a minor; or

(ii) The person's conviction was for a non-violent crime for which he or she was not incarcerated and that is more than five years old; or

(iii) More than five years have passed since the person was released from parole or probation, and he or she has not been convicted of any subsequent felony criminal offenses.

The department may consult with and rely on the records, advice, and recommendations of the attorney general and the department of public safety, or their successor entities, in carrying out the provisions of this subdivision.

(i) the character, veracity, background, qualifications, and relevant experience of principal officers or managers;

(ii) the business plan proposed by the applicant, which in the case of cultivation facilities and dispensaries shall include the ability to maintain an adequate supply of marijuana, plans to ensure safety and security of qualifying patients and the community, procedures to be used to prevent diversion, and any plan for making marijuana available to low-income qualifying patients;

(iii) site security;

(iv) experience in a legal cannabis market;

(v) in the case of medical marijuana testing facilities, the experience of their personnel with testing marijuana, food or drugs for toxins and/or potency and health care industry experience;

(vi) the potential for positive economic impact in the site community;

(vii) in the case of medical marijuana cultivation facilities, capacity or experience with agriculture, horticulture, and health care;

(viii) in the case of medical marijuana dispensary facilities, capacity or experience with health care, the suitability of the proposed location, and its accessibility for patients;

(ix) in the case of medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, capacity or experience with food and beverage manufacturing; and

(x) maintaining competitiveness in the marijuana for medical use marketplace.]

[In ranking] establishing a lottery selection process to select medical marijuana licensee and certificate applicants and awarding licenses and certificates, the department may consult or contract with other public agencies with relevant expertise [regarding these factors]. The department shall lift or ease any limit on the number of licensees or certificate holders in order to meet the demand for marijuana for medical use by qualifying patients.

(2) The department shall issue any rules or emergency rules necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this section and to ensure the right to, availability, and safe use of marijuana for medical use by qualifying patients. In developing such rules or emergency rules, the department may consult with other public agencies. In addition to any other rules or emergency rules necessary to carry out the mandates of this section, the department may issue

rules or emergency rules relating to the following subjects:

(a) Compliance with, enforcement of, or violation of any provision of this section or any rule issued pursuant to this section, including procedures and grounds for denying, suspending, [fine,] imposing an authorized fine, and restricting, or revoking a state license or certification issued pursuant to this section, so long as any procedure related to a suspension or revocation includes a reasonable cure period, not less than thirty days, prior to the suspension or revocation, except in instances where there is a credible and imminent threat to public health or public safety;

(b) Specifications of duties of officers and employees of the department;

(c) Instructions or guidance for local authorities and law enforcement officers;

(d) Requirements for inspections, investigations, searches, seizures, and such additional enforcement activities as may become necessary from time to time;

(e) [Creation of a range of] As otherwise authorized by this section or general law, administrative penalties and policies for use by the department;

(f) Prohibition of misrepresentation and unfair practices;

(g) Control of informational and product displays on licensed premises provided that the rules may not prevent or unreasonably restrict appropriate signs on the property of the medical marijuana dispensary facility, product display and examination by the qualifying patient and/or primary caregiver, listings in business directories including phone books, listings in marijuana-related or medical publications, or the sponsorship of health or not for profit charity or advocacy events. While the department shall have the general power to regulate the advertising and promotion of marijuana sales, under all circumstances, any such regulation shall be no more stringent than comparable state regulations on the advertising and promotion of alcohol sales;

(h) Development of individual identification cards for owners, officers, managers, contractors, employees, and other support staff of entities licensed or certified pursuant to this section, including a fingerprint-based federal and state criminal record check in accordance with U.S. Public Law 92-544, or its successor provisions, as may be required by the department prior to issuing a card and procedures to ensure that cards for new applicants are issued within fourteen days. Applicants licensed pursuant to this section shall submit fingerprints to the Missouri state highway patrol for the purpose of conducting a state and federal fingerprint-based criminal background check. The Missouri state highway patrol, if necessary, shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of conducting a fingerprint-based criminal background check. Fingerprints shall be submitted pursuant to section 43.543, RSMo, or its successor provisions, and fees shall be paid pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, or its successor provisions. Unless otherwise required by law, no individual shall be required to submit fingerprints more than once;

(i) Security requirements for any premises licensed or certified pursuant to this section, including, at a minimum, lighting, physical security, video, alarm requirements, and other minimum procedures for internal control as deemed necessary by the department to properly administer and enforce the provisions of this section, including reporting requirements for changes, alterations, or modifications to the premises;

(j) Regulation of the storage of, warehouses for, and transportation of marijuana for medical use;

(k) Sanitary requirements for, including, but not limited to, the preparation of medical marijuana-infused products;

(l) The specification of acceptable forms of picture identification that a medical marijuana dispensary facility may accept when verifying a sale;

(m) Labeling and packaging standards;

(n) Records to be kept by licensees and the required availability of the records;

(o) State licensing procedures, including procedures for renewals, reinstatements, initial licenses, and the payment of licensing fees;

(p) The reporting and transmittal of tax payments;

(q) Authorization for the department of revenue to have access to licensing information to ensure tax payment and the effective administration of this section; and

(r) Such other matters as are necessary for the fair, impartial, stringent, and comprehensive administration of this section.

(3) The department shall issue rules or emergency rules for a medical marijuana and medical marijuana-infused products independent testing and certification program for medical marijuana licensees and requiring licensees to test medical marijuana using one or more impartial, independent laboratories to ensure, at a minimum, that products sold for human consumption do not contain contaminants that are injurious to health, to ensure correct labeling and measure potency. The department shall not require any medical marijuana or medical marijuana-infused products to be tested more than once prior to sale.

(4) The department shall issue rules or emergency rules to provide for the certification of and standards for [medical] marijuana testing facilities, including the requirements for equipment and qualifications for personnel, but shall not require certificate holders to have any federal agency licensing or have any relationship with a federally licensed testing facility. The department shall certify, if possible, at least two entities as [medical] marijuana testing facilities. No [medical] marijuana testing facility shall be owned by an entity or entities under

substantially common control, ownership, or management as a medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana-infused product manufacturing facility, or medical marijuana dispensary facility.

(5) [The department shall maintain the confidentiality of reports or other information obtained from an applicant or licensee containing any individualized data, information, or records related to the licensee or its operation, including sales information, financial records, tax returns, credit reports, cultivation information, testing results, and security information and plans, or revealing any patient information, or any other records that are exempt from public inspection pursuant to state or federal law. Such reports or other information may be used only for a purpose authorized by this section.] Any information released by the department related to patients may [be used] only be for a purpose authorized by federal law and this section, including verifying that a person who presented a patient identification card to a state or local law enforcement official is lawfully in possession of such card. Beginning December 8, 2022, all public records produced or retained pursuant to this section are subject to the general provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law, chapter 610, RSMo, or its successor provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, records containing proprietary business information obtained from an applicant or licensee shall be closed. For documents submitted on or after December 8, 2022, the applicant or licensee shall label business information it believes to be proprietary prior to submitting it to the department. For documents submitted prior to December 8, 2022, the applicant or licensee may advise the department through a department approved process, of any records previously submitted by the applicant or licensee it believes contain proprietary business information. Proprietary business information shall include sales information, financial records, tax returns, credit reports, license applications, cultivation information unrelated to product safety, testing results unrelated to product safety, site security information and plans, and individualized consumer information. The presence of proprietary business information shall not justify the closure of public records.

(a) identifying the applicant or licensee;

(b) relating to any citation, notice of violation, tax delinquency, or other enforcement action;

(c) relating to any public official's support or opposition relative to any applicant, licensee, or their proposed or actual operations;

(d) where disclosure is reasonably necessary for the protection of public health or safety; or

(e) that are otherwise subject to public inspection under other applicable law.

(6) Within one hundred eighty days of December 6, 2018, the department shall make available to the public license application forms and application instructions for medical marijuana cultivation facilities, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana dispensary facilities, and medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities.

(7) Within one hundred eighty days of December 6, 2018, the department shall make available to the public application forms and application instructions for qualifying patient, qualifying patient cultivation, and primary caregiver identification cards. Within two hundred ten days of December 6, 2018, the department shall begin accepting applications for such identification cards.

(8) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to grow marijuana as a medical marijuana cultivation facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license, but multiple licenses may be utilized in a single facility. Each indoor facility utilizing artificial lighting may be limited by the department to thirty thousand square feet of flowering plant canopy space. Each outdoor facility utilizing natural lighting may be limited by the department to two thousand eight hundred flowering plants. Each greenhouse facility using a combination of natural and artificial lighting may be limited by the department, at the election of the licensee, to two thousand eight hundred flowering plants or thirty thousand square feet of flowering plant canopy. The license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of ten thousand dollars per license application or renewal for all applicants filing an application within three years of December 6, 2018, and shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of five thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of twenty-five thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. [No more than three medical marijuana cultivation facility licenses shall be issued to any entity under substantially common control, ownership, or management.] An entity or entities under substantially common control, ownership, or management may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana cultivation facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(9) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to operate a medical marijuana dispensary facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license. A license shall be valid for three years from its

date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of six thousand dollars per license application or renewal for each applicant filing an application within three years of December 6, 2018, and shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of three thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of ten thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. [No more than five medical marijuana dispensary facility licenses shall be issued to any entity under substantially common control, ownership, or management.] An entity or entities under substantially common control, ownership, or management may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana dispensary facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(10) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to operate a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license. A license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of six thousand dollars per license application or renewal for each applicant filing an application within three years of December 6, 2018, and shall charge each applicant a nonrefundable fee of three thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of ten thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. [No more than three medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility licenses shall be issued to any entity under substantially common control, ownership, or management.] An entity or entities under substantially common control, ownership, or management may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(11) Any applicant for a license authorized by this section may prefile their application fee with the department beginning 30 days after December 6, 2018.

(12) Except for good cause, a qualifying patient or his or her primary caregiver may obtain an identification card from the department to cultivate up to six flowering marijuana plants, six nonflowering marijuana plants (over fourteen inches tall), and six clones (plants under fourteen inches tall) for the exclusive use of that qualifying patient. The card shall be valid for [twenty months] three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable with the [annual] submittal of a new or updated [physician's] physician or nurse practitioner certification. The department shall charge [an annual] a fee for the card of [one hundred] fifty dollars, with such rate to be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency.

(13) The department may set a limit on the amount of marijuana that may be purchased by or on behalf of a single qualifying patient in a thirty-day period, provided that limit is not less than [four] six ounces of dried, unprocessed marijuana, or its equivalent. Any such limit shall not apply to a qualifying patient with written certification from [two independent physicians] a physician or nurse practitioner that there are compelling reasons why the qualifying patient needs a greater amount than the limit established by the department.

(14) The department may set a limit on the amount of marijuana that may be possessed by or on behalf of each qualifying patient, provided that limit is not less than a sixty-day supply of dried, unprocessed marijuana, or its equivalent. A primary caregiver may possess a separate legal limit for each qualifying patient under their care and a separate legal limit for themselves if they are a qualifying patient. Qualifying patients cultivating marijuana for medical use may possess up to a ninety-day supply, so long as the supply remains on property under their control. Any such limit shall not apply to a qualifying patient with written certification from [two independent physicians] an independent physician or nurse practitioner that there are compelling reasons for additional amounts. Possession of between the legal limit and up to twice the legal limit shall subject the possessor to department sanctions, including an administrative penalty of up to two hundred dollars and loss of their patient identification card for up to a year. Purposefully possessing amounts in excess of twice the legal limit shall be punishable [by imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of up to two thousand dollars] as an infraction under applicable law.

(15) The department may restrict the aggregate number of licenses granted for medical marijuana cultivation facilities and comprehensive marijuana cultivation facilities authorized by section 2 combined, provided,

however, that the number may not be limited to fewer than one license per every one hundred thousand inhabitants, or any portion thereof, of the state of Missouri, according to the most recent census of the United States. A decrease in the number of inhabitants in the state of Missouri shall have no impact.

(16) The department may restrict the aggregate number of licenses granted for medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities and comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities authorized by section 2 combined, provided, however, that the number may not be limited to fewer than one license per every seventy thousand inhabitants, or any portion thereof, of the state of Missouri, according to the most recent census of the United States. A decrease in the number of inhabitants in the state of Missouri shall have no impact.

(17) The department may restrict the aggregate number of licenses granted for medical marijuana dispensary facilities and comprehensive marijuana dispensary facilities authorized by section 2 combined, provided, however, that the number may not be limited to fewer than twenty-four licenses in each United States congressional district in the state of Missouri pursuant to the map of each of the eight congressional districts as drawn and effective on December 6, 2018. Future changes to the boundaries of or the number of congressional districts shall have no impact.

(18) The department shall begin accepting license and certification applications for medical marijuana dispensary facilities, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, seed-to-sale tracking systems, and for transportation of marijuana no later than two hundred forty days after December 6, 2018. Applications for licenses and certifications under this section shall be approved or denied by the department no later than one hundred fifty days after their submission. If the department fails to carry out its nondiscretionary duty to approve or deny an application within one hundred fifty days of submission, an applicant may immediately seek a court order compelling the department to approve or deny the application.

(19) Qualifying patients under this section shall obtain [and annually renew] an identification card or cards from the department. The department shall charge a fee of twenty-five dollars [per year] per card. [with such fee to] Such fee may be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor or its successor agency. Cards shall be valid for three years and may be renewed with a new physician or nurse practitioner certification. Upon receiving an application for a qualifying patient identification card or qualifying patient cultivation identification card, the department shall, within thirty days, either issue the card or provide a written explanation for its denial. If the department fails to deny and fails to issue a card to an eligible qualifying patient within thirty days, then their physician or nurse practitioner certification shall serve as their qualifying patient identification card or qualifying patient cultivation identification card for up to one year from the date of physician or nurse practitioner certification. All initial applications for or renewals of a qualifying patient identification card or qualifying patient cultivation identification card shall be accompanied by a physician or nurse practitioner certification that is less than thirty days old.

(20) Primary caregivers under this section shall obtain [and annually renew] an identification card from the department. Cards shall be valid for three years. The department shall charge a fee of twenty-five dollars per [year, with such fee to] card. Such fee may be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. Upon receiving an application for a primary caregiver identification card, the department shall, within thirty days, either issue the card or provide a written explanation for its denial.

