

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Nutcracker ballet opens today

By Faith Bemiss

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Tchaikovsky's magical "Nutcracker Suite" is mixed with precision youthful ballet dancers to create the ninth annual "Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker," hosted this weekend at the Heckart Performing Arts Center.

A Christmas tradition, the students of Studio A Dance Conservatory have worked on the production for months. SADC students' ages range from 18 months to 18 years. The youngest cast members are Nelson's son Asher and niece Sawyer Nelson. Helping with the production are many volunteers, including friends, family, and State Fair Community College dance students. This year, 75 to 80 people are involved with the ballet on stage and behind the scenes, the largest number post-COVID.

SADC owner/director Anna Crumley Nelson said that since she has so many volunteers this year, she hopes to expand next year and invite more community members to be in the show. She added the annual ballet takes much work to bring to the stage.

"In July, we hold auditions for my students who wish to be a part of the production," she said. "Then we start in August with soloists. Then we begin with the ensemble work in September when the students start back to school. So, it's several months."

Students work during the week and on weekends perfecting the production.

"I teach tiny students; some of them in the show are just 2 years old," she noted. "So, it's just a layering effect as far as how I teach them. Then we added on, and we added on, and it slowly becomes a show."

Around Nov. 1, the students finished all choreography, set designs, and ideas.

"And then it's just running and cleaning the show from there on," Nelson said. "It's a lot of production hours for me."

Many hours are spent teaching the students and allowing them the time to absorb and retain the storyline and the dances.

"They are full-time students in everything else," she noted. "So, I work around all of their schedules."

Many students are on dance teams at school and participate in other activities.

"It's a lot of fun," she said of the Nutcracker. "And it's a lot of backstage work. People don't understand behind the scenes. The show looks so amazing from out front, but backstage there's so many helpers."

"And all of those moms backstage that I have with the students, they are back there changing them, helping them with their hair pieces, and helping other students," she continued. "We really have an amazing production family."

Swirling onto the stage is an assortment of beautifully costumed dancers. Those costumes are sometimes revamped from previous productions, but often the solo performers design their own.

"I try to reuse a lot from



Students of Studio A Dance Conservatory perform during a dress rehearsal Wednesday night for their annual "Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker." The ballet will be presented at 6:30 p.m. Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the Heckart Performing Arts Center. SADC owner Anna Crumley Nelson is the director.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

years past," Nelson said. "We do our best to re-wear costumes or spruce them up. Re-stitch little appliques on them to make them work, or as they grow, we expand them."

"But a lot of the soloists, they take real pride in designing, with me, their costumes," she continued. "So, it's kind of a special experience."

Once they have their role, the students discuss what colors they like and the design of their costumes.

"It's a student choice because I know things can get very expensive," she added.

Nelson added that those interested in joining a production are welcome to come by and learn more

about Studio A after the holiday season.

"As soon as this show closes, I start working on our next spring production," she noted.

"Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker" will be presented at 6:30 p.m. today, Friday, Dec. 9 and at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Heckart Performing Arts Center, 2010 Tiger Pride Blvd. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$14 or \$12 from Studio A, 3306 W. 16th St. For more information, call 660-827-0028 or visit www.sadanceconservatory.com.

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



Clara, played by Brooklyn Taylor, dances with her Nutcracker, a gift from toymaker Drosselmeyer, during a dress rehearsal for "Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker," Wednesday night. See OPEN | 6A

Taylor gets ready to step into office

By Skye Melcher

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On Jan. 1, Presiding Commissioner David Dick will step down and pass the mantle onto Presiding Commissioner-Elect Bill Taylor.

Taylor was elected during the November general election after running unopposed. During the August primary election, Taylor ran on the Republican ballot against Dick and Diedrick Kahrs, winning against both candidates.

Before running for commissioner, Taylor was a very busy man. He has farmed his entire life, worked for his family's business in crop insurance, helped opened the Little Red Shed in La Monte for his wife, and has been on several boards and part of many organizations like Pettis County First.

Taylor wanted to run for commissioner because he felt the county needed to go in a different direction regarding leadership and transparency.

When he first steps into office, he hopes to review the budget before it is laid on the table for final changes.

During the commission's budget hearings last month, Taylor attended each session to learn about county budget procedures.

"As far as budget goes, some of them are pretty simple and cut and dry, some of them are pretty complicated," Taylor added. "There seems like there's plenty of rollover and wiggle room in some of those budgets."

Taylor said he wants to set the tone for the courthouse: if a question is asked, there will always be an answer and more.

"There's some procedures that I want to put in place so everybody knows what to do and when to do it as far as space and stuff go because there always



Bill Taylor

seems to be questions about what they can and can't do," Taylor said.

Since his campaign on transparency, Taylor said he's noticed the courthouse has been improving in that area.

"If you'll notice now, they schedule the votes on stuff instead of just voting willy-nilly, that is one of the things that I said I wanted to do..." Taylor added.

"I'm going to try to have a meeting one night a month to see if people will come to it and if nothing else, even if we don't have a lot of work to do, we can go over what we've done for the month."

See STEP | 6A

Planning and Zoning works toward transitional services zoning

By Chris Howell

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The Sedalia Planning and Zoning Commission worked for three hours Wednesday evening fine-tuning the language of a draft ordinance to be presented to the Sedalia City Council regarding transitional services; in other words, the proposed Mercy Rest Stop.

With the resignation of member Kevin Wade, Pettis County Sheriff's Office Maj. Tollie Rowe was nominated and unanimously elected as commission chairman. Rowe is familiar with the inner workings of Sedalia's municipal government.

"Having served on City Council for eight years and chaired the Public Works committee several times, and then mayor Pro Tem once, I had an understanding at least how Planning and Zoning worked and how some of the committees worked," Rowe said Thursday. "I never sat on

the Planning and Zoning Commission, but I had some background information going in."

Rowe was recently tapped for the Planning and Zoning chair by Mayor Andrew Dawson and is rapidly getting up to speed on the work the committee is doing to clarify which services should be allowed in the different zones throughout the city.

"What Planning and Zoning is doing," Rowe

said, "we're working together to help draft the verbiage and ordinance that Planning and Zoning would then vote on to recommend to the City Council. The Planning and Zoning Commission is a recommendation body, we make recommendations for or against something, but the ultimate decision falls on the City Council; they're the legislative governing body."

See WORK | 6A



The Sedalia Planning and Zoning Commission meets Wednesday evening to discuss a draft ordinance regarding transitional services and zoning for the Mercy Rest Stop.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



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FUNERALS

Porter, Herma Katherine,

2 p.m. today at Pilot Grove Community Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Pilot Grove.

Cormican, David Layne

1 p.m. Saturday at Parkview Christian Church Family Life Center in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Smith, James Monroe "Smitty,"

10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 12 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

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 Dec. 3

1:32 a.m.: Andrew E. Jackson, 38, of the 700 block of North Lamine Avenue, was arrested after a vehicle stop for failing to maintain a lane near North Ohio Avenue and East Pettis Street. Jackson was intoxicated and was transported to the Sedalia Police Department, then the Pettis County Jail, where he was booked and released for driving while intoxicated — prior offender.

Dec. 4

1:31 a.m.: Tiffani Hope Perez, 39, of Lincoln, was arrested after a traffic stop at East Fifth Street and South Osage Avenue for driving with no headlights. It was determined Perez was intoxicated and she was transported to the Sedalia Police Department and issued a uniform traffic ticket for driving while intoxicated.

Incidents Dec. 7

10:51 a.m.: A victim phoned in a report from the 300 block of South Lamine Avenue regarding

food stamp card theft. He had been in jail when the \$220 in charges were added to his card without his permission. There are no suspects.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Dec. 7

4:45 p.m.: Jarrod M. Black, 39, of Joplin, was arrested in Johnson County for felony driving while intoxicated — drugs, driving with a revoked license, and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway presenting an immediate threat to motorists. Black was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

7:33 p.m.: Harold W. List, 67, of Knob Noster,

was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated and failure to yield to a vehicle when entering the highway. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

Dec. 8

12:14 a.m.: Nichole A. Scott, 28, of Marshall, was arrested in Saline County for driving while intoxicated with a person less than 17 in the vehicle, speeding, and operating a vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner. She was processed and released.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Pettis County to close state Route ZZ

Pettis County Route ZZ, between Missouri Route 52 and Ionia Road near Ionia, will be closed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 16, while MoDOT replaces collapsed pipes underneath the road.

Route ZZ will be closed where crews are working. Route ZZ will be open to traffic during nighttime hours. Drivers will have access to driveways and entrances on either end of the work zone but will not be able to travel through the work zone.

Drivers are urged to find alternate routes. No signed detours are planned. Signs and message boards will alert drivers approaching the work zones.

Check MoDOT's Traveler Information Map for road closings/traffic impacts. Weather and/or scheduling conflicts could alter the work schedule. For more information, call MoDOT in Springfield at 417-895-7600 or visit www.modot.org/southwest.

Upcoming local blood drives

The American Red Cross asks donors to set aside time to give blood or platelets for patients waiting for care over the holidays. Throughout the season, several factors can disrupt the ability of the Red Cross to collect enough blood for

patients across the country, such as travel, seasonal illness and weather.

It's important for donors — especially type O blood donors and platelet donors — to give now to ensure hospitals have the blood they need through the end of the year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give blood through Dec. 15 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon. Those who come to give Dec. 16-Jan. 2 will get a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Dec. 9 from noon to 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1701 W. 32nd St. in Sedalia.

Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School, 101 W. Lamine in Lincoln.

Dec. 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Knights of Columbus, South Osage in Tipton.

Dec. 15 from noon to 5 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Warrensburg, 1515 SE Highway DD in Warrensburg.

Dec. 15 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Stover Community Center, 600 Legion Drive in Stover.

Marijuana now legal in Missouri, but you can't buy it yet

By Jim Salter and Heather Hollingsworth

Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — As of Thursday, it's lawful for adults to possess and use marijuana in Missouri. That doesn't mean you can legally buy it just yet, or use it everywhere.

Medical marijuana has been legal in the state since a ballot measure passed in 2018, but voters went a step further this November by approving a constitutional amendment legalizing the drug for anyone 21 or older. The new law makes Missouri the 21st state to allow recreational use.

The change comes with some confusion. For one thing, dispensaries can't yet sell for recreational use. People will eventually be able to grow their own, but applications to do so won't be taken until next month. And places such as schools and businesses can still prohibit the drug.

John Mueller, co-founder of Greenlight Dispensaries, said the company's 15 Missouri shops are getting calls from people confused about the new law and why they can't yet buy it from the dispensaries.

"I think everybody's anxious and excited about adult use," said Mueller, whose company plans to add 300 jobs at cultivation, manufacturing and dispensary locations for the expected uptick in

business. "Every dollar we sell is a dollar that doesn't go to the black market."

Recreational users are also calling and emailing the Missouri Wild Alchemy dispensary in O'Fallon, owner Jason Crady said — "24-7."

"There's a lot of buzz about it," said Crady, who is busy hiring and training staff in preparation for recreational sales.

Existing medical dispensaries will eventually be allowed to sell to recreational users, but the agency hasn't determined when that will be. John Payne, a leader of the campaign to legalize marijuana, said recreational sales will likely begin in February.

The state is expected to issue an additional 144 dispensary licenses by early 2025.

Spokeswoman Lisa Cox of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, which regulates marijuana, said personal cultivation application forms will be available Jan. 7 for people who want to grow a limited amount of their own.

Some places will continue to prohibit lighting up. Among them: the four campuses of the University of Missouri System. The system cited two federal laws — the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug-Free Workplace Act — on Wednesday in announcing a continued prohibition

of marijuana on campuses and at university-sponsored events. Student violators could face discipline up to expulsion.

Legalization is concerning for some in law enforcement who worry it will mean more impaired drivers.

Kevin Merritt, executive director of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, said marijuana impairment is more difficult for police to assess because there is nothing comparable to blood-alcohol tests that determine intoxication levels in people who have been drinking.

"Basically, what do they (officers) observe of the vehicle operation?" Merritt said. "What did the officer smell and observe when they got up to the car? What kind of movements, or impaired movements, did he or she see in the operation of the vehicle to make a case that the person is impaired?"

The amendment also requires expungement of criminal records for most people incarcerated or on probation for a misdemeanor marijuana offense, a process expected to be completed by mid-2023.

It's part of a broader move toward decriminalizing low-level marijuana crimes that has gained steam in recent years.

President Joe Biden announced in October that he was pardoning thousands of Americans con-

victed of simple possession under federal law. Kansas City and St. Louis are among jurisdictions that have stopped prosecuting misdemeanor possession.

Dispensaries in Missouri are expecting to see lots of out-of-state buyers. Missouri is bordered by eight states, only one of which — Illinois — allows recreational marijuana sales.

Payne projects that once the program is fully up and running, Missouri will see annual sales of up to \$1.3 billion.

Ron Burch, 36, of the southwestern Missouri town of Joplin, already has a medical marijuana card. He knows demand will be strong for recreational pot.

"Looking forward to February, it's going to be a mad rush to fill all the shelves for the people that are going to be pounding down the doors to buy product," Burch said.

Larry Stiffelman, who owns a medical dispensary in the eastern Missouri town of St. Clair, said recreational sales will be vital since, due to high taxation, his business is still struggling to make a profit.

"I can tell you that the sales will probably triple or quadruple per store," Stiffelman said. "So it's huge as far as the volume of business."

Hollingsworth reported from Kansas City, Missouri.

Democrat Salutes



Open Door Service Center received donations from the Sedalia Lowe's on Dec. 6. Lowe's Sedalia store Manager Dusty Laxton, Donald Moore, lawn and garden department supervisor, and Daniel Young, the driver, delivered a donated Big Boy Freezer for Open Door pantry, racking shelves, a pallet of paper towels, and tables and chairs. The men also installed the shelves. From left are Michelle O'Donnell of Open Door, Laxton, Moore, and Open Door Executive Director Amanda Davis.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPEN DOOR SERVICE CENTER

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.

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Freshman legislators learn about UCM during tour

WARRENSBURG – Faculty, staff and students at the University of Central Missouri shared insights into the institution where they live, work and learn when they welcomed participants in the Legislative Freshman Tour to campus on Dec. 6.

Approximately 50 recently elected officials participated in the event. Their campus visit began with a stop at Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport, where they were welcomed by UCM President Roger Best, and heard remarks about airport programs and development by Matthew Furedy, chair of the Department of Aviation, and Dan Dietz, airport manager. They also heard from three aviation students who are participating in the professional pilot program.

From the airport, the group traveled to the main campus in Warrensburg. When the buses arrived on Union Street to visit the Military and Veterans Success Center, they were greeted by a brief performance by several students from the university's marching band. Inside the Elliott Student Union, Courtney Swoboda, director of Military and Veterans Services, shared information about how UCM assists active duty military personnel, veterans and dependents.

