

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Parks and Recreation presents strategic plan to City Council

By Chris Howell
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\$1 million matching grant for stadium improvements on wish list

At Tuesday evening's Sedalia City Council meeting, Amy Epple, Director of Sedalia Parks and Recreation, presented her department's strategic plan for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Before the meeting Tuesday, Epple told the Democrat about the presentation and what it would include.

"I'll go in front of the City Council and give them our strategic plan," Epple said. "What the Park Board is using through our master plan to decide what our budget is going to be for the fiscal year of '23-24."

The Parks Department has its own board and approves its own budget, which is then forwarded to the City Council, making it different from other City departments, but Epple prefers to keep the City Council informed.

"I like to make the City Council aware, so when they do get our budget, they can understand it,"

Epple said. "So we'll be talking about our strategic plan for '23-24."

Much of Epple's presentation to the council is not a surprise, as it mirrors Parks and Rec's 20-year master plan.

"We do update our master plan every year," Epple said. "There are some things that maybe should have been happening next year, but we've either already accomplished them or we had to push them back because of other things that needed to take place."

One of the items in the master plan is a new outdoor aquatic facility on the east side of town. An RFQ, request for qualification, appears on the budget for the next fiscal year.

See PARKS | 6A



Sedalia Parks and Recreation will find out at the end of January if it will receive a \$1 million grant for improvements at Liberty Park Stadium.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Brad and Sarah Rea stand with Reed McCollester, left, of McCollester Construction Tuesday morning at the groundbreaking for the new Rea Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services and the Sedalia Cremation Center. The new buildings will be constructed at 3510 W. 16th St. by McCollester and local subcontractors.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Rea Funeral Chapel breaks ground on new facilities

By Faith Bemiss
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

On Tuesday morning, staff and dignitaries broke ground for the new Rea Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services and the Sedalia Cremation Center in a ceremony at 3510 W. 16th St.

The current Rea Funeral Chapel, 1001 S. Limit Ave., is around 5,000 square feet, while the new Chapel will be 9,600. It will have one chapel, two viewing rooms, four offices, a family room, a community room for 50 people, five bathrooms, an arranging room, a selection room, and a two-car garage.

The Sedalia Cremation Center is 2,400 square feet and will house an office, a lobby, a viewing room, and a three-car garage. Construction is planned by McCollester Construction and local subcontractors. C&E excavation will begin excavation next week, Brad Rea said.

Once the new facilities are built, the South Limit building will be sold.

Rea spoke with the Democrat before the groundbreaking Tuesday morning from the South Limit location and noted he and his wife, Sarah, opened the business in 2009. Since then, they began to see a need for additional space.



Brad and Sarah Rea, along with others including Sedalia Mayor Andrew Dawson, right, and Pettis County Western Commissioner Jim Marcum, turn over the soil at the new Chapel building site.

"Originally, back in 2019, we were just going to do the crematorium only, when we purchased the land and

did the construction loan," Rea said. "Then, of course, COVID hit the first of 2020.

See GROUND | 6A

VFW Post 2591 seeking new facility

By Nicole Cooke
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Members of VFW Post 2591 are looking for a new home after members voted to sell the organization's building at 121 S. Ohio Ave.

The past year has seen the VFW hosting a number of fundraisers to raise money to repair the building it has been in since the 1960s. Thanks to donations from a few charities and revenue from fundraisers, the VFW was able to foot the \$85,000 bill to fix the roof in 2022. However, countless problems remain, both cosmetic and structural.

"Even after fixing the roof, we still had a lot of

problems, so considering that, do we keep raising money to fix this building we have, or do we sell this building and find another location?" VFW Commander Lee Whited said.

Whited mailed a letter to all Post 2591 members describing the situation. Members voted to sell the building.

"Everyone stood up and shared their stories," Whited said of the meeting when the vote took place. "Yes, there's memories that everyone's had in this building we're currently in but given the amount of restorations that need to be made to the building, they felt it was better to make the sale now while we can and start over with a new building. And they understand we can take memories from the current location and move them to a new location. We can put memorabilia in display cases, hang things on the

wall, stuff like that."

Whited added that members agreed they would rather focus on the community and helping veterans rather than constantly hosting fundraisers for building repairs.