(21) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, all [All] marijuana for medical use sold in Missouri shall be cultivated in a licensed medical marijuana cultivation facility located in Missouri.

(22) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, all [All] marijuana-infused products for medical use sold in the state of Missouri shall be manufactured in a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility.

(23) The denial of a license, license renewal, or identification card by the department shall be appealable to the administrative hearing commission, or its successor entity. Following the exhaustion of administrative review, denial of a license, license renewal, or identification card by the department shall be subject to judicial review as provided by law.

(24) No elected official shall interfere directly or indirectly with the department's obligations and activities under this section.

(25) The department shall not have the authority to apply or enforce any unduly burdensome rule or regulation or administrative penalty [that would impose an undue burden on] upon any one or more licensees or certificate holders, any qualifying patients, or their primary caregivers, or act to undermine the purposes of this section.

4. Taxation and Reporting.

(1) A tax is levied upon the retail sale of marijuana for medical use sold at medical marijuana dispensary facilities within the state. The tax shall be at a rate of four percent of the retail price. The tax shall be collected by

each licensed medical marijuana dispensary facility and paid to the department of revenue. After retaining no more than [five] two percent for its actual collection costs, amounts generated by the medical marijuana tangible personal property retail sales tax levied in this section shall be deposited by the department of revenue into the Missouri veterans' health and care fund. Licensed entities making retail sales within the state shall be allowed approved credit for returns provided the tax was paid on the returned item and the purchaser was given the refund or credit.

(2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Veterans' Health and Care Fund", which shall consist of taxes and fees collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund, and he or she shall invest monies in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and monies earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any monies remaining in the fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The commissioner of administration is authorized to make cash operating transfers to the fund for purposes of meeting the cash requirements of the department in advance of it receiving annual application, licensing, and tax revenue, with any such transfers to be repaid as provided by law. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and shall stand appropriated without further legislative action as follows:

(a) First, to the department, an amount necessary for the department to carry out this section, including repayment of any cash operating transfers, payments made through contract or agreement with other state and public agencies necessary to carry out this section, and a reserve fund to maintain a reasonable working cash balance for the purpose of carrying out this section;

(b) Next, the remainder of such funds shall be transferred to the Missouri veterans commission for health and care services for military veterans, including the following purposes: operations, maintenance and capital improvements of the Missouri veterans homes, the Missouri service officer's program, and other services for veterans approved by the commission, including, but not limited to, health care services, mental health services, drug rehabilitation services, housing assistance, job training, tuition assistance, and housing assistance to prevent homelessness. The Missouri veterans commission shall contract with other public agencies for the delivery of services beyond its expertise.

(c) All monies from the taxes authorized under this subsection shall provide additional dedicated funding for the purposes enumerated above and shall not replace existing dedicated funding.

(3) For all retail sales of marijuana for medical use, a record shall be kept by the seller which identifies, by secure and encrypted patient number issued by the seller to the qualifying patient involved in the sale, all amounts and types of marijuana involved in the sale and the total amount of money involved in the sale, including itemizations, taxes collected and grand total sale amounts. All such records shall be kept on the premises in a readily available format and be made available for review by the department and the department of revenue upon request. Such records shall be retained for five years from the date of the sale.

(4) The tax levied pursuant to this subsection is separate from, and in addition to, any general state and local sales and use taxes that apply to retail sales, which shall continue to be collected and distributed as provided by general law.

(5) Except as authorized in this subsection, no additional taxes shall be imposed on the sale of marijuana for medical use.

(6) The fees and taxes provided for in this Article XIV, Section 1 shall be fully enforceable notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution purportedly prohibiting or restricting the taxes and fees provided for herein.

(7) The unexpended balance existing in the fund shall be exempt from the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, or its successor provisions, relating to the transfer of unexpended balances to the general revenue fund.

(8) For taxpayers authorized to do business pursuant to this Article, the amount that would have been deducted in the computation of federal taxable income pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code as in effect on January 1, 2021, or successor provisions, but is disallowed because cannabis is a controlled substance under federal law, shall be subtracted from the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income, in determining the taxpayer's Missouri adjusted gross income.

5. Additional Patient, Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Caregiver and Provider Protections.

(1) Except as provided in this section, the possession of marijuana in quantities less than the limits of this section, or established by the department, and transportation of marijuana [from a medical marijuana dispensary facility to the qualifying patient's residence] by the qualifying patient or primary caregiver shall not subject the possessor to arrest, criminal or civil liability, or sanctions under Missouri law, provided that the possessor produces on demand to the appropriate authority a valid qualifying patient identification card; a valid qualifying patient cultivation identification card; a valid physician or nurse practitioner certification while making application for an identification card; or a valid primary caregiver identification card. Production of the respective substantially equivalent identification card or authorization issued by another state or political subdivision of another state shall also meet the requirements of this subdivision and shall allow for the purchase of medical marijuana for use by a non-resident patient from

a medical marijuana dispensary facility as permitted by this section and in compliance with department regulations.

(2) No patient shall be denied access to or priority for an organ transplant or other medical care because they hold a qualifying patient identification card or use marijuana for medical use.

(3) A physician or nurse practitioner shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Missouri law or discipline by the Missouri state board of registration for the healing arts, the Missouri state board of nursing, or [its] their respective successor [agency] agencies, for owning, operating, investing in, being employed by, or contracting with any entity licensed or certified pursuant to this section or issuing a physician or nurse practitioner certification to a patient diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition in a manner consistent with this section and legal standards of professional conduct.

(4) A health care provider shall not be subject to civil or criminal prosecution under Missouri law, denial of any right or privilege, civil or administrative penalty or sanction, or disciplinary action by any accreditation or licensing board or commission for providing laboratory testing services that relate to the medical use of marijuana consistent with this section and otherwise meeting legal standards of professional conduct.

(5) A [medical] marijuana testing facility shall not be subject to civil or criminal prosecution under Missouri law, denial of any right or privilege, civil or administrative penalty or sanction, or disciplinary action by any accreditation or licensing board or commission for providing laboratory testing services that relate to the medical use of marijuana consistent with this section and otherwise meeting legal standards of professional conduct.

(6) A health care provider shall not be subject to mandatory reporting requirements for the medical use of marijuana by nonemancipated qualifying patients under eighteen years of age in a manner consistent with this section and with consent of a parent or guardian.

(7) A primary caregiver shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Missouri law for purchasing, transporting, or administering marijuana for medical use to a qualifying patient or participating in the patient cultivation of up to six flowering marijuana plants, six nonflowering marijuana plants (over fourteen inches tall), and six clones (plants under fourteen inches tall) per patient and no more than twenty-four flowering plants for more than one qualifying patient in a manner consistent with this section and generally established legal standards of personal or professional conduct.

(8) [An attorney shall not be subject to disciplinary action by the state bar association or other professional licensing body for owning, operating, investing in, being employed by, contracting with, or providing legal assistance to prospective or licensed medical marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana dispensary facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, qualifying patients, primary caregivers, physicians, health care providers or others related to activity that is no longer subject to criminal penalties under state law pursuant to this section.] Notwithstanding any provision of Article V to the contrary, an attorney shall not be subject to disciplinary action by the Supreme Court of Missouri, the office of chief disciplinary counsel, the state bar association, any state agency, or any professional licensing body for any of the following:

(a) owning, operating, investing in, being employed by, or contracting with prospective or licensed marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana dispensary facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or transportation certificate holders;

(b) counseling, advising, and/or assisting a client in conduct permitted by Missouri law that may violate or conflict with federal or other law, as long as the attorney advises the client about that federal or other law and its potential consequences;

(c) counseling, advising, and/or assisting a client in connection with applying for, owning, operating, or otherwise having any legal, equitable, or beneficial interest in marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana dispensary facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or transportation certificates; or

(d) counseling, advising, or assisting a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, physician, nurse practitioner, health care provider or other client related to activity that is no longer subject to criminal penalties under Missouri law pursuant to this Article.

(9) Actions and conduct by qualifying patients, primary caregivers, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or medical marijuana dispensary facilities licensed or registered with the department, or their employees or agents, as permitted by this section and in compliance with department regulations and other standards of legal conduct, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Missouri law, except as provided for by this section.

(10) Nothing in this section shall provide immunity for negligence, either common law or statutorily created, nor criminal immunities for operating a vehicle, aircraft, dangerous device, or navigating a boat under the influence of marijuana.

(11) It is the public policy of the state of Missouri that contracts related to marijuana for medical use that are entered into by qualifying patients, primary caregivers, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or medical marijuana dispensary facilities and those who allow property to be used by those entities, should be enforceable. It is the public policy of the state of Missouri that no contract entered into by qualifying patients, primary caregivers, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana cultivation facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or medical marijuana dispensary facilities, or by a person who allows property to be used for activities that are exempt from state criminal penalties by this section, shall be unenforceable on the basis that activities related to medical marijuana may be prohibited by federal law.

(12) In the process of requesting a search or arrest warrant relating to the production, possession, transportation or storage of marijuana, a state or local law enforcement official shall verify with the department whether the targeted person is a qualifying patient or primary caregiver holding an identification card allowing for cultivation of marijuana plants under subdivision (12) of subsection 3 of this section, and shall inform the issuing authority accordingly when making the warrant request. Evidence of marijuana alone, without specific evidence indicating that the marijuana is outside of what is lawful for medical or adult use, cannot be the basis for a search of a patient or non-patient, including their home, vehicle or other property. Lawful marijuana related activities cannot be the basis for a violation of parole, probation, or any type of supervised release. State and local law enforcement shall only have access to such department information as is necessary to confirm whether the targeted person holds a registration card.

(13) Registered qualifying patients on bond for pre-trial release, on probation, or other form of supervised release shall not be prohibited from legally using a lawful marijuana product as a term or condition of release, probation, or parole. An alternative sentencing drug court program may not prohibit individuals under its jurisdiction from using a lawful marijuana product as long as the individual is a registered qualifying patient.

(14) A family court participant or party who requires treatment for a qualified medical condition in accordance with this section shall not be required to refrain from using medical marijuana as a term or condition of successful completion of the family court program. The status and conduct of a qualified patient who acts in accordance with this section shall not, by itself, be used to restrict or abridge custodial or parental rights to minor children in any action or proceeding under the jurisdiction of a family court under chapter 487, RSMo, including domestic matters under chapter 452, RSMo, or a juvenile court under chapter 211, RSMo, or successor provisions.

(15) A person shall not be denied adoption, custody, or visitation rights relative to a minor solely for conduct that is permitted by this section.

(16) No person shall be denied their rights under Article I, section 23 of the Missouri Constitution, or successor provisions, solely for conduct that is permitted by this section.

6. Legislation.
Nothing in this section shall limit the general assembly from enacting laws consistent with this section, or otherwise effectuating the patient rights of this section. The legislature shall not enact laws that hinder the right of qualifying patients to access marijuana for medical use as granted by this section.

7. Additional Provisions.

(1) Nothing in this section permits a person to:

(a) Consume marijuana for medical use in a jail or correctional facility;

(b) Undertake any task under the influence of marijuana when doing so would constitute negligence or professional malpractice; or

(c) Operate, navigate, or be in actual physical control of any dangerous device or motor vehicle, aircraft or motorboat while under the influence of marijuana. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an arrest or a conviction of a person who has a valid qualifying patient identification card for any applicable offenses shall require evidence that the person was in fact under the influence of marijuana at the time the person was in actual physical control of the dangerous device or motor vehicle, aircraft or motorboat and not solely on the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or THC metabolites, or a combination thereof, in the person's system; or

(d) Bring a claim against any employer, former employer, or prospective employer for wrongful discharge, discrimination, or any similar cause of action or remedy, based on the employer, former employer, or prospective employer prohibiting the employee, former employee, or prospective employee from being under the influence of marijuana while at work or disciplining the employee or former employee, up to and including termination from employment, for working or attempting to work while under the influence of marijuana.

(2) No medical marijuana cultivation facility, [medical] marijuana testing facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, or medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, or entity with a transportation certification shall be owned, in whole or in part, or have as an officer, director, board member, manager, or employee, any individual with a disqualifying felony offense. A "disqualifying felony offense" is a violation of, and conviction or guilty plea to, state or federal law that is, or would have been, a felony under Missouri

law, regardless of the sentence imposed, unless the department determines that:

(a) The person's conviction was for the medical use of marijuana or assisting in the medical use of marijuana; or

(b) The person's conviction was for a nonviolent crime for which he or she was not incarcerated and that is more than five years old; or

(c) More than five years have passed since the person was released from parole or probation, and he or she has not been convicted of any subsequent criminal offenses.

The department may consult with and rely on the records, advice and recommendations of the attorney general and the department of public safety, or their successor entities, in applying this subdivision.

(3) [All medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, and medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility licenses, entities with medical marijuana testing facility certifications, and entities with transportation certifications shall be held by entities that are majority owned by natural persons who have been citizens of the state of Missouri for at least one year prior to the application for such license or certification. Notwithstanding the foregoing, entities outside the state of Missouri may own a minority stake in such entities.

(4) [No medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, or medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility shall manufacture, package or label marijuana or marijuana-infused products in a false or misleading manner. No person shall sell any product in a manner designed to cause confusion between a marijuana or marijuana-infused product and any product not containing marijuana. A violation of this subdivision shall be punishable by an appropriate and proportional department sanction, up to and including an administrative penalty of five thousand dollars and loss of license.

(5) (4) All edible marijuana-infused products shall be sold in individual, child-resistant containers that are labeled with dosage amounts, instructions for use, and estimated length of effectiveness. All marijuana and marijuana-infused products shall be sold in containers clearly and conspicuously labeled as mandated by the department, in a font size at least as large as the largest other font size used on the package,] as containing "Marijuana", or a "Marijuana-Infused Product". Violation of this prohibition shall subject the violator to department sanctions, including an administrative penalty of five thousand dollars.

(6) (5) No individual shall serve as the primary caregiver for more than [three] six qualifying patients. No primary caregiver cultivating marijuana for more than one qualifying patient may exceed a total of twenty-four flowering plants.

(7) No qualifying patient shall consume marijuana for medical use in a public place, unless provided by law. Violation of this prohibition shall subject the violator to sanctions as provided by general law.] (6) A person who smokes medical marijuana in a public place, other than in an area licensed for such activity by the department or by local authorities having jurisdiction over the licensing or permitting of said activity, is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.