Her comments were followed by an introduction to the university Mule Rider team by Travis Hume, director of University Farms, and an opportunity for photographs with the live mule mascot, Tammy, also known as "Mancow." The entire legislative group, along with representatives of the Missouri Highway Patrol, gathered around the mule ridden by UCM student Holly Hagood for a large group photo. Some of them even seized the opportunity to climb in the saddle for photos flanked by Hagood and Mulerider team members Emma Lock and Nate Frazee. Members of the Collegiate Farm Bureau were also there to greet legislators.

Dean Plocher, a Republi-

can and lifelong resident of St. Louis County who has represented the 89th Legislative District since 2016, also joined the group. Currently the House Majority Leader, he becomes Speaker of the House in January 2023.

Plocher said every two years, the state elects 163 members to the House and every four years, 34 members are elected to the Senate. The Freshman Tour is an opportunity for new representatives to go outside their districts to learn more about the state they serve.

"It is important for them, when they come and serve in the legislature, to understand what Missouri does around the state," he said. "We have a broad array of different industries, agriculture, and different types of public universities around the state, and Missouri has a very diverse economy. It changes when you get to the Bootheel all the way to the Northwest."

Plocher added that the Freshman Tour gives participants a better look at what the state has to offer, including the area of education. Commenting shortly after visiting the airport, he spoke about the "great work" UCM is doing in the area of aviation, noting the program's high job placement rate, and the ability for students to graduate from the program with less debt than may be incurred at other aviation programs.

"We're trying to amplify what we are doing in Missouri appropriately using our tax dollars to benefit Missourians and educating those incoming freshman (legislators) on what Missouri does," he said. "We have a \$50 billion budget, and we have to be very responsible and make sure we are putting it to the best use."

Plocher noted the tour is also a good way for new legislators to begin to form relationships with other people who serve the state. This includes those who sit across the aisle.

"You serve alongside both



Missouri District 49 Rep. Jim Schulte, of New Bloomfield, climbs into the saddle atop UCM's live mule mascot, Tammy, also known as "Mancow," during a visit to campus as part of the Legislative Freshman Tour. With him are student Mule Riders, Emma Lock, left, and Holly Hagood.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

parties, and essentially we have eight-year term limits, so often you are serving for eight years," Plocher said. "So, it's good to get to know who you are working with, who you trust, and how you can work together, because I think communication is key to passing legislation."

After beginning the day in Kansas City, the tour's next community stop was Columbia. The group's busy agenda included visiting the University of Missouri-Columbia's nuclear reactor.

UCM Director for Governmental Relations David Pearce, whose career includes service in the Missouri Senate and in the House, also joined the group on the tour. He knows firsthand the value of such an event.

"As a participant in the Freshmen Tour 20 years ago when first elected, I know the importance of seeing any of the state's assets," Pearce said. "I am so glad the new legislators got a chance to see the great things happening at UCM."

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.



Participants in the Legislative Freshman Tour that came to UCM gather around live mule mascot Tammy, also known as "Mancow," with Mule Rider Holly Hagood.



Student members of the UCM Marching Mules greet Missouri legislators with a live performance as they stepped off two buses that brought them to the Elliott Student Union during the Legislative Freshman Tour.

WHO: COVID disruption resulted in 63,000 more malaria deaths

By Maria Cheng
AP Medical Writer

The coronavirus pandemic interrupted efforts to control malaria, resulting in 63,000 additional deaths and 13 million more infections globally over two years, according to a report from the World Health Organization published Thursday.

Cases of the parasitic disease went up in 2020 and continued to climb in 2021, though at a slower pace,

the U.N. health agency said Thursday. About 95% of the world's 247 million malaria infections and 619,000 deaths last year were in Africa.

"We were off track before the pandemic and the pandemic has now made things worse," said Abdulsalan Noor, a senior official in WHO's malaria department.

Alister Craig, dean of biological sciences at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, noted that progress in reducing malaria deaths

had stalled even before COVID-19.

"It is almost as if we have reached a limit of effectiveness for the tools we have now," said Lister, who was not linked to the WHO report.

Noor said he expected the wider rollout of the world's first authorized malaria vaccine next year to have a "considerable impact" on reducing the number of severe illnesses and deaths if enough children get immunized, adding that more than

20 countries have applied to vaccines alliance Gavi for help in securing the shot. Still, the vaccine is only about 30% effective and requires four doses.

Bed nets can protect people from being bitten by the mosquitoes that spread malaria. The WHO report found that about three-quarters of nets provided by donors have been distributed, but there are major gaps in some of the worst-hit countries. Authorities in Nigeria, for example,

gave out just over half their nets, while Congo distributed about 42% of theirs.

Officials also raised concerns about a new invasive mosquito species that thrives in cities, is resistant to many pesticides and which could undo years of progress against malaria. The invasive species has not yet significantly contributed to the continent's overall malaria burden, but the insects are likely responsible for a recent spike in parts of the horn of

Africa, Noor said.

David Schellenberg, a professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said there were promising new tools and strategies to tackle malaria, but that "the elephant in the room is the level of funding." WHO estimated the total investment into malaria — about \$3.5 billion — was less than half of what was needed to dramatically reduce its impact.

STATE BRIEF

Suspect fatally shot, 2 found dead in Missouri home

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP) — Officers shot and killed a man Thursday after responding to reports of shots fired at a home in southeast Missouri, according to a county sheriff. Two people were later found dead inside the home.

Butler County deputies responded to reports of numerous shots being fired in and around a home in a residential area east of Poplar Bluff Thursday afternoon, Sheriff Mark Dobbs said in a statement.

An armed man confronted deputies when they arrived at the scene, and they shot and killed him, Dobbs said.

Investigators then found two people dead inside the home, apparently from gunshot wounds, the sheriff said.

Three Butler County deputies are on paid administrative leave, which is routine after a fatal shooting involving officers.

No other information was immediately released.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Division of Drug and Crime Control will lead the investigation into the shootings.



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SHOP LOCAL

Let's Cross Paths

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- Gift Your City Promotion, November 14, 2022 - December 12, 2022
- Holiday Storefront Window Contest
- Small Business Saturday Bingo

PASTOR'S PULPIT

It's time to reclaim Christmas

By Rev. Rob Hughes

Senior Minister, Broadway Presbyterian Church

A disturbing sight caught my eye as I began vacuuming. More than a decade ago, the hum of that motor immediately prompted our two young children and our dog to rush to the window in anticipation of who might be arriving. The little ones had picked up on the fact that if my wife and I were cleaning, we must be preparing for a guest. As I looked at all three little ones with noses (one of them cold) pressed to the glass, my first thought was, "I need to vacuum more often."

Preparing for guests takes work. The to-do list gets long and the time runs short. It is often not easy and can even be stressful. However, assuming they are welcomed guests, the work is all worth it for the excitement of reunion, celebration, and joy.

Given that we all understand this sometimes-difficult process of preparing for guests, it should be no real surprise that our annual preparation to welcome anew baby Jesus can also involve to-do lists, time pressure, and even stress. Yet, for too many Christians, this stress of preparation threatens to derail a happy Christmas. I recently heard someone say, "Merry Christmas sometimes sounds like an order to me. Like I MUST have a Merry Christmas. The pressure is on to be happy, be organized, be generous, be...merry! It's overwhelming." Fortunately, as with the joy of welcomed guests, the joy of Christmas Day should make all the preparation worthwhile.

In addition, we need not just prepare for Christmas Day. Traditional Christian Christmas celebration includes the 12 Days of Christmas, known historically as Christmastide. More than a song, Christmastide follows the season of Advent (four weeks of preparation for Jesus' arrival anew). As such, Christmas Day is not all there is — as if after all that preparation, it's suddenly over in one day (sometimes just one morning). Rather, Christians for centuries recognized the "season of Christmas" as starting on Christmas Day, not ending.

William Shakespeare's play, "Twelfth Night," was written to be performed as a 1602 12th night of Christmastide entertainment. In Charles Dickens' 1843 book, "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present observe a children's Twelfth Night party. Each work indicates the cultural importance of Christmastide celebrations of the past that regrettably continue to fade in our increasingly secular, commercial "Christmas Day."

Perhaps an antidote to rampant secular, commercialized Christmas is to reembrace the progression of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmastide. The season of Advent preparation can then be viewed as a predictable season of to-do lists, occasional time pressures, and even some stress — the norm when it comes to getting ready for a guest's arrival. (After all, Mary and Joseph certainly experienced pressure and stress as they prepared for the birth of the Child.) Christmas Eve can then become an evening of shedding busyness, pressure, and stress to experience the quiet stillness of "Silent

Night." Christmas Day then begins the Christmastide season of "Joy to the World."

Our family often plans for special Christmastime dinners, outings, gatherings, movies by the fire, and hikes in the cold. We then exchange single gifts on the Twelfth Night and anticipate Epiphany Sunday, which culminates Christmastide with a remembrance of the Wise Men.

Macy's doesn't define Christmas. Neither does Target, Walmart, or Lexus cars with giant bows. They are the false idols of misplaced worship.

In the midst of such empty commercialism, every year since 1965, Charlie Brown famously shouts in "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about!?" Writer Charles Schultz, a strong Christian, then has Linus step into the spotlight, and in a dramatic and subtle moment, Linus drops his trusty blanket for the first time. He has no need for outside comfort as he recites Luke's gospel with clarity of conviction: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." That's what Christmas is all about.

The Grinch didn't steal Christmas; we let it get away. Christians for centuries protected the anticipation and joy of Christ's birth with the progression of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmastide. We forgot. It's time to reclaim it. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve services are at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Broadway Presbyterian Church in Sedalia.

Interracial marriages to get added protection under new law

By Denise Lavoie

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — One day in the 1970s, Paul Fleisher and his wife were walking through a department store parking lot when they noticed a group of people looking at them. Fleisher, who is white, and his wife, who is Black, were used to "the look." But this time it was more intense.

"There was this white family who was just staring at us, just staring holes in us," Fleisher recalled.

That fraught moment occurred even though any legal uncertainty about the validity of interracial marriage had ended a decade earlier — in 1967, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws banning marriages between people of different races.

In the more than half-century since, interracial marriage has become more common and far more accepted. So Fleisher was surprised that Congress felt the need to include an additional protection in the Respect for Marriage Act,

which goes to the House for a final vote expected this week. It would ensure that not only same-sex marriages, but also interracial marriages, are enshrined in federal law.

The 74-year-old Fleisher, a retired teacher and children's book author, attended segregated public schools in the 1950s in the then-Jim Crow South, and later saw what he called "token desegregation" in high school, when four Black students were in his senior class of about 400 students.

He and his wife, Debra Sims Fleisher, 73, live outside Richmond, about 50 miles from Caroline County, where Mildred Jeter, a Black woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were arrested and charged in 1958 with marrying out of state and returning to Virginia, where interracial marriage was illegal. Their challenge to the law led to *Loving v. Virginia*, the landmark ruling that ended bans against interracial marriages.

The Respect for Marriage Act, which passed the Senate last

week, has been picking up steam since June, when the Supreme Court overturned the federal right to an abortion. The ruling included a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas that suggested the high court should review other precedent-setting rulings, including the 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

While much of the attention has been focused on protections for same-sex marriages, interracial couples say they are glad Congress also included protections for their marriages, even though their right to marry was well-established decades ago.

"It's a little unnerving that these things where we made such obvious progress are now being challenged or that we feel we have to really beef up the bulwark to keep them in place," said Ana Edwards, a historian who lives in Richmond.

Edwards, 62, who is Black, and her husband, Phil Wilayto, 73, who is white, have been married since 2006. Both have been community activists

for years and said they didn't consider interracial marriage a potentially vulnerable institution until the Supreme Court overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling legalizing abortion.

"That reminds all of us that whatever rights we have in this society are conditional — they can be taken away," said Wilayto. "The fact that Congress had to take up this issue in 2022 should be a stark reminder of that fact for us."

For younger interracial couples, the thought that their right to marry could ever be threatened is a foreign concept.

"We never in our wildest dreams thought we would need to be protected as an interracial couple," said Derek Mize, a 42-year-old white attorney who lives in an Atlanta suburb with his husband, Jonathan Gregg, 41, who is Black, and their two children.

As a same-sex couple, they were at the forefront of the long struggle for acceptance and felt the elation that followed the 2015 Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage across the country.

Still, they see the need

for new protections for interracial marriages as well.

"We're really relieved that there is this law," Mize said. "Protections through the courts and protections through the legislation certainly helps us sleep better at night."

Mize said he remembers studying *Loving v. Virginia* in law school and thought then that it was "ridiculous" that there had to be litigation over marriages between people of different races. But after he read the Supreme Court's ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, he said: "Who knows where it will stop?"

Gregg, a management consultant, said he sees the Respect for Marriage Act as "an added level of safety" for same-sex and interracial marriages — a federal law and Supreme Court rulings supporting their right to marry.

"You've got two ways to be OK," he said. "They have to take down both of them in order for your marriage to fall apart."

Angelo Villagomez, a 44-year-old senior fellow at the think tank Center for American Progress, said it was "unthinkable" that his marriage could become illegal. Villagomez, who is of mixed white and Indigenous Mariana Islands descent, and his wife, Eden Villagomez, 38, who is Filipina, live in Washington, D.C.

But after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, "it feels like some of those things that have just been taken for granted ... are under threat," said Villagomez, whose parents, also a mixed-race couple, were married in the 1970s, not long after the *Loving* decision.

Villagomez worries about what could come next. "If we don't put a stop to some of this backsliding, this country is gonna go to a very dark place," he said.

"I'm worried about what else is on the chopping block."

Associated Press reporter Claire Savage contributed to this report from Chicago. Savage is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

Church news

La Monte UMC to host chili luncheon

La Monte United Methodist Church, 400 N. Main St., will host a craft bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a chili luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Besides chili, the church will have handcrafted items and homemade goodies for sale.

Retirement Announcement

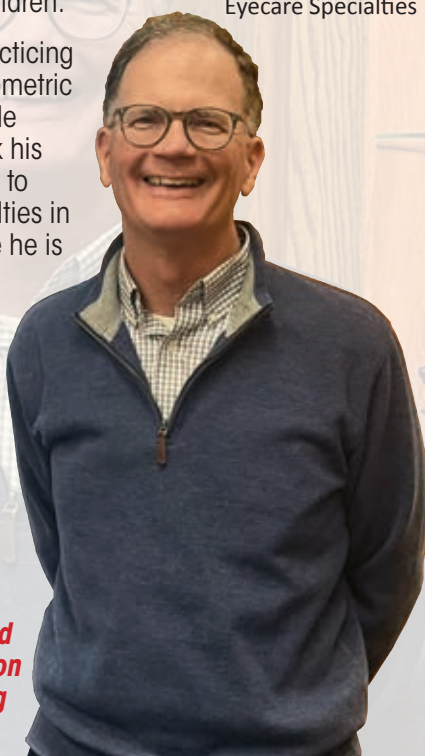
After 35 years of dedicated service to the Sedalia community, Dr. John Drenon, Optometrist at Eyecare Specialties in Sedalia, is setting his sights on a well-deserved retirement and spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren.



