

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Cyber Monday deals lure in consumers amid high inflation • **Business 3A**

LADY BULLDOG HONORS

Stover leads All-Kaysinger VB picks • **Sports 7A**

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Olen Howard Center has successful first semester with more to come

By Skye Melcher
skym@sedaliademocrat.com

Dec. 16 will mark the end of the first semester for the new Olen Howard Workforce Innovation Center at State Fair Community College.

Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Innovation Michael Rogg said the OHWIC had received a lot of public exposure since opening.

“We’ve had a tremendous number of tours,” Rogg said. “We’ve had county commissioners in, business and industry folks and economic development folks just coming to see the new facility.”

On the education side, the new space allows more training on multiple machines simultaneously, so the instructors have been busy splitting their time setting up more machines and instructing.

“They’ve done a great job on this,” Rogg said. “It’s a big deal to move and keep courses and classes going without missing anything.”

The OHWIC has seen enrollment for machine shop courses fill quickly and welding staying steady.

“I don’t think the word has gotten completely around about the shops,” Rogg added. “Word seems to be getting a little more around about the machine shop.”

Rogg also added that with the new center, the campus could schedule classes to a more traditional schedule for post-secondary students. Before this, the campus had post-secondary classes early in the morning or evening to allow CTC students from high schools to take their classes.

The building will allow post-secondary and CTC students to be in

classes at the same time.

Rogg said the opening of the building has been exciting for him, especially with how many students are being trained and educated through his program.

“We’re working with our Center of Excellence with some of the area manufacturers with the concept of assistive technology,” Rogg said. “So our cobot (collaborative robot) in welding is really assistive technology. It will enable somebody to do that job with less physical effort.”

The college is working with the Sudeck people to make exoskeletons that they hope to have in January.

“What those exoskeletons do, they’re not really powered, they’re more like pulleys, gear and bands that help people lift weights with less effort,” Rogg said. “What we’re trying to do is extend the life of the career of folks so they can work longer.”

The welding program has continued working with virtual reality, and the CDL Academy is adding a truck simulator for students to drive in other environments outside of Missouri. The CDL students will be able to practice driving a manual without actually being in a truck.

“A growing challenge is there are jobs that require shifting manual transmissions and more and more people have never driven a manual transmission,” Rogg said.

SFCC will host a CDL Academy open house from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 15 for the community to experience the new truck simulator while learning about the academy.

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



Sunday afternoon, community members, led by Director Leah Gumbel, left, practice for the annual Handel’s “Messiah” concert slated for this Sunday at Broadway Presbyterian Church. The free performance kicks off the Christmas season.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Community, Symphony to present ‘Messiah’ on Sunday

By Faith Bemiss
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

Members of the community and the Sedalia Symphony Orchestra are preparing to present Handel’s “Messiah” hosted on Sunday at Broadway Presbyterian Church.

The annual performance is a collaboration between the community and the Sedalia Symphony Orchestra. A free event, it is the Symphony’s Christmas gift to Sedalia. On Friday, Pastor Rob Hughes and church members assembled a large Advent wreath on the church lawn. Hughes noted they were preparing everything for Advent and the “Messiah” concert.

He said Advent means “an arrival,” and the four Sundays of Advent represent a time of waiting and preparing to celebrate Christ’s arrival.

“Traditionally, Christmas Day for Christians has marked the begin-



This year, there are 45 singers in the “Messiah” choir and 12 orchestra members. They will present 12 choruses along with solos and one duet.

ning of the Christmas season, not the end,” he added. “The season of Advent preparation ends on Christmas Day and begins the 12 days of the true Christmas season, which culminates with Epiphany on Jan. 6, celebrating the arrival of the Wise Men and the end of the Christmas season.”

He added the church is excited to host the “Messiah” this year.

This past Sunday, “Messiah” Director Leah (McKnew) Gumbel was also busy prepping the choir and orchestra for next Sunday’s Christmas performance. This performance is Gumbel’s first season as director;

she assumes the position from longtime conductor Sandy Cordes.

“This is my first year directing anything, with an orchestra or choir, at this scale,” Gumbel noted. “But I’ve sung in it (the ‘Messiah’) for over two decades. I started singing at a very young age.”

See MESSIAH | 6A

Pettis County looking for support on Giving Tuesday

By Nicole Cooke
ncooke@sedaliademocrat.com

With the holiday gifting season officially underway, Giving Tuesday provides a chance to press pause on shopping and offer some help to local nonprofit organizations.

Cancer Perks

Cancer Perks helps

provide simple, practical needs to people with cancer at Bothwell Regional Health Center, Fitzgibbon Hospital and Western Missouri Medical Center. Help includes gas mileage reimbursements for people traveling for radiation treatments, resources for people who need to get their lawns mowed, small bills paid or meals provided, and care packages for people undergoing chemotherapy or radiation.

Cancer Perks is hosting its annual Virtual Angel Tree on Facebook as part

of its 12 Needs of Christmas campaign. Cancer Perks founder Whitney Cromley said the organization is “in desperate need of everything that goes in the perks bags.” Visit facebook.com/CancerPerks to learn more.

The nonprofit also provides Christmas dinners to all patients receiving chemo on Christmas Eve at all three cancer centers, and donations are needed. **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army in Sedalia is asking for donations to help provide

a Christmas ham dinner to families in need in Pettis County. Any monetary donations would be used to purchase food for Christmas.

For more information, contact 660-826-1525. **Child Safe of Central Missouri**

Executive Director Mari Asbury said the Child Safe staff decided to go a different route this year for Giving Tuesday since it is one week after the annual Dessert Auction. Every hour on the hour, Child Safe will be recognizing

a hero on its Facebook page. As an organization, the staff has decided to do some random acts of kindness in the community that day.

Asbury said Child Safe can always use donations of new blankets, gas cards, and food cards for the families they serve.

For more information, visit www.childsafehouse.org or contact 660-829-3434 or info@childsafehouse.org.

Pettis County Community Partnership

Director of Housing Chessa Dixon said PCCP is in dire need of all things to keep people warm, especially for unhoused community members. That includes items such as coats, hats, gloves, hot hands, scarves, socks, emergency mylar blankets, and sleeping bags.

Items like toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and conditioner are needed for the Community Closet.

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Merry Christmas!

26 DAYS
until Christmas!



Ashley Wooster

ClosingWithAshley@gmail.com

3611 South Limit, Sedalia, MO
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OBITUARIES

Walter L. Bozarth

Walter L. Bozarth, 90, of Green Ridge, Mo., died November 22, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Care Center, Cole Camp, Mo.

He was born January 19, 1932, in Benton County, Mo., near Lincoln, the son of Marion Lewis Bozarth and Annie Pearl (Miller) Bozarth. He attended Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia. He served in the United States Army from 1949 to 1952 during the Korean Conflict and was awarded five Bronze Star medals for his service.

Walter worked as

a machinist for Rival Manufacturing and then for the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant. In his retirement years, he worked as a gunsmith. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a member of the Protestant faith.

Survivors include a son, Eugene Bozarth, Green Ridge, Mo.; a granddaughter, Rashelle Lea Barnett (Jesse), Sweet Springs, Mo.; three great-grandsons, Clay Lee Barnett, Coal Barnett, and Sage Barnett; and several nephews, nieces, and cousins.

He was preceded in



Lyle Alan Browning

Lyle Alan Browning, 72, of Ionia, passed away Saturday, November 26, 2022, at the family farm where he lived since 1979.

He was born on February 3, 1950, in Versailles, Missouri, a son of Willis Eugene and Hellen Irene (Friedly) Browning.

He was baptized at the United Methodist Church in Ionia on August 20, 1961. He attended elementary school through the fifth grade in Ionia and then attended Benton County R1, where he was a member of FFA and graduated in 1968. During high school, he worked for local farmers catching chickens and turkeys.

After graduating high school, he went to work in Sedalia at Zephyr's, then as a welder for DeLong's and then Clark Equipment. In June of 1970, he met his wife, Linda, while she was working at Katz and asked her to go to the drive-in movie. On April 3, 1971, at the United Methodist Church in Ionia, he was united in marriage to Linda Sue Wyatt. This union was blessed with the gift of three children, John



Henry, Shannon Noel, and Quentin Eugene.

After the wedding, he and his new wife loaded up their car and headed to Amarillo, Texas, where he drove a taxi and worked at a bakery. In October 1973, the couple moved back to Ionia and Lyle went to work making stamp presses at Alvy Allen in Clinton. In 1974, he started driving a truck for John D. Friedly in Ionia, hauling scrap iron. He then worked for Max Balke in Cole Camp, Wilson's Foods in Marshall, Missouri Department of Transportation, and finally as a bullet press operator for Sierra Bullets in Sedalia. He worked there for 25 years, retiring in 2017.

He enjoyed riding his motorcycles, especially his Harley Road King. He put over 200,000 miles on his motorcycles, going to Sturgis six times and Canada pulling a homemade trailer and later a camper so he could see the country. Lyle was a member of Freedom of Road Riders and the Sedalia Rod and Gun Club and enjoyed collecting guns and raising cows on

Don Ray Sweigart

Don Ray Sweigart, 83, of Sedalia, formerly of Slater and Lincoln, passed away Friday, November 25, 2022, at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, MO.

Funeral services will be at 12 p.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel, 519 S. Ohio St., Sedalia, MO, with Wellington J. Gorham Jr. officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville, with full military honors by the United States Navy and the Higginsville American Legion Post No. 223. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Monday, November 28, 2022, at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel. Memorials are suggested to the Wounded Warriors Project in care of the funeral home.

Don was born June 1,

1939, in Elizabethtown, PA, to the late Chester and Bertha (Bricker) Sweigart. He attended area schools.

Don served his country in the United States Navy, during the Vietnam era, on the USS Ticonderoga. He was honorably discharged on October 12, 1961.

While serving, he received the good conduct medal.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Slater. He was also a life member of the American Legion Post No. 78 of Slater. He was an honor flight participant.

Don did many jobs throughout his life. He was a meat cutter for Nobles Meat CO in CA. He later worked at the Slater Garment factory as a mechanic, Marshall Democrat Newspaper office in advertising and Con-Agra of Marshall in maintenance.

On May 17, 2003, at the East Sedalia Baptist

Church, in Sedalia, he married Mary H. Kabler, who survives of Sedalia.

Additional survivors include son David Sweigart of Laverne, MN; daughters Sandy Martin (Troy) of Hennessey, OK, and Marti Dawn Long (companion Randy Schnakenberg) of Windsor, and Judie Russell of Fresno, CA; brothers Robert Sweigart (Terri Zimmerman-Sweigart) of Slater and Dale Sweigart (fiancé Louise "Peaches" Calvert) of Kansas City, MO; seven grandchildren Angela Rawlings (Jeremy), Misty Hicks, DJ Sweigart, Ashley Koehn, Ricky Russell, Sean Russell and Nicholas Martin; along with eight great-grandchildren Christian Rawlings, Gavin Rawlings, Reanna Martin, Abigail Holsten, Lacey Hicks, Taylor Hicks, Emily Koehn and Addison Koehn.

Don was preceded in death by his first wife, Ann Armstrong Sweigart, and two sisters.



Clo Angel Cass

Clo Angel Cass, of La Monte, MO, passed away November 24, 2022, in Warrensburg, MO, after a long illness. She was 85.

A loyal and caring wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher, Clo had a quick wit, a great love for her family, friends and students, and an abounding zest for life. Her natural artistic ability shone in her talent for decorating, basket weaving, home remodeling, gardening, crafting, sewing, and cooking. She got great joy from learning new things and seeing new places, and she enjoyed visits and vacations with family and friends.

She was born February 2, 1937, to Roy Ernest and LeClare Greer, née Dick, and grew up in the Sedalia area, graduating from Smith-Cotton High School

in 1955. She attended Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg, where she met her future husband, Monte Cass.

They married December 27, 1958, and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana.

After graduating with her degree in education from Indiana State

University in Terre Haute, Clo and Monte relocated to Bonita, California, teaching in junior and senior high schools in Southern California until they returned to Missouri in the early 1970s. Clo spent the rest of her career in the Knob Noster R-VIII school system as a teacher and counselor at Knob Noster and Whiteman Elementary Schools.

Clo and Monte were married 57 years before his passing in 2015. She

is survived by a daughter, Kelly Krause (Robin) of Phoenix, AZ, and a son, Kirby Cass (Dana) of La Monte, MO.

Clo is also survived by four grandchildren: Joel Krause (Domenica), Brian Cass (Kacie), Conor Krause (Jeni), and Darby Lewis (Jacob); and four great-grandchildren: Skye Sturtevant, Atlas Krause, Chloe Krause, and Hadley Cass.

In addition to Monte, she was preceded in death by a brother, Roy Greer Jr.

Services will be held at Williams Funeral Chapel in Warrensburg on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m.

Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association or the Show-Me Christian Youth Home.

Online condolences may be left at www.williamsfuneralchapel.net.



Alberta Jean Ellison

Alberta Jean Ellison, 85, of Sedalia, passed away Sunday, November 27, 2022, at Rest Haven Convalescent and Retirement Home.

She was born November 1, 1937, in Sedalia, daughter of Albert E. and Glenna E. Davis.