(8) (7) No person shall extract resins from marijuana using dangerous materials or combustible gases without a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility license. Violation of this prohibition shall subject the violator to department sanctions, including an administrative penalty of one thousand dollars for a patient or primary caregiver and ten thousand dollars for a facility licensee and, if applicable, loss of their identification card, certificate, or license for up to one year.

(9) (8) All qualifying patient cultivation shall take place in an enclosed, locked facility that is equipped with security devices that permit access only by the qualifying patient or by such patient's primary caregiver. Two qualifying patients, who both hold valid qualifying patient cultivation identification cards, may share one enclosed, locked facility. [No more than twelve qualifying patient or primary caregiver cultivated flowering marijuana plants may be cultivated in a single, enclosed locked facility, except when a primary caregiver also holds a qualifying patient cultivation identification card, in which case no more than eighteen flowering marijuana plants may be cultivated in a single, enclosed, locked facility.] Primary caregivers cultivating marijuana for more than one qualifying patient may cultivate each respective qualifying patient's flowering plants in a single, enclosed locked facility subject to the limits of subsection 3, paragraph 12.

(10) (9) No medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, [medical] marijuana testing facility, or entity with a transportation certification shall assign, sell, give, lease, sublicense, or otherwise transfer its license or certificate to any other entity without the express consent of the department, not to be unreasonably withheld.

(11) (10) (a) Unless allowed by the local government, no new medical marijuana cultivation facility, [medical] marijuana testing facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, or medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility shall be initially sited within one thousand feet of any then-existing elementary or secondary school, child day-care center, or church. In the case of a freestanding facility, the distance between the facility and the school, daycare, or church shall be measured from the external wall of the facility structure closest in proximity to the school, daycare, or church to the closest point of the property line of the school,

daycare, or church. If the school, daycare, or church is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance shall be measured to the entrance or exit of the school, daycare, or church closest in proximity to the facility. In the case of a facility that is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance between the facility and the school, daycare, or church shall be measured from the property line of the school, daycare, or church to the facility's entrance or exit closest in proximity to the school, daycare, or church. If the school, daycare, or church is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance shall be measured to the entrance or exit of the school, daycare, or church closest in proximity to the facility. Measurements shall be made along the shortest path between the demarcation points that can be lawfully traveled by foot. No local government shall prohibit medical marijuana cultivation facilities, [medical] marijuana testing facilities, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, or medical marijuana dispensary facilities, or entities with a transportation certification either expressly or through the enactment of ordinances or regulations that make their operation unduly burdensome in the jurisdiction. However, local governments may enact ordinances or regulations not in conflict with this section, or with regulations enacted pursuant to this section, governing the time, place, and manner of operation of such facilities in the locality. A local government may establish civil penalties for violation of an ordinance or regulations governing the time, place, and manner of operation of a medical marijuana cultivation facility, [medical] marijuana testing facility, medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, or entity holding a transportation certification that may operate in such locality.

(b) The only local government ordinances or regulations that are binding on a medical facility are those of the local government where the medical facility is physically located.

(12) (11) Unless superseded by federal law or an amendment to this Constitution, a physician or nurse practitioner shall not certify a qualifying condition for a patient by any means other than providing a physician or nurse practitioner certification for the patient, whether handwritten, electronic, or in another commonly used format. [A qualifying patient must obtain a new physician certification at least annually.]

(13) (12) A physician or nurse practitioner shall not issue a certification for the medical use of marijuana for a nonemancipated qualifying patient under the age of eighteen without the written consent of the qualifying patient's parent or legal guardian. The department shall not issue a qualifying patient identification card on behalf of a nonemancipated qualifying patient under the age of eighteen without the written consent of the qualifying patient's parent or legal guardian. Such card shall be issued to one of the parents or guardians and not directly to the patient. Only a parent or guardian may serve as a primary caregiver for a nonemancipated qualifying patient under the age of eighteen. Only the qualifying patient's parent or guardian shall purchase or possess medical marijuana for a nonemancipated qualifying patient under the age of eighteen. A parent or guardian shall supervise the administration of medical marijuana to a nonemancipated qualifying patient under the age of eighteen.

(14) (13) Nothing in this section shall be construed as mandating health insurance coverage of medical marijuana for qualifying patient use.

(15) (14) Real and personal property used in the cultivation, manufacture, transport, testing, distribution, sale, and administration of marijuana for medical use or for activities otherwise in compliance with this section shall not be subject to asset forfeiture solely because of that use.

(15) Unless a failure to do so would cause an employer to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law, an employer may not discriminate against a person in hiring, termination or any term or condition of employment or otherwise penalize a person, if the discrimination is based upon either of the following:

(a) The person's status as a qualifying patient or primary caregiver who has a valid identification card, including the person's legal use of a lawful marijuana product off the employer's premises during nonworking hours, unless the person was under the influence of medical marijuana on the premises of the place of employment or during the hours of employment;

(b) A positive drug test for marijuana components or metabolites of a person who has a valid qualifying patient identification card, unless the person used, possessed, or was under the influence of medical marijuana on the premises of the place of employment or during the hours of employment.

Nothing in this subdivision shall apply to an employee in a position in which legal use of a lawful marijuana product affects in any manner a person's ability to perform job-related employment responsibilities or the safety of others, or conflicts with a bona fide occupational qualification that is reasonably related to the person's employment.

(16) The enactment of section 2 of this Article and concurrent amendments to section 1 of this Article shall have no effect upon any valid contract, claim, or cause of action instituted prior to the effective date of this section.

8. Federal Legalization. If federal law, rules, or regulations are amended to allow the interstate commerce of marijuana or marijuana-infused products or the importation or exportation of

marijuana or marijuana-infused products into or out of the state of Missouri, the provisions and intent of this section shall, to the extent possible, remain in full effect, unless explicitly preempted by such federal law, rule, or regulation. If federal law, rules, or regulations are amended as provided above, any marijuana or marijuana-infused products imported into this state shall be subject to the same testing standards and seed to sale tracking system required under this section for marijuana and marijuana-infused products produced within the state. Unless federal law, rules, or regulations explicitly require otherwise, no entity shall sell, transport, produce, distribute, deliver, or cultivate marijuana or marijuana-infused products without an applicable license or certificate as required under this section. In addition, any raw biomass of marijuana or marijuana flower imported from out-of-state shall be received only by a licensed cultivation facility, while all batch oil, infused marijuana products and any marijuana product in any other form shall be received only by a licensed manufacturing facility.

[c.] 9. Severability. The provisions of this section are severable, and if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this measure, or an application thereof, is adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions shall continue to be in effect to the fullest extent possible.

[9. Effective Date. The provisions of this section shall become effective on December 6, 2018.]

Section 2. Marijuana Legalization, Regulation, and Taxation

1. Purpose.

The purpose of this section is to make marijuana legal under state and local law for adults twenty-one years of age or older, and to control the commercial production and distribution of marijuana under a system that licenses, regulates, and taxes the businesses involved while protecting public health. The intent is to prevent arrest and penalty for personal possession and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana by adults twenty-one years of age or older, remove the commercial production and distribution of marijuana from the illicit market, prevent revenue generated from commerce in marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, prevent the distribution of marijuana to persons under twenty-one years of age, prevent the diversion of marijuana to illicit markets, protect public health by ensuring the safety of marijuana and products containing marijuana, and ensure the security of marijuana facilities. To the fullest extent possible, this section shall be interpreted in accordance with the purpose and intent set forth in this section.

This section is not intended to allow for the public use of marijuana, driving while under the influence of marijuana, the use of marijuana in the workplace, or the use of marijuana by persons under twenty-one years of age.

2. Definitions.

(1) "Church" means a permanent building primarily and regularly used as a place of religious worship.

(2) "Comprehensive Facility" means a comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility, comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility, or a comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility.

(3) "Comprehensive Marijuana Cultivation Facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, cultivate, process, package, store on site or off site, transport to or from, and sell marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones) to a medical facility, comprehensive facility, or marijuana testing facility. A comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility need not segregate or account for its marijuana products as either non-medical marijuana or medical marijuana. A comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the creation of prerolls, but shall not include the manufacture of marijuana-infused products.

(4) "Comprehensive Marijuana Dispensary Facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, process, package, store on site or off site, sell, transport to or from, and deliver marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones), marijuana-infused products, and drug paraphernalia used to administer marijuana as provided for in this section to a qualifying patient or primary caregiver, as those terms are defined in section 1 of this Article, or to a consumer, anywhere on the licensed property or to any address as directed by the patient, primary caregiver, or consumer and consistent with the limitations of this Article and as otherwise allowed by law, to a comprehensive facility, a marijuana testing facility, or a medical facility.

Comprehensive dispensary facilities may receive transaction orders at the dispensary directly from the consumer in person, by phone, or via the internet, including from a third party. A comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility need not segregate or account for its marijuana products as either non-medical marijuana or medical marijuana, but shall collect all appropriate tangible personal property sales tax for each sale, as set forth in this Article and provided for by general or local law. A comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the creation of prerolls.

(5) "Comprehensive Marijuana-Infused Products Manufacturing Facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, process, package, store, manufacture, transport to or from a medical facility, comprehensive facility, or marijuana testing facility, and sell marijuana-infused products, prerolls, and infused prerolls to a marijuana dispensary facility, a marijuana testing facility, or another marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility. A

comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility need not segregate or account for its marijuana products as either non-medical marijuana or medical marijuana.

(6) "Consumer" means a person who is at least twenty-one years of age.

(7) "Daycare" means a child-care facility, as defined by section 210.201, RSMo., or successor provisions, that is licensed by the state of Missouri.

(8) "Department" means the department of health and senior services, or its successor agency.

(9) "Entity" means a natural person, corporation, professional corporation, nonprofit corporation, cooperative corporation, unincorporated association, business trust, limited liability company, general or limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, or any other legal entity.

(10) "Flowering plant" means a marijuana plant from the time it exhibits the first signs of sexual maturity through harvest.

(11) "Infused Preroll" means a consumable or smokable marijuana product, generally consisting of: (1) a wrap or paper, (2) dried flower, buds, and/or plant material, and (3) a concentrate, oil or other type of marijuana extract, either within or on the surface of the product. Infused prerolls may or may not include a filter or crutch at the base of the product.

(12) "Local government" means, in the case of an incorporated area, a village, town, or city and, in the case of an unincorporated area, a county.

(13) "Marijuana" or "marihuana" means *Cannabis indica*, *Cannabis sativa*, and *Cannabis ruderalis*, hybrids of such species, and any other strains commonly understood within the scientific community to constitute marijuana, as well as resin extracted from the marijuana plant and marijuana-infused products. "Marijuana" or "marihuana" do not include industrial hemp, as defined by Missouri statute, or commodities or products manufactured from industrial hemp.

(14) "Marijuana accessories" means any equipment, product, material, or combination of equipment, products, or materials, which is specifically designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing marijuana into the human body.

(15) "Marijuana Facility" means a comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility, comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility, marijuana testing facility, comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, microbusiness wholesale facility, microbusiness dispensary facility, or any other type of marijuana-related facility or business licensed or certified by the department pursuant to this section, but shall not include a medical facility licensed under section 1 of this Article.

(16) "Marijuana-Infused Products" means products that are infused, dipped, coated, sprayed, or mixed with marijuana or an extract thereof, including, but not limited to, products that are able to be vaporized or smoked, edible products, ingestible products, topical products, suppositories, and infused prerolls.

(17) "Marijuana Microbusiness Facility" means a facility licensed by the department as a microbusiness dispensary facility or microbusiness wholesale facility, as defined in this section.

(18) "Microbusiness Dispensary Facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, process, package, store on site or off site, sell, transport to or from, and deliver marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones), marijuana-infused products, and drug paraphernalia used to administer marijuana as provided for in this section to a consumer, qualifying patient, as that term is defined in section 1 of this Article, or primary caregiver, as that term is defined in section 1 of this Article, anywhere on the licensed property or to any address as directed by the consumer, qualifying patient, or primary caregiver and, consistent with the limitations of this Article and as otherwise allowed by law, a microbusiness wholesale facility, or a marijuana testing facility. Microbusiness dispensary facilities may receive transaction orders at the dispensary directly from the consumer in person, by phone, or via the internet, including from a third party. A microbusiness dispensary facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the creation of prerolls.

(19) "Microbusiness Wholesale Facility" means a facility licensed by the department to acquire, cultivate, process, package, store on site or off site, manufacture, transport to or from, deliver, and sell marijuana, marijuana seeds, marijuana vegetative cuttings (also known as clones), and marijuana infused products to a microbusiness dispensary facility, other microbusiness wholesale facility, or marijuana testing facility. A microbusiness wholesale facility may cultivate up to 250 flowering marijuana plants at any given time. A microbusiness wholesale facility's authority to process marijuana shall include the creation of prerolls and infused prerolls.

(20) "Marijuana Testing Facility" means a facility certified by the department to acquire, test, certify, and transport marijuana, including those originally certified as a medical marijuana testing facility.

(21) "Owner" means an individual who has a financial (other than a security interest, lien, or encumbrance) or voting interest in ten percent or greater of a marijuana facility.

(22) "Preroll" means a consumable or smokable marijuana product, generally consisting of: (1) a wrap or paper and (2) dried flower, buds, and/or plant material. Prerolls may or may not include a filter or crutch at the base of the product.

(23) "Unduly burdensome" means that the measures necessary to comply with the rules or ordinances adopted pursuant to this section subject licensees or potential licensees to such a high investment of money, time, or any other resource or asset that a reasonably prudent businessperson would not operate the marijuana facility.