Dr. John Drenon began his career in 1987 practicing with his father, Dr. John Drenon Sr., at his Optometric practice here in Sedalia. He worked side by side with his father for 11 years until his father took his retirement in 1998. Dr. Drenon then continued to serve his patients until joining Eyecare Specialties in 2014, working with Dr. Brett Liesemeyer, where he is finishing his career in December.

There are many people in the Sedalia community that have benefitted from Dr. Drenon's knowledge and passion for optometry and optical health. We would like to invite those people of the community to attend Dr. Drenon's retirement reception that will be held on **December 19th** between **5:00 and 7:00 pm** at **Eyecare Specialties in Sedalia at 3403 W 10th Street.**

All of us here will miss Dr. John Drenon and will never forget his kindness and dedication to our community. Please join us in wishing John the best in his retirement.



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Pettis County Church Directory

For more information on how to become a sponsor of this informative church directory, please contact Kim Robertson at 931.237.7923 or email kim@burchettmedia.com

FEATURED CHURCH OF THE WEEK



Otterville Presbyterian Church
Otterville, MO

This local Church Directory is made possible by these businesses. The Church Listings are provided at no charge to our area churches in Pettis County. If your church is not listed, please contact news@sedaliademocrat.com.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Encounter Church — 1201 N. William Parkhurst Drive (behind Sierra Bullets). Rev. Chris Gray, pastor. Sunday worship 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday service 7 p.m., www.encounterchurch.org

Living Waters Assembly of God — 909 S. State Fair Blvd., Sedalia, 660-826-9236. Rev. Ance Compton - Pastor. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Children's Church 10:00; (2nd & 3rd Sunday of month), Fellowship 5:30 (4th Sunday of month).

BAPTIST

Antioch Baptist — Southeast of Green Ridge on Route E, Pastor Dan Hankins, 660-221-0263. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Bethany Baptist — 500 North Park, 826-8743. Pastor Travis Battershell. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Bethlehem Baptist — Anderson School & Wingate. Rev. Jason Kindle. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

Broadway Baptist — 2119 East Broadway, 826-1557. Dr. Nicholas J. Gray, pastor. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday prayer, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Bible study, 5:00 p.m.

Burns Chapel Free Will — 207 East Pettis. Bishop Paul Jones, pastor. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; prayer meeting, 7 p.m. Thursday.

Calvary Baptist — 1015 West 16th, 826-5011. Pastor Don Satterwhite. Sunday school, 8:50 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed, Mid Week Bible Study & Prayer 6:00 p.m.

Camp Branch Baptist — 18020 West 32nd Street, (660) 527-3539. Pastor Rob Ayers. Sunday school, 9 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wed. worship, 7 p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist Church — 19856 Hwy. Y (three miles past SFCC), 827-4833. Sunday: 9:00 a.m., Bible Study & 10:00 a.m., Worship; Celebrate Recovery Mon. 6:00 p.m.; Awana Wed. 6:00 p.m.; Student Ministry Sunday 5:00 p.m.

East Sedalia Baptist Church — 1019 East Fifth, 826-3887. Pastor Randy Chambers. Sunday School 9:15 AM, Sunday worship 10:30 AM, Wednesday Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM.

Emmet Avenue Baptist — 400 East Walnut. Pastor Steve Cardwell. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

Faith Baptist — 2331 South Ingram, 827-1394. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday worship, 7 p.m. Pastor Matt Edwards.

First Baptist - Sedalia — 200 E. Sixth Street, Sedalia, MO - 660-826-2160. Pastor Jeremiah Greaver; www.fbcsedalia.org. 10:15 Morning Worship; 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study - All Ages.

First Baptist - Cole Camp — 1110 Butterfield Trail, Cole Camp, Pastor Rodney Baumgardner, 660-668-3413; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Evening Service 6:30pm.

First Baptist - Otterville — 101 Union Stret, Otterville; 660-366-4772. Rev. Russ Slocum. Sunday morning church, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 10:45am; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Flat Creek — 30501 Carpenter Road; Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.

GDP Sedalia — 600 S. Summit Ave. 660-826-0621; Sunday. Worship Service 12 p.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Worship 7 p.m.; Friday: Union of Preparation 7 p.m.

Grace Baptist — 3304 South Ingram, 826-2918. Pastor Alvin Sipe. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

Green Ridge Baptist — Bible study, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m. **Harmony Missionary Baptist** — LaMonte, (660) 347-5544. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

Heath Creek — Exit 84, Highway J, Nelson. 660-287-0085. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.

Hopewell Baptist — Hwy. EE, Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

Houstonia Baptist Church — Morning Worship 9:00am; Fellowship 10:00am; Sunday School 10:15am; Wednesday Kids Club 6:00-7:00pm.

Hughesville Baptist Church — Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Katy Park Baptist — 901 West 24th, 826-7497. Pastor Jon Church. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening, various times; Wednesday prayer service, 6:30 p.m.

Lamine Baptist — Pastor John Dumsday. Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

LaMonte Baptist — 1005 Midland, (660) 347-5412. Pastor Larry Chappel. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday service, 6 p.m.

Memorial Baptist Church — 13998 Hwy Z, Nelson, MO, 660 827-3699. Rev. Bill McDowell. Sunday school, 9a.m.; Worship, 10a.m.; Sunday evening service 6 p.m.

Mount Herman Baptist Church — 25229 Mount Herman Road, Sedalia. Rev. Robert Sisney. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; church services, 10:30 a.m.

New Hope Baptist — 664 East 16th, 826-6277. Pastor Duane Duchesne. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:40 a.m.; Wednesday worship, 6:15 p.m.

Olive Branch Baptist — 20657 Highway O, 827-4529. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.; Pastor Jason McClain; Associate Pastor Donnie Hayworth

Parkway Freewill Baptist — 120 South Park, 827-1832. Pastor Dan Talbott. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Providence Baptist Church — Hwy 35N & Providence Rd., Smilthton; Sunday Worship; 9:00 a.m. Rev. Leroy Moon Sunday School 10 a.m.

Smilthton Baptist — (660) 343-5213. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:40 a.m.; Sunday evening Bible study, 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday evening prayer and discipleship, 6:30 p.m.

Ward Memorial Missionary Baptist — 412 North Osage, 826-5366. Rev. John Williams. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m.

CATHOLIC

Sacred Heart — 421 West Third, 827-2311. Fr. Joe Corel & Fr. David Veit. Sunday Mass, 8 and 10 a.m.

St. John's — Bahner. Fr. Joe Corel & Fr. David Veit. Saturday Mass, 7:30 p.m. **St. Patrick's** — 415 East Fourth, 826-2062. Fr. Joe Corel & Fr. David Veit. Saturday Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9 & 11:30 a.m.

CHRISTIAN

Bethel Temple Church - 207 E. Allen Street, Knob Noster, MO 65336. 660-624-1971. Wednesday: Bible Study 7:00pm; Sunday Worship Service: 11:00am. Pastor: S.L. Fisher

First Christian Church, 101 S. Monroe, Knob Noster, MO 660-563-2827 Sunday School 9:00am; Worship 10:00am

First Christian, Disciples of Christ — 200 South Limit. Traditional Sanctuary Service - 9:00 a.m., Sunday School for all ages - 10:15 a.m., Rest Haven - 10:30 a.m., CrossWalk Contemporary Service - 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin.

LaMonte Christian Church — 902 South Oak, LaMonte, MO, Michael Wood, Minister. Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. and Worship, 10:00 a.m. Ph# 660-347-5400

Parkview Christian — 1405 East 16th, 826-3624. Jeff Randleman, minister. Sunday school, 9:40 a.m.; Sunday worship, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

EPISCOPAL

Calvary Episcopal — 713 South Ohio, 826-4873. The Rev. Anne Kyle, Rector. Worship, 9 a.m.; Fellowship time, 10 a.m. www.calvarye.org

EVANGELICAL

Community Church of Sedalia — Sixth and Osage. Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.

Ecclesia Chapel — 900 East Ninth, Sunday 7:30 p.m. Worship & Ministry of the Word. Joey Beaher, 660-281-1286; P.C. Thomas, 826-9988, p.c.thomas@charter.net.

FOURSQUARE

Bethel Family Church — 120 E. 5th, Sedalia. www.bethelfamilychurch.org. Sunday Services at 10:30am; Wednesday Services at 6:30pm.

LUTHERAN

Amigos de Cristo Mission — 3003 West 11th, 826-2788. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.; worship, Noon.

Christ & Trinity Evangelical Lutheran — 2101 W. 32nd St. 826-8764. Pastor Anne Kyle. Sunday school; Sunday worship, 11:00 a.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran — 11357 Lake Creek Ave., Cole Camp. Pastor Tyler Poppen. Worship Service to 8 am and Sunday school and bible class to 9 a.m.

Our Savior Lutheran — 3700 West Broadway, 827-0226. Pastor Andrew Tessone. Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran — 24295 Cheese Creek Rd., Cole Camp. Pastor Tyler Poppen. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school and Bible class, 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran — 701 South Massachusetts. 826-1164. Pastor Jeremy Freeman. Sunday school and Bible classes, 10:15 a.m.; Saturday worship, 5:30 p.m. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.

MESSIANIC

Beit Mayim Chayim, Home of Living Waters — 1200 E. Broadway, Sedalia, MO 65301; Meeting every Saturday/Shabbat at 10:00 am. Contact 660-829-5581.

METHODIST

Bethel United Methodist — 22150 Smelser Rd., Sunday worship service, 9:15 a.m. Follow Us On Facebook.

Eldorado Methodist — 10405 Eldorado Road, Green Ridge. 816-331-5686. Pastor Deb Galey. Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m.

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Epworth United — 1124 East Broadway, 826-1302. Worship service, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.

First United — Celebration Center - 1701 W. 32nd. Saturday, 5:30 pm; Sunday, 8:35 and 9:45 am; Sunday at 916 Thompson (site), 11 am. 827-2993. Pastor Candace Fowler

Florence United — Highway 135, (660) 368-2098, Rev. Vonda Veale. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m.

Georgetown United — (660) 826-6457. Pastor Kenneth Cripe. Sunday school 9:00 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:00 a.m., first, third and fifth Sundays.

Goodwill Chapel United — 26400 Goodwill Chapel Road. Pastor Vonda Veale, 660-596-2548. Worship Service, 9:00 a.m., Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.

Lake Creek United — Six miles south of Smilthton on Highway W. (660) 343-5222. Pastor Jason Veale. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.

LaMonte UMC — 400 North Main, 347-5557. Pastor Deb Galey. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m.

New Bethel UMC — Five miles south on U.S. 65, 826-9388. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.

Pleasant Hill United Methodist — 30219 Pleasant Hill Road, 826-8856. Sunday worship, 10:15 a.m.

Smilthton UMC — Walnut and Webster Streets. (660) 343-5560. Rev. Jason Veale. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m.

Taylor Chapel UMC — 400 North Lamine. Pastor Calvin Pritchard. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.

Wesley UMC — 1322 West Broadway, 826-4502. Rev. Dennis Harper. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Agape House Ministries — 200 S. Monteaue, 826-5581. Pastor Gloria Perez. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m.; Tuesday Making Disciples, 7 p.m.; Thursday Behind the Veil, 7 p.m., agapehouseministries@yahoo.com

Ancient of Days — 1201 South Summit. Pastor Gordon Adair. Sunday morning Bible Study & Worship, 10:00 a.m.; Sunday evening Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

Antioch Fellowship — 507 West 24th, 827-3739. Apostle Harvey Miller; Pastor Steve Graff; Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday worship, 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — 1201 West Broadway, 827-3166. Bishop Evan R. Stout. Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m.; Sunday school 11:10 a.m.; Wednesday meetings, 6:45 p.m.

Church of New Beginnings — 1200 E. Broadway (Salvation Army Building), Sedalia, 827-3302. Pastor Wayne Pacheco. Friday evening worship, 7 p.m.

Community of Christ Church — 2000 South Ingram. 826-2881. Pastor Marilyn Grechus. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer Service, 7:00 p.m.

Abundant Harvest Worship Center — 2825 South Ingram, 827-5153. Sr. Pastors Tony & Mary Kroeger. Service 10am Sunday; 7pm Wednesday.

Abundant Life Christian Center — 15423 Centerline Ave. Hwy 65 & Cole Camp Jct., Cole Camp, MO, Pastor's Herbert & Renee Robertson. Sunday Worship 10:00 am, Children's Church 10:00 am. Bible Study Wed. Night 7pm, all ages.

Houstonia Community Church — Cowboy Church 4 pm Sunday

Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witnesses — 2810 East Broadway. Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Watchtower Study, 10:20 a.m.

LifePointe Church — Rusty Thomas-Lead Pastor; 2921 W. Broadway Blvd, Sedalia, MO, 573-301-0544; Sunday 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

New Apostolic Church — Pastor Ricky Rehkop; 28th & Grand, Sedalia, MO, 660-909-4993; Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Sedalia Christian Center Faith Church — 3240 South Kentucky, 827-0559. Pastors Jack and Sue Menges. Worship, 10 a.m.

Sedalia Healing Rooms Church — Craig Shorey, Director; Service Tuesday, 7pm; 660-826-1963; 305 S. Ohio, Sedalia

Stewart Avenue Church of Christ — 14th and Stewart. Bible classes, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:40 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Every 2nd & 5th Sunday - 10:40am & 1:30pm; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

The Gathering Church — Sunday Service 10:45 a.m. 206 W. Main St., Sedalia, MO 65301. For more information email cate_loanna@yahoo.com.

True-Vine Church of God in Christ (formerly Jones Holy Temple) — 600 North Monteaue. Pastor Javion Jones. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11:15 a.m. Bible Study-Tuesday 6:00PM

Vision Church — 723 E. 13th. Pastor Dave Hague. Prayer service Wednesday 6:30 p.m.; Sunday school, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:45 a.m.

W.A.T.E.R. Ministries — Dresden- 19131 Third Road, 660-343-3650. Pastors Reed & Kim Lange; Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Word of Life Apostolic Temple — 701 W. Main, 573-644-2132. Elder Willie Cunningham. Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.; Bible Class, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Worship House — 701 E. 5th St., Sedalia. Sunday Service, 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study, Communion & Prayer Wed., 6:00 p.m.

OPEN BIBLE

Liberty Life Center — 1501 Driftwood Dr., 826-5145 or 281-7404. Pastor Gary & Linda Smith. Sunday Nurture 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday night service 6:30 p.m.