In 1959, she was married to John Ellison, who preceded her in death in 1996.

Alberta worked at Inter-State Studio for 35

years. She was a member of Parkview Christian Church and the Rebekah Lodge.

She enjoyed knitting and crocheting. She will be remembered as a beautiful, sweet lady who always did for others.

Surviving are two children, Tammie Scott (Mark) of Sedalia, and John

Ellison (Nora) of Highland, CA; a grandson, Mark "Little Mark" Scott Jr.; and a sister, Jan Thornton (Don)

of Sedalia.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Melvin Davis and Albert Davis; a sister, Lois Seifner; and a sister in infancy.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements are in the care of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services.



James (Jim) Gene Watson

James (Jim) Gene Watson, age 80, of Jefferson City, Mo., passed away peacefully Friday, November 25, 2022, at Capital Region Medical Center.

He was born May 19, 1942, in Sedalia, Missouri, to the late James L. and Della May (Meyer) Watson. Jim was united in marriage to the late Donna Kay (Bax) Gibson on October 14, 1994, in Jefferson City, MO.

His hobbies and interests include woodworking, coffee and cards with his friends, and trips to Las Vegas and the riverboat. Jim loved watching sports, especially the Chiefs and Cardinals. He was a member of the Eagles Club and Moose Lodge, where he spent time socializing in the community.

Jim was a graduate of Smith-Cotton, Class of 1960, and enlisted with the Missouri Army National

Guard from 1962-1982, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer. In 1965, Jim joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Academy and served for

35 years in both Lee's Summit and Jefferson City, MO, before retiring in

2000 as Captain of the Public Information Division. Many in the community have fond memories of James overseeing "Otto" the Talking Patrol Car at the Missouri State Fair for many years.

Jim is survived by Lori Wyrick and her husband Rick, grandchildren Andrew and Brody; Scott



Gwendolyn Yvonne Williams

On November 25, 2022, Gwendolyn Yvonne Williams went to be with our Lord.

She was born to David "Dick" Kruse and Verna Maness Kruse on February 17, 1937.

Yvonne enjoyed being outdoors with her family. She would often come to visit her family on Sunday after church. She also enjoyed going to deer camp and going hunting. She shot her first deer at 62 years old, and if she didn't get one, she would let her husband know about it for the next 12 months.

She was united in marriage to Homan Williams

on May 24, 1956. She and her husband would take trips out to Colorado, Wyoming and down to Branson.

She worked at the Bank of Otterville, Union Savings Bank and then at Third National Bank for 26 years until she retired from there. She also

helped clerk several sales with her husband and best friend, Homan.

Yvonne is survived by her husband, Homan Williams; son, RD Williams and Vickie Bartlett of Otterville, MO; granddaughter Allyssa and Craig Nau and great-granddaughter,

Kaylee Nau of Otterville; and sisters, Dixie Meyer of Otterville and Micky Meyer of Otterville.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Deloris Lewis.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Otterville. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time. Burial will be in I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Otterville.

Pallbearers will be Robert Meyer, Rick Meyer, Garret Dowdy, Jeff Williams, Craig Nau and Jared Williams.

Contributions can be made to I.O.O.F. Cemetery, in care of the Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home, Otterville.



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CONTACT US

PUBLISHER
Jim Perry
660-826-1000
ext. 1503
jimp@
sedaliademocrat.com

EDITOR
Nicole Cooke
660-826-1000
ext. 1482
ncooke@
sedaliademocrat.com

CIRCULATION
Nikki Monsees
660-826-1000
ext. 1500
nmonsees@
sedaliademocrat.com

NEWSROOM: 660-826-1000 OBITUARIES: 660-826-1000
ADVERTISING: 660-826-1000 CLASSIFIED ADS: 660-826-1000
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In this Dec. 12, 2016, photo, a person searches the internet for sales, in Miami. Days after flocking to stores on Black Friday, consumers are turning online for Cyber Monday to score more discounts on gifts and other items that have ballooned in price because of high inflation. Adobe Analytics, which tracks transactions for top online retailers, forecasts Cyber Monday will remain the year's biggest online shopping day and rake in up to \$11.6 billion in sales.

FILE PHOTO BY WILFREDO LEE | AP PHOTO

Cyber Monday deals lure in consumers amid high inflation

By Haleluya Hadero
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Days after flocking to stores on Black Friday, consumers are turning online for Cyber Monday to score more discounts on gifts and other items that have ballooned in price because of high inflation.

Cyber Monday is expected to remain the year's biggest online shopping day and rake in up to \$11.6 billion in sales, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks transactions at over 85 of the top 100 U.S. online stores. That forecast represents a jump from the \$10.7 billion consumers spent last year.

Adobe's numbers are not adjusted for inflation, but the company says demand is growing even when inflation is factored in. Some analysts have said top line numbers will be boosted by higher prices and the amount of items consumers purchase could remain unchanged — or even fall — compared to prior years. Profit margins are also expected to be tight for retailers offering deeper discounts to attract budget-conscious consumers and clear out their bloated inventories.

Shoppers spent a record \$9.12 billion online on Black Friday, up 2.3% from last year, according to Adobe. E-commerce activity continued to be strong over the weekend, with \$9.55 billion in online sales.

Salesforce, which also tracks spending, said their estimates showed online sales in the U.S. hit \$15 billion on Friday and \$17.2 billion over the weekend,

with an average discount rate of 30% on products. Electronics, active wear, toys and health and beauty items were among those that provided a big boost, the two groups said.

CONSUMERS ARE SPENDING CAUTIOUSLY

Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all types of payments including cash and credit card, said that overall sales on Black Friday rose 12% from the year-ago. Sales at physical stores rose 12%, while online sales were up 14%.

RetailNext, which captures sales and traffic via cameras reported that store traffic rose 7% on Black Friday, while sales at physical stores improved 0.1% from a year ago. However, spending per customer dropped nearly 7% as cautious shoppers did more browsing than buying. Another company that tracks store traffic — Sensormatic Solutions — said store traffic was up 2.9% on Black Friday compared to a year ago.

"Shoppers are being more thoughtful, but they are going to more than a few retailers to be able to make a determination of what they are going to buy this year," said Brian Field, Sensormatic's global leader of retail consulting and analytics.

Danny Groner, a 39-year-old who lives in New York City, said he and his wife want to get a new TV to replace one they've had for about seven years. He spent some time on Monday searching for deals online and found some good discounts. Still, he says he wants to be intentional about what

he buys and doesn't mind spending a bit more for the right product.

Overall, online spending has remained resilient in the past few weeks as eager shoppers buy more items on credit and embrace "buy now, pay later" services that lack interest charges but carry late fees.

In the first three weeks of November, online sales were essentially flat compared with last year, according to Adobe. It said the modest uptick shows consumers have a strong appetite for holiday shopping amid uncertainty about the economy.

Still, some major retailers are feeling a shift. Target, Macy's and Kohl's said this month they've seen a slowdown in consumer spending in the past few weeks. The exception was Walmart, which reported higher sales in its third quarter and raised its earnings outlook.

"We're seeing that inflation is starting to really hit the wallet and that consumers are starting to amass more debt at this point," said Guru Hariharan, founder and CEO of retail e-commerce management firm CommerceIQ, adding there's more pressure on consumers to purchase cheaper alternatives.

SHIFTING DEMAND

This year's Cyber Monday also comes amid a wider e-commerce slowdown affecting online retailers that saw a boom in sales during most of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers who feared leaving their homes and embraced e-commerce during the pandemic are heading back to physical stores in greater numbers

this year as normalcy returns.

The National Retail Federation said its recent survey showed a 3% uptick in the number of Black Friday shoppers planning to go to stores. It expects 63.9 million consumers to shop online during Cyber Monday, compared to 77 million last year.

Amazon saw its retail business thrive during most of the pandemic, but much of the demand waned as the worst of the pandemic eased. To deal with the change, the company has been scaling back its warehouse expansion plans and is cutting costs by axing some of its projects. It's also following in the steps of other tech companies and implementing mass layoffs in its corporate ranks. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said the company will continue to cut jobs until early next year.

Shopify, a company which helps businesses set up e-commerce websites and also offers offline software, laid off 10% of its staff this summer.

The company said Monday that its merchants have surpassed \$5.1 billion in global sales since the start of Black Friday in New Zealand. And spending per U.S. customer went up \$5 compared to last year, said Shopify President Harley Finkelstein.

Despite the bump, Finkelstein said shoppers were more intentional about their spending this year and waiting for discounts before making a purchase.

AP Business Writer Anne D'Innocenzio contributed to this report.

9,000 hens killed after latest Missouri case of avian flu

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Nearly 9,000 laying hens in Webster County were killed after federal officials confirmed an outbreak of bird flu in the flock, state agriculture officials said.

It is the 11th case of the highly contagious avian influenza in Missouri this year, involving nearly 435,000 birds on six commercial farms and four backyard flocks, the Missouri Department of Agriculture said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says more than 52.3 million birds — mostly chickens and turkeys on domestic farms — have been killed in 46 states as part of this year's outbreak.

On Saturday, Nebraska agriculture officials

announced another 1.8 million chickens were to be slaughtered on a farm in northeast Nebraska. About 6.8 million birds have been killed in the state this year after the disease was found on 13 farms. That's second only to Iowa's 15.5 million birds killed.

Federal health officials say the disease does not present a food safety risk to humans.

The farm in Webster County was quarantined and the birds were euthanized on the property, Missouri agriculture officials said. State and federal agriculture officials are conducting additional surveillance and testing in the areas around the affected flock.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Nov. 14

Elaine K. and John W. Witmer Sr. to Marsha and Thomas R. Tyler, section 20; township 48; range 22.

Nora Torres Lopez and Jimmy Womack to Karlie Frieden and Stephen Fischer, La Monte Hainlines, block 2, lots 6, 7.

Diane M. Eschbacher, Joseph R. Eschbacher, Krista D. Eschbacher, Mark D. Eschbacher, Thomas G. Eschbacher, Danile P. Gockel, Linda Gockel, Jean M. Malson, Michael Malson and Regina M. Molly, to Anne M. Tennon Trust and Jeffrey R. Tennon Trust, section 2; township 47; range 20.

Lucindy A. and Reno W. Neth to Al and MV Limas Enterprises LLC, Heard's 2nd Addition, block 12, lots 15, 15.

Nov. 15

Chelsey M. and David G. Pottorff to Joshua and Stephanie Link, section 34; township 44; range 22.

Brandon Pangburn to Elaine Kim and Martin Day, section 29; township 46; range 20.

Robert L. Vansel to Keele Brothers LLC, Eastview Addition, block 2; lot 5.

Star Acquisitions Inc. to Anjanae Danyale and Quivonta S. Moore, Sunset Subdivision, lots 12, 13, 14; See's Subdivision, lots, 18, 19, 20, 21.

Jesse L. and Starla J. Eigsti, Jesse Eigsti Family Trust, Jesse Eigsti Trustee Starla J. Eigsti Family Trust, and Starla J. Eigsti Trustee, section 11; township 46; range 20.

Jesse L. and Starla J. Eigsti, Jesse Eigsti Family Trust, Jesse Eigsti Trustee Starla J. Eigsti Family Trust, and Starla J. Eigsti Trustee, section 9; township 47; range 20.

Jesse L. and Starla J. Eigsti, Jesse Eigsti Family Trust, Jesse Eigsti Trustee Starla J. Eigsti Family Trust, and Starla J. Eigsti Trustee, sections 20, 29; township 46; range 20.

Jesse L. and Starla J. Eigsti, Jesse Eigsti Family Trust, Jesse Eigsti Trustee Starla J. Eigsti Family Trust, and Starla J. Eigsti Trustee, section 29; township 46; range 20.

Nov. 16

Genesis Home Solutions LLC to Benito Rodriguez, McVey's 2nd Addition, block 4, lot 4.

Marcus Griffin and Twyla Sockness to SC Fuel LLC, section 15; township 46; range 23.

Nov. 17

Beverly J. Pfeiffer Trustee, Richard C. Pfeiffer Trustee, Pfeiffer Trust to Julie Lynn Owings, Country Club Estates 2nd Subdivision, lot 63.

Valentino Aguilar to Elijah M. Frisella, Ritchey's 2nd Addition, block 9, lot 11.

Nov. 18

Oliver T. and Sharon S. Bridges to Nicholas and Victoria Perretta, section 9; township 45; range 21.

Kathy A. and Rick L. Sheidahl to AEJ Investments, Richey's 2nd Addition, block 10, lots 11, 12.

TDP Properties LLC to Danil and Viorica Uzun, section 25; township 44; range 20.

Jose Aldaco Jr. and Margarita Del Carmen Aldaco to Erin J. and Rebekah H. Ball, Westmorland Place Addition, block E.

Biden calls on Congress to head off potential rail strike

By Josh Funk
AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday asked Congress to intervene and block a railroad strike before next month's deadline in the stalled contract talks, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said lawmakers would take up legislation this week to impose the deal that unions agreed to in September.