3. Limitations.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, this section does not preclude, limit, or affect laws that assign liability relative to, prohibit, or otherwise regulate:

(a) Delivery or distribution of marijuana or marijuana accessories, with or without consideration, to a person younger than twenty-one years of age;

(b) Purchase, possession, use, or transport of marijuana or marijuana accessories by a person younger than twenty-one years of age;

(c) Consumption of marijuana by a person younger than twenty-one years of age;

(d) Operating or being in physical control of any motor vehicle, train, aircraft, motorboat, or other motorized form of transport while under the influence of marijuana. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a conviction of a person who is at least twenty-one years of age for any applicable offenses shall require evidence that the person was in fact under the influence of marijuana at the time the person was in physical control of the motorized form of transport and not solely on the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or THC metabolites, or a combination thereof, in the person's system;

(e) Consumption of marijuana while operating or being in physical control of a motor vehicle, train, aircraft, motorboat, or other motorized form of transport while it is being operated;

(f) Smoking marijuana within a motor vehicle, train, aircraft, motorboat, or other motorized form of transport while it is being operated;

(g) Possession or consumption of marijuana or possession of marijuana accessories on the grounds of a public or private preschool, elementary or secondary school, institution of higher education, in a school bus, or on the grounds of any correctional facility;

(h) Smoking marijuana in a location where smoking tobacco is prohibited;

(i) Consumption of marijuana in a public place, other than in an area licensed by the authorities having jurisdiction over the licensing and/or permitting of said activity, as set forth in subsection 5 of this section;

(j) Conduct that endangers others;

(k) Undertaking any task while under the influence of marijuana, if doing so would constitute negligence, recklessness, or professional malpractice; or

(1) Performing solvent-based extractions on marijuana using solvents other than water, glycerin, propylene glycol, vegetable oil, or food-grade ethanol, unless licensed for this activity by the department.

(2) This section does not limit any privileges, rights, immunities, or defenses of a person or entity as provided in section 1 of this Article, or any other law of this state allowing for or regulating marijuana for medical use.

(3) This section does not require an employer to permit or accommodate conduct otherwise allowed by this section in any workplace or on the employer's property. This section does not prohibit an employer from disciplining an employee for working while under the influence of marijuana. This section does not prevent an employer from refusing to hire, discharging, disciplining, or otherwise taking an adverse employment action against a person with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because that person was working while under the influence of marijuana.

(4) This section allows an entity to prohibit or otherwise limit the consumption, cultivation, distribution, processing, sale, or display of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana accessories on private property the entity owns, leases, occupies, or manages, except that a lease agreement executed after the effective date of this section may not prohibit a tenant from lawfully possessing and consuming marijuana by means other than smoking.

(5) The enactment of this section and all concurrent amendments to section 1 of this Article shall have no effect upon any valid contract, claim, or cause of action instituted prior to the effective date of this section.

4. Regulation of Marijuana.

(1) In carrying out the implementation of this section and as conditioned herein, the department shall have the authority to:

(a) Grant or refuse state licenses for the cultivation, manufacture, dispensing, and sale of marijuana; suspend, restrict, or revoke such licenses upon a violation of this section or a rule promulgated pursuant to this section; and impose any reasonable administrative penalty authorized by this section or any general law enacted or rule promulgated pursuant to this section, so long as any procedure or revocation includes a reasonable cure period, not less than thirty days, prior to the suspension or revocation, except in instances where there is a credible and imminent threat to public health or public safety;

(b) Promulgate rules and emergency rules necessary for the proper regulation and control of the cultivation, manufacture, dispensing, and sale of marijuana and for the enforcement of this section so long as such rules are reasonable and not unduly burdensome;

(c) Develop such forms, certificates, licenses, identification cards, and applications as are necessary for, or reasonably related to the administration of this section or any of the rules promulgated under this section;

(d) Require a seed-to-sale tracking system that tracks marijuana from either the seed or immature plant stage until the marijuana or marijuana-infused product is sold to a qualified patient, primary caregiver, or consumer to ensure that no marijuana grown by a medical marijuana cultivation facility, comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility, or microbusiness wholesale facility, or manufactured by a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, a comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, or a microbusiness wholesale facility is sold or otherwise transferred to a consumer, qualified patient, or primary caregiver except by a medical marijuana dispensary facility, a comprehensive dispensary facility, or a microbusiness dispensary facility. The department shall certify all commercially available tracking systems that are compliant with its tracking standards and issue standards for the creation or use of other systems by licensees;

(e) Issue standards for the secure transportation of marijuana and marijuana-infused products. The department shall certify entities that demonstrate compliance with its transportation standards to transport marijuana and marijuana-infused products to or from a comprehensive facility, medical facility, microbusiness facility, another entity with a transportation certification, or any entity licensed pursuant to paragraph (g) of this subdivision. The department shall develop or adopt from any other governmental agency such safety and security standards as are reasonably necessary for the transportation and temporary storage of marijuana and marijuana-infused products. Any entity licensed or certified pursuant to this section shall be allowed to transport its own inventory and products in compliance with department transportation rules and store marijuana and marijuana-infused products for the purposes related to transportation in compliance with department regulations on secure storage of marijuana and marijuana-infused products;

(f) Promulgate rules and emergency rules specific to the licensing, regulation, and oversight of marijuana microbusiness facilities;

(g) Provide for the issuance of additional types or classes of licenses to operate marijuana-related businesses that:

(i) allow for only transportation, delivery, or storage of marijuana; or

(ii) are intended to facilitate scientific research or education;

(h) Prepare and transmit annually a publicly available report accounting to the governor, the general assembly, and the public for the efficient discharge of all responsibilities assigned to the department under this section. The report shall provide aggregate data for each type of license (medical, comprehensive, and microbusiness) and facility (dispensary, cultivation, manufacturers, wholesalers.) Only non-identifying information shall be provided regarding any marijuana facility owners;

(i) Establish a lottery selection process to select comprehensive facility licenses, certificate holders, marijuana microbusiness licensees, but not medical facility licensees that are converting to comprehensive licenses pursuant to this subsection. To become eligible for any license lottery selection process, an owner cannot have pleaded guilty or been found guilty of a disqualifying felony, as that term is defined in subsection 9 of this section.

(j) In developing a lottery selection process to award licenses and certificates, the department may consult or contract with other public agencies with relevant expertise.

(k) While not required as a prerequisite to participation in a comprehensive license lottery, every comprehensive license applicant shall submit to the department a voluntary plan to promote and encourage participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition. The plan may include strategies to address geographical defined communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition; provide for ownership opportunities for disproportionately impacted communities; and provide for employment, supplier, and vendor opportunities for individuals and businesses in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition. If licensed, any voluntary applicant plan shall be enforceable by the department.

(l) Notwithstanding other grants of authority herein, neither the department nor any governmental body may restrict the production or use of marijuana and marijuana-infused products based solely upon THC content.

(m) Set a limit on the amount of marijuana that may be purchased in a single transaction provided that limit is not less than three ounces of dried, unprocessed marijuana, or its equivalent.

(n) Regulate the advertising and promotion of marijuana sales, but any such regulation shall be no more stringent than comparable state regulations on the advertising and promotion of alcohol sales.

(2) The department shall issue, at a minimum, the same number of comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility licenses as were authorized or issued for medical marijuana cultivation facilities under section 1 of this Article as of December 7, 2022, the same number of comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility licenses as were authorized or issued for medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities under section 1 of this Article as of December 7, 2022, the same number of comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility licenses with the same congressional distribution requirements as were

authorized or issued for medical marijuana dispensary facilities under section 1 of this Article as of December 7, 2022, in addition to the minimum number of marijuana microbusiness licenses as are required under this section. The department may lift or ease any limit on the number of licensees or certificate holders in order to meet the demand for marijuana in the state and to ensure a competitive market while also preventing an over-concentration of marijuana facilities within the boundaries of any particular local government.

(3) If comprehensive facility licenses become available because the number of total issued licenses in any respective category falls below the minimum required under this section or the department determines more comprehensive facility licenses are necessary to meet the requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection, the department shall award by lottery at least fifty percent of any new licenses available to satisfy the minimum requirement to applicants who are owners of a marijuana microbusiness facility that has been in operation for at least one year and is in good standing with the department and is otherwise qualified for the license.

(4) The department may issue any rules or emergency rules necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this section and to ensure the right to, availability, and safe use of marijuana by consumers. In developing such rules or emergency rules, the department may consult or contract with other public agencies. In addition to any other rules or emergency rules necessary to carry out the mandates of this section, the department shall issue rules or emergency rules relating to the following subjects:

(a) Procedures for issuing a license and for renewing, suspending, and revoking a license, so long as any procedure related to a suspension or revocation includes a reasonable cure period, not less than thirty days, prior to the suspension or revocation, except in instances where there is a credible and imminent threat to public health or public safety;

(b) Requirements and standards for safe cultivation, processing, and distribution of marijuana and marijuana-infused products by marijuana facilities, including health standards to ensure the safe preparation of marijuana-infused products;

(c) Testing, packaging, and labeling standards, procedures, and requirements for marijuana and marijuana-infused products and a requirement that a representative sample of marijuana be tested by a marijuana testing facility to ensure public health;

(d) Labeling standards that protect public health by requiring the listing of pharmacologically active ingredients, including, but not limited to, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), and other cannabinoid content, the THC and other cannabinoid amount in milligrams per serving, the number of servings per package, and quantity limits per sale to comply with the allowable possession amount;

(e) Requirements that packaging and labels shall not be made to be attractive to children, required warning labels, and that marijuana and marijuana-infused products be sold in resealable, child-resistant packaging to protect public health;

(f) Security requirements, including lighting, physical security, and alarm requirements, and requirements for securely transporting marijuana between marijuana facilities;

(g) Record keeping requirements for marijuana facilities and monitoring requirements to track the transfer of marijuana by licensees;

(h) A plan to promote and encourage ownership and employment in the marijuana industry by people from political subdivisions and districts that are economically distressed and to positively impact those political subdivisions and districts;

(i) Administrative penalties as authorized by this section for failure to comply with any rule promulgated pursuant to this section or for any violation of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section by a licensee, including authorized administrative fines and suspension, revocation, or restriction of a license. The licensee may choose to challenge any penalties imposed by the department through the administrative hearing commission, or its successor entity. Pursuant to section 536.100, RSMo, or its successor provisions, any licensee who has exhausted all administrative remedies provided by law and who is aggrieved by a final decision in a contested case is entitled to judicial review.

(j) Reporting and transmittal of tax payments required under this section;

(k) Authorization for the department of revenue to have access to licensing information to ensure tax payment and the effective administration of this section; and

(l) Such other matters as are necessary for the fair, impartial, stringent, and comprehensive administration of this section.

(5) The department shall issue rules or emergency rules for a marijuana and marijuana infused products independent testing and certification program for marijuana facility licensees and requiring licensees to test marijuana using one or more impartial, independent laboratory or laboratories to ensure, at a minimum, correct labeling, potency measurement, and that products sold for human consumption do not contain contaminants that are potentially injurious to public health.

(6) The department shall issue rules or emergency rules to provide for the certification of and standards for marijuana testing facilities, including the requirements for equipment and qualifications for personnel, but shall not require certificate holders to have any federal agency licensing or have any relationship with a federally licensed testing facility. No

marijuana testing facility shall be owned by an entity or entities under substantially common control, ownership, or management as a marijuana cultivation facility, marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, marijuana microbusiness facility, or marijuana dispensary facility.

(7) All public records produced or retained pursuant to this section are subject to the general provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law, chapter 610, RSMo, or its successor provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, public records containing proprietary business information obtained from an applicant or licensee shall be closed. The applicant or licensee shall label business information it believes to be proprietary prior to submitting it to the department. Proprietary business information shall include sales information, financial records, tax returns, credit reports, license applications, cultivation information unrelated to product safety, testing results unrelated to product safety, site security information and plans, and individualized consumer information. The presence of proprietary business information shall not justify the closure of public records;

(a) Identifying the applicant or licensee;

(b) Relating to any citation, notice of violation, tax delinquency, or other enforcement action;

(c) Relating to any public official's support or opposition relative to any applicant, licensee, or their proposed or actual operations;

(d) Where disclosure is reasonably necessary for the protection of public health or safety;

(e) That are otherwise subject to public inspection under applicable law.

(8) Within one hundred and eighty days of the effective date of this section, the department shall make available to the public license application forms and application instructions for marijuana microbusiness facilities. Within two hundred and seventy days of the effective date of this section, the department shall start accepting such applications from applicants.

(9) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to grow marijuana as a comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license, but multiple licenses may be utilized in a single facility. Each indoor facility utilizing artificial lighting may be limited by the department to thirty thousand square feet of flowering plant canopy space. Each outdoor facility utilizing natural lighting may be limited by the department to two thousand eight hundred flowering plants. Each greenhouse facility using a combination of natural and artificial lighting may be limited by the department, at the election of the licensee, to two thousand eight hundred flowering plants or thirty thousand square feet of flowering plant canopy. The license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of twelve thousand dollars per license application or renewal for all applicants filing an application within three years of the effective date of this section and shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of five thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of twenty-five thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. An entity may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana cultivation facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(10) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to operate a comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license. A license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of seven thousand dollars per license application or renewal for each applicant filing an application within three years of the effective date of this section and shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of three thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of ten thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. An entity may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana dispensary facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(11) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain one or more licenses to operate a comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility. Each facility in operation shall require a separate license. A license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of seven thousand dollars per license application or renewal for each applicant filing an application within three years of the effective date of this section and shall charge each applicant a non-refundable fee of three thousand dollars per license application or renewal thereafter. Once granted,

the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of ten thousand dollars per facility license. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. An entity may not be an owner of more than ten percent of the total marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility licenses outstanding under both sections 1 and 2 of this Article at any given time, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

(12) An entity may apply to the department for and obtain only one license to operate a marijuana microbusiness facility, which may be either a microbusiness dispensary facility or a microbusiness wholesale facility. A marijuana microbusiness facility licensee may engage in all of the activities allowed under the license or it may apply for and engage in a subset of the activities allowed if the applicant or license holder so chooses. A microbusiness wholesale facility may cultivate, process, manufacture, transport, and sell marijuana and marijuana-infused products to any other marijuana microbusiness facility. A microbusiness dispensary facility licensee may acquire from any other microbusiness facility, process, package, deliver, and sell marijuana and marijuana-infused products to any other marijuana microbusiness facility, or directly to qualified patients, their primary caregiver, or consumers. A marijuana microbusiness license shall be valid for three years from its date of issuance and shall be renewable, except for good cause. The department shall charge each applicant a fee of one thousand five hundred dollars per license application and for each subsequent license renewal application thereafter. Any applicant that meets the criteria to apply for a marijuana microbusiness facility license but is not chosen by the lottery system may have their application fee refunded. Once granted, the department shall charge each licensee an annual fee of one thousand five hundred dollars per facility license, but there shall be no annual fee assessed for the first year of licensure. Application and license fees shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency. An entity may not be an owner of more than one marijuana microbusiness facility license. An owner of a marijuana microbusiness facility may not also be an owner of another licensed marijuana facility or medical facility regulated under this Article. However, the owner of a marijuana microbusiness facility may apply for a license or licenses for other marijuana or medical marijuana facilities under this Article. If granted one or more of these licenses, the marijuana microbusiness facility owner shall transition to other licensed operations on a reasonably practical timetable established by the department, and surrender its marijuana microbusiness facility license to the department for issuance to an applicant for a marijuana microbusiness facility. In addition to other requirements established by this section, an applicant for a marijuana microbusiness license shall be majority owned by individuals who each meet at least one of the following qualifications:

(a) Have a net worth of less than \$250,000 and have had an income below two hundred and fifty percent of the federal poverty level, or successor level, as set forth in the applicable calendar year's federal poverty income guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or its successor agency, for at least three of the ten calendar years prior to applying for a marijuana microbusiness facility license; or

(b) Have a valid service-connected disability card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or successor agency; or

(c) Be a person who has been, or a person whose parent, guardian or spouse has been arrested for, prosecuted for, or convicted of, a non-violent marijuana offense, except for a conviction involving provision of marijuana to a minor, or a conviction of driving under the influence of marijuana. The arrest, charge, or conviction must have occurred at least one year prior to the effective date of this section; or

(d) Reside in a ZIP code or census tract area where:

(i) Thirty percent or more of the population lives below the federal poverty level; or

(ii) The rate of unemployment is fifty percent higher than the state average rate of unemployment; or

(iii) The historic rate of incarceration for marijuana-related offenses is fifty percent higher than the rate for the entire state; or

(e) Graduated from a school district that was unaccredited, or had a similar successor designation, at the time of graduation, or has lived in a zip code containing an unaccredited school district, or similar successor designation, for three of the past five years.