New Life Open Bible — 23000 Route B, 826-8712. Lead Pastor Ed Spencer, Jr., Associate Pastor David Simmons. Sunday worship, 10 a.m. Family Night 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

PENTECOSTAL

Crossroads Church of God — 2119 East Ninth, 864-948-9257. Pastor Chris King. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night Service, 6:30 p.m.

First United Pentecostal — 2805 South Ohio, 826-4556. Pastor Steven Palmer. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday worship, 7:30 p.m.

New Life Apostolic Church — 22743 Hwy T, Dresden. Service time: Sunday 11am; Wednesday 7:30pm Bible Study; Friday night prayer meeting 7:30pm; Pastor Stephen Zingre 660-281-9584

New Life United Pentecostal Church — 356 SW State Route 13, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Sunday School, 10am; Sunday Night Worship, 4pm; Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7pm; Pastor Mike Jackson (660) 596-3452

Real Life Church — 24th and Ohio, 826-5330. Logan Patrick, pastor. Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Bible study, 7 p.m.

Victory Tabernacle — 505 W. Gay St, Warrensburg, 816-304-2914. Pastor Harry D. Stevens, Christian Education, Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Tues. Bible class, 11 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Broadway Presbyterian — 209 W. Broadway, 826-1708. Pastor Rob Hughes. 9:30 a.m. Faith education; 10:30 a.m. Worship.

Green Ridge Presbyterian — 310 South Main, (660) 527-3533. Randy & Dianna Marcum, pastors. Sunday Morning: Worship, 10 a.m.;

Longwood Presbyterian — Sunday worship, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Pastor Roberta Karchner

Otterville Presbyterian — (660) 366-4280. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10 a.m.; Pastor Diana Marcum

Range Line Presbyterian — Houstonia, Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:00 a.m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Seventh-Day Adventist — 29525 Highway 50. Pastor Al Oeltnan. Sabbath school and Bible study, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Saturday worship, 11 a.m.

Sharon Chapel — 105 East Johnson. Pastor Ronnie McClure. Saturday Sabbath school, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday worship, 11 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Immanuel United Church of Christ — 418 W. Fourth, 826-3553. Sunday worship and Children's Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. www.iuccsedalia.com

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The life-sized harlequin doll (Claire Snell), right, and Clara (Brooklyn Taylor) seem to take flight during a dance scene from "Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker." The classic Christmas ballet will be presented this weekend by Studio A Dance Conservatory students.



Claire Snell, who plays a life-sized harlequin doll in "Suite Dreams: A Tale of the Nutcracker," talks with young dancers before dress rehearsal Wednesday night at the Heckart Performing Arts Center.

Step

From Page 1A

Taylor wants to host evening meetings as another way to keep residents informed, along with the weekly commission update in the Democrat, Facebook posts, and current daytime meetings.

In this position, Taylor will only be one-third of the courthouse leadership. The commission consists of the presiding commissioner, Western Commissioner Jim Marcum and Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza. Taylor expressed that he is excited to

work with both of them and see what they can bring to the county.

"I think Jim brings in some experience, he's been there a while and he knows a lot of the workings, in and outs and stuff," Taylor said. "Israel is a very sharp kid, he's technology savvy and he just comes from a different direction."

Taylor added that it's a good mix of diversities in the commission that will benefit the county.

There are a lot of partnerships with the county, especially the City of Sedalia, so Taylor is looking forward to also working with Mayor Andrew Dawson and the city.

"I think that's a key for our

prosperity, for the county and city to get along," Taylor said.

Taylor thanked all his constituents who voted for him because they believed he would do a great job in office.

"I sure hope I don't disappoint anyone," Taylor said. "Once again, the doors are open — if you see something you don't like, come down and we'll discuss it. That's the transparency part of it. I'm sure I'm going to make a mistake or two. I'm smart enough to know that for things I don't know about to find somebody who does and get the right information to make a decision."

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

Work

From Page 1A

And at Wednesday's marathon meeting, even board members questioned the effectiveness of months of crafting an ordinance the City Council could easily scrap. But Rowe pointed out the arguing over the minutiae is important.

"If the City Council were left to make all the determinations, recommendations on their own, everything from Planning and Zoning to all the different committees that the city has, it would bottleneck, and it wouldn't get anything done. Having sat on the City Council for eight years, we really appreciate a lot of folks taking the time to put it together and craft it and then recommend it, but again, alternately, the City Council has the final say to accept the recommendation or create their own or

modify it."

While much of the work in previous sessions has focused on allowed zoning usages, city attorney Joe Lauber is steering the commission into the usage of special use permits, which will allow city planners to craft zoning usages more finely.

"The purpose of a special use permit is to guard against the injury or abuse of neighboring properties and to make sure that the use is conformed to the general intent of the zoning code," Lauber said.

Rowe agrees the permits will protect both sides of the Mercy Rest Stop plan.

"Special use permits that will deal with and address where certain shelters or organizations can be," Rowe said. "For example, they discussed R3 would be allowed in residential areas or areas zoned R3 as compared to commercial or light manufacturing. That way, we're making sure that not only are the citizens in those

communities addressing the concerns they have but the people that were going to those facilities their safety is addressed as well."

Rowe hopes a draft ordinance will be passed by the Planning and Zoning committee Jan. 4 but says that may or may not work as planned.

"In the world of math and science, one plus one will always equal two, but in the world of American law, that could equal eight," Rowe said. "It's not as simple as it is with math and science. You start looking at verbiage, start looking at language for this is legislation that could be kind of complex and convoluted. Making sure that what is written is written correctly and doesn't have any unintended consequences or negative ripple effects, so the City Council, the city attorneys, those will be looking at making sure the proper ordinance is put in place."

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

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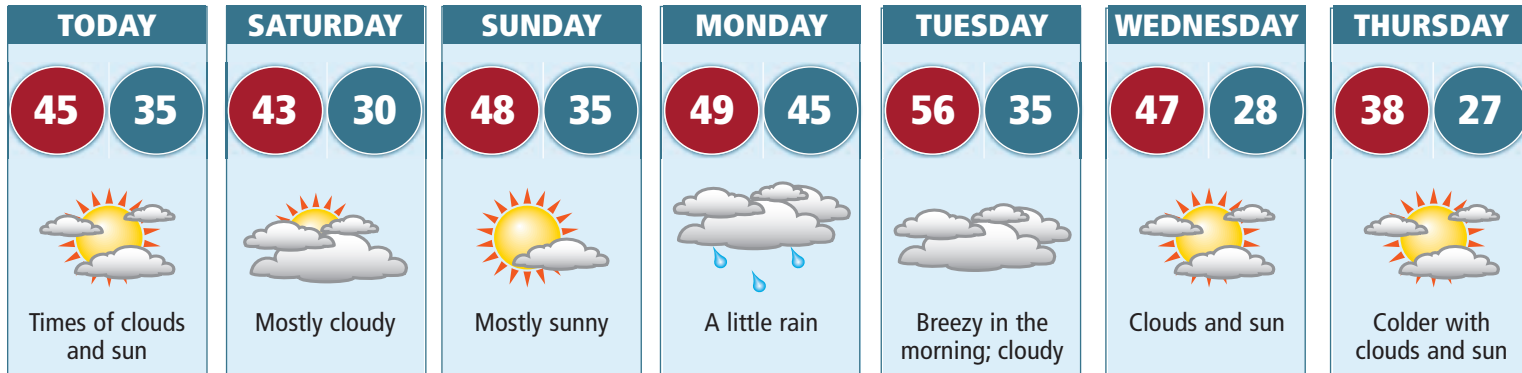
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SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:19 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:51 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:56 p.m.
Moonset today	8:53 a.m.
Last	Dec 16
New	Dec 23
First	Dec 29
Full	Jan 6

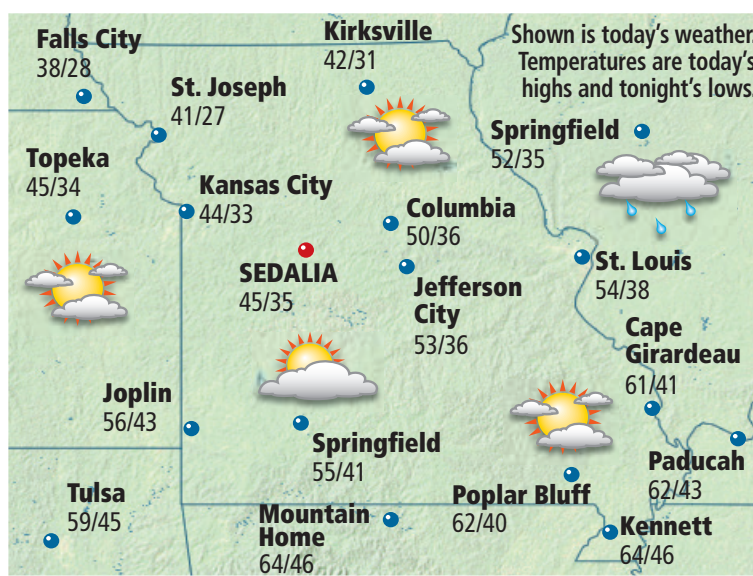
WEATHER HISTORY

A snowstorm hit New York City's northern and western suburbs on Dec. 9, 1786. Morristown, N.J., received 21 inches, and New Haven, Conn., had 17 inches.

ALMANAC

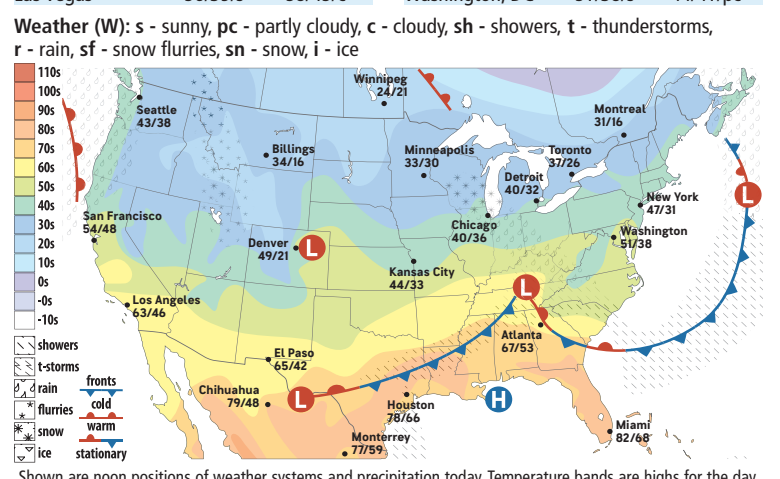
Sedalia Regional Airport Wednesday

TEMPERATURES			
High	50		
Low	42		
Normal high	45		
Normal low	26		
Record high	72 in 1966		
Record low	0 in 1950		
PRECIPITATION			
Wednesday	0.00"		
Month to date	Trace		
Normal m-t-d	0.54"		
Year to date	37.37"		
Normal y-t-d	41.93"		
HEATING DEGREE DAYS			
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.			
Wednesday	19		
Month to date	176		
Season to date	1073		
Normal season to date	1255		
Last season to date	810		
RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Thursday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.10	-0.05	24
Valley City	3.05	+0.08	22
Lamine			
Otterville	0.80	-0.04	15
Missouri			
Boonville	3.56	-0.09	21



NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Saturday	Today	Saturday
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	67/53/sh	64/55/pc	Milwaukee	40/36/sn
Baltimore	51/32/s	44/39/pc	Nashville	63/46/pc
Billings	34/16/c	33/19/c	New Orleans	78/62/pc
Boston	47/30/s	40/30/c	Norfolk	52/42/pc
Buffalo	38/28/s	40/33/c	Oklahoma City	58/45/pc
Charlotte	56/47/sh	57/47/pc	Orlando	83/60/s
Chicago	40/36/sn	42/35/c	Phoenix	64/43/s
Cleveland	46/36/r	45/37/c	Pittsburgh	47/35/pc
Dallas	70/63/c	69/51/r	Portland, ME	44/24/s
Denver	49/21/s	51/28/c	Portland, OR	43/39/r
Detroit	40/32/c	40/33/c	Sacramento	54/46/c
Honolulu	83/71/pc	83/72/pc	St. Louis	54/38/pc
Houston	78/66/c	80/65/t	San Francisco	54/48/c
Indianapolis	46/37/r	44/36/c	Seattle	43/38/r
Las Vegas	56/39/s	58/45/c	Washington, DC	51/38/s



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Prosecutor seeking to free inmate accused of hiding evidence

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

Missouri's attorney general asked a judge on Thursday to sanction St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, accusing her of concealing evidence in her effort to vacate the conviction for a man who has spent nearly 30 years in prison for murder.

Lamar Johnson was convicted in 1994 of killing 25-year-old Marcus Boyd in an alleged drug dispute. Johnson has long claimed innocence. Gardner, a Democrat, filed a motion in August asking a St. Louis judge to vacate the conviction, a move that would free Johnson from prison. The judge has not yet ruled in the case but a hearing is scheduled for Monday.

Attorney General Eric Schmitt's filing in St. Louis Circuit Court said the circuit attorney's office falsely claimed that it had provided all forensic testing to the attorney general as part of the discovery process.

"The Circuit Attorney never disclosed she received the positive results of a gunshot residue test on Johnson's jacket seized from his trunk when he was arrested," the court filing stated. "The Circuit Attorney has personally concealed evidence from the Attorney General and from this Court. The concealed evidence is material because it tends to prove that Johnson is guilty. Sanctions must issue."

A spokeswoman for Gardner said she was still reviewing the filing and declined comment. Schmitt's spokesman, Chris Nuelle, declined comment. Schmitt, a Republican, was elected to the U.S. Senate in November but won't be sworn in for his new job until Jan. 3.

Johnson was convicted of killing Boyd over a \$40 drug debt and received a life sentence while another suspect, Phil Campbell, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge in exchange for a seven-year prison term.

Johnson claimed he was with his girlfriend miles away when Boyd was killed. Meanwhile, years after the killing, the state's only witness recanted his identification of Johnson and Campbell as the shooters. Two other men have confessed to Boyd's killing and said Johnson was not involved.

Gardner launched an investigation in collab-

oration with lawyers at the Midwest Innocence Project. She said the investigation found misconduct by a prosecutor, secret payments made to the witness, police reports that were falsified and perjured testimony.

The former prosecutor and the detective who investigated the case rejected Gardner's allegations.

Schmitt's new court filing states that in April, Gardner sent the jacket to the crime lab in Kansas City, Missouri. The lab report said it found no DNA on the jacket.

"The Circuit Attorney provided that report to the Attorney General, but the Circuit Attorney never disclosed that the Circuit Attorney had also requested gunshot residue testing," the filing stated.

A judge in September ordered Gardner to turn over to Schmitt's office any additional discovery, according to the filing. It stated that on Nov. 30, the Kansas City lab completed gunshot residue testing, but Gardner's office failed to turn it over until a week later.