"Let me be clear: a rail shutdown would devastate our economy," Biden said in a statement. "Without freight rail, many U.S. in-

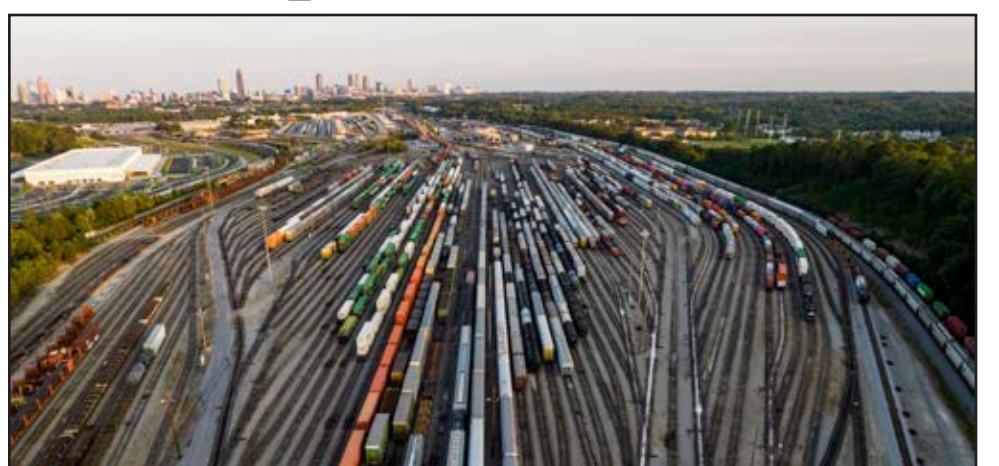
dustries would shut down." In a statement, Pelosi said: "We are reluctant to bypass the standard ratification process for the Tentative Agreement — but we must act to prevent a catastrophic nationwide rail strike, which would grind our economy to a halt."

Pelosi said the House would not change the terms of the September agreement, which would challenge the Senate to approve the House bill without changes.

The September agreement that Biden and Pelosi are calling for is a slight

improvement over what the board of arbitrators recommended in the summer. The September agreement added three unpaid days off a year for engineers and conductors to tend to medical appointments as long as they scheduled them at least 30 days in advance. The railroads also promised in September not to penalize workers who are hospitalized and to negotiate further with the unions after the contract is approved about improving the regular scheduling of days off.

See RAIL | 5A



Freight train cars sit in a Norfolk Southern rail yard on Sept. 14, 2022, in Atlanta. Business groups are increasing the pressure on lawmakers to intervene and block a railroad strike before next month's deadline in the stalled contract talks. A coalition of more than 400 business groups sent a letter to Congressional leaders Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, urging them to step in because of fears about the devastating potential impact of a strike that could force many businesses to shut down.

FILE PHOTO BY DANNY KARNIK | AP PHOTO

Pettis County Commission meets with area school districts

By Democrat Staff

During daily meetings from Nov. 21 to Nov. 25, the Pettis County Commission completed the following:

Nov. 21: The Commissioners attended the Missouri Association of Counties Conference.

Nov. 22: The Commissioners attended the Missouri Association of Counties Conference.

Nov. 23: The Commission held a bid opening for Treated Timbers for Bridge Decking.

The Commission met with Sedalia School District 200 Superintendent Dr. Todd Fraley, Pettis County R-V School District Superintendent Amy Fagg, Sedalia Mayor Andrew

Dawson, State Fair Community College President Brent Bates, and Sedalia City Administrator Kelvin Shaw to discuss commercial assessments.

The Commission approved a courthouse use form for parking overflow for Hotel Bothwell on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25.

The Commission approved a courthouse use form for the Circuit Clerk's Office for a bake sale/fundraiser for Shop with a Cop on Dec. 5.

Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza joined the Base Community Council as a representative for Pettis County to provide Thanksgiving meals to service members and their families at Whiteman Air Force

Base.

Nov. 24: Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 25: Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving.

The census for the Pettis County Jail for the week of Nov. 21 is 126 inmates and the census for 911 calls is 1,903 calls.

The Pettis County Commission meets at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday in Commission Chambers on the second floor of the Pettis County Courthouse. To make an appointment or to request an issue be placed on the commission's agenda, call Noah Shepard, assistant to the commission, at 660-826-5000 ext. 410.

CRASH REPORTS

Kansas woman seriously injured in Henry crash

A Louisburg, Kansas, woman sustained serious injuries in a single-vehicle accident at 11:40 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 26 in Henry County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Jaydyn L. Coons, 19, was driving west in a 1999 Chevrolet S10 on Route C, east of Northeast 1201 Road, when she traveled off the right side of the road. The vehicle returned to the road, then traveled off the left side of the road, overturning and striking a tree. Coons was ejected.

Coons, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken to Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

Tennessee man killed in Pettis accident

An Evansville, Tennessee, man was killed in a vehicle accident at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26 in Pettis County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Roger A. Reid, 69, of Lincoln, was driving a 2021 Buick Encore south on U.S. Highway 65 south of Sacajawea Road when a pedestrian, 52-year-old Mark A. Eduardos, entered the roadway from the

east. Reid's vehicle struck Eduardos.

Eduardos was pronounced dead by a doctor at Bothwell Regional Health Center.

Two women hurt in Pettis County crash

Two women were injured in a two-vehicle accident at 1:40 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27 in Pettis County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Karen R. Miller, 78, of Sunrise Beach, was driving a 2013 Cadillac west on U.S. Highway 50 at Daviess Road as Lauri A. Govin, 51, of Depere, Wisconsin, was driving a 2011 Chevrolet Avalanche east-bound. Miller traveled off the right side of the road, returned to the road, crossed over the median and struck Govin's vehicle.

Govin sustained minor injuries and refused treatment at the scene. Miller sustained moderate injuries and was taken by the Pettis County Ambulance District to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

Reports indicate both drivers were wearing seat belts.

Man arrested for DWI in Henry County wreck

An Independence man was injured

in a single-vehicle accident at 7:40 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28 in Henry County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Wesley K. Hauer, 49, was driving a 2018 Jeep Wrangler north on Route N, north of Northwest 1200 Road, when he traveled off the right side of the road and returned to the roadway. He then traveled off the left side of the road, returned to the roadway, traveled off the right side of the road and returned to the roadway again. The vehicle traveled off the right side of the road another time and struck a culvert.

Hauer, who was wearing a seat belt, was taken by Golden Valley ambulance to Research Medical Center in Kansas City with minor injuries.

Hauer was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving with a revoked license, and careless and imprudent driving resulting in a crash. He was released for medical treatment.

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

Compiled by Nicole Cooke.

FUNERALS

Schollmeyer, Helen Bowers (Patton)

11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Tipton. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton.

Sweigart, Don Ray

Noon Tuesday at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel.

Bozarth, Walter L.

11 a.m. Wednesday at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Hadley Funeral Home in Windsor.

Cass, Gwendolyn Yvonne

11 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church of Otterville. Arrangements are under the direction of the Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Otterville.

Watson, Jams (Jim) Gene

11 a.m. Wednesday at

Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Williams, Gwendolyn Yvonne

11 a.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church of Otterville. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Otterville.

Bohon, Ruth Ann

11:30 a.m. Thursday at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Browning, Lyle Alan

11 a.m. on Friday at United Methodist Church in Ionia. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

Stayton, Preston Arnold

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

DEATH NOTICE

Claas

Norman Joseph Claas, 69, of Tipton, died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022, at Tipton Oak Manor.

No visitation or services will be held. A private family burial will be held at a later date at St. Andrew's Cemetery. Cremation arrangements are in the care of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton.

Gagnon

Darryl Richard Gagnon, 84, of Tipton, died Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, at Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia.

No services are planned. Burial will be in Hickman Cemetery in Clarksburg. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton.

Schollmeyer

Helen Bowers (Patton) Schollmeyer, 89, of Tipton, died peacefully with family by her side

on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, at Tipton Oak Manor.

Prayers of the Rosary will begin at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, with visitation to follow. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11 a.m. at the church. Burial will be in St. Andrew's Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton.

Stayton

Preston Arnold Stayton, 66, of Sedalia, died Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Burial will be at Crown Hill Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

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.

ANSWERS TO Sedalia Democrat's

PRIZEWEEK PUZZLE



November 19th Answers

\$1650 Could Have Been Yours!

There was NO WINNER last week, so be sure to look in Saturday's Sedalia Democrat for your chance to win up to

\$1700



ACROSS

- TALK not tale. When giving a TALK to an audience of "children," it's probably wise to "make sure what you're saying sounds simple." However, the "teacher" could be reading a tale, in which case the advice might be to "make sure what" she's reading "sounds simple."
- PORTAGE not postage. PORTAGE (i.e., transporting) is a good answer since it often "varies" across countries, depending on the type of transportation being used. The "cost" of international postage usually remains within a certain limit.
- RUBBER not robber. Usually someone like a robber is not thought of as being deserving, whereas a "tough" RUBBER that will endure under extreme circumstances could be "deservedly" classified as such.
- GOOD not gold. GOOD "jewelry" could be made of real gold or another valuable metal or stone. Therefore, GOOD is a comprehensive answer.
- RUNG not bung. Falling from a ladder because a RUNG has come "loose" can have serious consequences. However, if a bung (defined as a stopper or plug to seal a hole) comes "loose," the container with the hole might be empty, causing nothing unfortunate to occur.
- PLANE not plant. "Surprisingly unique features" might well describe a "new" plant since there is no standard structure to such a building.

Usually, a PLANE conforms to known structures, so a "unique" one could draw the attention of a "class of engineering students."

- DUET not dust. A copy of a DUET might be on the "piano," but the fact that the "woman" is on a "tour" of "expensive heritage homes" means she's probably being kept behind a rope or a line some distance away from the furniture, thereby making it difficult to spot something as small and relatively invisible as dust.
- PRAY not play. Certainly "children" have been known to display negative behavior at times when they play, which could be concerning to many "parents," whether or not they're "religious." But it would be the "parents" at a "religious school" who would be "unhappy over the way their "children" PRAY.

DOWN

- TAX not lax. A TAX "inspector" is the best choice. Lax is superfluous, since the clue already refers to his laziness.
- LOVE not move. People who've moved to the "city" LOVE "to get away from" it, to enjoy a day "away from the noise and traffic." But these days, "an increasing number of people" move "to get away from the" rising cost of living (i.e., rent, mortgage and food), rather than "the noise and traffic."
- RELENT not repent. The hostess's main problem is the rapid loss of food at the "dinner" table, and the only way to rectify the situation is for the "uncle" to RELENT and stop eating. If he repented his bad manners but kept eating, there would be no solution to the problem.
- BUDS not beds. BUDS is best since it's unclear where the "puppy" is running "around"; for example, is it the exterior of the "house" or the interior? Beds could only apply to the exterior.
- SAMPLE not simple. "Faulty" work on a SAMPLE "pair of" "pants," on which potential orders are to be based, could result in the next "big order" being "canceled." But "faulty" work on one simple "pair of" "pants" of the many that have already been bought and sold could mean the customer returns it for a refund or exchanges the "pants" for another "pair."
- SPURRED not spurned. Realizing she'd been spurned "by him," chances are, a "shy girl" would have tried to leave or become inconspicuous rather than remaining where she had acted "completely out of character." But she might do something uncharacteristic if SPURRED on "by him."
- NATTY not nasty. Debonair (i.e., NATTY) people can be said to be "seeking attention" by how they dress. But nasty people can create a negative feeling surreptitiously, without drawing "attention" to themselves.
- SACKS not socks. Often, consumers buy multiple pairs of socks because they can wear out quickly, making spare ones a necessity. When buying SACKS for storage or transport, they're often handled roughly and need to be durable to endure harsh temperature, rodents and rough surfaces.
- ROOTS not boots. ROOTS matches up well with "gardening." The "daughter" wouldn't necessarily have to be "gardening" in order to "hate" the boots she's wearing.

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The top 13 voted on photos will be published in our 13 month 2023 calendar. Last day to vote is **NOVEMBER 30TH**.

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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 Nov. 24

12:06 a.m.: Aifan A. Raed, 51, of the 400 block of East Sixth Street, was arrested near the intersection of West Seventh Street and South Osage Avenue for driving while intoxicated-alcohol-prior offender and driving with a revoked license. An officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle not properly displaying a registration plate. During the investigation, it was determined the driver was intoxicated and had a revoked license. He was arrested and taken to SPD where he provided a breath sample that showed his BAC above the legal limit. He was taken to the Pettis County Jail, where he was booked and released.

Nov. 26

8:11 p.m.: Corey Allen Bolling, 34, of the 2100 block of East Seventh Street, was arrested near the intersection of West Broadway Boulevard and South Sneed Avenue for driving while intoxicated-drugs. An officer stopped a vehicle for moving violations and indicators of impaired driving. The driver was found to be intoxicated by drugs, so he was arrested and taken to the Pettis County Jail where he was booked and released.

Nov. 27

1:32 a.m.: Michael Dale Kearney Jr., 29, of Edwards, was arrested near the intersection of East 16th Street and South Ohio Avenue for driving while intoxicated. An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. During the stop, the driver was determined to be intoxicated, and further investigation showed he had a BAC over the legal limit.