Whited said the VFW never listed the building for sale, but it is already under contract as a potential buyer caught wind of the facility through word of mouth. A closing date hasn't been set, as the buyer is waiting for some approvals from the Sedalia City Council, but Whited said he anticipates the sale to be finalized soon.

As that date looms, Whited is now searching for a new location. He's talked with a few people who were potentially interested in selling some property to the VFW, but nothing has worked out yet, he said.

The Post is looking for either an existing facility



Members of VFW Post 2591 have voted to sell the organization's building at 121 S. Ohio Ave., pictured here in October 2021.

DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

that could fit its needs or a piece of land where it could build a new facility. Whited said they need something big enough to house a bar, kitchen and rental hall, a setup similar to the current facility. A parking lot is

also preferred, whether it already exists or there is room to construct one.

He's hoping to find an individual or business willing to sell or donate property to the VFW, which he noted is a nonprofit

organization.

Per an agreement with the buyer, the VFW can continue operating in the South Ohio Avenue building for up to six months after the closing date.

See VFW | 3A



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OBITUARIES

Paul E. Fath

Paul E. Fath, 91, of Sedalia, passed away Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at Windsor Healthcare and Rehab Center.

He was born November 24, 1931, in Kansas City, MO, son of the late Harry C. and Lela (Davidson) Fath.

Paul served his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He owned and operated Central Casters and Wheels in Sedalia.

Paul was a member of Parkview Christian Church and a past member of the Noonday Optimist Club.

He loved John Wayne movies and spent hours watching them.

Survivors include a sister, JoAnn Robb, of Omaha, NE; one niece and five nephews; and long-time friends, Leora

Bremer and family.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Hazel Fath and Dorothy Hull.



Memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, January 20, 2023, at Parkview Christian Church with Rev. Rodney Brown officiating. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until service time at the church. Burial with full military honors will be 1 p.m. at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Parkview Christian Church or Show-Me Christian Youth Home, La Monte in care of Heckart Funeral Home.

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

DEATH NOTICE

Baker

Carolyn V. Baker, 82, of Sedalia, died Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at Lee's Summit Medical Center in Lee's Summit. She was born on Nov. 21, 1940, in Sedalia.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at Ward Memorial Baptist Church in Sedalia. Burial will follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction

of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Morarity

Charles E. Morarity, 78, of Cole Camp, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2023.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of the Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

CRASH REPORTS

Clinton woman hurt in Henry County accident

Jessica R. Bayliss, 40, of Clinton, sustained minor injuries at 1:10 p.m. Monday in a Henry County accident. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Bayliss was driving a 2014 Hyundai Elantra south on Southwest 1151 Road at Route HH when she attempted to make a left-hand turn and traveled off the south side of the roadway.

Bayliss was not wearing a seat belt and was transported by Elliot EMS to Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare in Clinton.

Holden woman hurt slipping under rolling truck

Kathleen M. Smith, 60, of Holden, sustained moderate injuries at 6:17 p.m. Monday in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Keith B. Smith, 62, of Holden, was backing up in a 1998 Dodge truck near 731 NW 1501 Road when Kathleen Smith slipped and fell and the vehicle rolled over her leg.

She was transported by ambulance to Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

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. 27

9:17 p.m.: Isidro Alejo Ubaldo, 43, of the 900 block of West Seventh Street, was arrested after being observed driving over a curb in the 200 block of West Broadway Boulevard. Ubaldo was intoxicated and was transported to the Pettis County Jail, booked, and released.

Dec. 30

3:39 p.m.: Joshua S. Briden, 41, of Deepwater, was arrested after officers conducted a vehicle stop at a business in the 1800 block of South Limit Avenue. Briden was intoxicated and was transported to the police department, charged with driving while intoxicated—alcohol and released.

Dec. 31

6:34 p.m.: Austin E. Smith, 32, of Lincoln, was arrested after officers responded to a business in the 100 block of Rebar Road in reference to a disturbance. The caller stated that during a child exchange, the subject lost his temper and began to threaten and became aggressive. Smith was arrested for first-degree harassment, second-degree harassment and fourth-degree domestic assault. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold.