"In this case, the Attorney General managed to locate the evidence despite the Circuit Attorney's intentional efforts to conceal it," the filing stated.

Gardner was disciplined earlier this year amid allegations of concealing evidence in another high-profile case.

In April, she reached an agreement with the Missouri Office of

Disciplinary Counsel in which she acknowledged mistakes in her handling of the prosecution of former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens. She received a written reprimand.

In that case, Gardner conceded she failed to produce documents and mistakenly maintained that all documents had been provided to Greitens' lawyers in the 2018 criminal case that accused him of taking a compromising photo of a woman and threatening to use it if she spoke of their extramarital relationship.

The charge was eventually dropped, but Greitens resigned in June 2018.

Johnson's claims of innocence were compelling enough to spur a new Missouri law adopted in 2021 that makes it easier for prosecutors to get new hearings in cases where there is new evidence of a wrongful conviction. Gardner's August motion to vacate the sentence cited the law.

The new law freed another longtime inmate last year.

Kevin Strickland was freed from prison at age 62 in November 2021 after spending more than 40 years behind bars for a triple murder in Kansas City, Missouri. He maintained that he wasn't he wasn't at the crime scene, and Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker said her review convinced her that Strickland was telling the truth. A judge ordered Strickland freed.

St. Louis mayor appoints commission to consider reparations

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones is appointing a reparations commission that will "recommend a proposal to begin repairing the harms that have been inflicted" by slavery, segregation and racism.

St. Louis joins a growing list of places trying to determine how to make amends for past practices that have harmed Black Americans. The new commission will hold open monthly meetings. There is no stated deadline for recommendations.

St. Louis has long been among the nation's most segregated cities. Nearly half of its 300,000 residents are Black and many of them live in north St. Louis, where rates of crime and poverty are high. The median household income for white St. Louisans is \$55,000, nearly twice the median income for Black households, \$28,000. Racial justice advocates blame decades of racism.

Concerns about racial discrimination in the St. Louis area were amplified in 2014 when Michael Brown, a Black teenager, was shot to death by a white officer in the St. Louis County town of Ferguson, Missouri. Though the officer was not charged, investigations showed how Blacks in the region were more likely to be pulled

over for traffic stops and victimized by debilitating fines and court fees.

Jones, a Democrat, on Wednesday signed an executive order establishing a volunteer commission that will ultimately recommend how the city should make reparations. The nine-member commission will include a civil rights advocate, clergy member, attorney, academic, public health professional and a youth, the mayor's office said.

"The people closest to the problems are closest to the solution," Jones said in a statement. "I look forward to reviewing this commission's work to chart a course that restores the vitality of Black communities in our city after decades of disinvestment. We cannot succeed as a city if one half is allowed to fail."

Missouri NAACP President Nimrod Chapel Jr. said segregation and racism have "without a doubt" harmed Blacks in St. Louis and elsewhere in the state.

"Reparations would be one way to begin, and it's important to consider all the options," Chapel said.

President Joe Biden's White House has given its support to studying reparations for Black Americans, even as polling has found resistance to financial payments to descendants of slaves, divided along racial lines.

A 2021 Pew Research Center survey found that 77% of Black Americans support reparations, compared to 18% of white Americans.

Last year, the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, became the first city to make reparations available to Black residents. The city plans to use tax money from recreational marijuana sales to distribute \$10 million over the next decade. Eligible Black households will get \$25,000 for home repairs, down payments on property, and interest or late penalties on property in the city.

In November, Providence, Rhode Island's Democratic mayor, Jorge Elorza, approved a \$10 million budget for a reparations program. Several other cities are considering reparations, spurred in part by the 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation creating a reparations task force in 2020, making California the first state to move ahead with a study and plan. A 500-page document released in June cited the harm suffered by descendants of enslaved people even today through discriminatory laws and actions, from housing and education to employment and the legal system.

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MARKET REPORT 11-30-22

3128 Receipts. 14% Cows. Compared to our last sale, two weeks ago. Steer calves weighing under 600lbs sold mostly 5-15 higher, steers over 600lbs traded steady to 3 higher. Heifers sold mostly steady to 5 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls traded steady.

Steers Med & Large Frame #1

300-400 lbs.. \$205-\$238
400-500 lbs.. \$210-\$238
500-600 lbs.. \$181-\$224
600-700 lbs.. \$174-\$200
700-800 lbs.. \$162-\$186
800-900 lbs.. \$158-\$170

Small Frame or Fleishy Steers & Bulls

400-700 lbs.. \$129-\$200

Heifers Med & Large Frame #1

300-400 lbs.. \$175-\$190
400-500 lbs.. \$170-\$209
500-600 lbs.. \$165-\$193
600-700 lbs.. \$155-\$188⁵⁰
700-800 lbs.. \$145-\$184²⁵
800-900 lbs.. \$135-\$166

Small Frame or Fleishy Heifers

400-700 lbs.. \$128-\$158
Weigh Cows Bulk .. \$62-\$70
High Dressing ... \$75-\$82
Low Dressing... \$35 Back
Bulls Bulk..... \$92-\$110

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ANSWERS TO Sedalia Democrat's

PRIZEWEEK PUZZLE

December 3rd Answers
\$1700 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

\$1750



ACROSS

- CHIPS not clips. To CHIP at wood or stone suggests a "methodical" action. A good hair stylist is usually quite precise, as opposed to "methodical," in how she clips a client's hair.
- TASKS not talks. The clue word "teamwork" matches well with TASKS, which often involve more than one person, especially in a learning environment, as is the case in "weekend workshops." A "half-hour" talk, on the other hand, doesn't involve "teamwork."
- PENSION not tension. The clue words "years in military service" point to PENSION. There could be significant tension even with a limited number of "years in" the "military."
- ONE not ode. ONE is best. An ode, being a poem that typically rhymes, is redundant due to the clue word "rhyming."
- SKILL not spill. There are many kinds of races that don't involve the kind of speed that leads to a spill. But most races do, indeed, involve some kind of SKILL.

- DARE not care. The quotation "they proved me wrong" indicates the "parachutists" were probably challenged "to jump," which links up directly with DARE. Care does not have such a direct connection.

DOWN

- PRIZE not price. Grammatically speaking, a price is usually asked for or demanded, whereas a PRIZE is something that is offered.
- PICKS not packs. When the "adventurer" is at the stage of PICKING her "gear" from a supplier, she'd be deciding on its proper weight and bulk by consulting the "website." This task would probably be well in advance of packing to leave.
- TEST not best. TEST is apt. "Under" best "conditions," the "product" needn't necessarily be the highest "quality" to still have "good" "results."
- SAGS not bags. The sagging action of the "skin" as it ages can have varying results, including forming bags under the eyes, making SAGS all-inclusive.
- NOTE not nose. NOTE is best since "detecting the" NOTE of a particular "wine" can be referring to its flavor or aroma, and there's nothing in the clue to indicate whether the "expert" is smelling or tasting the drink. The nose of a certain "wine" refers specifically to its aroma.

- TOFFEE not coffee. Passing "around" TOFFEE is a straightforward answer. Because the serving of coffee usually involves multiple steps, including brewing it and providing sugar, cream and coffee cups, the "woman" might have been "surprised" when she first offered it, but not when she was passing "it around."

- MISERY not misers. The clue is comparing the man's "situation" to something else, which fits well with the man's "situation" being seen by some as a MISERABLE one, which he flatly denies. Misers are a type of people and, therefore, misers don't make an appropriate comparison.

- RIDE not rise. The clue implies that she RIDES horses daily but dislikes doing so "early on Mondays," which could be the lifestyle the public might see as excessive, especially if public taxes are paying for it. Generally, few of us "like to" rise "early."

- REBEL not revel. Since the opposite meaning of being "compliant" is to be disobedient, REBEL fits the context of the clue and the parents' "shocked" reaction well. The "teen" could simply be going to a lively party (e.g., revel) of family friends without necessarily breaking any rules of conduct that might be shocking.

- FAME not fake. The sacrifices that are often made for the sake of FAME might make its "price" seem unrealistic. When a fake product or artwork is revealed, the duped customer often feels that, rather than the price seeming "way too much," any "price" is "too much."

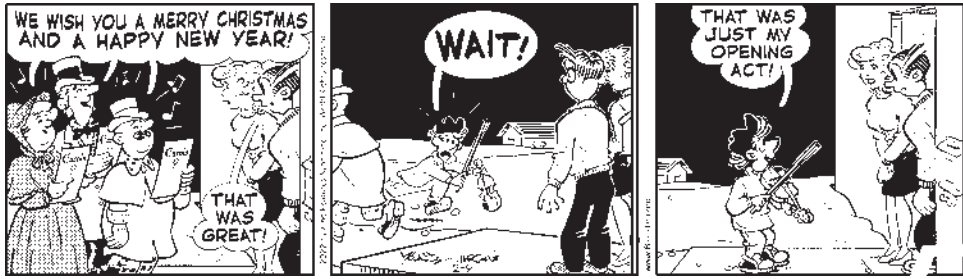
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BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT, GREG AND BRIAN WALKER



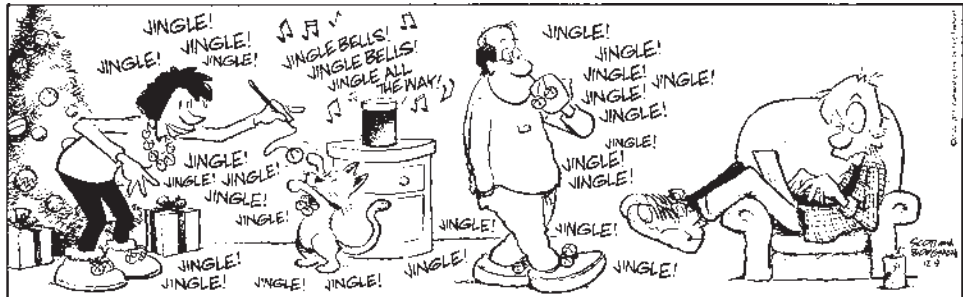
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



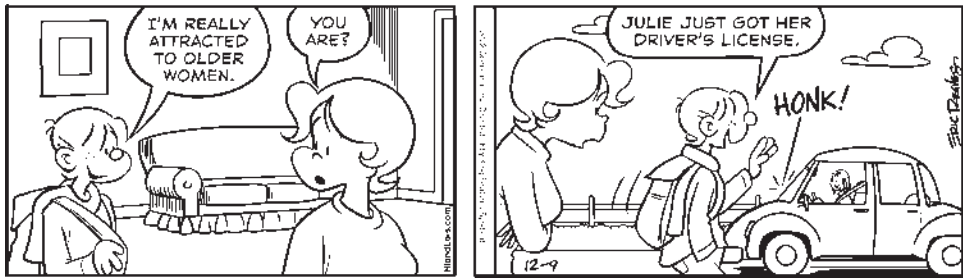
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



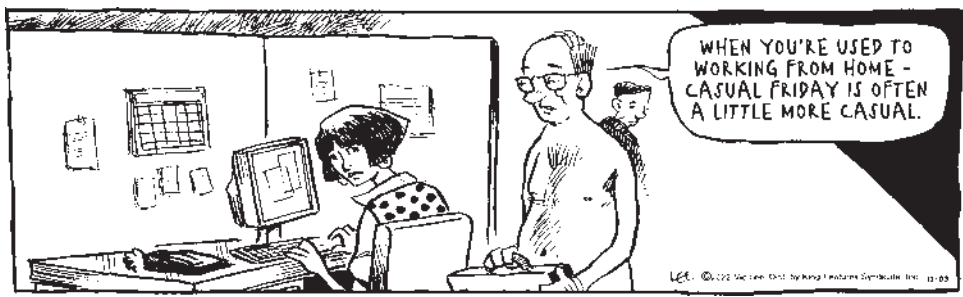
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



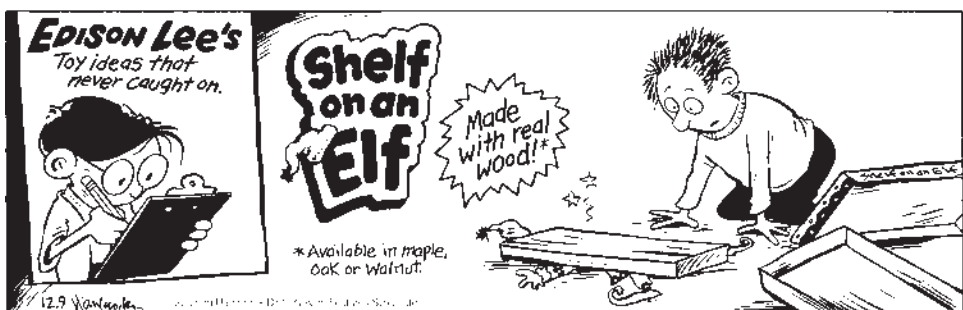
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



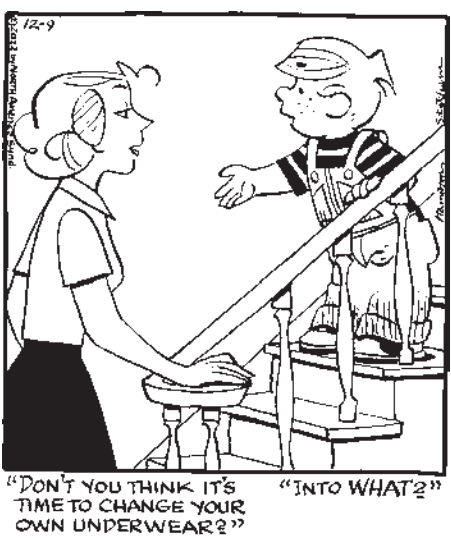
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



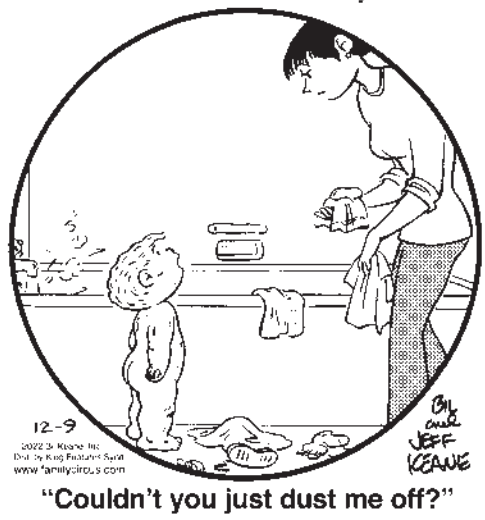
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Start
 - 1 Reviled
 - 6 Cellist
 - Casals
 - 11 Colleague
 - of Spock
 - and Sulu
 - 12 Peer
 - 13 Tie the knot
 - 14 Race prize
 - 15 Snowman's carrot
 - 17 Crumb carriers
 - 18 Commotion
 - 20 Truck stop sight
 - 22 Fancy vase
 - 23 Peculiar
 - 26 Aerie builder
 - 28 Steaming
 - 29 Damascus natives
 - 31 Wish undone
 - 32 Pinnacle
 - 33 Saloons
 - 34 Flank
 - 36 Dollop
 - 38 Cake cover
 - 40 Shady spot
 - 43 Scoundrel
 - 44 Public outburst
- DOWN**
- 1 Rhythmic sound
 - 2 "That's it!"
 - 3 U-turn
 - measure
 - 4 Slip
 - 5 Calendar units
 - 6 Vitality
 - 7 Hero from Atlantis
 - 8 Driving really fast
 - 9 Endure
 - 10 Flamenco cries
 - 16 Id —
 - 18 Takes to court
 - 19 Waiter's aid
 - 21 Important times
 - 23 Jeans joint
 - 24 Eats
 - 25 Looks over
 - 27 Driver's need
 - 30 Not pos.
 - 33 Welcome mat
 - 34 Farm site
 - 35 Clickable picture
 - 37 Highlands girl
 - 39 Acquire
 - 41 Afternoon hour
 - 42 Bright hue