8:15 p.m.: Juan J. Mendoza, 43, of the 700 block of East 10th Street, was arrested at his residence for second-degree domestic assault and second-degree endangering the welfare of a child. Officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, the victim was located after going to a neighbor's home to call for help. A juvenile was still in the residence with the suspect. Officers located the suspect and the juvenile and determined an assault did occur involving the adult and juvenile victims. The suspect was taken to the Pettis County Jail.

8:25 p.m.: Kristy Marie Meyer, 42, of the 1100 block of West Seventh Street, was arrested near the intersection of West Third Street and South Limit Avenue for driving while intoxicated-drugs, failure to register with the Department of Revenue and failure to maintain financial responsibility. An officer stopped a vehicle for improper registration. An investigation determined the driver was intoxicated by drugs. Meyer was taken to the SPD, Bothwell Regional Health Center and the Pettis County Jail, where she was booked and released.

9:56 p.m.: Jonathan Wayne Ayers, 36, of the 800 block of East Fourth Street, was arrested in the 1300 block of South Limit Avenue for driving with a suspended license. A traffic stop was conducted for a vehicle with a defective taillight and expired plates. A computer check showed the driver had a suspended license. He was arrested and taken to the Pettis County Jail for a 24-hour hold.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Nov. 25

10 p.m.: Christopher C. Cash, 57, of Kansas City, Missouri, was arrested in Saline County for felony operating a vehicle on a highway without a valid driver's license. He was taken to the Saline County Jail and released.

Nov. 27

2:38 a.m.: Robinson R. Fichtner, 55, of Centerview, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated, speeding, and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was taken to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

9:27 a.m.: Jonathan B. Rogers, 36, of Fortuna, was arrested in Johnson County for felon in possession of a firearm. He was taken to the Johnson County Jail and released.

3:19 p.m.: Jacob L. Fields, 30, of Clinton, was arrested in Henry County for driving while intoxicated and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He was taken to the Henry County Jail and released.

Nov. 28

12:01 a.m.: Wilhelmenia L. Payne, 51, of Warrensburg, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated, failure to drive on the right half of the roadway, and consumption of an alcoholic beverage while driving. She was taken to the Johnson County Jail and released.

Compiled by Nicole Cooke.

Rail

From Page 3A

Hundreds of business groups had been urging Congress and the president to step into the deadlocked contract talk and prevent a strike.

Both the unions and railroads have been lobbying Congress while contract talks continue. If Congress acts, it will end talks between the railroads and four rail unions that rejected their deals Biden helped broker before the original strike deadline in September. Eight other unions have approved their five-year deals with the railroads and are in the process of getting back pay for their workers for the 24% raises that are retroac-

tive to 2020. If Congress does what Biden suggests and imposes terms similar to what was agreed on in September, that will end the union's push to add paid sick time. The four unions that have rejected their deals have been pressing for the railroads to add that benefit to help address workers' quality of life concerns, but the railroads had refused to consider that. Biden said that as a "proud pro-labor president" he was reluctant to override the views of people who voted against the agreement. "But in this case — where the economic impact of a shutdown would hurt millions of other working people and families — I believe Congress must use its powers to adopt this deal."

Giving

From Page 1A

PCCP is also hosting a T-shirt fundraiser since November is Homelessness Awareness Month. Shirts can be purchased at sweet-boonedesigns.com/collections/fundraiser.

For more information, visit www.pettiscountycommunitypartnership.com or call 660-827-0560.

Open Door

The Open Door organization offers many types of assistance for Pettis County residents. The Service Center helps with clothing vouchers, prescription costs, heat assistance, transportation to safe shelters, and other basic human needs. An average of 2,225 individuals eat each month at the kitchen and the food pantry serves about 120 families daily.

During the holiday season, Open Door needs monetary donations, plus items like shelf-stable foods, meat and produce, coats and gloves. Donations are also needed at the Thrift Shop, which sells items to raise money for Open Door's services.

Open Door Service Center has set a goal of raising \$2,500 in 24 hours for Giving Tuesday. People can donate at www.opendoor-servicecenter.org/donate-today. When making a Giving Tuesday donation, donors are invited to join the GEM Treasure Club by setting up recurring donations, which help Open Door with stability by giving predictable cash flows.

For more information, visit opendoorservicecenter.org or call 660-827-1613.

Birthday Blessings

Birthday Blessings, a nonprofit that provides resources to foster kids in Pettis and Cooper counties, will have a Thanksgiving Donor Match campaign. The event is sponsored by Vickie Witthaus, of Hannibal, who will match up to \$10,500 in total donations.

The charity partners with Children's Divisions and other agencies to support kids in care. Their programs target the physical and emotional needs of the children. Meeting a child's basic needs allows them to focus on important tasks like getting an education or improving social skills.

Executive Director Shannon VonAllmen said the nonprofit is seeing higher operating costs due to inflation and increased service requests.

Locally, the organization has a volunteer group that meets monthly at LifePointe Church in Sedalia. Volunteers prep birthday parties and other resources for delivery to kids in care.

Donations can be made at www.birthday-blessings.org or by mailing checks to Birthday Blessings, 429 Aid Ave., West Plains, MO 65775. Checks postmarked during the event or with "Thanksgiving Match" written in the memo line will be counted. For more information, call 417-372-5306.

CASA

CASA is inviting CASA

supporters to provide items CASA is always in need of for the shelter. Those items include toilet paper, paper towels, bath towels and washcloths, paper plates and cutlery, pillows, shampoo and conditioner, new hair brushes, elastic hair ties, cleaning supplies, trash bags, dish soap and aluminum foil.

As a thank-you, CASA will give empowerment necklaces to every individual who donates supplies or a \$20 donation through www.casa-sedalia.org/donate. The donor can also give this necklace to a friend or loved one or elect to have CASA gift their necklace to a domestic or sexual abuse survivor.

Any donations of \$100 or more are eligible for a 70% tax credit on your Missouri taxes.

Donations can be made in person or through the CASA website, Amazon Smile, or Walmart list.

For more information, visit casa-sedalia.org or visit the CASA Facebook page.

WILS

In honor of WILS' 25th anniversary, the organization is asking for \$25 donations to help build more ramps.

Many people in WILS' six-county service area often find themselves trapped in a home that has become inaccessible as their mobility needs change. The average ADA ramp construction costs \$1,851 and takes over 10 man hours to build. Donations will allow more people to access their yards and community safely.

Since 1997, WILS has served people with disabilities in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline counties. WILS offers resources and programs to empower people with disabilities to achieve and maintain independence at home and in the community.

To donate, visit http://bit.ly/3GTe0rh or http://bit.ly/3OJdQVq.

Recovery Lighthouse

Recovery Lighthouse helps individuals and families find and sustain recovery from substance use disorders by providing quality services in a safe and supportive environment, collaborating with community partners, and engaging in advocacy.

All donations will help provide clients with necessities to help them get back on their feet. Items needed include gloves, hats, backpacks, socks, towels, hygiene products, blankets, pillows, coats, phone cards, gas cards/vouchers, bikes, nonperishable food items, Sedalia bus passes, and tents.

For more information, contact the Warrensburg office at 660-429-2222 or the Sedalia office at 660-827-4357.

Sacred Heart School

The Sacred Heart School Foundation was established in 1979 with the mission of generating financial support for the sustainability of Sacred Heart School. The foundation's single largest fundraising effort, the 2022 Annual Fund Drive, is still underway.

Gifts to the Annual Fund

support many aspects of the school, including student scholarships for more than 90% of families who seek tuition assistance; faculty recruitment and retention through fair and competitive salaries; and facilities and resources by addressing immediate needs and future capital improvements to keep the 140-year-old campus healthy and vibrant.

Donors who make a gift in any amount will be honored on the SHS website, in a future publication of From the Heart magazine and e-blast, and in a parish bulletin. Give online at p2p.onecause.com/2022-shsgo-gremlins.

Bothwell Foundation

The Bothwell Foundation is seeking donations for its campaign to raise money for a K9 officer, a highly-trained dog who will be a member of Bothwell's Security team.

In 2021, there were 14,357 calls made to the Bothwell Security team that included 309 impairments from drugs or alcohol, 42 assaults, 29 use-of-force incidents, 102 combative patients, and 64 weapon seizures. On average, law enforcement was called two times a month for assistance with these calls.

A K9 security dog will increase a sense of safety for patients, visitors and staff and be used in de-escalation techniques to reduce use-of-force incidents. To donate, visit brhc.org/donate or contact the Bothwell Foundation at 660-829-7786 or LThiel@brhc.org.

Retrieving Freedom

Retrieving Freedom is a nonprofit dedicated to training service dogs to help people, with a primary focus on training dogs to serve the needs of veterans and children with autism.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, roughly 30,000 veterans have died by suicide. This Giving Tuesday, Optum Serve has teamed up with Retrieving Freedom to help prevent another veteran from becoming part of this statistic. Optum Serve will match donations up to \$5,000. These funds will be used to provide one Final Placement Sponsorship to a veteran in need of a service dog.

To donate, visit http://bit.ly/3U0LZRR or text GIVE to 319-349-2521. For more information, visit www.retrievingfreedom.org.

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This Christmas season, the Show-Me Christian Youth Home needs stocking stuffers such as \$5 and \$10 gift cards, which serve as rewards at home and incentives for school; family games, such as board games and cards, to build relationships; passes or gift cards for families to use for movies, bowling, music, sports or performing arts events; and gift cards for groceries,

home improvements and other family needs.

A list of specific items for the children and families living at Show-Me's 13 homes can be found on its Amazon Wish List, http://bit.ly/3i8qx01, or on the latest needs list at ShowMeHelpingKids.com.

For more information, call 660-347-5982.

Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri

Supporters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri can make a donation to the Whatever It Takes Campaign, which raises funds for literally whatever it takes for local kids to succeed. Just \$10 can cover a year's membership for one child.

For more information or to donate, visit bgckids.com.

Center for Human Services

Donations to the Center for Human Services will support its programs and services that help individuals develop their skills to overcome physical, mental, and financial challenges in nearly 50 counties in Missouri.

CHS does this by providing resources and services for child care and education, jobs, therapy, housing, counseling and socialization. This helps them live, work, learn, connect and thrive beyond limitations.

For more information or to donate, visit chs-mo.org/givingtuesday.

Missouri State Fair Foundation

The Missouri State Fair Foundation is seeking donations to aid in the expansion of the recently purchased land just west of the Missouri State Fairgrounds along with funding opportunities for its First-Time Exhibitor Grant program, expansion of the Read to Win Program, and Youth in Agriculture Scholarships, along with general maintenance projects on our historic grounds.

The mission of the Missouri State Fair Foundation is to cultivate the future of agriculture through innovative initiatives to advance the Missouri State Fair.

For more information or to donate, visit mostatefair-foundation.net.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland is seeking donations to support girls as they gain the tools they need to solve the problems they care about with bold solutions that only they can think up. Donors' support amplifies girls' abilities to improve the world, regardless of their backgrounds, where they live, or their financial situations.

For more information or to donate, visit https://bit.ly/3tRjrzv.

Nicole Cooke can be reached at 660-530-0138 or on Twitter @NicoleRCooke.

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Messiah

From Page 1A

Gumbel's mother, Julie McKnew, of Sedalia, is the piano accompanist this year for the solo performances and a couple of choruses. Leanna Clayson, also of Sedalia, is the accompanist who has rehearsed with the choir and will play the other arrangements.

Gumbel said they've practiced for six weeks, and the choir sounds excellent.

"I think we've all grown a lot in the last six weeks," she added. "And it's been fun getting to learn more about the people in the choir and the community.

"It's been really good getting to learn more about the Messiah," she continued. "Conducting it is a much different experience than singing and being conducted. This is really an opportunity of a lifetime for me."

She added she's always respected and "revered" the production director, Cordes.

"She did a phenomenal job," Gumbel said. "Those are shoes that can never be filled, but I'm very thankful for this opportunity."

"The Sedalia Symphony has been very helpful — the 'Messiah' committee," she added. "They are very good at organizing, getting the music

out, and setting up the volunteer orchestra."

This year the orchestra has gained a French horn. The 12-member orchestra also includes violins, violas, a cello, a trumpet, a piano, an organ, and a bassoon. The choir has 45 singers. Gumbel added this is the second year for the performance post-COVID.

There are 12 choruses in the performance and several solos. Two new solos have been added this year also. The only duet, "Oh Death Where is Thy Sting," will be performed by Emily Westermier and Alan Beste.

Gumbel added she invites everyone to "come and enjoy this beautiful experience."

"It's breath-taking music," she noted. "And it has been around for centuries."

Dr. William Decker, who plays bassoon and is the chair of the "Messiah" committee, added it is great to have a community dedicated to working "so hard" to bring the concert to fruition.

"It is a lot of work, especially for our singers to show up every week," he said.

Gumbel added she and others look forward to the performance throughout the year.

"It makes the holiday season really come alive," she noted. "That's something I've heard from a lot of people — that they look forward to this

every year. So I'm really glad it's a tradition that really thrives in Sedalia. It's so meaningful."

Decker added besides the Sunday "Messiah" performance, the Symphony will also perform its annual POPS Concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at the Heckart Performing Arts Center. The Monday night performance will include special guests, the Word of Life Ukrainian Church Choir.