11:58 p.m.: Brook Edward Dowell, 31, of the 1000 block of East Third Street, was arrested after officers conducted a traffic stop at South Engineer Avenue and East 10th Street. Dowell was identified and was found to have a suspended driving status and two active warrants out of Sedalia and Pettis County. He was placed on a 24-hour hold at the Pettis County Jail pending charges.

Jan. 1

9:05 a.m.: Anissa M. Book, 46, of the 200 block of South Park Avenue, was arrested after officers were dispatched to property damage that occurred following a domestic violence incident. The caller stated that a woman known to him struck him in the head several times with a closed fist, pointed a loaded firearm at him, his mother and his daughter, then pushed his motorcycle before

leaving the scene in an intoxicated condition. Book returned to the scene after the initial report was taken and was placed under arrest. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail for a 24-hour hold pending charges of third-degree assault, first-degree property damage, and unlawful use of a weapon.

3:58 p.m.: Jennifer L. Carter, 43, of the 1400 block of South Washington Avenue, was arrested after officers conducted a vehicle stop near West Broadway Boulevard and South Quincy Avenue. Carter was intoxicated and was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 12-hour protective custody hold pending charges.

8:24 p.m.: Sergio Lazaro Marcos, 44, of Sedalia, was arrested after officers were dispatched to the 600 block of East 14th Street for a subject check. Lazaro was identified, taken into protective custody, and transported to the Pettis County Jail for safekeeping.

Jan. 2

1 a.m.: William Harrison Howe III, 32, of the 1300 block of East Boonville Street, was arrested after an officer was dispatched to a business in the 3200 block of South Limit Avenue in reference to a 911 hang-up. Officers made contact with the caller as the suspect was attempting to leave. Howe attempted to flee, resulting in a short foot pursuit. The caller said the suspect had threatened her and broken a computer monitor. Howe was arrested and transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of fourth-degree domestic assault and resisting arrest.

Incidents Dec. 29

5:25 p.m.: Officers responded to a business in the 2100 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a theft. An employee stated two individuals entered the store and walked out with a set of speakers without paying. The suspects have not been identified.

Dec. 30

3:07 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the SPD lobby in reference to a theft report. The victim said one of his license plates was recently stolen. It was entered into the system as stolen.

4:01 p.m.: Officers responded to the 400 block of East Fifth Street in reference to a male who was unresponsive and in cardiac arrest. Dispatch advised the subject may have been overdosing.

The victim was found in the parking lot in very poor condition. A measurable amount of suspected fentanyl was located on scene. An officer administered three doses of Narcan, which were effective. The subject was subsequently transported to Bothwell Regional Health Center.

6:10 p.m.: Officers responded to the 1400 block of South Limit Avenue for a report of fraudulent currency. Officers collected the counterfeit money and a report was completed.

Dec. 31

5:29 p.m.: Officers responded to the 2200 block of East 12th Street for a report of a dog attack. When officers arrived, two victims were located on the ground. They were treated at Bothwell for their injuries and the dogs involved in the attack were quarantined.

7:32 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 700 block of West Fourth Street in reference to an open door on a residence. It was determined there was no one in the house, though three dogs were located in poor condition and appeared to have been abandoned. Animal Control was contacted and the animals were removed. Code enforcement was notified due to the state of the residence.

Jan. 1

1:58 a.m.: Officers took a report of theft in the 300 block of North Quincy Avenue. The victim reported that someone had stolen \$50 from her.

11:29 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 1200 block of South Park Avenue in reference to an attempted arson. The resident said there were several attempts to catch the house on fire with flammable material and propellants.

12:02 p.m.: An officer responded to the 1000 block of East Third Street to investigate a report of property damage. The resident showed a living room window that was broken, but it did not appear anyone had attempted to get into the residence and it is unknown what caused the glass to break. There are no suspects.

6:09 p.m.: Officers responded to the 600 block of East 17th Street for a report of a domestic disturbance. A female was located with two knives in her hand. After talking with a female, the officers were able to get her to put the knives down. She was transported to Bothwell for evaluation.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

FUNERALS

Mark, Ruby Evelyn

10:30 a.m. today at Wesley United Methodist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Hartley, Tammy Sue

3 p.m. today at Christ Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Goodwin, Renee L.