T	A	F	T		R	E	B	O	O	T
E	U	R	O		O	V	E	R	D	O
A	R	A	L		S	O	R	B	E	T
L	A	N	D	F	A	L				
		K	O	I		V	I	S	T	A
G	A	F	F	E		E	N	T	E	R
A	S	U					U	T	E	
G	E	R	M	S		G	A	T	E	S
S	A	T	U	P		A	N	T		
					N	E	G	L	I	G
M	A	L	I	C	E		M	A	T	A
A	L	I	C	I	A		U	R	N	S
T	E	T	H	E	R		S	T	A	Y

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
		15			16		17			
18	19				20	21				
22				23					24	25
26			27			28				
29					30			31		
			32					33		
34	35				36	37				
38				39		40			41	42
43						44				
45						46				

12-9

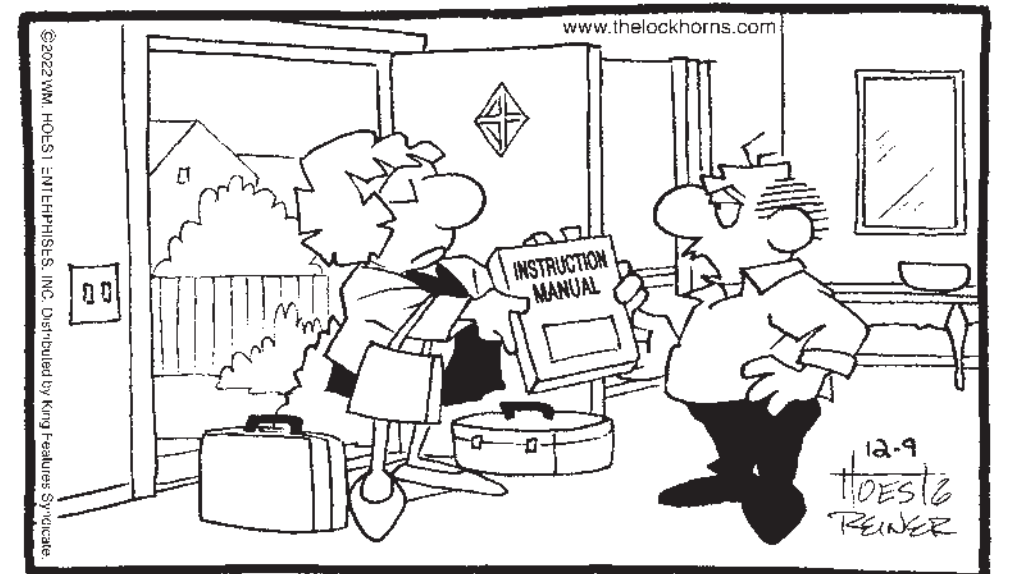
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



"IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?... YOU'RE ONLY VISITING YOUR MOTHER FOR THE WEEKEND."

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

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/09



Tipton punching up, knocking down bigger opposition

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

If last weekend was a Final Four audition, Tipton girls basketball got its passing grade.

Rewind a few weeks. The Lady Cardinals began this year the same way they did the last, traveling to Rolla to open against a formidable opponent. In 2021, they beat a 22-win Rolla team, and this year they knocked off Class 6 Ozark, 42-36.

Coming home, they opened their own tournament on Nov. 28 by beating Class 4 Versailles by 47 points, then two days later defeating Class 5 Capital City by 14.

On Friday, Dec. 2, Tipton faced California, ranked No. 9 in the latest MBCA Class 4 Poll, in the title game of the tourney. In overtime, Lady Cards senior Briar Cox passed to sister Brett on a cut to the basket for a go-ahead score with 2:55 left, and it turned out to be the final points of the game.

Less than 48 hours later, Tipton faced off against another ranked Class 4 program, No. 6 Cardinal Ritter, in Columbia at the inaugural Sophie Cunningham Classic, and again, the Lady Cards passed the test, winning 51-46.

"For them to win in a rivalry game versus a Class 4 ranked opponent, to win it, and to only enjoy that for about 24 hours, then then turn around and refocus, prepare for Cardinal Ritter, and also stay in a hotel like the Final Four -- which is why we were excited about doing it -- to perform the way they did, I told them i couldn't be more pleased with everything they did there," Lady Cards head coach Jason Culpepper said.

The Classic included a number of teams with big aspirations like North Shelby, Whitfield, Bishop Miege (KS), and Tipton has proven over the recent years under Culpepper that it belongs amongst the best. In an eight-year stretch that begins with a 2015 season where the Lady Cards went 29-2, they've compiled a record of 194-45, or a .811 winning percentage.

That includes six district titles -- they've won in each of the past five years -- and a pair of trips to the Final Four, highlighted by a trip to the Class 2 title game in 2020.

After spending the past two seasons in Class 3 -- including the Final Four appearance two seasons ago -- the Lady Cards have dropped back down to Class 2 once again.

See TIPTON | 14A

Tipton's Myra Claas attempts to split two defenders in last season's Class 3 quarterfinal game against South Shelby. The Lady Cardinals return nearly all their players and have moved down a class, but are beating opponents much larger early in this year's non-conference schedule.

FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT



Brittney Griner (15) runs up court during women's basketball gold medal game against Japan at the 2020 Summer Olympics on Aug. 8, 2021, in Saitama, Japan. Russia has freed WNBA star Brittney Griner in a dramatic high-level prisoner exchange, with the U.S. releasing notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

FILE PHOTO BY CHARLIE NEIBERGALL | AP PHOTO

WNBA star Griner freed in swap for Russian arms dealer Bout

By Eric Tucker, Matthew Lee and Zeke Miller

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia freed WNBA star Brittney Griner on Thursday in a high-profile prisoner exchange, as the U.S. released notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout but

failed to win freedom for another American, Paul Whelan, who has been jailed for nearly four years.

The deal, the second in eight months amid tensions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, secured the release of the most prominent American detained abroad and achieved a top goal

for President Joe Biden. But it carried what U.S. officials described as a heavy price.

"She's safe, she's on a plane, she's on her way home," Biden said from the White House, where he was accompanied by Griner's wife, Cherelle, and administration officials.

See WNBA | 14A

House report: Snyder had role in 'toxic' Commanders culture

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Commanders created a "toxic work culture" for more than two decades, "ignoring and downplaying sexual misconduct" and what former female employees described as hundreds of instances of sexual harassment by men at the top levels of the organization, according to a report published Thursday by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

The misconduct included Commanders owner Dan Snyder, who is accused of inappropriately touching a former employee at a dinner, having staffers produce a video "of sexually suggestive footage of cheerleaders" and ordering that women auditioning to be cheerleaders walk on the field "while he and his friends gawked from his suite through binoculars," according to the report.

The House committee opened its investigation in October 2021



District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine speaks during a news conference in Washington, Nov. 10, 2022. Racine says his office is filing a civil consumer protection lawsuit against the Washington Commanders, owner Dan Snyder, the NFL and Commissioner Roger Goodell. According to a report published Thursday, Dec. 8, by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform, the Washington Commanders created a "toxic work culture" for more than two decades, "ignoring and downplaying sexual misconduct" by men at the top levels of the organization.

FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN WALSH | AP PHOTO

after the NFL did not release a written report of its review of the team's workplace culture. The league's independent review by attorney Beth Wilkinson was completed in summer 2021 and resulted in a \$10 million fine to the team.

Drawing from hear-

ings, interviews and depositions, the House report concluded Snyder interfered in its investigation and Wilkinson's review, which stemmed in 2020 from former employees alleging rampant sexual harassment by team executives.

See TOXIC | 14A

Hackett brushes aside talk of Broncos' losing skid to Chiefs

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — When Nathaniel Hackett was hired as coach of the Denver Broncos, he quickly put the motto "Win the West" on the walls at team headquarters and the front of players' T-shirts.

The Broncos, however, are the only AFC team that hasn't won a divisional game yet.

Heading into their game against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs (9-3) on Sunday, the Broncos (3-9) are already saddled with a sixth straight losing season and will miss their seventh consecutive

playoffs.

The Chiefs have won 13 consecutive games in the series, and Hackett doesn't really want to talk about it.

"I mean, that's the past," Hackett said Wednesday. "We just got here. So, we want to win the football game and it's a West opponent and we know how important that is."

The Broncos haven't beaten the Chiefs since Sept. 17, 2015, when Peyton Manning was embarking on his final season. Now he's in the Hall of Fame following the requisite five-year wait.

"That's in the past; for us, it's the now," said Hackett, whose plate is full trying to

navigate the league's biggest injury epidemic and quarterback Russell Wilson's unexpectedly choppy transition to his new team.

"We have to show that we can win to make it a better rivalry, that's the starting point," Hackett said.

Safety Justin Simmons has been in Denver for 12 of those 13 losses to the Chiefs and would love to end not only that skid Sunday but the Broncos' current four-game losing streak.

"This win would mean absolutely everything," he said.

The Chicago Bears (3-10) are the only other team that hasn't won a divisional game this season.

The Broncos get two more chances after Sunday: they play at Kansas City on New Year's Day and close out the season at home against the Chargers a week later.

This weekend's game was flexed out of the Sunday night slot after Denver's dismal showing under the lights at the start of the season.

They had four prime-time games in the first six weeks and struggled to score in all of them, averaging just 13 points, not the kind of must-see TV the networks expected when Wilson was traded from the Seahawks.

See BRONCOS | 14A



Denver Broncos head coach Nathaniel Hackett directs his team from the sideline, in the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, in Baltimore.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SEMANSKY | AP PHOTO

SPORTS CALENDAR

CALENDAR

HEADLINE

Friday ON TAP
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Battle at Smith-Cotton
 Chamois at Otterville
 La Monte at Christian Fellowship Sr.
 Iberia at Stover
 Versailles at Tipton

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sacred Heart with Otterville vs Northwest (at Pilot Grove)
 Smithton vs Prairie Home with Bunceton (at Pilot Grove)
 La Monte at Christian Fellowship Sr.
 Iberia at Stover

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING

Smith-Cotton at Excelsior Springs Tournament

ON AIR

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

6 p.m. SECN — Grambling St. at Vanderbilt

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

6 p.m. ESPN2 — FCS Tournament: Samford at N. Dakota St., Quarterfinal

9:15 p.m. ESPN2 — FCS Tournament: William & Mary at Montana St., Quarterfinal

COLLEGE SOCCER (MEN'S)

5 p.m. ESPN2 — NCAA Men's College Cup: Creighton vs. Syracuse, Semifinal, Cary, N.C.

7:30 p.m. ESPN2 — NCAA Men's College Cup: Pittsburgh vs. Indiana, Semifinal, Cary, N.C.

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

5:30 p.m. BTN — Mich-

igan at Michigan St.

6 p.m. ESPNEWS — Boston U. at Boston College

8 p.m. BTN — Wisconsin at Minnesota

GOLF

4 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, Second Round, Leopard Creek Country Club, Mpumalanga, South Africa

Noon GOLF — PGA Tour: The QBE Shootout, First Round, Tiburón Golf Club, Naples, Fla.

4 a.m. (Saturday) GOLF — DP World Tour: The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, Third Round, Leopard Creek Country Club, Mpumalanga, South Africa

HORSE RACING

1:30 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

8 p.m. SHO — Bellator 289 Main Card: Raufeon Stots vs. Danny Sabatello (Bantamweights), Uncasville, Conn.

NBA BASKETBALL

6:45 p.m. ESPN — LA Lakers at Philadelphia

9:05 p.m. ESPN — Milwaukee at Dallas

SOCCER (MEN'S)

9 a.m. FOX — FIFA World Cup: Croatia vs. Brazil, Quarterfinal, Al Rayyan, Qatar

1 p.m. FOX — FIFA World Cup: Netherlands vs. Argentina, Quarterfinal, Al Rayyan, Qatar

TENNIS

Noon TENNIS — Open Markal Bourge-de-Peage Exhibition Men's Quarterfinals



Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras heads back to the dugout during the team's baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 25, 2022, in Chicago. Contreras is going to St. Louis to replace Yadier Molina at catcher, agreeing to an \$87.5 million, five-year contract with the Cardinals on Wednesday, Dec. 7. A person familiar with the negotiations confirmed the move to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal was pending a physical. FILE PHOTO BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST | AP PHOTO

AP source: Cardinals, Contreras agree to 5-year contract

By Jay Cohen
 AP Baseball Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Willson Contreras is going to St. Louis to replace Yadier Molina at catcher, agreeing to an \$87.5 million, five-year contract with the Cardinals on Wednesday.

A person familiar with the negotiations confirmed the move to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal was pending a physical.

The addition of Contreras fills a major

void for St. Louis, which won the NL Central this season with a 93-69 record. Molina retired after spending his entire 19-year career with the Cardinals, making 10 All-Star teams and winning nine Gold Gloves.

Contreras was one of the Chicago Cubs' last holdovers from their 2016 World Series championship. He made his big league debut that year and helped the franchise to its first title since 1908.

The fiery, strong-armed catcher hit .243 with 22 homers and 55

RBI in 113 games in his last season with his first major league team. He was on the market this summer — leading to an emotional day at Wrigley Field for what looked like his final home game with Chicago — but he remained with the team after the trade deadline.

The 30-year-old Contreras received a \$19.65 million qualifying offer from Chicago, but he turned down the proposal.

Contreras was the best option in a thin market for free agent catchers

that also included Christian Vázquez and Gary Sánchez.

Contreras also has played first base, third base and the corner outfield spots in the majors. The three-time All-Star made 39 starts at designated hitter this year.

The Venezuela native is a .256 hitter with 117 homers and 365 RBIs in 734 career games over seven seasons. He hit a career-best 24 homers in 2019 and drove in a career-high 74 runs in 2017.