Handel's "Messiah" will be performed at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Broadway Presbyterian Church, 109 W. Broadway Blvd. The event is free and open to the public. The church will provide light refreshments after the concert.

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



Dr. William Decker, chair of the "Messiah" committee, plays bassoon during rehearsal on Sunday. The "Messiah" will also feature violins, violas, a cello, a French horn, a trumpet, a piano, and an organ. PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



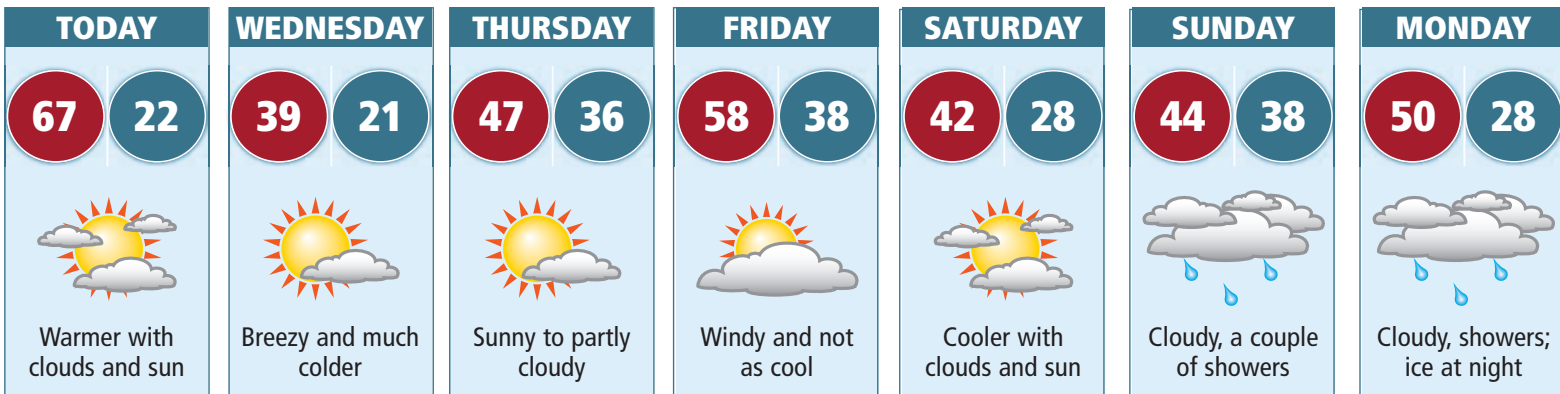
On Friday, members of Broadway Presbyterian Church assemble an Advent wreath in preparation for Advent and the "Messiah" concert hosted at the church this Sunday.

Get the whole story. SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:10 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:52 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:40 p.m.
Moonset today	11:13 p.m.
First	Nov 30
Full	Dec 7
Last	Dec 16
New	Dec 23

WEATHER HISTORY

November 1972 was one of the wettest on record for the Northeast. Binghamton, N.Y., had a monthly total of 7.11 inches — the wettest November in the 75 years of record keeping at Broome County Airport.

ALMANAC

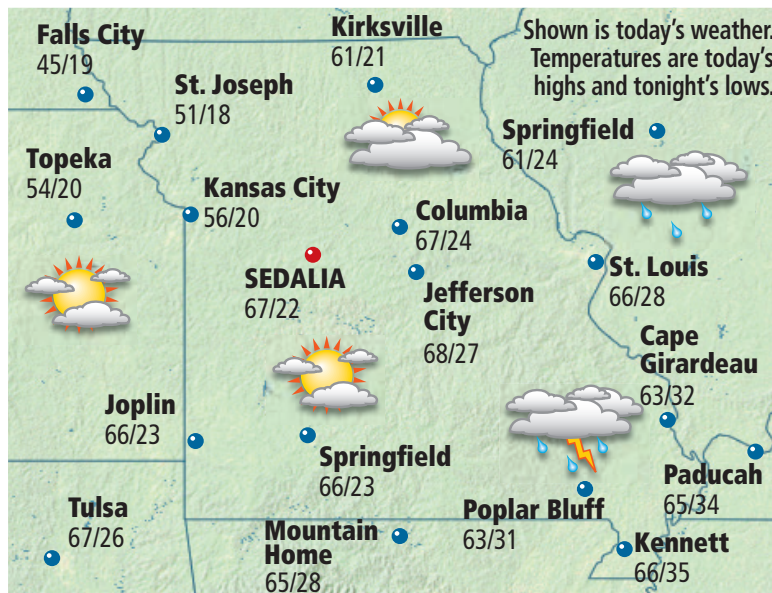
Sedalia Regional Airport Sunday

TEMPERATURES	
High	46
Low	36
Normal high	49
Normal low	29
Record high	76 in 1990
Record low	10 in 1977

PRECIPITATION	
Sunday	0.34"
Month to date	3.16"
Normal m-t-d	2.62"
Year to date	37.37"
Normal y-t-d	41.12"

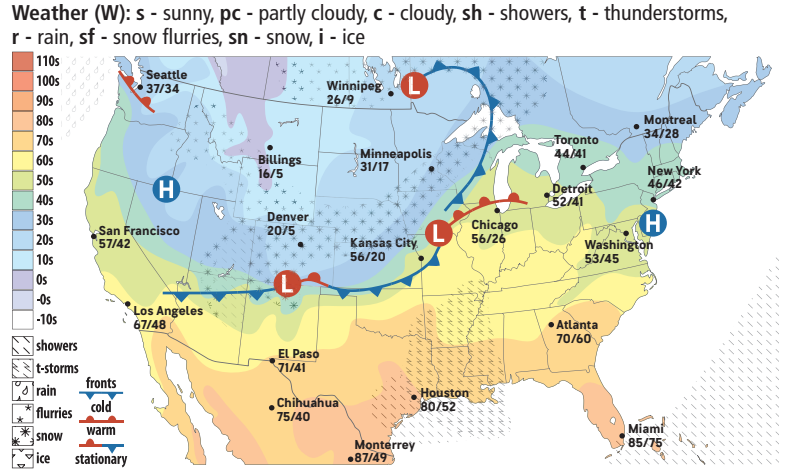
HEATING DEGREE DAYS	
Sunday	24
Month to date	541
Season to date	823
Normal season to date	973
Last season to date	646

RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	17.27	+10.35	24
Valley City	16.74	+13.80	22
Lamine			
Otterville	2.53	+1.62	15
Missouri			
Boonville	5.92	+0.17	21



NATIONAL WEATHER

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wednesday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	70/60/s	67/32/r
Baltimore	51/43/pc	61/33/r
Billings	16/5/c	22/21/c
Boston	43/38/pc	57/37/r
Buffalo	49/42/pc	51/30/r
Charlotte	66/53/pc	64/32/r
Chicago	56/26/c	31/20/pc
Cleveland	55/47/c	53/24/r
Dallas	79/36/pc	52/32/s
Denver	20/5/sn	32/13/pc
Detroit	52/41/c	48/25/r
Honolulu	84/71/sh	83/71/c
Houston	80/52/t	63/40/s
Indianapolis	60/32/c	38/20/pc
Las Vegas	56/37/s	58/41/pc
Milwaukee	54/25/pc	32/20/c
Nashville	68/43/t	51/27/r
New Orleans	76/67/c	70/44/t
Norfolk	56/48/pc	66/40/r
Oklahoma City	64/25/s	44/26/s
Orlando	82/64/s	84/66/t
Phoenix	68/47/s	72/49/pc
Pittsburgh	54/47/c	55/24/r
Portland, ME	40/32/pc	51/35/r
Portland, OR	41/39/c	46/36/r
Sacramento	59/33/s	59/44/pc
St. Louis	66/28/c	40/24/s
San Francisco	57/42/s	57/48/c
Seattle	37/34/c	43/35/sn
Washington, DC	53/45/s	62/35/r



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AREA ROUNDUP

STOVER LEADS ALL-KAYSINGER VOLLEYBALL PICKS

By Democrat staff

A 26-win season that included a deep run into the postseason earned four Stover volleyball players a place on the recently released first-team All-Kaysinger Conference list.

Juniors Allie Palmer and Hannah Bauer joined senior Tierra Stark and sophomore Ashlyn Pinzke as the quartet representing the Lady Bulldogs, whose Candace Bauer was also selected as Coach of the Year.

Stark tallied 179 kills, a team-high 77 blocks and 202 digs. Bauer totaled

776 assists and 218 digs, while Palmer ended with 288 kills and 247 digs. In her second varsity season, Pinzke led Stover in both kills (357) and digs (285).

Both Cole Camp and Sacred Heart followed up with three first team selections each.

All three from the Lady Bluebirds are seniors. Dylana Stoppel led Cole Camp with 258 kills and added 316 digs. Haidyn Massingill guided the offense with 432 assists, while Ashley Campbell accumulated 362 digs.

From the conference tourney

champs, Sacred Heart's Emma Siron ended her senior year with 573 kills, 56 blocks and 316 digs, all team-highs. Fellow senior Mariana Restrepo had 172 kills and 217 digs, while junior Sammy Altona finished with 596 assists.

Northwest was the only other team to post multiple first-teamers, both of them juniors. Karli Smith had 241 kills, 47 blocks, and 329 digs — all team-highs — and classmate Grace Walker complemented her totals with 197 kills and 326 digs.

See AREA | 12A



Liberty head coach Hugh Freeze, center, gets ready to take the field with his team to play Arkansas in an NCAA college football game Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, in Fayetteville, Ark.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL WOODS | AP PHOTO

Auburn hires Liberty's Hugh Freeze, who's coming back to SEC

By Ralph D. Russo
AP College Football Writer

Auburn is hiring Liberty coach Hugh Freeze to take over the football program, more than five years after his resignation from SEC West rival Mississippi amid both personal and NCAA scandals.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Monday that Freeze has signed a memorandum of understanding with the school. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because final details of the contract were still being worked out.

Sports Illustrated was first to report that Auburn was finalizing a deal with Freeze.

He replaces Bryan Harsin, who was fired on Oct. 31 after going 9-12 in less than two seasons at a proud program that has fallen on hard times.

Freeze is 68-44 in 11 seasons as a head coach at Arkansas State, Mississippi and Liberty, but he comes with baggage that required extensive vetting by Auburn.

He led the Rebels to a 39-25 record and four bowl games and even beat Auburn's big rival, Alabama, in back-to-back seasons. But he resigned in the summer of 2017 after school officials uncovered a "pattern of personal misconduct" starting with a call to a number used by an escort service from a university-issued cellphone.

That was after the NCAA had started an extensive investigation into rules violations committed by the football program under Freeze.

The NCAA found 21 violations of academic, booster and recruiting misconduct, most of which happened under Freeze's watch. The rule-breaking landed Ole Miss on probation, including a two-year post-season ban and recruiting restrictions.

The NCAA's ruling said Freeze promoted an atmosphere of rules compliance but failed to monitor his staff. Freeze received what would have been a light penalty: a suspension for two conference games if he had coached in 2018.

Instead, the personal misconduct matter was uncovered and he was

forced to resign in July 2017.

He was out of college coaching for two years before landing in 2019 at Liberty, where he has gone 34-15 in four seasons, including 8-4 this year. The Flames ended the season with three straight losses, including a 49-14 blowout against New Mexico State.

Freeze acknowledged his interest in the Auburn job after that game Saturday.

The process of Auburn hiring Freeze was slowed over the weekend after a former Liberty student who had an interaction with the coach through social media over the summer emailed Auburn officials about the direct message he sent her.

The AP received a copy of the letter the woman sent to Auburn athletic director John Cohen and President Chris Roberts on Saturday urging the school not to hire Freeze.

The woman was plaintiff in a lawsuit against the school. She alleged she was sexually assaulted at Liberty and a settlement was reached in the case.

The case predated Freeze's time at Liberty.

Freeze sent a brief direct message to the woman in July, defending Liberty athletic director Ian McCaw, whom the woman had posted negative comments about.

Auburn looked into the matter and found Freeze was unaware of the lawsuit.

Freeze now appears headed back to the SEC West to try to revive an Auburn program that has had plenty of success but has struggled to maintain it over the last two decades.

Auburn won a national title in 2010 under Gene Chizik and played for another three years later in Gus Malzahn's first season. But the Tigers haven't made the SEC championship game since 2017 and haven't won a league title since 2013.

Running backs coach Carnell Williams, a former Auburn All-American and NFL first-round pick, served as interim coach for the final four games. Auburn went 2-2 and lost 49-27 in the regular season finale to finish 5-7.

AP Sports Writers John Zenor and Hank Kurz Jr. contributed to this report.



Stover senior Tierra Stark, a first-team All-Kaysinger selection, prepares to attack a ball in a Class 2 quarterfinal match against Hermann on Oct. 29.

FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

Chiefs lament more special teams blunders in win over Rams

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs moved the ball well against the Los Angeles Rams between the 20s, though drives too often fizzled in the red zone, and their defense shut down a team missing most of its offensive playmakers.

All good things from Sunday's 26-10 victory. Special teams, on the other hand? It was another rough day for coordinator Dave Toub, who watched Skyy Moore fumble a punt for the third time this season, then watched the Rams execute a fake punt that kept another drive alive.