5 to 7 p.m. today at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Baker, Carolyn V.

11 a.m. on Saturday at Ward Memorial Baptist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are in the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Hausam, Elizabeth A. "Betty"

11 a.m. Saturday at Broadway Presbyterian Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Morarity, Charles E.

11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of the Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

Knight, Celia Earlene

11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Fath, Paul E.

10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20 at Parkview Christian Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

As legal pot grows, more kids sickened by edibles at home

By Jonel Aleccia

AP Health Writer

The number of young kids, especially toddlers, who accidentally ate marijuana-laced treats rose sharply over five years as pot became legal in more places in the U.S., according to a study published Tuesday.

More than 7,000 confirmed cases of kids younger than 6 eating marijuana edibles were reported to the nation's poison control centers between 2017 and 2021, climbing from about 200 to more than 3,000 per year.

Nearly a quarter of the children wound up hospitalized, some seriously ill, according to a new

analysis in the journal Pediatrics.

And those are just the reported cases, said Dr. Marit Tweet, a medical toxicologist with the Southern Illinois School of Medicine, who led the study.

Cases of kids eating pot products such as candies, chocolate and cookies have coincided with more states allowing medical and recreational cannabis use. Currently 37 U.S. states permit use of marijuana for medical purposes and 21 states regulate adult recreational use.

Tweet called for greater vigilance by parents and for more laws like those adopted by several states to make pot products — often packaged to look like

kids' candies and snacks — less appealing and accessible to children.

"When it's in a candy form or cookies, people don't think of it in the same way as household chemicals or other things a child could get into," she said. "But people should really be thinking of it as a medication."

Tweet and her colleagues analyzed reports to the National Poison Data System, which includes the nation's 55 regional poison control centers. More than

half of the children were toddlers, ages 2 and 3, the study showed. More than 90% got the edibles at home.

"They're the ones starting to explore and to get up and move around," she said.

Of more than 7,000 reports, researchers were able to track the outcomes of nearly 5,000 cases. They found that nearly 600 kids, or about 8%, were admitted to critical care units, most often with depressed breathing or even coma.

Nearly 15% were admitted to non-critical care units and more than a third were seen in emergency rooms. Drowsiness, breathing problems, fast heart rate and vomiting were the most common symptoms.

The results are not surprising, said Dr. Brian Schultz, a pediatric emergency physician at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. He previously worked at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he and

his colleagues treated kids who had eaten pot edibles "almost on a daily basis," he said.

Reports and hospitalizations rose during the last two years of the study, during the COVID-19 pandemic. More children were at home, with more opportunities to find pot treats, Tweet said. With marijuana more widely legal, parents may have felt less stigma seeking help from poison centers and health care providers, she added.

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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From left: Susan Mergen, Wear Red for Women committee member; Dianne Simon, Thompson Hills Investment Corporation vice president and Lori Wightman, Bothwell Regional Health Center CEO and Wear Red committee co-chairs; Erica Eisenmenger, Furnell Investments Inc. vice president; Robin Balke, committee member; Lauren Thiel-Payne, Bothwell Foundation executive director; and Trish Henson and Rhonda Ahern, committee members

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOTHWELL FOUNDATION

Wear Red donates AED to The Pavilion

Wear Red for Women, a Bothwell Foundation committee, recently presented an automated external defibrillator (AED) to be placed at The Pavilion, an outdoor event venue in downtown Sedalia that is owned by Furnell Companies. An AED is a small, lightweight device that allows individuals

and first responders to treat sudden cardiac arrest. The machine automatically analyzes the heart rhythm and when appropriate, it delivers an electrical shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm.

According to an American Heart Association study, survival from cardiac arrest doubled

when bystanders stepped in to use a publicly available automated external defibrillator rather than wait until emergency responders arrived.

Funds to purchase the device were raised during the 2022 Wear Red for Women luncheon and auction. The committee's goal is to have AEDs in every

place people work, learn, play or pray in Sedalia and Pettis County. Since the inception of the luncheon event in 2020, 47 AEDs have been placed in or committed to various locations. The 2023 Wear Red for Women event is Feb. 24.

Release courtesy of Bothwell Foundation.