UFC 282: Suddenly vacant light heavyweight belt at stake

By Mark Anderson
 AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jan Blachowicz and Magomed Ankalaev have been waiting for their shot at the light heavyweight title, and neither expected it to come Saturday.

They were supposed to compete in the co-main event of UFC 282 until champion Jiri Prochazka pulled out last month of his fight with second-ranked Glover Teixeira because of a shoulder injury.

With the title suddenly vacant, third-ranked Blachowicz (29-9) and No. 4 Ankalaev (18-1) were moved up the main event. Ankalaev is a minus-340 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Blachowicz, 39, found out about the championship opportunity after the flight from his native Poland to Las Vegas, his phone buzzing after landing.

Blachowicz read the text message from his manager four times before he really believed it, and calls it an "early Christmas gift."

"The universe worked with me very well," Blachowicz said. "I wish Jiri the best recovery, but I will take my chance and be the champion again."

It also was a major break for Ankalaev.

"The day has finally arrived, a day we've waited for for so long," the Russian said through an interpreter. "We'll show what we're worth this Saturday. We'll come and take what's right-

fully ours."

The co-main event now is between rising English star Paddy Pimblett (19-3) and American Jared Gordon (19-5) in a lightweight match. Pimblett, 27, has finishes in all three of his fights by the second round since entering the UFC in September 2021. Gordon, 34, has won four of his past five bouts and is the most experienced fighter Pimblett will have faced.

Pimblett, a minus-250 favorite, called himself "the people's main event on Saturday night."

"I always saw this in my future and knew what was coming," Pimblett said. "I always said I wanted to be the biggest star in this sport. None of it takes my by surprise."

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m. EST today. After that, the Moon moves from Gemini into Cancer.

Happy Birthday for Friday, Dec. 9, 2022:

You are confident. You address life with energy and vigor. You work hard for what you want. Nevertheless, privately, you are sensitive and softer than you appear. This year is the end of a nine-year cycle, which means it's time to let go of anyone and anything that's holding you back. Clear the decks!

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)

★★★ Be careful, because this is a tricky day. You feel confident and upbeat. However, this confidence might get you in trouble with a boss or someone in authority. Do not overestimate something. Keep your eyes open and remain realistic. Tonight: Cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ It's easy to find yourself at odds with others today, even though initially things begin in a positive, enthusiastic way before they end up like a runaway train. It's probably best to stick to your convictions. Don't be talked out of anything. Tonight: Listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Be careful with money and finances today, because you might initially overestimate something or, conversely, underestimate a problem. Either way, this could lead to you finding yourself in hot water. It's best to tread carefully right from the get-go. Check your facts. Tonight: Count your money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Today the Moon is in your sign; however, it is at odds with both Mercury and Jupiter. In one way, this makes you happy and confident! Yet in another way, you will be confrontational with someone, or someone might challenge you. Pull in your reins a little. Tonight: Be diplomatic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Even though you might choose to be low-key today and work alone or behind the scenes, you might find yourself embroiled with others in situations that are work-related or related to shared property or shared responsibilities. Get your facts before you do anything. Tonight: Solitude.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ This is a friendly, popular day for you! Nevertheless, as this day wears on, you might find yourself at odds with someone, perhaps a friend, a member of a group, or even a partner or close friend. A dispute with one of your kids is also possible. Assume nothing! Check facts. Tonight: Be agreeable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Initially, you might be excited to talk to bosses, parents or partners about something because you're enthusiastic and you want to enlighten others. (Moreover, people notice you today.) However, others might disagree! Double-check that your facts are right. Tonight: Show respect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Be careful with financial discussions today, whether it concerns the wealth of others, shared property or your own earnings and personal wealth. Something might look better than it is. You also might overlook an important detail. Therefore, tread carefully and double-check your facts. Tonight: Learn something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You are ever the optimist, which is why you look on the bright side of things. However, this is why you have to be careful today, because something might initially look promising. But upon closer inspection, you find that it is not. Furthermore, others might challenge your assumptions. Do your homework. Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Do what you can to keep the peace with others today, because you might find yourself gridlocked with people who don't agree with you, versus people who are cheering you on. Unfortunately, it could be a lose-lose situation. Therefore, don't get involved. Tonight: Be detached.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might be excited about a project today that relates to the arts or creative people working in a group. Possibly it relates to your job. Whatever the case, make sure you know what's going on, because things might not be as they appear. Take off those rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Today people are misjudging things, to their chagrin. Don't overestimate something, especially if you are giving facts and figures to bosses, parents or VIPs today. (It will be easy to make this mistake.) Instead, double-check your facts first so that you don't end up with egg on your face. Tonight: Relax.

BORN TODAY

Actress Dame Judi Dench (1934), actress Felicity Huffman (1962), actor John Malkovich (1953)



Army quarterback Christian Anderson (4) reacts to scoring a touchdown against Navy during the first half of an NCAA college football game on Dec. 11, 2021, in East Rutherford, N.J. Army needs to beat Navy this Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia to avoid just its second losing season since 2016.

FILE PHOTO BY ADAM HUNGER | AP PHOTO

Army ponders how long it can remain independent in football

By Dan Gelston

AP Sports Writer

Army football tried conference play before. Lured by financial benefits, schedule stability and other perks, Army shed its independence and spent seven seasons in Conference USA.

Army was never worse.

Army won only 13 games from 1998 to 2004, and only twice in the game that mattered most, the annual showdown with Navy. The move was a bust, and the Army, whose storied history dates to 1890, retreated back to life as an independent.

Nearly two decades later, college football -- college sports, overall -- has exploded with change, with players having more opportunities to earn money than ever before and more power to determine where they play. Billion-dollar media rights deals for the biggest leagues amid realignment have become the benchmark.

The question considered at Army at the end of each season: Would moving to a conference and the chance at greater financial stability and exposure the program could use again be worth the loss of its independence?

"The realignment certainly gets your attention," Army athletic director Mike Buddie said. "We weigh that option every year. We value our independence so much, it just hasn't made sense for us up to this point. But the shifting tides of conference realignment, expanded college football playoff, all those things could play a factor in re-evaluating."

The Black Knights (5-6) righted the ship under coach Jeff Monken. He has five winning records in nine seasons -- including 10 wins

in 2017, 11 in 2018 -- five bowl games and two seasons with weeks spent in the AP Top 25.

Monken also stopped Navy's 14-game winning streak in the series and led the Black Knights to three straight wins in the series from 2016-2018. Army last won in the series -- which resumes Saturday at Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles -- in 2020.

The 55-year-old Monken was a strong candidate last season at Kansas and has been a top name on the rumor mill -- Purdue has an opening right now -- to take a higher-tier job each of the last few years.

Army plays what's considered a national schedule. Yes, games against Navy and Air Force will never go away but the Black Knights played teams as varied this season as Villanova to nationally-ranked Wake Forest. Monken understands the challenges that come with coaching at a service academy as well as anyone and that the evolving state of the sport may at some point force Army's hand.

"I like the fact that we are able to play a number of different teams each year and that the schedule changes," he said. "We can play teams from all over the country and have the flexibility to play Power Five teams. I think there's a value to that. But at some point, it may be unavoidable. For right now, I like where we're at."

Army's other sports programs, such as basketball, play in the Patriot League. Air Force hasn't been an independent since 1979 and plays in the Mountain West. Navy (4-7) joined the American Athletic Conference in

2015 and had mixed success.

"If you take a look at why we joined a conference, it's working," Navy athletic director Chet Gladchuck said. "We have access to qualifying for bowl games, we have a great television package, we're getting a tremendous revenue share out of the conference, we have a voice in government with NCAA legislation. It's brought us so many opportunities and opened so many doors for us."

Army, Navy and Air Force are banned from offering endorsement deals to their athletes and most recruits at those schools aren't in the market for them anyway. Buddie, a former major league pitcher, said NIL deals -- payment for the use of an athlete's name, image or likeness -- have had a "minuscule impact" on the program compared to other looming threats.

"We're still taking kids that virtually don't have any other Division I offers, other than Navy and Air Force, potentially," Buddie said. "They're not getting NIL discussions from other schools. Most of them have the perspective of understanding a degree from West Point is worth a heck of a lot more than \$4,500 in free pizza. Now what it's impacted is, some of our opponents' ability to get a lot better, quickly. More transfer portal than NIL. So that makes it more of a challenge for us."

But in significant ways, Army has matched up with the big boys of college football.

Army has pumped significant money into an overdue renovation of Michie Stadium, set on the West Point, New York, campus. Work will begin this summer on

the removal of the existing east stands, to be replaced with a new 160,000-square-foot structure that includes premium club level seating, a variety of hospitality options, a new fan store, upgraded concessions and amenities and improved stadium accessibility. While Army won't be displaced for home games, the stadium overhaul won't be complete until the start of the 2025 season.

Michie's old-school charm only goes so far in a modern world.

"That's part of what makes it romantic," Buddie said. "But we also want running water in the winter time."

The Black Knights also have have a big-time NFL prospect in linebacker Andre Carter II. Carter had 15.5 sacks last season and was the program's first AP All-America selection since 1990. He was touted as a possible first-round pick in the 2023 draft but injuries curtailed his production this season. Buddie said Army would essentially defer Carter's military obligations until his pro career is over.

"We just want him to do it after several Pro Bowls," Buddie said.

The 6-foot-7, 260-pound Carter could become only the third Army player drafted since 1969.

"I do believe he's going to have a chance to play football beyond college," Monken said. "Where that will put him in the draft, I don't know. Hopefully, he'll continue to be high on people's list and they'll feel compelled to want to take him as a really high draft pick. It'll be great for him, great for us."

So, for now, is life as an independent.

Chiefs add veteran DT Williams to 53-man roster for Broncos

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs promoted veteran defensive tackle Brandon Williams to their 53-man roster on Thursday and there's a chance the longtime Baltimore Ravens run-stopper will play when they visit the Denver Broncos this weekend.

The Chiefs waived defensive tackle Taylor Stallworth earlier this week. That created an opening on the roster for Williams, who was signed to their practice squad on Nov. 30 and has

spent the past week-plus learning the playbook.

"I was actually with Brandon his rookie year in Baltimore, so I knew him as a rookie," Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo said. "They change quite a bit from their first year in the league, and that's interesting. I've had other guys that I've had young, and years go by, and then I'm with them again, and they're just different people."

Williams was a third-round pick of the Ravens in the 2013 draft and went on to make more than 300 tackles with 6 1/2 sacks over the next nine seasons. But

they did not bring him back after last season, choosing to re-sign Calais Campbell and adding Brent Urban and Michael Pierce in free agency along with Travis Jones in the draft.

Chiefs defensive line coach Joe Cullen, who spent five seasons with Williams in Baltimore, pressed for them to sign him.

"I'd tell you a good player," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said last week. "Joe speaks very highly of him and still thinks he can contribute. He's been doing it a long time, but we welcome that. He's a great kid and good football player."

In other news, guard Joe Thuney and wide receiver Kadarius Toney practiced for the second consecutive day on Thursday, raising hopes that both will be available when Kansas City plays the first of two games over a four-week span against Denver. Thuney had been dealing with an ankle injury and Toney with a hamstring strain.

The Chiefs, who are tied with Buffalo for the best record in the AFC at 9-3, can clinch a seventh consecutive West title Sunday if they beat the Broncos and the Los Angeles Chargers lose to the Miami Dolphins that night.

Bradley, Froch, Rafael Marquez top boxing Hall of Fame class

By The Associated Press

CANASTOTA, N.Y. (AP) — Timothy Bradley Jr. and Rafael Marquez, two-division champions whose exciting styles earned both of them "Fight of the Year" honors, and Carl Froch were inducted Wednesday to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

The three fighters will make up the men's modern category when the 10-member class of 2023 is enshrined next June.

Bradley won his first 140-pound title in 2008 and moved up to take a welterweight title from Manny Pacquiao by split decision in 2012. Bradley defended the title by outlasting Ruslan Provodnikov in what was voted the Fight of the Year in 2013. Bradley would eventually suffer his only two losses in rematches with Pacquiao, finishing 33-2-1 with one no-contest. He is now an analyst for ESPN.

Marquez (41-9, 37 KOs) is best known for his four-fight series with Israel Vazquez. Marquez — whose brother Juan Manuel Marquez was inducted in 2020 — took the first bout by seventh-round stoppage to win a super bantamweight title after previ-

ously holding a belt at bantamweight. Vazquez came back to win the next two — they were voted Fight of the Year in 2007 and 2008 — and Marquez evened things up with a third-round knockout in 2010.

Froch was among the top super middleweights of his era. His only losses were to unbeaten Andre Ward in the finals of a tournament for a 168-pound title, and to Mikkel Kessler in a defeat he later avenged in 2013 to give him two belts in the division. He defended them both twice before retiring in 2014 at 33-2 with 24 KOs. The native of Britain has since worked for Sky Sports.

"Boxing is the best sport in the world," Froch said in comments provided by the Hall. "It tests everything in a man and a woman. The mentality, discipline, grit, determination, heart, desire, everything is all in that ring and it is just you on your own with your opponent."

The inductees were selected by vote of the Boxing Writers Association of America.

Inducted from the women's modern category were Laura Serrano, Mexico's first female boxing champion and the first women's box-



Rafael Marquez celebrates after winning the WBC super bantamweight crown over Israel Vazquez on Saturday, March 3, 2007, in Carson, Calif. Marquez, Timothy Bradley Jr. and Carl Froch were inducted Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

FILE PHOTO BY STEPHEN CARR | THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER VIA AP

ing Hall of Famer, and Alicia Ashley, a Jamaican who became the oldest woman to win a title at 48 and boxed until she

was 50.

"I dedicated my whole life to boxing and I did my best in those days when it was very difficult for women to fight, especially in my country of Mexico, where I fought for women's rights," said Serrano, whose success helped lead to a reversal of a ban on women's boxing in Mexico City.

Brad Goodman, Top Rank's matchmaker for nearly four decades, and

Brad Jacobs, the promotional company's chief operating officer since 2010, were selected in the non-participant category along with longtime trainer and broadcaster Joe Goossen.

Goossen's brother, Dan, was a promoter inducted in 2020.

Tim Ryan, the longtime CBS lead boxing announcer who called Sugar Ray Leonard bouts against Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns

among his more than 300 championship fights, was chosen in the observer category. He was joined by Seth Abraham, the executive who oversaw HBO's growth into a boxing broadcasting power.

Tiger Jack Fox, Pone Kingpetch and women's trailblazer JoAnn Hagen were inducted posthumously.

The enshrinement weekend is June 8-11.

"I dedicated my whole life to boxing and I did my best in those days when it was very difficult for women to fight, especially in my country of Mexico, where I fought for women's rights."