(13) The department may restrict the aggregate number of licenses granted for marijuana microbusiness facilities, provided, however, that the number may not be limited to fewer than the following number of licenses in each United States congressional district in the state of Missouri pursuant to the map of each of the eight congressional districts as drawn and effective on December 6, 2018:

(a) Six, once the department begins issuing licenses for marijuana microbusiness facilities under this subsection, at least two of which shall be a microbusiness dispensary facility, and at least four of which will be a microbusiness wholesale facility. The department shall issue the first group of

microbusiness licenses no later than three hundred days after the effective date of this section;

(b) An additional six following the first two hundred and seventy days after the department begins issuing licenses for marijuana microbusiness facilities under this subsection, at least two of which shall be a microbusiness dispensary facility, and at least four of which will be a microbusiness wholesale facility, but only after the chief equity officer, or his or her designee, conducts a review and certifies that previous microbusiness licenses were awarded to and are being operated by eligible applicants in good standing; and

(c) An additional six after the first five hundred and forty-eight days after the department begins issuing licenses for marijuana microbusiness facilities under this subsection, at least two of which shall be a microbusiness dispensary facility, and at least four of which will be a microbusiness wholesale facility, but only after the chief equity officer, or his or her designee, conducts a review and certifies that previous microbusiness licenses were awarded to and are being operated in good standing by eligible applicants.

Future changes to the boundaries or the number of congressional districts shall have no impact on microbusiness license numbers or distribution. The eligibility review set forth in this subdivision shall be conducted by the chief equity officer within sixty days of issuance of the licenses. The chief equity officer shall publish in a manner available to the public the results of the review that contains only aggregate information on licensee eligibility criteria.

(14) Within 60 days after the effective date of this section, the department shall appoint a chief equity officer. The chief equity officer shall assist with the development and implementation of programs to inform the public of the opportunities available to those people who meet the criteria set forth in paragraph (12) of this subsection. The chief equity officer shall establish public education programming and targeted technical assistance programming dedicated to providing communities that have been impacted by marijuana prohibition with information detailing the licensing process and informing individuals of the support and resources that the office can provide to individuals and entities interested in participating in activity licensed under this Article. The chief equity officer shall provide a report to the department, no later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, of their and the department's activities in ensuring compliance with the applicant criteria set forth in paragraph (12) of this subsection, and the department shall provide such report to the legislature. The chief equity officer may only be removed for cause and the department shall not interfere with the officer's lawful official activities under this section.

(15) Any medical marijuana cultivation facility, medical marijuana dispensary facility, and medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility, holding an active facility license under section 1 of this Article shall have the right to convert their license to a comprehensive marijuana license, and any entity certified by the department to conduct medical marijuana testing, transportation or seed-to-sale tracking as of the effective date of this section shall be deemed certified to conduct those activities with respect to all marijuana;

(16) Upon the effective date of this section, any existing medical facility licensee may request its medical facility license convert to that of a comprehensive facility license. Conversion requests not processed within sixty days of department receipt shall be deemed approved.

(17) With the exception of microbusiness licenses, and consistent with any limitations set forth in this section, for the first five hundred and forty-eight days after the department begins issuing licenses for marijuana facilities under this section, the department may only issue a license:

(a) For a comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility to an entity holding a medical marijuana cultivation facility license issued pursuant to section 1 of this Article seeking to convert its licensure to that of a comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility at the same location;

(b) For a comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility to an entity holding a medical marijuana dispensary facility license issued pursuant to section 1 of this Article seeking to convert its licensure to that of a comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility at the same location; and

(c) For a comprehensive marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility to an entity holding a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility license issued pursuant to section 1 of this Article seeking to convert its licensure to that of a comprehensive marijuana infused products manufacturing facility at the same location.

(18) The department shall issue a license to each request for a conversion to a comprehensive marijuana facility license pursuant to subdivision (15) of this subsection if the applicant is in good standing with the department.

(19) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of this Article, if an existing medical marijuana dispensary facility is located in a jurisdiction that prohibits non-medical retail marijuana facilities under this section, or is otherwise prevented from operating a comprehensive marijuana dispensary facility at the same location as the existing medical marijuana dispensary facility, the medical marijuana dispensary facility may apply to the department for a comprehensive marijuana dispensary license pursuant to subdivision (15) of this subsection in a new location within the same congressional district, and such

application shall be granted so long as the new location meets all the requirements of this section and department regulations.

(20) In addition to the foregoing, if the department has reason to believe that the conversion of a medical facility into a comprehensive facility might limit or restrict access to an adequate supply of marijuana and marijuana-infused products at a reasonable cost to qualifying patients, as defined in section 1 of this Article, the department may request a plan from the medical facility licensee which explains how the applicant would serve both the medical and adult-use markets, while maintaining adequate supply at a reasonable cost to qualifying patients.

(21) Comprehensive marijuana facilities licensed to distribute marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana accessories directly to consumers pursuant to this section may also distribute marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana accessories to qualifying patients and primary caregivers consistent with section 1 of this Article and department regulation.

(22) The department may charge a fee not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for any certification issued pursuant to this section. This fee limitation shall be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency.

(23) Within thirty days of December 8, 2022, the department shall make available to the public application forms and application instructions for personal cultivation registration cards. Within sixty days of December 8, 2022, the department shall begin accepting applications for such registration cards.

(24) Except for good cause, a person at least twenty-one years of age may obtain a registration card from the department to cultivate up to six flowering marijuana plants, six nonflowering marijuana plants (over fourteen inches tall), and six clones (plants under fourteen inches tall) for non-commercial use, provided:

(a) The plants and any marijuana produced by the plants in excess of three ounces are kept at one private residence, are in a locked space, and are not visible by normal unaided vision from a public place; and

(b) Not more than twelve flowering marijuana plants are kept in or on the grounds of a private residence at one time.

The card shall be valid for twelve months from its date of issuance and shall be renewable. The department shall charge an annual fee for the card of one hundred dollars, with such rate to be increased or decreased each year by the percentage of increase or decrease from the end of the previous calendar year of the Consumer Price Index, or successor index as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, or its successor agency.

(25) All marijuana sold in Missouri pursuant to this section shall be cultivated in Missouri.

(26) All marijuana-infused products sold in Missouri pursuant to this section shall be manufactured in Missouri.

(27) The denial of a license or license renewal by the department shall be appealable. The applicant may choose to challenge any denial by the department through the administrative hearing commission, or successor entity. Pursuant to section 536.100, RSMo, or its successor provisions, any licensee who has exhausted all administrative remedies provided by law and who is aggrieved by a final decision in a contested case is entitled to judicial review.

(28) No elected official shall interfere directly or indirectly with the department's obligations and activities under this section.

(29) To minimize the potential for undue political influence in awarding licenses, the department shall review license applications using reasonable safeguards that ensure the identity of the applicant and its principal owners, officers, and managers are not identified to the application reviewer.

(30) To ensure the consistent protection of public health and public safety, the department shall have the sole authority within the state of Missouri to issue licenses for marijuana facilities and certifications pursuant to this section.

(31) The department shall not have the authority to promulgate, apply, or enforce any rule or regulation that is unduly burdensome or act to undermine the purposes of this section.

5. Local Control.

(1) (a) Except as provided in this subsection, a local government may prohibit the operation of all microbusiness dispensary facilities or comprehensive marijuana dispensary facilities regulated under this section from being located within its jurisdiction either through referral of a ballot question to the voters by the governing body or through citizen petition, provided that citizen petitions are otherwise generally authorized by the laws of the local government. Such a ballot question shall be voted on only during the regularly scheduled general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of a presidential election year, starting in 2024, thereby minimizing additional local governmental cost or expense. A citizen petition to put before the voters a ballot question prohibiting microbusiness dispensary facilities or comprehensive marijuana dispensary facilities shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified voters in the area proposed to be subject to the prohibition, determined on the basis of the number of votes cast for governor in such locale at the last gubernatorial election held prior to the filing of the petition. The local government shall count the petition signatures and give legal notice of the election as provided

by applicable law. Denial of ballot access shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) Whether submitted by the governing body or by citizen's petition, the question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall (insert name of local government) ban all non-medical microbusiness dispensary facilities and comprehensive marijuana dispensary facilities from being located within (insert name of local government and, where applicable, its "unincorporated areas") and forgo any additional related local tax revenue? () Yes () No." If at least sixty percent of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the question, then the ban shall go into effect as provided by law. If a question receives less than the required sixty percent, then the jurisdiction shall have no power to ban non-medical microbusiness dispensary facilities or comprehensive marijuana facilities regulated under this section, unless voters at a subsequent general election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of a presidential election year approve a ban on non-medical retail marijuana facilities submitted to them by the governing body or by citizen petition.

(2) (a) A local government may repeal an existing ban by its own ordinance or by a vote of the people, either through referral of a ballot question to the voters by the governing body or through citizen petition, provided that citizen petitions are otherwise generally authorized by the laws of the local government. In the case of a referral of a ballot question by the governing body or citizen petition to repeal an existing ban, the question shall be voted on only during the regularly scheduled general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of a presidential election year. A citizen petition to put before the voters a ballot question repealing an existing ban shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified voters in the area subject to the ban, determined on the basis of the number of votes cast for governor in such locale at the last gubernatorial election held prior to the filing of the petition. The local government shall count the petition signatures and give legal notice of the election as provided by applicable law. Denial of ballot access shall be subject to judicial review.

(b) Whether submitted by the governing body or by citizen's petition, the question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall (insert name of local government) allow non-medical microbusiness dispensary facilities and comprehensive marijuana dispensary facilities to be located within (insert name of local government and, where applicable, its "unincorporated areas") as regulated by state law? () Yes () No." If a majority of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the question, then the ban shall be repealed.

(3) The only local government ordinances and regulations that are binding on a marijuana facility are those of the local government where the marijuana facility is located.

(4) Unless allowed by the local government, no new marijuana facility shall be initially sited within one thousand feet of any then-existing elementary or secondary school, child day-care center, or church. In the case of a freestanding facility, the distance between the facility and the school, daycare, or church shall be measured from the external wall of the facility structure closest in proximity to the school, daycare, or church to the closest point of the property line of the school, daycare, or church. If the school, daycare, or church is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance shall be measured to the entrance or exit of the school, daycare, or church closest in proximity to the facility. In the case of a facility that is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance between the facility and the school, daycare, or church shall be measured from the property line of the school, daycare, or church to the facility's entrance or exit closest in proximity to the school, daycare, or church. If the school, daycare, or church is part of a larger structure, such as an office building or strip mall, the distance shall be measured to the entrance or exit of the school, daycare, or church closest in proximity to the facility. Measurements shall be made along the shortest path between the demarcation points that can be lawfully traveled by foot.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no local government shall prohibit marijuana facilities or entities with a transportation certification either expressly or through the enactment of ordinances or regulations that make their operation unduly burdensome in the jurisdiction. However, local governments may enact ordinances or regulations not in conflict with this section, or with regulations enacted pursuant to this section, governing the time, place, and manner of operation of such facilities in the locality. A local government may establish civil penalties for violation of an ordinance or regulations governing the time, place, and manner of operation of a marijuana facility or entity holding a transportation certification that may operate in such locality.

(6) Local governments may enact ordinances or regulations not in conflict with this section, or with regulations enacted pursuant to this section, governing:

(a) the time and place where marijuana may be smoked in public areas within the locality; and

(b) the consumption of marijuana-infused products within designated areas, including the preparation of culinary dishes or beverages by local restaurants for on-site consumption on the same day it is prepared.

6. Taxation and Reporting.

(1) A tax shall be levied upon the retail sale of non-medical marijuana sold to consumers at marijuana facilities licensed pursuant to this

section within the state. The tax shall be at a rate of six percent of the retail price. The tax shall be collected by each licensed retail marijuana facility and paid to the department of revenue. After retaining no more than two percent of the total tax collected or its actual collection costs, whichever is less, amounts generated by the marijuana tangible personal property retail sales tax levied in this section shall be deposited by the department of revenue into the "Veterans, Health, and Community Reinvestment Fund" created under this subsection. Licensed entities making non-medical retail sales within the state shall be allowed approved credit for returns provided the tax was paid on the returned item and the purchaser was given the refund or credit. This tax shall not apply to medical marijuana dispensed to a registered qualifying patient or caregiver.