Those two miscues didn't cost the Chiefs any points, thanks mostly to the fact that the Rams were missing quarterback Matthew Stafford, wide receivers Cooper



Kansas City Chiefs cornerback L'Jarius Sneed (38) intercepts a pass ahead of Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Van Jefferson (12) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL | AP PHOTO

Kupp and Allen Robinson II and two starting offensive linemen. But against just about any other NFL team, including the Bengals this coming weekend, that sort

of execution isn't going to cut it.

"We had the fake on us this time — it's the second time we've had one — which is true, obviously,

but we anticipated that happening and worked on it and they just got us," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said Monday.

"I think one great learning place for the players, especially the young players, is to put them on special teams, and then you just continually progress and get better as the season goes on," Reid continued. "There are going to be some early issues as we go here and you hope it picks up as we go forward. That's where we're at right now."

It's not early in the season, though. The Chiefs (9-2) are well past the halfway point, and despite all the special teams mishaps this season, they are in first place in the AFC. The stakes couldn't be a whole lot higher over the final six games, the first three of them on the road,

See CHIEFS | 9A

Lalas: US overlooked importance to Iran of '98 Cup match

By Ronald Blum
AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Looking back to the United States' infamous 1998 World Cup loss to Iran, Alexi Lalas thought the Americans failed to appreciate the emotional significance of their opponents.

"Understanding the importance of this game, not just from a soccer perspective but from a cultural perspective, I think is crucial for the United States," the former American defender said Sunday. "I don't think we knew how important it was to them beyond the actual

World Cup. And I think actually we purposely tried to downplay a lot of the other stuff."

Politics were injected ahead of Tuesday's rematch. The U.S. Soccer Federation briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic on Sunday. The USSF said it made the decision in "support for the women in Iran fighting for basic human rights."

Iran's semiofficial Tasnim news agency described the USSF as "removing the symbol of Allah" from Iran's flag.

See CUP | 12A



In this June 21, 1998 file photo, U.S. and Iranian team players pose for a group photo, before the start of their World Cup first round soccer match, at Gerland Stadium, in Lyon, France. Iran upset the Americans 2-1 for its first World Cup win, eliminating the U.S. after just two games. After losing to Germany in its group-stage finale, Iran was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by thousands of fans blowing trumpets and waving Iranian flags. A rematch between the U.S. and Iran will be played, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

FILE PHOTO BY MICHEL EUELER | AP PHOTO

Huskers pay premium for Rhule to bring back program's glory

By Eric Olson
AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Matt Rhule said he had plenty of options after he got fired by the Carolina Panthers. He could have taken a year off from football or worked in television.

Or he could jump back into college coaching. A number of schools reached out to him, he said, but only one appealed to him and his family.

Nebraska introduced Rhule as its coach on Monday, exactly seven weeks after the Panthers fired him five games into his third season. Awaiting him is the daunting task of taking over a team coming off a sixth straight losing season and a program that's a shell of what once was one of the biggest brands in the college game.

"I am here because this is the right fit, it's the right time," Rhule said. "And if I have one message for you: We can absolutely do

it. We can absolutely get University of Nebraska football exactly where it's supposed to be. It will be hard. It may take time, but it will be done."

Rhule signed an eight-year, \$74 million contract that makes him the third highest-paid coach in the Big Ten behind Ohio State's Ryan Day and Michigan State's Mel Tucker and among the top 10 nationally.

Athletic director Trev Alberts said the contract is 90% guaranteed and that some of the compensation is deferred. Rhule will have a pool of \$7 million to spend on assistant coaches.

When the Panthers fired Rhule, he was still owed \$34 million on his seven-year contract. Alberts said the Panthers were involved in Rhule's negotiations with Nebraska.

"Structuring a business arrangement that everybody was willing to sign off on was a bit of a challenge," Alberts said, "and there were some fits

and starts to it."

Alberts said there was a period when it looked like the deal would fall through, but the sides reached an agreement on Thanksgiving morning.

Asked if he thought he would need to spend \$9 million per year on a football coach, Alberts said the salary scale is rising in the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference because of dramatically increasing revenues tied to record-setting television rights deals.

"Let's be honest, there's a Power Two now," Alberts said. "Certainly not to denigrate any of the other conferences, but that's kind of where we're heading. ... If we're going to be serious about having Nebraska football competing at the upper level of the Big Ten Conference, there's going to be resources needed to acquire that talent."

Rhule, who was 11-27 in two-plus seasons with the Panthers, was hired because of the success he



New Nebraska NCAA college football coach Matt Rhule, left, arrives with athletic director Trev Alberts for an introductory press conference, Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, in Lincoln, Neb.

PHOTO BY REBECCA S. GRATZ | AP PHOTO

had in his two college head coaching jobs.

He had Temple playing for and winning the American Athletic Conference championship in his third and fourth seasons (2015-16). He had Baylor playing for the Big 12 championship in his third season (2019) after taking over a Bears program

emerging from the sexual assault scandal under Art Briles.

Rhule emphasized toughness in practices and games and said the only way to win games is to win the line of scrimmage. The Huskers have notably struggled on the offensive and defensive lines.

Rhule, who grew up in

New York City as a Penn State fan, was a walk-on linebacker for the Nittany Lions. He said he attended the Huskers' 44-6 Kickoff Classic win over Penn State in 1983 and was heartbroken when Nebraska beat out the unbeaten Nittany Lions for the 1994 national title.

See GLORY | 9A

SPORTS CALENDAR

Tuesday ON TAP COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
7 p.m. State Fair Community College at St. Louis Community College
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Northwest at Green Ridge
Jamestown at La Monte
Windsor at Lone Jack
Smithton at Calvary Lutheran
Lincoln at Warsaw
Otterville at Tipton

Cole Camp vs Knob Noster (at Warsaw)
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Sacred Heart at Kingsville
Jamestown at La Monte
Northwest at Green Ridge
Windsor at Lone Jack
Smithton at Calvary Lutheran
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM
Sacred Heart, Smith-Cotton at Blue Springs South

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING
Smith-Cotton at Camdenton
Tipton at California Triangular
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING
Smith-Cotton at Camdenton
Tipton at California Triangular
ON AIR COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
5:30 p.m. FS1 — LIU Brooklyn at St. John's
6 p.m. ESPN2 — ACC/

Big Ten Challenge: Maryland at Louisville
ESPN — ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Penn St. at Clemson
6:30 p.m. ESPN — ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Syracuse at Illinois
7:30 p.m. FS1 — Baylor at Marquette
8 p.m. ESPN2 — ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Georgia Tech at Iowa
ESPN — ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Wake Forest at Wisconsin
8:30 p.m. ESPN — ACC/Big Ten Challenge:

Virginia at Michigan
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m. SECN — UCLA at South Carolina
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
6 p.m. ESPN — College Football Playoff: Top 25
NBA BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m. TNT — Golden State at Dallas
9 p.m. TNT — LA Clippers at Portland
NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL
6 p.m. NBATV — Greensboro at West-

chester
SOCCER (MEN'S)
9 a.m. FOX — FIFA World Cup Group Stage: Netherlands vs. Qatar, Group A, Al Khor, Qatar
FS1 — FIFA World Cup Group Stage: Ecuador vs. Senegal, Group A, Al Rayyan, Qatar
1 p.m. FOX — FIFA World Cup Group Stage: Iran vs. U.S., Group B, Doha, Qatar
FS1 — FIFA World Cup Group Stage: Wales vs. England, Group B, Al Rayyan, Qatar

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: caution: Avoid shopping or making important decisions all day until 7:30 p.m. EST (4:30 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022:

You are warm, friendly and charismatic. You know how to deal with people. You are future-oriented and often concerned with your security. This is the first year of a new nine-year cycle for you, which means being brave and flexible and having the courage to walk new paths and open new doors.

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)

★★ Let's face it, issues are hot topics today, making it tough to avoid an argument. For starters, steer clear of controversial subjects, which will press everyone's buttons. (Religion, politics, racial issues.) Today you don't have to go looking for trouble, because it will find you. Stay mellow. Tonight: Seek solitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Hold on to your hat and avoid squabbles and power struggles about money, shared assets, taxes, debt and inheritances -- and possibly insurance issues. (It's the whole nine yards.) If you stay levelheaded, some of these issues will subside. Either way, anger serves no purpose. Tonight: Talk to a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ This is a difficult day for dealing with spouses, partners and dear friends. Mars is retrograde in your sign, and today it opposes Mercury opposite your sign. This could trigger arguments with others. You might feel upset about travel plans, education or politics. Cope as best you can today. Don't let this issue own you. Tonight: You're noticed!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Today your ruler the Moon is lined up with Saturn, which makes you feel lonely or cut off from others. You might encounter domestic problems. Hey, this is a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Things look worse than they really are. Your future is better than this. "Candygram for Mongo!" Tonight: Study.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ This is a tough day. Relations with partners and close friends are dicey. Issues with your kids and romantic partners are contentious. You might be at odds with a friend. Relax. In a few days, all is well. (Now is the time to send out for dark chocolate.) Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Be patient with family today to avoid arguments and differing opinions over home repairs or redecorating projects. Perhaps you feel overwhelmed or world-weary at work or with your duties and obligations. Things look better later in the week. Tonight: Cooperate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ You like harmony in your surroundings. Today difficult encounters with others will bring you down. Romance and issues with sports or social outings or possibly your kids also might depress you. Don't react. Stay cool. In a few days, this is history. Tonight: Work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Financial matters are a concern today, especially debt, other people's wealth and your responsibilities for others. Combined with this, a conversation with a parent or someone older at home might be a bummer. Just tread water for now. This is temporary. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Discussions with others are challenging today. You might feel that you have to defend yourself. If so, this will be hard to do because you're worried. You feel cut off from others and their support. In 48 hours, things are different. Keep the faith. Tonight: Cocoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Financial matters might get you down today. Try to put things in perspective. It's important to know that the planetary pressures of today make things look worse than they really are. In 48 hours, you will see things differently and be laughing. Trust me. Tonight: Learn something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Today the Moon and Saturn are lined up in your sign, which makes you feel inadequate and self-critical. This is temporary. Trust that things will look different by Thursday. Avoid arguments with kids and romantic partners. Be smart. Tonight: Count your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Because you feel lonely and cut off today, you might argue with a family member or a parent. This won't help anything. Remember: Lucky Jupiter is in your sign right now, and in the near future you will get richer! Think about that. Tonight: You win.

BORN TODAY

Actor Chadwick Boseman (1976), comedic actress Anna Faris (1976), actor Don Cheadle (1964)



TCU wide receiver Jordan Hudson (7) catches a touchdown pass during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Iowa State in Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022. TCU won 62-14.

PHOTO BY LM OTERO | AP PHOTO

TCU has definite CFP route after rout of ISU in 12th game

By Stephen Hawkins

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Third-ranked TCU has a definite route to the playoff after another regular season-ending rout of Iowa State. That is much different from 2014, when the Horned Frogs got left out.

"I know the history with TCU and Iowa State, and big victories, and it didn't work out particularly well in 2014," first-year Frogs coach Sonny Dykes said after their 62-14 win over Iowa State on Saturday.

A day after a 55-3 win over the Cyclones eight years ago, TCU was left out of the inaugural four-team College Football Playoff even after going into that game ranked in the top four.

TCU (12-0, 9-0 Big 12, No. 4 CFP), which moved up a spot from fourth in the new AP Top 25 released Sunday and likely will do the same Tuesday night in the next CFP rankings, is in a much better situation this time.

The Frogs are one of only three remaining undefeated teams, with No. 1 Georgia and No. 2 Michigan, after being the first

Big 12 team since Texas in 2009 to finish the regular season without a loss. And they still have the Big 12 championship game next Saturday against No. 13 Kansas State (9-3, 7-2, No. 12 CFP).

Dykes believes so much is different since 2014 in college football, the CFP selection committee and how people view the Big 12.

"It's a gauntlet. I think people that know, really study the game, know how good the league is," Dykes said. "So to be able to go through this thing undefeated, to be able to win the road games that we did, to grind through some of the tough ones we had to grind through, I think shows that we have a good football team."

Before the lopsided finish, none of TCU's previous seven wins had been by more than 10 points. The Frogs had to overcome double-digit deficits after halftime in back-to-back games in October, including a 38-28 win over Kansas State after being down 28-10 in the second quarter.

Another win over K-State next Saturday will leave no questions about

TCU becoming the first Big 12 team other than Oklahoma to make the four-team playoff.

But the Frogs might not even have to win that rematch to get into one of the national semifinal games after everything else that happened on the final day of this regular season. Previously undefeated Ohio State (No. 2 CFP) lost 45-23 at home to Michigan, and Clemson (No. 8) also lost before TCU had even kicked off Saturday. LSU, fifth in the CFP rankings even with two losses already, lost again Saturday night, as did Oregon (No. 9).

There was no Big 12 championship game in 2014, when TCU was third in the CFP rankings going into what was the final weekend of its conference's regular season while other leagues played title games.

So a day after overwhelming Iowa State at home, the Frogs dropped to sixth in the final CFP rankings, a spot behind one-loss Baylor, the only team to beat them that season in a 61-58 thriller. Ohio State, after a 59-0 win in the Big Ten championship game, moved up to fourth and went on to win

the national title — a final game played at AT&T Stadium, only about 20 miles from the TCU campus.