VFW

From Page 1A

"If we don't find a location within that six months, we can still operate as a VFW Post, but we have to identify where we'll host meetings and won't have a physical location for the time being. We'll have to move stuff into storage," Whited explained.

Whited said he sent

out more than 200 letters to current members, and roughly two dozen showed up to vote. With the VFW's active membership in decline, Whited said he sees a new facility as an opportunity to revitalize the current membership and recruit new members. As a younger veteran himself, he hopes to see multiple generations in the new building.

"Our current Post, because it is a private or-

ganization, was exempt from the city ordinance of no smoking," Whited said. "We've already talked about after moving, transitioning to a nonsmoking establishment but having a smokers' area. I think that'll bring a lot of new people in. When you talk about the VFW, it mostly consists of retired veterans and older veterans. I think when you get into speaking about younger veterans, smoking really

deters a lot of them from coming in. I hope this will help bring in new members."

Anyone with potential locations for the VFW can contact Whited by calling the Post at 660-826-4543 or emailing vfw2591event@gmail.com.

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

Missouri's new Attorney General Andrew Bailey takes office

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri's new Attorney General Andrew Bailey officially took office Tuesday during an inaugural ceremony at the state Supreme Court.

Missouri Eastern District Appeals Court Judge Kelly Broniec swore Bailey in as his family flanked him.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed the fellow Republican to replace Eric Schmitt, who took office as Missouri's newest U.S. senator on Tuesday after voters elected him to Congress last year.

Bailey previously worked

as the attorney for the Governor's Office under Parson.

Missouri's attorney general is responsible for defending state laws against court challenges, prosecuting some criminal cases and enforcing laws on consumer protection and government transparency.

Bailey on Tuesday told reporters he plans to continue efforts to shut down Agape Boarding School, a private Christian school in southwest Missouri where several staffers have been charged with felony and misdemeanor abuse.

Bailey touted himself as a constitutional conservative devoted to following the law, whether that be to enforce public access to their government or crack down on cities that take a lenient stance on unhoused people living on the streets, per a new law.

The law, which took effect Sunday, prohibits homeless people from sleeping on state land without permission and gives the attorney general the authority to sue cities that don't enforce the law.



Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey receives applause from Gov. Mike Parson, right, and other officials after Bailey took the oath of office in Jefferson City, Mo., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Bailey was appointed attorney general by Parson after the former officeholder, Eric Schmitt, won election to the U.S. Senate.

PHOTO BY SUMMER BALLENTINE | AP PHOTO

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CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Keeping humanity at the forefront in tense situations

What is it about human nature that makes us want to jump to conclusions and speak our opinions or theories without first knowing the facts?

I see this happen locally in various situations. A young person passes away and people begin to assume the worst. They start rumors about the mental health of a person without understanding their physical health and before you know it, a young person who passes away because of physical ailments has suddenly taken their own life.

Some witness a motor vehicle accident, think they know who is involved and go straight to social media (probably while they're driving) to let everyone know who it was and that it "looks like" a fatality. Can you even imagine learning your loved one may have been involved through social media?

Conjecture is a moral character flaw. Period.

We have always been a sports family. Our kids went through softball, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, show choir, golf and football collectively. We understand the risks associated with any sport, no matter how healthy an athlete is. Sometimes bad things happen.

During my son's high school career, many players across the nation were experiencing cardiac events (some fatal) while playing football. Our community came together to provide cardiac testing for players so they had the opportunity to discover any issues they may not have been aware of in order to prevent this tragedy from occurring locally. As far as I know, it worked.

On Monday night, 24-year-old Damar Hamlin, Safety for the Buffalo Bills, was struck in the chest by the shoulder of Cincinnati Bengals Wide Receiver Tee Higgins. Hamlin stood up after making the tackle and suddenly fell backward. His heart had stopped beating.

Anyone watching that game looked on in disbelief and horror as the medical team performed CPR and activated an AED (automatic external defibrillator) to save his life.

As of this writing (Tuesday, Jan. 3), it has been released that Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest. I have researched this in-depth and there is far too much information to repeat in this column, but I encourage everyone who is interested to do their own research.

In short, cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction (heart attack) are two very different events. Cardiac arrest involves an electrical impulse that tells the heart to beat.