— Laura Serrano

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Notices

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The Missouri Department of Conservation will accept cash rent bid proposals to farm approximately 26.60 acres of cropland on the Kahrs-Boger Park approximately 1 mile North of Bahner, Missouri. Proposals will be accepted until, 12/28/2022 at 10 a.m. An optional pre-bid meeting will be held 12/13/2022 at 10 a.m. at 2000 South Limit, Sedalia, Missouri 65301. For additional information and proposal forms contact: Joe Coy, Sedalia Office, 2000 South Limit, Sedalia, Missouri, 65301, Phone (660) 530-5500 Ext. 4827 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 6x-12/2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 2022

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Pettis County Road and Bridge Dept is accepting bids for dismantling, tagging for reconstruction, and monthly storage rates for a 40'x80' pre-engineered building located at the intersection of Main St. and State Fair Blvd. Bidder will need to provide the storage location. Construction of the building structure will be determined at a later date.
All bids are due by Monday, December 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Bids must be turned in or mailed to the Pettis County Clerk's Office, Attn: "Main Street Building" 215 E. 5th St., Sedalia, Missouri. It is recommended to hand deliver the bid to ensure delivery by due date. Pettis County Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids deemed most advantageous to Pettis County will be accepted based on available funds.
1X-12/9, 2022

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division:
PROBATE
Case Number: 22PT-PR00223
BARBARA S BROWN,
Deceased.

Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted (Independent Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of BARBARA S

Legal Notice

BROWN, Decedent:
On 11-8-2022, the last will of the decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of BARBARA S BROWN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court. The name and business address of the personal representative is:
SAMANTHA GUYTON, 19910 MERGEN RD, GREEN RIDGE, MO 65332
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
DOUGLAS B HARRIS, 206 N HOLDEN STREET, WARRENSBURG, MO 64093, 660/747-8131.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 22-OCT-2022
Date of first publication: 11-25-2022

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
by: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk
4x-11/25, 12/2, 9, 16, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
DIVISION IV
In Re: The Marriage of:
VLADIMIR KYVYZHIK,
Petitioner,
vs.
OXANA KRASAVINA,
Respondent.

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The State of Missouri to Respondent Oxana Krasavina. You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Pettis, State of Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and division of marital property and debts.

The names of all parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is Nathan G. Beard, 304 South Ohio, Sedalia, Mo 65301.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within 45 days after the 18th day of November, 2022, judgment by default will be rendered against you.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 16th day of November, 2022.
Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Rebecca Campbell,
Deputy Clerk
4x-11/18, 25, 12/2, 9, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
DIVISION IV
VALERIA ORTIZ NORIEGA,
Minor
by and through her next friend,

Legal Notice

SIGNI C. ORTIZ NORIEGA, and SIGNI C. ORTIZ NORIEGA, individually Petitioners, vs. MAYNOR RODRIGUEZ, Respondent.
CASE NO: 22PT-DR00778
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The State of Missouri to Respondent Maynor Rodriguez. You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Pettis, State of Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Petition for Custody. The names of all parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is Nathan G. Beard, 304 South Ohio, Sedalia, MO 65301.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within 45 days after the 9th day of December, 2022, judgment by default will be rendered against you.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 7th day of December, 2022.
Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Rebecca Campbell,
Deputy Clerk
4x-12/9, 16, 23, 30, 2022

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Sedalia City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the designation of the George R. Smith College site as a historic landmark. The public hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on December 19, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to receive public comment concerning the designation. Written comments may be made to the City Clerk prior to the meeting. Interested parties should contact the Community Development Department.
Handicapped citizens needing accommodation in order to attend this meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at (660) 827-3000 extension 1110 no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
1x-12/9, 2022

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Handcrafted items and homemade goodies will be available for everyone on your Christmas shopping list.

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Toxic

From Page 9A

The team owner interfered with the House committee's investigation by "intimidating witnesses," "refusing to release former employees from their confidentiality obligations" and using a "secret" agreement with the NFL to block access to more than 40,000 documents collected during Wilkinson's review, according to the report.

Snyder also conducted a separate shadow investigation, which the report said was used by his lawyers to "cast him as the victim of a defamation campaign ... and deflect responsibility for the team's toxic work culture."

The House committee said Snyder was evasive, misleading and said more than 100 times he did not recall things during his deposition.

The NFL was not shielded from criticism in the committee's report, which said the league "misled the public about its handling of the Wilkinson Investigation" and "has not sought true accountability for those responsible." The report also said the NFL doesn't ensure "that its own workplaces are free from discrimination and harassment," citing the fact that the NFL does not require teams to report confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements to league headquarters.

The NFL defended its cooperation with the House investigation in a statement on Thursday, saying it produced "nearly a half million pages of documents," responded to written inquiries and "voluntarily participated" in the June 22 public hearing where NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answered questions.

The NFL also said the Commanders had put in place recommendations that Wilkinson suggested.

The league said it is committed to ensuring all employees at every team work in an environment "that is free from discrimination, harassment or other forms of illegal or unprofessional conduct."

Attorneys for the Commanders and Snyder, John Brownlee and Stuart Nash, said in a statement the committee's work was "one-sided" and there were "no new revelations" in Thursday's report. They said the team is "proud of the progress it has made in recent years in establishing a welcoming and inclusive workplace, and it looks forward to future success, both on and off the field."

Republicans have long considered the House oversight committee's work on the topic a partisan affair and have said they would immediately drop the case once they take control of the House in early 2023. Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the committee's ranking Republican and the incoming chairman, reiterated those plans in a statement Thursday, adding that the investigation was "a misuse of resources" and was meant to "gain cheap headlines and ignore any information that did not align with (Democrats') predetermined narratives."

Women who had worked for the Commanders told the House

committee in February that they were regularly subjected to sexual comments or harassment. A former director of marketing estimated it happened more than 200 times to her, a former business development employee said it was "over 100 times" — "almost a part of my everyday experience" — and a former marketing coordinator said her boss harassed her "over 500 times."

Lisa Banks and Debra Katz, who represented more than 40 ex-Commanders employees, said in a statement Thursday the "committee's work resulted in important legislation limiting the use of non-disclosure agreements, which will help prevent this type of widespread harassment from happening in other American workplaces."

Banks and Katz are referring to one of two bills introduced in June by ranking committee member Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat from New York City who will be leaving the House in January after losing a primary in a redrawn district against another longtime New York City incumbent, Rep. Jerrold Nadler. The other bill stipulates that employers would need consent for taking and using images of employees; neither have gone beyond being referred to a committee.

The NFL is conducting a second investigation into the Commanders, which came about after former team employee Tiffani Johnston told the House committee at a public roundtable that Snyder groped her at a team dinner and tried to force her into his limousine. Snyder has denied those allegations.

Former federal prosecutor and Securities and Exchange Commission chairwoman Mary Jo White is running the NFL investigation, which also involves allegations by a former vice president of sales that the team committed financial improprieties. The NFL has said White's findings will be made public.

The District of Columbia recently filed two civil lawsuits against the team — including one over what the D.C. attorney general called a scheme to cheat season-ticket holders out of money. The Commanders settled with the state of Maryland, agreeing to return security deposits to former season ticket holders and pay a \$250,000 penalty.

All of the workplace scandals and investigations have led other team owners to question whether Snyder should be a peer, with Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay saying in October there's "merit to remove" Snyder, but that it's "something we have to review." He added: "It's gravely concerning to me the things that have occurred there over the last 20 years."

Snyder and wife Tanya recently hired Bank of America Securities to explore selling part or all of the team he has owned since 1999. The Commanders are worth an estimated \$5.6 billion, according to Forbes — a sevenfold increase over the then-record \$800 million Snyder paid for the team in 1999.

Washington is in the playoff race for an NFC wild-card spot with a 7-5-1 record.

Tipton

From Page 9A

Culpepper, also the school's athletic director, believed both the boys' and girls' programs would be headed down based on the way enrollments from Class 2 and 3 were trending, but with the recent switch to calculate them separately, it ended up just being the Lady Cards who shifted down.

Tipton owned some good wins in the non-conference schedule last season, but also endured some tough losses, including a 28-point

home defeat to Leeton (Tipton traveled to Leeton Thursday night). Culpepper feels as if there's no comparison as far as where his team is at from this time last year.

"It's not even remotely close," Culpepper said. "We're significantly better at every position than last year. We bring two freshmen off the bench as our sixth and seventh man, and they're not there to add minutes, they're there to add production. There's times like against Ozark when we made a run in the third quarter with both freshmen in, and against Cap City (the same thing). We have the guard play we didn't necessarily have, whether

[last year] Charlee [Bailey being just] a freshman, or [this year] Clara [Williams] and Ava [Schlotzhauer] with the ability to take care of the basketball, or the maturing process with players like [junior] Courtney [Edwards]."

Defensively, he says the team isn't "even in the same ballpark," now defending at the elite level.

Bailey, who averaged 12 points as a freshman, is one of those players back from a 25-win team that only graduated one senior, Kenna Bixler. Also returning on board are the star inside-out tandem of seniors Briar Cox (15.7 ppg, 13.8 rpg) and Myra Claas (19 ppg).

By the time Tipton,

ranked No. 1 in Class 2, gets into the thick of the Kaysinger Conference Schedule, the team will also have faced Troy Buchanan, Jefferson Conception, Skyline and Hickman.

That's being battle-tested, at any level.

"It takes five players playing all-out, all five rebounding to pull off wins against teams like Cardinal Ritter and California," Culpepper added. "We felt like this summer, we were going into a season where we won't be Class 2 good, we'll be good in the state [period]. We're not afraid to play with teams with complete rosters, because we have that, too."

WNBA

From Page 9A

Biden's authorization to release Bout, the Russian felon once nicknamed "the Merchant of Death," underscored the heightened urgency that his administration faced to get Griner home, particularly after the recent resolution of her criminal case on drug charges and subsequent transfer to a penal colony. Griner, who also played pro basketball in Russia, was arrested at an airport there last February for bringing less than a gram of cannabis oil in vape cartridges into the country.

Griner is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, Baylor University All-American and Phoenix Mercury pro basketball star, whose arrest in February made her the most high-profile American jailed abroad. Her status as an openly gay Black woman, locked up in a country where authorities have been hostile to the LB-GTQ community, injected racial, gender and social dynamics into her legal saga and brought unprecedented attention to the population of wrongful detainees.

The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed the swap, saying in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that the exchange took place in Abu-Dhabi and that Bout had been flown home.

Biden spoke with Griner who was at an airport in Abu-Dhabi after she was greeted by U.S. officials. She was expected to be back in the U.S. within 24 hours, Biden said. U.S. officials said she would be offered specialized medical services and counseling, but declined to go into specifics citing privacy concerns.

Both Russian and U.S. of-

ficials had conveyed cautious optimism in recent weeks after months of strained negotiations, with Biden saying in November that he was hopeful that Russia would engage in a deal now that the midterm elections were completed. A top Russian official said last week that a deal was possible before year's end.

Even so, the fact that the deal was a one-for-one swap was a surprise given that U.S. officials had for months expressed their their determination to bring home both Griner and Paul Whelan, a Michigan corporate security executive jailed in Russia since December 2018 on espionage charges that his family and the U.S. government has said are baseless.

"We've not forgotten about Paul Whelan," Biden said. "We will keep negotiating in good faith for Paul's release."

U.S. officials said they did not see an immediate path to bringing about Whelan's release, saying Russia has treated his case differently because of the "sham espionage" charges against him. Still, they said they believe communication channels with the Russians remain open for negotiations for his freedom — though it was not clear what cost would need to be paid to secure it. "We didn't want to lose the opportunity today to secure the release of one of them," said Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Whelan's brother David said in a statement he was "so glad" for Griner's release but also disappointed for his family. He credited the White House with giving the Whelan family advance notice and said he did not fault officials for making the deal.

"The Biden administration made the right decision to bring Ms. Griner home, and to make the deal that

was possible, rather than waiting for one that wasn't going to happen," he said.

In releasing Bout, the U.S. freed a former Soviet Army lieutenant colonel whom the Justice Department once described as one of the world's most prolific arms dealers. He was arrested in Thailand in 2008 and extradited to the U.S. in 2010.

Bout, whose deeds were featured in a Hollywood movie, was serving a 25-year sentence on charges that he conspired to sell tens of millions of dollars in weapons that U.S. officials said were to be used against Americans. Biden issued an executive grant of clemency to free the arms dealer from a federal prison in Illinois to effect the prisoner swap.

The deal drew criticism from some prominent Republicans, including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, his party's nominee to become speaker once the GOP retakes control of the chamber in January.

"This is a gift to Vladimir Putin, and it endangers American lives," he said of Bout's release. "Leaving Paul Whelan behind for this is unconscionable."

The U.S.-Russia exchange was carried out despite deteriorating relations between the powers prompted by Moscow's war against Ukraine. The White House said the Ukrainian government was briefed on the agreement and that Kyiv was provided assurances that the terms were limited to the prisoner swap and would not impact U.S. support for Ukraine's defense.

Over the summer, the imprisonment of Americans produced a rare diplomatic opening, yielding the highest-level known contact between Washington and Moscow — a phone call between Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov — in more than five

Broncos

From Page 9A

NBC is airing the Dolphins-Chargers game instead of the Mahomes-Wilson matchup that isn't what many expected when the schedule came out.

Mahomes has thrown for 30 touchdowns and the Chiefs have scored an NFL-high 350 points compared with the Broncos' league-low 166.

"He is just playing out of his mind," Hackett said of Mahomes. "He looks to me to be an MVP. I mean, he's unbelievable."

Hackett expected to be saying similar things about Wilson. But the QB who just turned 34 has struggled all season to adapt to his new surroundings and has thrown for just eight touchdowns behind a patchwork offensive line and with a cast of reserve receivers.

Among the receivers, Tim Patrick (ACL) got hurt in August, KJ Hamler

(hamstring) is on injured reserve, Courtland Sutton (hamstring) is hurt and Jerry Jeudy has a tender ankle.

That's left Wilson with Kendall Hinton, who has five career starts, and a trio of rookies: Montrell Washington and undrafted wideouts Jalen Virgil and Brandon Johnson.

"It's been a tough season. We've missed a lot of our main guys," Wilson said. "But the reality is these (rookies) have gotten great opportunities. So, I believe in these guys."

"We have to show that we can win to make it a better rivalry, that's the starting point," Hackett said.

Safety Justin Simmons has been in Denver for 12 of those 13 losses to the Chiefs and would love to end not only that skid Sunday but the Broncos' current four-game losing streak.

"This win would mean absolutely everything," he said.

The Chicago Bears (3-10) are the only other team that hasn't won a divisional

game this season.

The Broncos get two more chances after Sunday: they play at Kansas City on New Year's Day and close out the season at home against the Chargers a week later.

This weekend's game was flexed out of the Sunday night slot after Denver's dismal showing under the lights at the start of the season.

They had four prime-time games in the first six weeks and struggled to score in all of them, averaging just 13 points, not the kind of must-see TV the networks expected when Wilson was traded from the Seahawks.

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