The Cyclones were a two-win team that season, with that finale being their fifth loss by at least 20 points.

Iowa State (4-8, 1-8) entered Saturday's game with the Big 12's best defense, allowing 16.5 points a game. Only two opponents had scored more than 24 points, the most being 31, and its seven losses had been by a combined 38 points — or less than 5 1/2 points per game.

TCU had 17 points on its first three drives and led 24-0 at the end of the first quarter after the first of two interception returns for touchdowns. Max Duggan threw TDs to three different receivers and Kendre Miller ran for two scores, his 13th consecutive game with a rushing touchdown.

"We showed the true team that we really have," said fourth-year cornerback Tre'Vius Hodges-Tomlinson.

Duggan said, "It was probably our most complete game."

At the perfect time in the season to make a strong statement.

Glory

From Page 8A

Rhule said he respected the physical brand of football the Huskers played back then and that he wants to bring it back.

About 750 boosters and former players turned out at the Hawks Championship Center for a welcome event and news conference. Among them were Gov.-elect Jim Pillen, a Republican who played defensive back for

the Huskers in the 1970s, and 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers. The band played and fireworks went off next to the podium as Rhule and Alberts entered the building.

Rhule, 47, is the sixth coach to lead the program since College Football Hall of Famer Tom Osborne won or shared three national championships in four years before retiring after the 1997 season.

The Huskers' most recent conference championship came in 1999

under Osborne's successor, Frank Solich. Bill Callahan, Bo Pelini and Mike Riley followed before the program bottomed out under Scott Frost, who was 16-31 in four-plus seasons and never finished higher than fifth in the Big Ten West.

Rhule's arrival came three days after the Huskers closed a 4-8 season under Mickey Joseph — named interim coach after Frost's firing Sept. 11 — and just a few months before the opening of Nebraska's \$165 million

football facility.

"There's not a game that I expect to ever walk into where we don't expect to win," Rhule said. "It is not a burden but a responsibility on me as the coach to know that there will be people from all across the state who take the money that they've made with their hands and with their work and their daily toil — and they spend it to come watch our team play. You can't win every game every year, but you can certainly be a team that people are proud to watch."

Chiefs

From Page 7A

as they try to secure the No. 1 seed and lone first-round playoff bye.

"I'm happy with the 'W,' like everybody else, but you don't want to get complacent looking at the win and forgetting about the other underlying issues with this," Chiefs defensive end Frank Clark said. "Sean McVay, that shows what type of coach they have. They are playing their (third teamers) and not giving no quit — not showing no quit or surrender. My hat's off to those boys. We were able to get the 'dub but there's some more work to do.'"

WHAT'S WORKING

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was 27 of 42 for 320 yards with a touchdown and an interception, which are pedestrian numbers by his lofty standards. But those 27 completions went to a whopping 10 different players, and all of those receivers had a catch of at least 9 yards. That makes the Kansas City offense a nightmare to defend.

WHAT NEEDS WORK

Take away some nice scrambles by Mahomes and the Chiefs only averaged about 3 yards per carry. They were hard yards, too, and Isiah Pacheco and Ronald Jones fought for every one. So it falls upon the offensive line, which gave up just two QB hits and no sacks, to create some better holes for the running game.

STOCK UP

Nick Bolton picked off a pass for the second straight game while deflecting a pass and leading the Chiefs with 11 tackles. It was another excellent performance that ultimately could help the second-year pro earn his first Pro Bowl appearance.

STOCK DOWN

Toub has long been one of the best special teams coordinators in the game, going back to his days coaching Devin Hester and Robbie Gould in Chicago. Reid is confident that he will turn things around this season, but time is running out.

INJURIES

There were no new injuries against the Rams. The bigger question is whether Kadarius Toney, who missed the game with a hamstring injury, will re-

turn this week. His history of injuries is one reason the Giants were willing to trade him.

KEY NUMBERS

5 — The Chiefs have won five straight games, giving them at least one five-game winning streak in each of the past 10 seasons. The longest has been 10 consecutive wins during the 2015 and 2020 seasons.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Chiefs begin a three-game trip in Cincinnati, which rallied to beat them in last year's AFC title game and deny Kansas City a third straight Super Bowl appearance. The Chiefs then head to Denver and Houston before finally returning home on Christmas Eve to face the Seahawks.

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



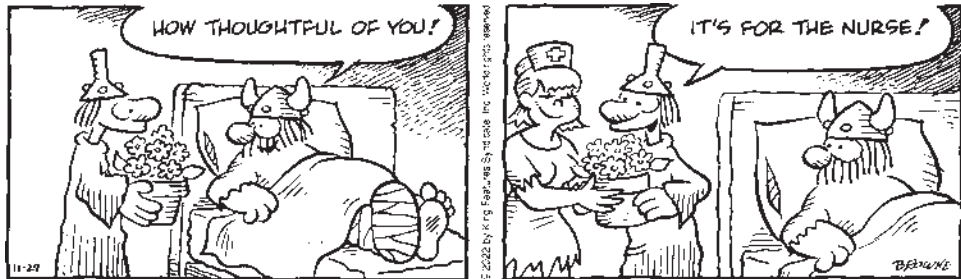
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT, GREG AND BRIAN WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



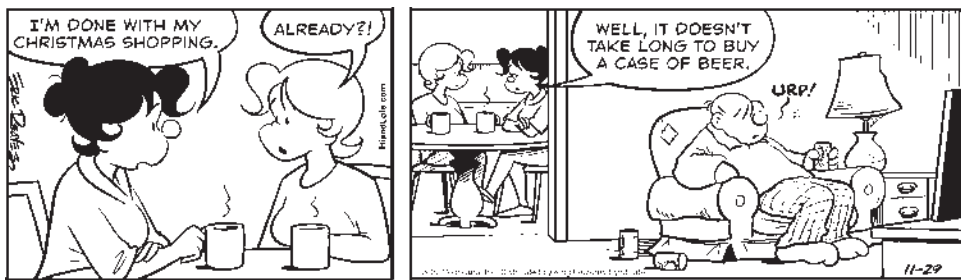
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



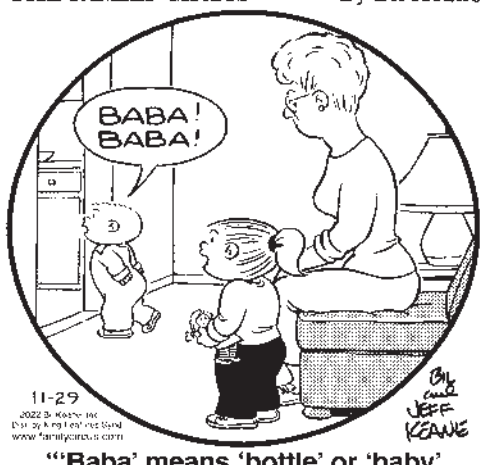
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

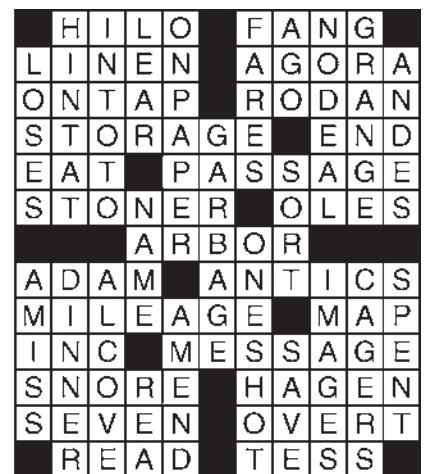
By Bil Keane



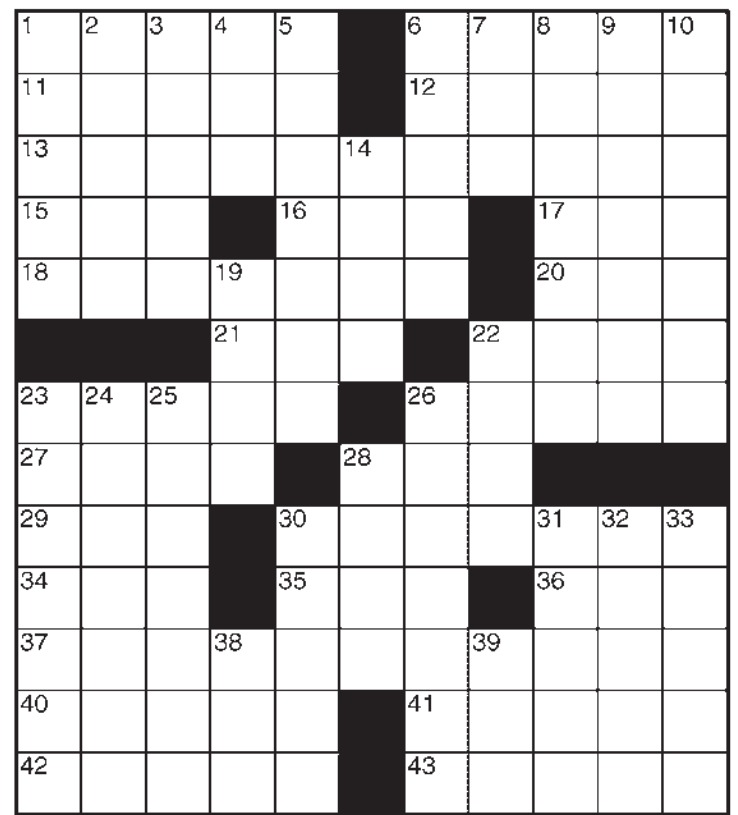
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 In the know
 - 42 Sub shops
 - 43 Drive off
 - 6 Extreme
 - 11 Pueblo material
 - 12 Stuck in the mud
 - 13 California golf resort
 - 15 Quarterback Manning
 - 16 Had lunch
 - 17 Phone bill addition
 - 18 Capitol worker
 - 20 Fragrant tree
 - 21 Signing need
 - 22 Seedy joint
 - 23 TV's Philbin
 - 26 Spiked clubs
 - 27 Fencing sword
 - 28 "The Rise of Skywalker" heroine
 - 29 Light metal
 - 30 Accessory for the Penguin
 - 34 Top card
 - 35 — Dhabi
 - 36 Crude abode
 - 37 Tree with shiny leaves
 - 40 DVR option
- DOWN**
- 1 Light-house settings
 - 2 "Skyfall" singer
 - 3 Gotham City hero
 - 4 Flow out
 - 5 Feels empathy
 - 6 Brown shade
 - 7 Tell whoppers
 - 8 Lateness excuse, often
 - 9 Take in
 - 10 Sticks
 - 14 School near Windsor
 - 19 "... baked in —"
 - 22 Harry Belafonte hit
 - 23 Wrapped again, as an ankle
 - 24 Food fancier
 - 25 Army bigwig
 - 26 Computer screen sight
 - 28 Lounging attire
 - 30 Bulls and rams
 - 31 Low-priced
 - 32 Moolah
 - 33 One of the Kennedys
 - 38 Letter before omega
 - 39 Ram's mate



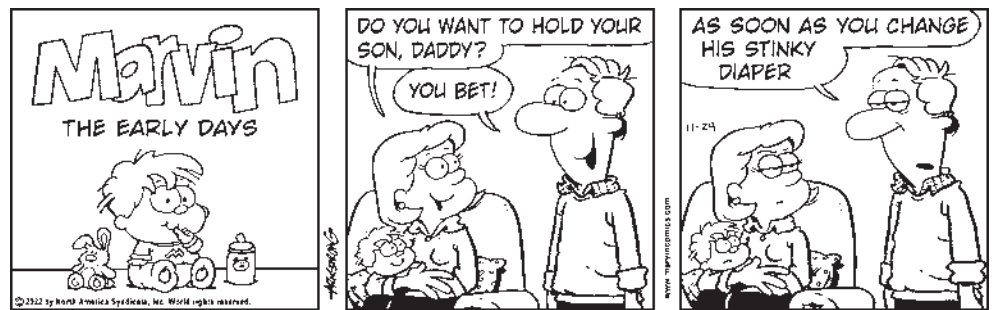
Saturday's answer



11-29

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER

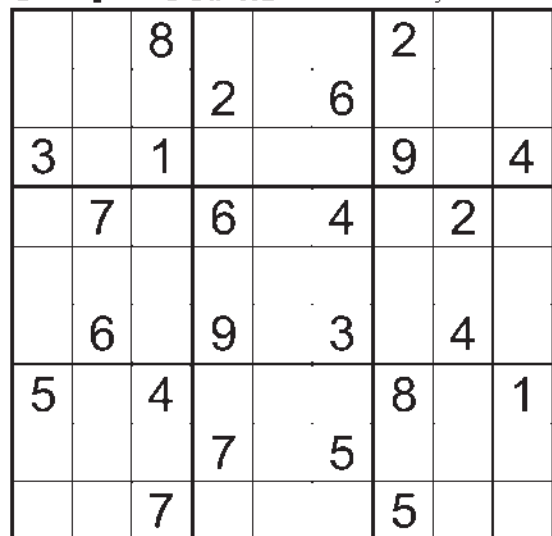


SUDOKU

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 Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Concepts: **Sudoku**

By Dave Green



Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/27

"When Margaret wants my opinion, she usually tells me what it is."