This occurs 72 times per minute in the average person. Hamlin was hit in the chest at the precise moment when his heart was giving off that electrical impulse, causing ventricular fibrillation (V-Fib). The chances of that happening are rare and the survival rate after this type of trauma



Stephanie Lefevers
Contributing Columnist

is quite low. It is a devastating injury.

A heart attack occurs due to the restriction of blood flow caused by clogged arteries and vessels in the heart. There is a distinct difference between the two events.

Secondary to this accident, the thing that bothered me most was seeing the speculation that quickly made its way through the social media bandwagons.

Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist, author and radio host, tweeted a video compilation of athletes who have suddenly fallen ill on the playing field and suggested these events were related to the COVID-19 vaccine. This tweet was shared by many far-right-winged anti-vaxxers with absolutely no information about what actually happened.

I make no secrets about my political association. I am a registered Republican and fiscally conservative. However, I am not a conspiracy theorist. Just a little time researching athletes having health events during games will show how many times this has happened in the past. Not all (in fact, I couldn't find any that were shown in the clip that was circulated) were cardiac arrest related. But there it was, as Damar Hamlin was fighting for his life, his mother by his side, making its rounds on the internet suggesting this was somehow related to COVID-19 vaccination.

This type of behavior is exactly why we are divided as a nation. We are losing our sense of humanity and it is my opinion that activists, journalists and politicians are completely to blame. After all, an audience of roughly 65,000 fans sat quietly, prayed and then held a vigil for an opposing team outside the hospital when the game was suspended.

It is not the regular, everyday Joe who is fueling this divisiveness. We must hold ourselves and each other accountable for the propaganda the media is feeding us. It is also our moral obligation not to rush to judgment with an opinion before learning all of the facts surrounding an incident.

Displaying civility and the decency of humanity should be our goal. Kindness often means keeping your mouth closed and your fingers from the keyboard until the appropriate time, if such time is ever appropriate.

Stephanie Lefevers is a local business owner, former member of the Sedalia 200 Board of Education and a resident of Sedalia for more than 40 years.



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Tracing the history of the building at 104 W. Main St.

When tracing the history of a building, the historian is often frustrated by a lack of specific information given in source materials.

The first building at 104 W. Main St. was wood. It burned in the fires that ravaged West Main Street between Ohio Avenue and Osage Avenue in November 1867 and January 1868. The West Main Street buildings were rebuilt between 1868 and 1869.

The 1869 "Bird's Eye View of Sedalia" map shows the rebuilt building as a two-story building.

The 1882 History provides information about the fires and identifies the owners of the buildings that were burned and the value of some of the buildings, but does not provide specific addresses of the buildings.

It also provides information about some of the buildings that were built, but again does not provide addresses, so the occupants of the buildings for several years are unknown.

The 1882 History vaguely identifies some buildings by noting where they stood in relation to other buildings that stood in 1882, which helps only if the location of the referenced building can be identified.

The Sanborn Maps provide footprints of the building, tell the number of stories and its building material, and identify the type of goods or services provided. However, it



Rhonda Chalfant
Contributing Columnist

does not usually identify the owner of the building.

For example, the 1883 and 1888 Sanborn Map identifies the building at 104 W. Main St. as selling boots and shoes and having a photography business upstairs.

The 1892 and 1898, the ground floor housed a drug store; the business upstairs remained a photography studio.

City Directories provide more information. The 1897 City Directory identifies the building at 104 W. Main St. as the City Drug Store. Patrons could reach them by calling the Queen City telephone exchange and asking for number 361.

The building appears in a photograph printed in "Sedalia: One Hundred Years in Pictures" by Leslie Hale as a two-story brick building with an inset entry on the ground floor, flanked by two display windows. The door was covered by a screen door with decorative fan-shaped corner brackets.

Each window identified the store as "Dan Wilcox, Drug Store."

Advertising posters in the west window showed the silhouettes of women applying face powder. Other advertising posters were displayed in the east window.

A door at the west side of the building led to a steep staircase; a sign inside the entryway to the stairs identified the office of Dr. Staats.

The steep, narrow stairway to the doctor's office must have been difficult for the sick, aged, or handicapped patients to climb. It was common, however, for physicians to rent office space in the second floors of business buildings, in part because doctors generally saw those patients at the patient's home.