(2) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Veterans, Health, and Community Reinvestment Fund" which shall consist of taxes and fees collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund, and he or she shall invest monies in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any monies remaining in the fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The commissioner of administration is authorized to make cash operating transfers to the fund for purposes of meeting the cash requirements of the department in advance of it receiving application, licensing, and tax revenue, with any such transfers to be repaid as provided by law. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and shall be distributed as follows:

(a) First, as determined by appropriation, to the department an amount necessary for the department to carry out its responsibilities under this section, including repayment of any cash operating transfers, payments made through contract or agreement with other state and public agencies necessary to carry out this section, and a reserve fund to maintain a reasonable working cash balance for the purpose of carrying out this section;

(b) Second, as determined by appropriation, to governmental entities in amounts necessary for carrying out responsibilities in the expungement of criminal history records under this section;

(c) Next, the remaining fund balance shall be distributed in thirds as follows:

(i) One-third of the remainder of the fund balance shall be transferred to the Missouri veterans commission and allied state agencies, as determined by appropriation, exclusively for health care and other services for military veterans and their dependent families;

(ii) One-third of the remainder of the fund balance to the department to provide grants to agencies and not-for-profit organizations, whether government or community-based, to increase access to evidence-based low-barrier drug addiction treatment, prioritizing medically proven treatment and overdose prevention and reversal methods and public or private treatment options with an emphasis on reintegrating recipients into their local communities, to support overdose prevention education, and to support job placement, housing, and counseling for those with substance use disorders. Agencies and organizations serving populations with the highest rates of drug-related overdose shall be prioritized to receive the grants, and

(iii) One-third of the remainder of the fund balance to the Missouri public defender system. Any moneys credited to the Missouri public defender system shall be used only for legal assistance for low-income Missourians, shall not be diverted to any other purpose.

(d) All monies from the taxes and fees authorized hereunder shall provide new and additional funding for the purposes enumerated above and shall not replace existing funding.

(e) The unexpended balance existing in the fund shall be exempt from the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, or its successor provisions, relating to the transfer of unexpended balances to the general revenue fund.

(3) For all retail sales of marijuana, a record shall be kept by the seller of all amounts and types of marijuana involved in the sale and the total amount of money involved in the sale, including itemizations, taxes collected, and grand total sale amounts. All such records shall be kept on the premises in a readily available format and be made available for review by the department and the department of revenue upon request. Such records shall be retained for five years from the date of the sale.

(4) The tax levied pursuant to this subsection is separate from and in addition to any general state and local sales and use taxes that apply to retail sales, which shall continue to be collected and distributed as provided by general law.

(5) Pursuant to Article III, section 49 of this Constitution, the governing body of any local government is authorized to impose, by ordinance or order, an additional sales tax in an amount not to exceed three percent on all tangible personal property retail sales of adult use marijuana sold in such political subdivision. The tax authorized by this paragraph shall be in addition to any and all other tangible personal property retail sales taxes allowed by law, except that no ordinance or order imposing a tangible personal property retail sales tax under the provisions of this paragraph shall be effective unless the governing body of the political subdivision submits to the voters of the political subdivision, at a municipal, county or state general, primary or special election, a proposal to authorize the governing body of the political subdivision to impose a tax. Any

additional local retail sales tax shall be collected pursuant to general laws for the collection of local sales taxes.

(6) Except as authorized in this Article, no additional taxes shall be imposed on the sale of marijuana.

(7) The fees and taxes provided for in this section shall be fully enforceable notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution purportedly prohibiting or restricting the taxes and fees provided for herein.

(8) For taxpayers authorized to do business pursuant to this Article, the amount that would have been deducted in the computation of federal taxable income pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code as in effect on January 1, 2021, or successor provisions, but is disallowed because cannabis is a controlled substance under federal law, shall be subtracted from the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income, in determining the taxpayer's Missouri adjusted gross income.

7. Additional Protections.

(1) A marijuana testing facility shall not be subject to civil or criminal prosecution under Missouri law, denial of any right or privilege, civil or administrative penalty or sanction, or disciplinary action by any accreditation or licensing board or commission for providing laboratory testing services that relate to marijuana consistent with this section and otherwise meeting legal standards of professional conduct.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of Article V to the contrary, an attorney shall not be subject to disciplinary action by the Supreme Court of Missouri, the office of chief disciplinary counsel, the state bar association, any state agency or any professional licensing body for any of the following:

(a) owning, operating, investing in, being employed by, or contracting with prospective or licensed marijuana testing facilities, marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana dispensary facilities, marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, marijuana microbusiness facilities, or transportation certificate holders;

(b) counseling, advising, and/or assisting a client in conduct permitted by Missouri law that may violate or conflict with federal or other law, as long as the attorney advises the client about that federal or other law and its potential consequences;

(c) counseling, advising, and/or assisting a client in connection with applying for, owning, operating, or otherwise having any legal, equitable, or beneficial interest in marijuana testing facilities, marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana dispensary facilities, marijuana-infused products manufacturing facilities, marijuana microbusiness facilities, or transportation certificates; or

(d) counseling, advising, or assisting a qualifying patient, primary caregiver, physician, nurse practitioner, health care provider, consumer, or other client related to activity that is no longer subject to criminal penalties under Missouri law pursuant to this Article.

(3) Actions and conduct by marijuana facilities licensed or otherwise certified by the department, or their employees or agents, as permitted by this section and in compliance with department regulations and other standards of legal conduct, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Missouri law, except as provided for by this section.

(4) The department may not promulgate a rule that requires a consumer to provide a marijuana facility with identifying information other than identification to determine the consumer's age.

(5) It is the public policy of the state of Missouri that contracts related to marijuana that are entered into by marijuana facilities and those who allow property to be used by those entities should be enforceable. It is the public policy of the state of Missouri that no contract entered into by marijuana facilities, or by a person who allows property to be used for activities that are exempt from state criminal penalties by this section, shall be unenforceable on the basis that activities related to marijuana may be prohibited by federal law.

(6) Prior to requesting a search or arrest warrant relating to cultivation of marijuana plants, a state or local law enforcement official shall verify with the department whether the targeted person holds a registration card allowing for cultivation of flowering marijuana plants under this section, and shall inform the issuing authority when making the warrant request. Evidence of marijuana alone, without specific evidence indicating that the marijuana is outside of what is lawful for medical or adult use, cannot be the basis for a search of a patient or non-patient, including their home, vehicle or other property. Lawful marijuana related activities cannot be the basis for a violation of parole, probation, or any type of supervised release. State and local law enforcement shall have access to such department information as is necessary to confirm whether the targeted person holds a registration card. Each time a state or local law enforcement officer executes a search warrant authorizing entry upon premises for an alleged marijuana offense, the officer must first knock or announce their presence or purpose prior to entering the premises.

(7) (a) After executing a search warrant for an alleged marijuana offense, or conducting a warrantless search for an alleged marijuana offense, the officer shall report the following information to the agency that employs the officer:

(i) The reasons for the warrant or, in the case of a warrantless search, a detailed account of either the probable cause or exigent circumstances, if any, which lead to the warrantless search;

(ii) Whether any marijuana was discovered during the course of the search;

(iii) Whether any marijuana was seized during the search, and if so, the amount seized;

(iv) Whether any other contraband was discovered or seized in the course of the search,

and if seized, a description of the contraband;

(v) A description of the tactics used by law enforcement to enter the property;

(vi) Whether an arrest was made as a result of the search; and

(vii) If an arrest was made, the crime suspected.

(b) Each law enforcement agency shall compile the data described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision for the calendar year into a report and shall submit the report to the attorney general no later than March first of the following calendar year. The attorney general shall determine the format that all law enforcement agencies shall use to submit the report.

(c) The attorney general shall submit a summary of the annual reports of law enforcement agencies to the governor, the general assembly, and each law enforcement agency no later than June first of each year. The summary shall include the total number of such warrants executed by each agency in the previous calendar year for alleged marijuana offenses, and a compilation of the information reported by law enforcement agencies pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision.

8. Legislation.

Nothing in this section shall limit the general assembly from enacting laws consistent with the purposes and provisions of this section.

9. Additional Provisions.

(1) No owner of a marijuana facility or entity with a transportation certification shall be an individual with a disqualifying felony offense. A "disqualifying felony offense" is a violation of, and conviction or guilty plea to, state or federal law that is, or would have been, a felony under Missouri law, regardless of the sentence imposed, unless the department determines that:

(a) The person's conviction was for a marijuana offense that has been expunged or is currently eligible for expungement under this section; or

(b) The person's conviction was for a non-violent crime for which he or she was not incarcerated and that is more than five years old; or

(c) More than five years have passed since the person was released from parole or probation, and he or she has not been convicted of any subsequent felony criminal offenses.

The department may consult with and rely on the records, advice, and recommendations of the attorney general and the department of public safety, or their successor entities, in carrying out the provisions of this subdivision.

(2) Owners licensed pursuant to this section shall submit fingerprints to the Missouri state highway patrol for the purpose of conducting a state and federal fingerprint-based criminal record check in accordance with U.S. Public Law 92-544, or its successor provisions. The Missouri state highway patrol, if necessary, shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of conducting a fingerprint-based criminal background check. Fingerprints shall be submitted pursuant to section 43.543, RSMo, or its successor provisions, and fees shall be paid pursuant to section 43.530, RSMo, or its successor provisions. Unless otherwise required by law, no individual shall be required to submit fingerprints more than once.

(3) No marijuana facility shall manufacture, package, or label marijuana or marijuana-infused products in a false or misleading manner. No person shall sell any product in a manner designed to cause confusion between marijuana or a marijuana-infused product and any product not containing marijuana. A violation of this subdivision shall be punishable by an appropriate and proportional department sanction, up to and including an administrative penalty of five thousand dollars and loss of license.

(4) No marijuana facility may sell edible marijuana-infused candy in shapes or packages that are attractive to children or that are easily confused with commercially sold candy that does not contain marijuana. A violation of this subdivision shall be punishable by an appropriate and proportional department sanction, up to and including an administrative penalty of five thousand dollars and loss of license.

(5) All marijuana and marijuana-infused products shall be sold in individual, child-resistant containers that are labeled with serving amounts, instructions for use, and estimated length of effectiveness. All marijuana and marijuana-infused products shall be sold in containers clearly and conspicuously labeled, as mandated by the department, as containing "Marijuana" or a "Marijuana-Infused Product." Violation of this subdivision shall subject the violator to department sanctions, including an administrative penalty of five thousand dollars.

(6) A marijuana facility may not allow cultivation, manufacturing, sale, or display of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or marijuana accessories to be visible from a public place outside of the marijuana facility without the use of binoculars, aircraft, or other optical aids.

(7) A marijuana facility may not cultivate, manufacture, test, sell, or store marijuana at any location other than a physical address approved by the department and within an enclosed area that is secured in a manner that prevents access by persons not permitted by the marijuana facility to access the area.

(8) A marijuana facility shall secure every entrance to the facility so that access to areas containing marijuana is restricted to employees and other persons permitted by the marijuana facility to access the area and to agents of the department or state and local law enforcement officers and emergency personnel and shall secure its inventory and equipment during and after operating hours to deter and prevent theft of marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana accessories.

(9) No marijuana facility may

refuse representatives of the department the right to inspect the licensed premises or to audit the books and records of the marijuana facility. A facility that holds licenses issued under sections 1 and 2 of this Article shall comply with inspection regulations and standards issued pursuant to both sections.

(10) No marijuana facility or entity with a certification, shall assign, sell, give, lease, sublicense, or otherwise transfer its license or certificate to any other entity without the express consent of the department, not to be unreasonably withheld.

(11) Real and personal property used in the cultivation, manufacture, transport, testing, distribution, sale, and administration of marijuana for activities otherwise in compliance with this section shall not be subject to asset forfeiture solely because of that use.

(12) No person shall extract resins from marijuana using dangerous materials or combustible gases without a medical marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility license, marijuana-infused products manufacturing facility license, or a marijuana microbusiness wholesale facility license. Violation of this prohibition shall subject the violator to department sanctions, including an administrative penalty of one thousand dollars for an individual and ten thousand dollars for a facility licensee and, if applicable, loss of certificate or license for up to one year.

10. Personal Use of Marijuana.

(1) Subject to the limitations in subsection 3 of this section, the following acts by a person at least twenty-one years of age are not unlawful and shall not be an offense under state law or the laws of any local government within the state or be a basis to impose a civil fine, penalty, or sanction, or be a basis to detain, search, or arrest, or otherwise deny any right or privilege, or to seize or forfeit assets under state law or the laws of any local government:

(a) Purchasing, possessing, consuming, using, ingesting, inhaling, processing, transporting, delivering without consideration, or distributing without consideration three ounces or less of dried, unprocessed marijuana, or its equivalent;

(b) Possessing, transporting, planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing, or manufacturing up to six flowering marijuana plants, six nonflowering marijuana plants (over fourteen inches tall), and six clones (plants under fourteen inches tall) provided the person is registered with the department for cultivation of marijuana plants under this section; provided:

(i) The plants and any marijuana produced by the plants in excess of three ounces are kept at one private residence, are in a locked space, and are not visible by normal, unaided vision from a public place; and

(ii) Not more than twice the number of allowable plants under paragraph (b) of this subdivision are kept in or on the grounds of a private residence at one time.

(c) Assisting another person who is at least twenty-one years of age in, or allowing property to be used for, any of the acts permitted by this section; and

(d) Purchasing, possessing, using, delivering, distributing, manufacturing, transferring, or selling to persons twenty-one years of age or older marijuana accessories.

(2) A person who, pursuant to this section, cultivates marijuana plants that are visible by normal, unaided vision from a public place is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana.

(3) A person who, pursuant to this section, cultivates marijuana plants that are not kept in a locked space is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana.

(4) A person who smokes marijuana in a public place, other than in an area licensed for such activity by the authorities having jurisdiction over the licensing and/or permitting of said activity, is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.

(5) A person who is under twenty-one years of age who possesses, uses, ingests, inhales, transports, delivers without consideration or distributes without consideration three ounces or less of marijuana, or possesses, delivers without consideration, or distributes without consideration marijuana accessories is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana. Any such person shall be provided the option of attending up to four hours of drug education or counseling in lieu of the fine.