"Baba" means 'bottle' or 'baby' or 'Barfy' ... whichever shows up first."

Cup

From Page 7A

Following draws against Wales and England, the U.S. needs a win to reach the knockout stage of its first World Cup since 2014. Team Melli, seeking to advance for the first time in six Cup appearances, would reach the round of 16 with a victory and perhaps with a draw, depending on the England-Wales match played simultaneously.

The U.S. and Iran met in Lyon, France, at the 1998 tournament, 19 years after an Islamic Revolution overthrew U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Iran referred to the U.S. as the "Great Satan" and Team Melli upset the Americans 2-1 for its first World Cup win, eliminating the Americans after just two games. After losing to Germany in its group-stage finale, Iran was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by thousands of fans blowing trumpets and waving Iranian flags.

"If anything, you have to understand the emotion of the opponent and how that will fuel them," said former American midfielder Stu Holden, now a Fox broadcaster. "And if you don't match that energy, then you're going to come off second best."

In the first World Cup played in the Middle East, Iran opened with a 6-2 loss to England and rebounded with two late goals to beat Wales 2-0.

"I envision the game being hotly contested for the fact that both teams want to advance to the next round, not because of politics or the relations in our countries," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said.

"We're soccer players and we're going to compete, they're going to compete and that's it really."

Iranian players presented white flowers to the U.S. before the game in a gesture of peace, and American players gave their opponents USSF pennants. Both teams posed for a group photo.

Federation spokesman Neil Bueth said Brian McBride and Earnie Stewart, players from the 1998 team who now are national team executives, were not available to discuss the match.

Defenders Tim Ream and Walker Zimmerman downplayed the political aspect Sunday, much as their predecessors did in 1998.

"I think you go the opposite way. I think you lean into the fact that this is Iran and this is a country and culture that we have a long history with — a lot of it is negative, let's be honest," said Lalas, an unused substitute in the 1998 game and now a Fox analyst.

McBride hit the crossbar in the third minute and McBride, Claudio Reyna and David Regis struck posts.

Iran went ahead when Hamid Estili scored on a counterattack in the 40th minute, Mehdi Mahdavia made it 2-0 with a breakaway goal in the 83rd, and Iran went on to its first World Cup win despite allowing McBride's goal in the 87th.

"I think that the emotional side of having to win to get into the next round is enough to be up for. I don't think we have to worry about anything else in terms of what the game means," Ream said. "If that's not enough to get our guys up, then I think we have issues, but I don't think that's going to be a problem."

the Girls Tournament, the 35th Annual edition, both No. 5 Cole Camp and No. 7 Lincoln were in action Monday evening and will play second-round games Wednesday.

At the 84th Annual Tipton Boys Tournament, top-seeded Versailles helped get action underway Monday, but the host Cardinals won't play until Tuesday when they take on Otterville in a 2-7 game.

The Lady Cards played Versailles Monday evening to kick off round-robin action in Tipton's girls tourney. They'll resume and face Capital City on Wednesday as part of the six-team format.

SFCC teams get weekend wins

Both State Fair Community College teams were on the winning side of games Saturday, including the women's team, which took a 57-54 overtime victory Saturday against Allen County Community College. The Lady Roadrunners, who outscored Allen County 5-2 in OT, were led by 12 points from Jaida Shipp.

"It was a very sloppy game," Lady Roadrunners head coach Nicole Collier said. "We were able to battle back. This game was a grinder. Our team made plays and got stops when it counted. We turned the ball over too much, but we were able to get the win."

Also Saturday, the SFCC men's team got back on the winning track and closed the Moberly Classic by beating Richard J. Daley, 73-48. Dalton Gayman led the Roadrunners in both points (12) and rebounds (nine). Smith-Cotton alum Christian Finley also scored a career-high 10 points in the win.

Houston reaches No. 1 in AP poll for first time since 1983

By Dave Skretta

AP Basketball Writer

Make some room, Phi Slama Jama. Another Houston team has reached the top of men's college basketball.

Nearly four decades after Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon took the Cougars to No. 1, the latest bunch led by Marcus Sasser and star freshman Jarace Walker took over the top spot in the AP Top 25 on Monday. They received 45 of 63 first-place votes from the national media panel, easily outdistancing second-place Texas and third-place Virginia.

"It's not like we went online and applied for it and waited for a response back. We've been working for this," said Houston coach Kelvin Sampson, whose team is coming off a Final Four and Elite Eight trip the past two seasons. "But remember, it's a rental. You don't own it. You're just renting it because someday somebody else is going to be No. 1."

North Carolina had been No. 1 all season, but the Tar Heels lost to Iowa State and in a four-over-time thriller to Alabama at the Phil Knight Invitational to cede the top spot to Houston, which

beat Kent State in its only game last week.

The last time the Cougars ascended to No. 1 was the final poll of the 1982-83 season, when "The Glide" and "The Dream" along with coach Guy Lewis were the favorites to win it all. They rolled through the NCAA Tournament before falling to Jim Valvano and North Carolina State in an iconic championship game in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"I've never been ranked No. 1," said Sampson, now in his 34th season as a college basketball coach. "We were ranked all 12 years at Oklahoma. I'm sure we were ranked at Indiana. Then we've been ranked five or six straight years. We're used to having a high level of success."

Texas received eight first-place votes and Virginia received two. Arizona climbed from 14th to fourth after emerging from a stacked field to win the Maui Invitational. Purdue jumped from 24th all the way to fifth and scooped up eight first-place votes after beating West Virginia. Gonzaga and Duke at the Phil Knight Legacy tourney.

"Our guys are competitive. They're fun to

coach. They get along. They're out there playing with purpose and that's what you have to have," said Boilermakers coach Matt Painter, whose team was briefly No. 1 about this time last season.

"Early in the season, very few teams play with the purpose collectively," he said. "I thought our guys played with a purpose."

Baylor was sixth, Creighton seventh and UConn climbed from 20th to eighth after beating Oregon, Alabama and Iowa State to win the Phil Knight Invitational. Kansas fell from third to ninth after losing to Tennessee in the championship game of the Battle 4 Atlantis, while Indiana rounded out the top 10.

There was a tie for 11th between SEC rivals Alabama and Arkansas with the Volunteers, another conference foe, right behind them. Gonzaga dropped from sixth to 14th, its first time outside the top 10 since Feb. 5, 2018, and Auburn was 15th.

Illinois was next followed by Duke and North Carolina in a tough week for Tobacco Road. The Blue Devils fell from eighth after their 75-56 loss to the Boilermakers.

Kentucky and Michigan State joined UCLA, Maryland, Iowa State, San Diego State and Ohio State in rounding out the poll.

RISING AND FALLING

Purdue made a rare 19-spot jump as the poll underwent a massive shakeup. UConn climbed 12 spots, Arizona moved up 10, Tennessee climbed nine and Alabama seven. On the flip side, the Tar Heels tumbled 17 spots, Duke dropped nine, Gonzaga fell eight and San Diego State fell seven.

IN AND OUT

Despite all the movement, Iowa State was the only newcomer this week, checking in at No. 23 after beating Villanova and North Carolina before falling to UConn. The Cyclones replaced Iowa, which dropped out after a one-week stay following its loss to TCU in the title game of the Emerald Coast Classic.

CONFERENCE WATCH

There are six different conferences represented in the first seven teams in the poll. The Big Ten leads the way with six in the Top 25 while the SEC has five and the Big 12 has four, though three of them are in the top 10.

Texans brace for Deshaun Watson's return with Browns

By Kristie Rieken

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Deshaun Watson was a star with the Houston Texans. Then he became disgruntled and later disgraced. After sitting out an entire season, he was traded to the Cleveland Browns. There, he has missed most of another as punishment amid sexual misconduct allegations.

Come Sunday, he'll be back in H-Town, taking snaps in an NFL game for the first time in nearly two years.

"I think this will probably be the final piece to that story," Texans coach Lovie Smith said.

Watson is set to return from an 11-game NFL suspension when the Browns visit the Texans on Sunday, an uncomfortable reunion with Houston after the team's acrimonious split with the former face of the franchise.

"Deshaun is back. He's playing football," Smith said. "The way things go, his first game would be back down here."

Sunday will be the first time Watson has played a regular-season game since the 2020 season finale on Jan. 3, 2021, when he threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns for the Texans in a 41-38 loss to Tennessee to cap a disappointing 4-12 season.

Less than a month later, Watson became unhappy with the direction of the team and requested a trade.

In the months after his request, more than 20 women filed civil lawsuits alleging that he sexually harassed or assaulted them during massages, sparking

a police investigation. A grand jury in Houston declined to indict Watson on March 11, clearing the way for the Texans to trade him. He was dealt to the Browns a week later. The NFL suspended him and fined him \$5 million in August.

Before that, he and the Texans spent more than a year in limbo, with Watson on the roster and required to report to the facility but refusing to play for the team. That prompted then-coach David Culley to withstand a barrage of questions about the quarterback.

"It was a little bit different last year," said Smith, who was the team's defensive coordinator. "Deshaun was in the building a little bit, but we didn't have a whole lot of interaction with him. But that is in the past. Changed area codes and all that."

"Now it's just about a great quarterback coming into town that we need to get ready for with a history with our franchise."

Despite Houston's struggles in 2020, the Texans were confident that Watson would be their long-term solution at quarterback after being plagued by woes at the position for most of their relatively short history.

In the three seasons before drafting Watson with the 12th pick in 2017, the Texans had nine players start at least one game. Watson started six games as a rookie, finding immediate success before a season-ending ACL tear.

He returned in 2018, and his dynamic play helped the Texans to an 11-5 record and an AFC South title. Watson led

Houston to a 10-6 mark and another division crown the following season before losing in the divisional round of the playoffs.

By then, Watson was a fan favorite in Houston. On game days, you'd see as many people wearing his No. 4 jersey as those of established superstars like J.J. Watt and DeAndre Hopkins.

He endeared himself to the city not only with his play on the field but with multiple charitable endeavors across Houston. Watson made headlines as a rookie when the team released a video showing him giving his first rookie paycheck of about \$27,000 to three Hurricane Harvey victims who worked in the team cafeteria.

Some fans became upset with him when he asked for the trade, but many blamed the problem on a team that had become somewhat dysfunctional after owner Bob McNair died in 2018 and his son Cal McNair took over.

But when the lawsuits began piling up and Watson remained out while the Texans struggled, some fans became ready to move on from the quarterback.

"I was a major Watson fan and thought he might finally get us to the Super Bowl," Jose Rodriguez said at a sports bar Sunday while watching the Texans lose yet again. "But after everything that happened, I'm glad he's gone and not our problem anymore."

Houston (1-9-1), which finished with four wins for the second straight year last season, is struggling through another terrible season. With a team

devoid of big names, it's common to see jerseys of players no longer on the team at the stadium on game day.

Watt, Hopkins and Andre Johnson jerseys are commonplace. It's rare to see Watson's No. 4, so popular just two years ago.

Though the Texans and their fans are ready to move on from the Watson chapter, they are counting on the trade that sent him away to help turn things around. The Texans received three first-round draft picks in the trade, along with a third-round selection in 2023 and a fourth-round pick in 2024.

They used the first pick from the deal to take offensive lineman Kenyon Green with the 15th overall pick in this year's draft. He's started 10 games this season, and the Texans will use Cleveland's first-round picks in the next two drafts to try and add talent to a team that seems overmatched in almost every way.

Despite their long history with Watson, the Texans will try to treat Sunday's game as just the next one on the schedule as they try to snap a six-game skid. Smith was quick to point out that there probably won't be much emotion toward the quarterback from Houston's players since most of them never played with Watson.

"Did I tell you we've got a lot of young guys? They don't know a whole lot about our past and what we've done," he said. "They are just trying to get better and help us get another win."

Area

From Page 7A

Rounding out the first team was Green Ridge junior Neveah Washington (238 kills, 234 digs) and Smithton senior Josie Bray.

The Honorable Mention team included Cole Camp senior Kyla Harms, Green Ridge senior Kelsey Buxton, La Monte senior Keely Elwell, Lincoln senior Gracyn Eifert, Northwest freshman Gabby Meyer, Otterville senior Katie McKinney, Sacred Heart senior Kate Carney, Smithton senior Sara Shoemaker, Stover junior Kali Cochran, Tipton senior Briar Cox, and Windsor senior Kaley Burkhalter.

Hoops tournaments underway

Various area teams are continuing the start of the basketball season with tournament action over and after the holiday break.

Smith-Cotton girls basketball is at the Fatima Comic Classic, and after Monday's opener against St. James, the Lady Tigers are assured of another game there Wednesday in a field that also includes top-seeded Helias.

S-C's boys' counterpart heads to Willard on Wednesday to face the hosts in their tournament. Smith-Cotton would face either Bolivar and Northern Iowa commit Kyle Pock or Belton on Friday, and are assured of another game the following day.

At the 90th Annual Warsaw Boys Tournament, top-seeded Lincoln faces the host team at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, and later on Cole Camp takes on Knob Noster in a 2-7 matchup. In