The front of the building was shielded by a striped retractable awning. Transoms above the awning allowed light and ventilation into the building even when the awning was unfurled.

The second story had round-arched windows, each topped with what appears to be a window hood with a center ornament. Each hood consisted of a course of bricks standing upright with three vertical bricks centered above to form the center ornament. These bricks appear to be painted dark to match the wooden frame and the stone window sill.

Each of the three round-arched windows was topped with striped retractable awnings. Dr. Staats' name is painted

on the windows.

The roofline of the building was accented by a decorative cornice made of rows of bricks that protruded from the face of the building in a pattern of spaced bricks laid on end.

In 1913, the City Directory confirms the first story of the building as the home of Wilcox and McFarland, Druggists, owned by Daniel I. Wilcox and Harry L. McFarland. In addition to medicines prescribed by a physician, the store carried patent medicines and other health and hygiene products. It also carried cigars, tobacco, paints, oil, glass, and stationery. The City Directory does not list a telephone number.

The second story of the building continued to be occupied by Dr. Ethan Staats, who lived at 1020 E. Fifth St. with his wife Effie, his daughter Emmeline, and his son Ray. Patients could reach him by calling the Bell Exchange, number 2900.

The building was at some point covered, like many of the West Main Street buildings, with aluminum in an effort to make the downtown buildings more attractive and modern. They have been uncovered at last, revealing their true character.

Rhonda Chalfant is active in the Sedalia/Pettis County chapter of NAACP and the Pettis County Historical Society.

THEIR VIEW

The sledgehammer approach

St. Joseph News Press

Those earning minimum wage in Missouri are ringing in the new year with a pay increase.

The minimum wage went from \$11.15 to \$12 an hour on Jan. 1. It's the eighth straight yearly increase dating from 2016 when the minimum wage still sat at \$7.65.

It's also the final 85-cent annual increase set to automatically take effect under Proposition B, which Missouri voters passed in 2018. Given the pressure for a \$15 minimum wage at the national level, this probably isn't the last we've heard about the issue.

Proponents are calling for a higher minimum wage as a matter of fairness and as a poverty-remediation

measure. Surely there's nothing fair about being stuck for years at the federal rate of \$7.25, but it's also possible that the minimum wage isn't all it's cracked up to be as an anti-poverty tool.

First and foremost, the benefit doesn't just go to those living in poverty. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 1.9% of all hourly workers were paid at or below the minimum wage in 2019. What's more, the largest share of those making minimum wage are between the ages of 16 and 24. This means a minimum wage hike is more likely to benefit a high school kid trying to put gas in the tank than a single mom needing to get food on the table.

Some working adults, however, still get a lift from this increase.

That's a good thing, but the question is whether it makes much of a dent in overall rates of poverty.

Census Bureau data put Buchanan County's poverty rate at 17.8% in 2016. The rate did start to fall as the minimum wage rose, bottoming out at 12% in 2020 before rising to 18.6% in 2021. That's the highest poverty rate since 19.2% in 2012.

It's worth noting that the national poverty rate has fluctuated along with Buchanan County's figure, even though the federal minimum wage remained fairly flat in that period. The U.S. poverty rate went from 14% in 2016 to 11.9% in 2020 and then back up to 12.8% in 2021. Clearly, there are some other factors at play.

The biggest factor

to consider is inflation, which wasn't much of an issue in 2018 when voters set a series of minimum wage hikes into motion. This latest rate increase amounts to a 7% boost in Missouri. While that's more than many hourly workers were able to claim, it's still not keeping up with the overall rate of inflation that touched 9%.

This raises the question of whether low-income workers would have been better off with stable prices and a lower rate of increase to the minimum wage.

They'll take what they can get, but the problem is that as an anti-poverty measure the minimum wage is about as precise and imperfect a tool as the use of a sledgehammer to swat a mosquito.

Drone advances in Ukraine could bring dawn of killer robots

By Frank Bajak and Hanna Arhivova

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Drone advances in Ukraine have accelerated a long-anticipated technology trend that could soon bring the world's first fully autonomous fighting robots to the battlefield, inaugurating a new age of warfare.