(6) Subject to the limitations of this section, a person who possesses not more than twice the amount of marijuana allowed pursuant to this subsection, produces not more than twice the amount of marijuana allowed pursuant to this subsection, delivers without receiving any consideration or remuneration to a person who is at least twenty-one years of age not more than twice the amount of marijuana allowed by this subsection, or possesses with intent to deliver not more than twice the amount of marijuana allowed by this subsection:

(a) For a first violation, is subject to a civil infraction punishable by a civil penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana;

(b) For a second violation, is subject to a civil infraction punishable by a civil penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana;

(c) For a third or subsequent violation, is subject to a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and forfeiture of the marijuana;

(d) A person under twenty-one years of age is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars. Any such person shall be provided the option of attending up to eight hours of drug education or counseling in lieu of the fine; and

(e) In lieu of payment, penalties under this subsection may be satisfied by the performance of community service. The rate of pay-down associated with said service option will be the greater of \$15 or the minimum wage in effect at the time of judgment.

(7) (a) Any person currently incarcerated in a prison, jail or halfway house, whether by trial or open or negotiated plea;

(i) Who would not have been guilty of an adult or juvenile offense, had sections 1 and 2 of this Article been in effect at the time of the offense; or

(ii) Who would have been guilty of a lesser adult or juvenile offense, had sections 1 and 2 of this Article been in effect at the time of the offense; or

(iii) Who is serving a sentence for a marijuana offense which is a misdemeanor, a class E felony, or a class D felony, or successor designations, involving possession of three pounds or less of marijuana, excluding offenses involving distribution or delivery to a minor, any offenses involving violence, or any offense of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. For all class A, class Band class C, or successor designations, felony marijuana offenses, and for all class D, or successor designation, felony marijuana offenses for possession of more than three pounds of marijuana, the circuit courts of this state shall order expungement of criminal history records upon the completion of the person's incarceration, including any supervised probation or parole. For the purposes of this subdivision, "criminal history record" means all information documenting an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(b) An expungement order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if he or she had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense, and the conviction and sentence shall be vacated as legally invalid. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. The court shall provide notice of the expungement to the person who is the subject of the record at the person's last known address, the arresting agency, prosecuting attorneys, central state depository of criminal records, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to expunge.

The central state depository of criminal records shall provide notice of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center, or its successor agency. The court shall issue the person a certificate stating that the offense for which the person was convicted has been expunged and that its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence.

(c) The effect of such expungement shall be to restore such person to the status the person occupied prior to such arrest, plea, or conviction and as if such event had never taken place. Such person shall not be required to acknowledge the existence of such a criminal history record or answer questions about the record in any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, and may deny the existence of the record regardless of whether the person has received notice from the court that an expungement order has been issued on the person's behalf.

(d) No person shall be prosecuted again for any offense which has been vacated or expunged.

(e) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged together with the expungement order and the certificate issued pursuant to this subsection. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, his or her date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement. The special index and related documents shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons. The court may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records. The index and documents made available by the court may not include any identifying information.

(9) A person currently under parole, probation, or other state supervision, or released awaiting trial or other hearing, may not be punished or otherwise penalized based solely on conduct that is permitted by this section.

(10) No conduct permitted by this section shall constitute the basis for detention, search, or arrest; and except when law enforcement is investigating whether a person is operating a motor vehicle, train, aircraft, motorboat, or other motorized form of transport while under the influence of marijuana, the odor of marijuana or burnt marijuana, the possession or suspicion of possession of marijuana without evidence of a quantity in excess of the lawful amount, or the possession of multiple containers of marijuana without evidence of quantity in excess of the lawful amount shall not individually or in combination with each other constitute reasonably articulable suspicion of a crime. Marijuana and marijuana-infused products as permitted by this section are not contraband nor subject to seizure.

(11) A person shall not be denied eligibility in public assistance programs or public benefits based solely on conduct that is permitted by this Article, unless required by federal law.

(12) No person shall be denied their rights under Article 1, section 23 of the Missouri Constitution, solely for conduct that is permitted by this section.

(13) No person shall be denied parental rights, custody of, or visitation with a minor child by a state or local government executive agency based solely on conduct that is permitted by this section, unless the person's behavior is such that it creates an unreasonable danger to a minor child that can be established by

of all misdemeanor marijuana offenses for any person who is no longer incarcerated or under the supervision of the department of corrections. Within twelve months of the effective date of this section, the circuit courts of this state shall order the expungement of criminal history records for all persons no longer incarcerated or under the supervision of the department of corrections but who have completed their sentence for any felony marijuana offenses and any marijuana offenses that would no longer be a crime after the effective dates of sections 1 and 2 of this Article, excluding distribution or delivery to a minor, any such offenses involving violence, or any offense of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. For all class A, class Band class C, or successor designations, felony marijuana offenses, and for all class D, or successor designation, felony marijuana offenses for possession of more than three pounds of marijuana, the circuit courts of this state shall order expungement of criminal history records upon the completion of the person's incarceration, including any supervised probation or parole. For the purposes of this subdivision, "criminal history record" means all information documenting an individual's contact with the criminal justice system, including data regarding identification, arrest or citation, arraignment, judicial disposition, custody, and supervision.

(b) An expungement order shall be legally effective immediately and the person whose record is expunged shall be treated in all respects as if he or she had never been arrested, convicted, or sentenced for the offense, and the conviction and sentence shall be vacated as legally invalid. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the sentence. The court shall provide notice of the expungement to the person who is the subject of the record at the person's last known address, the arresting agency, prosecuting attorneys, central state depository of criminal records, and any other entity that may have a record related to the order to expunge.

The central state depository of criminal records shall provide notice of the expungement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center, or its successor agency. The court shall issue the person a certificate stating that the offense for which the person was convicted has been expunged and that its effect is to annul the record of arrest, conviction, and sentence.

(c) The effect of such expungement shall be to restore such person to the status the person occupied prior to such arrest, plea, or conviction and as if such event had never taken place. Such person shall not be required to acknowledge the existence of such a criminal history record or answer questions about the record in any application for employment, license, or civil right or privilege or in an appearance as a witness in any proceeding or hearing, and may deny the existence of the record regardless of whether the person has received notice from the court that an expungement order has been issued on the person's behalf.

(d) No person shall be prosecuted again for any offense which has been vacated or expunged.

(e) The court shall keep a special index of cases that have been expunged together with the expungement order and the certificate issued pursuant to this subsection. The index shall list only the name of the person convicted of the offense, his or her date of birth, the docket number, and the criminal offense that was the subject of the expungement. The special index and related documents shall be confidential and shall be physically and electronically segregated in a manner that ensures confidentiality and that limits access to authorized persons. The court may permit special access to the index and the documents for research purposes pursuant to the rules for public access to court records. The index and documents made available by the court may not include any identifying information.

(9) A person currently under parole, probation, or other state supervision, or released awaiting trial or other hearing, may not be punished or otherwise penalized based solely on conduct that is permitted by this section.

(10) No conduct permitted by this section shall constitute the basis for detention, search, or arrest; and except when law enforcement is investigating whether a person is operating a motor vehicle, train, aircraft, motorboat, or other motorized form of transport while under the influence of marijuana, the odor of marijuana or burnt marijuana, the possession or suspicion of possession of marijuana without evidence of a quantity in excess of the lawful amount, or the possession of multiple containers of marijuana without evidence of quantity in excess of the lawful amount shall not individually or in combination with each other constitute reasonably articulable suspicion of a crime. Marijuana and marijuana-infused products as permitted by this section are not contraband nor subject to seizure.

(11) A person shall not be denied eligibility in public assistance programs or public benefits based solely on conduct that is permitted by this Article, unless required by federal law.

(12) No person shall be denied their rights under Article 1, section 23 of the Missouri Constitution, solely for conduct that is permitted by this section.

(13) No person shall be denied parental rights, custody of, or visitation with a minor child by a state or local government executive agency based solely on conduct that is permitted by this section, unless the person's behavior is such that it creates an unreasonable danger to a minor child that can be established by

clear and convincing evidence.

11. Interstate Commerce.

If federal law, rules, or regulations are amended to allow the interstate commerce of marijuana or marijuana-infused products or the importation or exportation of marijuana or marijuana-infused products into or out of the state of Missouri, the provisions and intent of this section shall, to the extent possible, remain in full effect, unless explicitly preempted by such federal law, rule, or regulation. If federal law, rules, or regulations are amended as provided above, any marijuana or marijuana-infused products imported into this state shall be subject to the same testing standards and seed to sale tracking system required under this section for marijuana and marijuana-infused products produced within the state. Unless federal law, rules, or regulations explicitly require otherwise, no entity shall sell, transport, produce, distribute, deliver, or cultivate marijuana or marijuana-infused products without an applicable license or certificate as required under this section. In addition, any raw biomass of marijuana or marijuana flower imported from out-of-state shall be received only by a licensed cultivation facility, while all batch oil, infused marijuana products and any marijuana product in any other form shall be received only by a licensed manufacturing facility.

12. Severability.

The provisions of this section are severable, and if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this measure, or an application thereof, is adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions shall continue to be in effect to the fullest extent possible.

13. Effective Date.

The provisions of this section shall become effective thirty days after the election, as provided by this Constitution.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss

Secretary of State

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 3, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the General Election to be held the eighth day of November, 2022.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 30th day of August, 2022.



JOHN R. ASHCROFT
Secretary of State

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

[Proposed by the 101st General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS2 SJR 38]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to authorize laws, passed before December 31, 2026, that increase minimum funding for a police force established by a state board of police commissioners to ensure such police force has additional resources to serve its communities?

State and local governmental entities estimate no additional costs or savings related to this proposal.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment repealing section 21 of article X of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to the funding of law enforcement agencies.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2022, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to article X of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Section 21, article X, Constitution of Missouri, is repealed and one new section adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 21, to read as follows:

Section 21. 1. The state is hereby prohibited from reducing the state financed proportion of the costs of any existing activity or service required of counties and other political subdivisions. A new activity or service or an increase in the level of any activity or service beyond that required by existing law shall not be required by the general assembly or any state agency of counties or other political subdivisions, unless a state appropriation is made and disbursed to pay the county or other political subdivision for any increased costs.

2. Notwithstanding the foregoing prohibitions, before December 31, 2026, the general assembly may by law increase minimum funding for a police force established by a state board of police commissioners to ensure such police force has additional resources to serve its communities.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state,

the official summary statement of this resolution shall be as follows:

"Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to authorize laws, passed before December 31, 2026, that increase minimum funding for a police force established by a state board of police commissioners to ensure such police force has additional resources to serve its communities?"

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss

Secretary of State

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 4, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the General Election to be held the eighth day of November, 2022.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 30th day of August, 2022.



JOHN R. ASHCROFT
Secretary of State

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

[Proposed by the 101st General Assembly (Second Regular Session) HJR 116]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall the Missouri National Guard currently under the Missouri Department of Public Safety be its own department, known as the Missouri Department of the National Guard, which shall be required to protect the constitutional rights and civil liberties of Missourians?

State governmental entities estimate no savings and ongoing costs of \$132,000 annually. Local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting two new sections in lieu thereof relating to the state department of the national guard.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2022, or at a

special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Section 12, Article IV, Constitution of Missouri, is repealed and two new sections adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Sections 12 and 54, to read as follows:

Section 12. The executive department shall consist of all state elective and appointive officials and employees except officials and employees of the legislative and judicial departments. In addition to the governor and lieutenant governor there shall be a state auditor, secretary of state, attorney general, a state treasurer, an office of administration, a department of agriculture, a department of conservation, a department of natural resources, a department of elementary and secondary education, a department of higher education, a department of highways and transportation, a department of insurance, a department of labor and industrial relations, a department of economic development, a department of public safety, a department of revenue, a department of social services, a department of the National Guard, and a department of mental health. In addition to the elected officers, there shall not be more than ~~fifteen~~ sixteen departments and the office of administration. The general assembly may create by law two departments, in addition to those named, provided that the departments shall be headed by a director or commission appointed by the governor on the advice and consent of the senate. The director or commission shall have administrative responsibility and authority for the department created by law. Unless discontinued all present or future boards, bureaus, commissions and other agencies of the state exercising administrative or executive authority shall be assigned by law or by the governor as provided by law to the office of administration or to one of the ~~fifteen~~ sixteen administrative departments to which their respective powers and duties are germane.

Section 54. There shall be established a Missouri Department of the National Guard in charge of the adjutant general appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, who shall provide for the state militia, uphold the Constitution of the United States, uphold the Constitution of Missouri, protect the constitutional rights and civil liberties of Missourians, and provide other defense and security mechanisms as may be required.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state,

an election of delegates to the convention on a day not less than three nor more than six months after the election on the question. At the election the electors of the state shall elect fifteen delegates-at-large and the electors of each state senatorial district shall elect two delegates. Each delegate shall possess the qualifications of a senator; and no person holding any other office of trust or profit (officers of the organized militia, school directors, justices of the peace and notaries public excepted) shall be eligible to be elected a delegate. To secure representation from different political parties in each senatorial district, in the manner prescribed by its senatorial district committee each political party shall nominate but one candidate for delegate from each senatorial district, the certificate of nomination shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state at least thirty days before the election, each candidate shall be voted for on a separate ballot bearing the party designation, each elector shall vote for but one of the candidates, and the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in each senatorial district shall be elected. Candidates for delegates-at-large shall be nominated by nominating petitions only, which shall be signed by electors of the state equal to five percent of the legal voters in the senatorial district in which the candidate resides until otherwise provided by law, and shall be verified as provided by law for initiative petitions, and filed in the office of the secretary of state at least thirty days before the election. All such candidates shall be voted for on a separate ballot without party designation, and the fifteen receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Not less than fifteen days before the election, the secretary of state shall certify to the county clerk of the county the name of each person nominated for the office of delegate from the senatorial district in which the county, or any part of it, is included, and the names of all persons nominated for delegates-at-large.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss

Secretary of State

I, John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of a call for a Constitutional Convention, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the General Election to be held the eighth day of November, 2022.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 30th day of August, 2022.



JOHN R. ASHCROFT
Secretary of State

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FRI - SAT 7-?

Oak table, 6 chairs, sofas and
miscellaneous furniture, riding
mower, Fenton Cranberry glass-
ware, vintage jewelry and pur-
ses, holiday trees, clothing, pet
kennels, home decor, stereo,
brass and silver, antiques, cattle
panels, area rugs.

4 FAMILY
YARD SALE
1624-1627 W 18TH
(EARLY SALES
WELCOME)
FRI & SAT

Asst. quilt blocks & material,
new & old Christmas items,
Artificial fall flowers. Pyrex, Fire
King, Corningware, Blue & stone
jars, Longaberger items, cos-
tume jewelry, Late 1800's vin-
tage clothes, feather hats &
bonnets, antique hanging lights,
shades, western & civil war
books, cookbooks, vintage table
cloths, Fancy work & bedding,
clean clothes-ladies sm-xl, chil-
dren 5-8 girls, Lots kitchenware,
Beanie Babies, stuffed toys, &
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Wheels, remote control cars,
pots/pans, ladder, tool cart,
tools, puzzle board, women's
plus, bedding, household. Mis-
cellaneous. Look and See!

Clear-Out Sale
30002 Hwy HH
Beaman
Sat 9-5

COME PICK! Lots of estate items,
furniture, antiques, kitch-
en/household
So much: Seasonal, yarn, books,
jeans, scrubs, misc.

Garage Sale
1803 S Quincy
Fri 12-?
Sat 8-?

Housewares, power tools, tools,
furniture, lots of miscellaneous.

Garage Sale
2530 James Ln
West Country Club
Sat 7-3

Tools, fishing equipment, home
decor, clothes men's and wom-
en's up to XXL, furniture, and
lots of miscellaneous.

HUGE YARD SALE
1620 S. Vermont
Fri-Sat-Sun
8-Dark
Sun- 1/2 priced
items

Bouncy house, big car ball pit,
lots of clothing all sizes, nice
Hobby Lobby & more decor,
shoes, DVD's, dishes, bedding,
and lots of miscellaneous.

YARD SALE
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LIBERTY PARK
BLVD
YELLOW HOUSE
ACROSS FROM
TENNIS COURTS.
FRI & SAT 9-4
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Chiefs/Royals, shoes, Antiques,
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count on qualified candidates
getting your message through
us.

Pettis County

Yard Sale
2614 Stephenson
Ave
Sat 22nd
7-4

Tons of clothes, toys, fish tank,
and lots of everything!

YARD SALE
305 W 16TH ST
8AM TO 7PM
FRI 21ST
SAT 22ND
SUN 23RD

I am selling some of my hot
wheels, matchbox, nascar, trad-
ing cards, and ball cards.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS:
The City of Sedalia Parks &
Recreation Department will ac-
cept sealed bids for the printing
and distribution of Program
Guides until 12:00 p.m. on
Monday, November 7, 2022 at
the Parks & Recreation Office,
1800 W. 3rd St., Sedalia, MO
65301. Bids will be publicly
opened at the Parks Office at or
shortly after 12:00 p.m. on the
above date. Information and bid
forms may be obtained at the
Parks & Recreation office or by
calling (660) 826-4930. Please
mark outside of your envelope
"BID ON PROGRAM GUIDE."
The City of Sedalia reserves
the right to reject any or all bids
and/or waive any irregularities
and select the bid best suited
for the City of Sedalia Parks &
Recreation Department. Seda-
lia Park Board.
1X 10/22/2022

Trustee's Sale
In Re: Cody J Young, a single
person

TRUSTEE'S SALE - Under the
terms of the Deed of Trust
executed by Cody J Young,
a single person dated
09/04/2015, and recorded on
09/08/2015 Document
2015-4494
in the office of the Recorder of
Deeds for Pettis County, MIS-
SOURI, the undersigned
Successor Trustee, will on
11/14/2022 at 11:00 AM at the
West Front Door of the
Pettis County Courthouse, 415
S Ohio St. Sedalia, MO 65301,
sell at public venue to
the highest bidder for cash
subject to the terms announced
at the sale, the realty described
in said deed of trust, to wit:
THE NORTH FOURTEEN (14)
FEET OF THE EAST HALF OF
LOT 84; ALL OF LOT 85; AND
THE SOUTH FIFTEEN (15)
FEET OF LOT 86 IN HIGH-
LANDS FOURTH ADDITION
TO THE CITY OF LAMONTE,
PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.
Eastplains Corporation
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE
Published in the
Sedalia Democrat
File #: YOUCONOR
First publication date
10/22/2022
4X 10/22,29, 11/5,12, 2022

NOTICE

Bids for Playground Re-
placement, Missouri
State Parks West Re-
gion, Bothwell Lodge
State Historic Site, Knob
Noster State Park &
Confederate Memorial
State Historic Site, Seda-
lia, Knob Noster, and
Higginsville, Missouri
Project No. X2109-01 will

Legal Notice

be received by
FMDC,State of MO, UN-
TIL 1:30 PM, November
1, 2022. The State of
Missouri, OA/FMDC,
hereby notifies all bid-
ders that it will affirma-
tively ensure that in any
contract entered into pur-
suant to this advertise-
ment, businesses owned
and controlled by socially
and economically disad-
vantaged individuals will
be afforded full opportu-
nity to submit bids in
response to this invitation
and will not be discrimi-
nated against on the
grounds of race, color,
religion, creed, sex, age,
ancestry or national ori-
gin in consideration for
an award. Federal Land
and Water Conservation
Funds are being used in
this project, and all rele-
vant federal, state and
local requirements apply.

Legal Notice

For specific project infor-
mation and ordering
plans, go to: <http://oa.mo.gov/facilities>
21x-9/29 - 10/27, 2022

LA MONTE
R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF FILING
FOR DIRECTOR

Filing dates for the Board of
Education of La Monte R-IV
School District are as follows:
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
through Tuesday, December
27, 2022. Hours for filing are
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday
through Friday. Exceptions are
the following legal and school
holidays:
Office will close December 21,
2022 at 1:00 p.m. and remain
closed throughout the holiday
season until January 3, 2023.
Filing will not occur on these
dates or if school is not in
session for weather related

**In Print
& Online!**
Place your
ad today!
660-826-1000

**SEDALIA
DEMOCRAT**

★

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

I will sell the following Real Estate located at
207 N. Harding Ave, Sedalia, MO on:
Sat., Oct. 29 at 12 Noon

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THIS AUCTION OF AN
OUTSTANDING PROPERTY BEING SOLD AT ABSOLUTE
AUCTION WITH NO RESERVE. YOU WILL THINK THAT
YOU ARE IN THE COUNTRY BUT REALLY YOU ARE ON
THE EDGE OF TOWN. THIS NICE HOME HAS HAD ALL THE
UPDATES AND IS VERY MODERN AND IS MOVE-IN READY
FOR THE NEXT FAMILY AS HEALTH ISSUES REQUIRE
THIS AUCTION.THIS HOME FEATURES 2 BDRM, FORMAL
LIVING ROOM, SINGLE BATH, ENCLOSED SUN ROOM, LG.
EAT-IN KITCHEN W/ OAK CABINETS,2 YR. OLD SAMSUNG
SIDE BY SIDE TOP OF THE LINE REFRIG., 1 YR. SAMSUNG
GLASS TOP ELEC. RANGE, 1 YR. OLD SAMSUNG BUILT-
IN MICROWAVE, THIS HOME HAS CENTRAL HVAC, AN
ALL ELECTRIC HOME, THERE ARE THERMOPANE TIP - IN
WINDOWS THRU OUT, AND AMPLE INSULATION IN THE
ATTIC, A 1 YEAR OLD ROOF, AND VINYL SIDING ON THE
EXTERIOR OF THE HOME AND ALL THE OUT BUILDINGS,
A 28X30 DETACHED DBL. CAR GARAGE W/ 110 AND 230
ELEC. BUILT IN 1998, A 20X18 CARPORT BEHIND THE
GARAGE, 3 STORAGE BLDGS. ALL ON CONCRETE AND 2
WITH ELEC., A 16X16 PICNIC SHELTER ON CONCRETE W/
AN INGROUND "SIPRECAST" PRECAST CONCRETE STORM
SHELTER, CITY WATER, PRIVATE SEPTIC, ALL SITUATED
ON ALOT MEASURING 100X 282. **TERMS ON THE REAL
ESTATE:** THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE REQUIRED TO
MAKE A \$ 10,000.00 DOWNPAYMENT AT THE TIME OF SALE
WITH THE BALANCE DUE AT CLOSING WHICH WILL BE
ON OR BEFORE NOV. 29, 2022 AT WHICH TIME THE SELLER
WILL PROVIDE AN OWNERS TITLE INS. POLICY, AND THE
TAXES WILL BE PRORATED TO DATE, CLOSING FEES WILL
BE SPLIT 50/ 50 2021 TAXES WERE \$ 565.00 PLEASE MAKE
YOUR BANKING PLANS NOW ** AS THIS SALE ** IS ** NOT
** CONTINGENT UPON FINANCING AFTER THE FACT.
PROPERTY SELLS IN PRESENT STATE AND CONDITION.
ALL INSPECTIONS MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO AUCTION
DAY. FOR INSPECTION PRIOR TO AUCTION DAY CONTACT
YANCEY AUCTION SERVICE AT 660- 473- 2266. DON'T MISS
THIS OPPURTUNITY TO PURCHASE A QUALITY PIECE OF
REAL ESTATE. SEE YOU AUCTION DAY - THANKS

ROBERT VANSEL- OWNER

Auction Conducted by

YANCEY AUCTION SERVICE

Auctioneer: GARY YANCEY

www.yanceyauction.com

auctionzip.com ID# 27244

(660)473-2266 Sedalia, Mo

HOME ON 2+ AC AUCTION

32452 MIDDLE BRIDGE AVE WARSAW, MO

Due to the death of my husband, and I am moving out of state, I will sell the following at auction located
from Warsaw, south on 65 Hwy , take the Wildcat/Hwy 83 exit, turn left across the Hwy, then right on Wild-
cat 1 mile to 83 exit, then 1 ½ mile on 83 to Middle Bridge Ave, then 3/10th mile to sale on:

SAT. OCT. 29TH, AT 10 AM



**CARS BASS BOAT PICKUP CAR PORT PICKUP CAMPER
PROPANE TANK HOUSEHOLD TOOLS FARM AND GARDEN**

HOME on 2+ ac sells at 11 am What a great location! Approximately 3 miles from Warsaw, and the same
from Osage Bluff Marina on Truman Lake! Quaint 2 bd/1ba ideal for seasonal or full-time living. A new gas log
fireplace was installed last year, and the interior has been recently painted. The front sports a great covered
porch for relaxing. The home has a 7x8 storm shelter basement.

A 24x24 shop building has 2 garage doors, insulated, concrete floor, and electricity. For the vehicles and toys,
there is a 12.8 x 25' metal garage w/ 9' roll-up door, and a 10.5x 24' garage with a 4x8' add-on for tools. There is
also a 10x16' rock-sided garden tool shed and a 16x10.5' metal barn.

Terms of Real Estate: The starting bid on this home on acreage will be only \$59,500 and sells ABSOLUTE
to the highest bidder! Buyer will pay 20% of purchase price day of sale as earnest money, to be held in escrow
at the title company until closing, in approx. 30 days. At closing, the balance, plus applicable closing costs will
be due. Taxes will be prorated; seller will furnish title insurance. Call Auction Co for information or to view!
Check out the website for full listing!

MARIA HENSON

Terms: Cash, approved check, debit/credit (convenience fee applied to card purchases). Nothing to be removed until settled for. Not responsible
for accidents.

Larry DRENON AUCTION

Larry 660-596-8515 Laramie 660-221-4386

Lacey 660-723-1104 Cooper 660-723-2221

Office: 660-723-6188

www.DrenonAuction.com

JUST LISTED!

315 W WEBSTER | SMITHTON, MISSOURI



PRICE REDUCED \$145,000

PROPERTY FEATURES

BEDROOMS: 3

BATHROOMS: 1

BigIron REALTY

www.bigiron.com/realty

LINDA MEYER

660.460.6759

Professional Service Directory

Call 660-826-1000 to Place Your Ad

AUCTIONS



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Interior/Exterior | 660-827-1211
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Max Frisby

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CACHERO ROOFING & Remodeling, LLC

• Roof Repairs •
• Metal & Steel Roofing •
FREE ESTIMATES
660-343-5816

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660-221-2037
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HAIL • WIND STORM DAMAGE

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• Chimney Liners • Cleaning

Call or Text
816-215-5474

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT



CLASSIFIEDS@
SEDALIADEMOCRAT.COM

OR CALL
660-826-1000

Legal Notice

SEDALIA
DEMOCRAT
660-826-1000
Place your ad today!

Saturday October 29th 10:00am 2022

Auctioneer Note: We are honored to assist the Family of "Walter VonHoltzen" at this time, Real Estate will sell at 11:00am
Concessions provided by the Award Winning "Benton County Good Ole Gals"

JOHNSON
AUCTION SERVICE
Third Generation Family Tradition Since 1942
 Russell "Rusty" Johnson Phillip Yoder
 (660) 221-406Z (660) 723-3389



**FIND
YOURS
TODAY!**

A decorative border at the bottom of the page consisting of a row of green dollar bills, some overlapping and some slightly tilted, creating a sense of movement and value.

3 + 3 = \$65

COPY DESCRIBING YOUR HOME... so many bedrooms, so many baths. List of extras ... garage (single or double), maintenance free exterior, family room, school district, fenced back yard, basement, extra lot, heating, air conditioning, parking availability, etc.

36 Words or less; 1st 4 words bold; one item only;
price must be listed to qualify for FREE ad

Price must be stated in ad

~ or ~

**3 Days In
Democrat**



**Weeks
In A
Plainsman**

22

\$99

If your advertised items doesn't sell, you'll receive

3 Days In Democrat



**Weeks
In A
Plainsman**

10

FREE

Contact Your Ad Rep For Details, Or Call 660-826-1000

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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The Multi-Sport Pack is included at no additional cost. Must sign up for service by 11/9/22. Only available with packages starting at \$84.99/mo., excluding America's Everything Pack, through 1/12/23. Reliability Guarantee legal disclaimer: Limited time offer, subject to change. Available only to new or returning former customers. Guarantee covers signal loss outages due to normal weather and/or technical issues. Does not cover signal loss outages due to user error. Does not cover changes in programming content. To receive outage credits, you must contact DISH customer service by phone or chat within 72 hours of the outage. Upon verifying the outage, DISH will issue bill credits in daily increments from the time of the outage until the outage is restored. Not available to DISH Outdoors customers.

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