The longer the war lasts, the more likely it becomes that drones will be used to identify, select and attack targets without help from humans, according to military analysts, combatants and artificial intelligence researchers.

That would mark a revolution in military technology as profound as the introduction of the machine gun. Ukraine already has semi-autonomous attack drones and counter-drone weapons endowed with AI. Russia also claims to possess AI weaponry, though the claims are unproven. But there are no confirmed instances of a nation putting into combat robots that have killed entirely on their own.

Experts say it may be only a matter of time before either Russia or Ukraine, or both, deploy them. The sense of inevita-

bility extends to activists, who have tried for years to ban killer drones but now believe they must settle for trying to restrict the weapons' offensive use.

Ukraine's digital transformation minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, agrees that fully autonomous killer drones are "a logical and inevitable next step" in weapons development. He said Ukraine has been doing "a lot of R&D in this direction."

"I think that the potential for this is great in the next six months," Fedorov told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Ukrainian Lt. Col. Yaroslav Honchar, co-founder of the combat drone innovation nonprofit Aerorozvidka, said in a recent interview near the front that human war fighters simply cannot process information and make decisions as quickly as machines.

Ukrainian military leaders currently prohibit the use of fully independent lethal weapons, although that could change, he said.

"We have not crossed this line yet — and I say 'yet' because I don't know what will happen in the future," said Honchar, whose group has spearheaded drone innovation in Ukraine, converting cheap commercial drones

into lethal weapons.

Russia could obtain autonomous AI from Iran or elsewhere. The long-range Shahed-136 exploding drones supplied by Iran have crippled Ukrainian power plants and terrorized civilians but are not especially smart. Iran has other drones in its evolving arsenal that it says feature AI.

Without a great deal of trouble, Ukraine could make its semi-autonomous weaponized drones fully independent in order to better survive battlefield jamming, their Western manufacturers say.

Those drones include the U.S.-made Switchblade 600 and the Polish Warmate, which both currently require a human to choose targets over a live video feed. AI finishes the job. The drones, technically known as "loitering munitions," can hover for minutes over a target, awaiting a clean shot.

"The technology to achieve a fully autonomous mission with Switchblade pretty much exists today," said Wahid Nawabi, CEO of AeroVironment, its maker. That will require a policy change — to remove the human from the decision-making loop — that he estimates is three years

away.

Drones can already recognize targets such as armored vehicles using cataloged images. But there is disagreement over whether the technology is reliable enough to ensure that the machines don't err and take the lives of noncombatants.

The AP asked the defense ministries of Ukraine and Russia if they have used autonomous weapons offensively — and whether they would agree not to use them if the other side similarly agreed. Neither responded.

If either side were to go on the attack with full AI, it might not even be a first.

An inconclusive U.N. report last year suggested that killer robots debuted in Libya's internecine conflict in 2020, when Turkish-made Kargu-2 drones in full-automatic mode killed an unspecified number of combatants.

A spokesman for STM, the manufacturer, said the report was based on "speculative, unverified" information and "should not be taken seriously." He told the AP the Kargu-2 cannot attack a target until the operator tells it to do so.

Honchar believes Russia, whose attacks on Ukrainian civilians have

shown little regard for international law, would have used killer autonomous drones by now if the Kremlin had them.

"I don't think they'd have any scruples," agreed Adam Bartosiewicz, vice president of WB Group, which makes the Warmate.

AI is a priority for Russia. President Vladimir Putin said in 2017 that whoever dominates that technology will rule the world. In a Dec. 21 speech, he expressed confidence in the Russian arms industry's ability to embed AI in war machines, stressing that "the most effective weapons systems are those that operate quickly and practically in an automatic mode." Russian officials already claim their Lancet drone can operate with full autonomy.

An effort to lay international ground rules for military drones has so far been fruitless. Nine years of informal United Nations talks in Geneva made little headway, with major powers including the United States and Russia opposing a ban. The last session, in December, ended with no new round scheduled.

Toby Walsh, an Australian academic who campaigns against killer robots, hopes to achieve a

consensus on some limits, including a ban on systems that use facial recognition and other data to identify or attack individuals or categories of people.

"If we are not careful, they are going to proliferate much more easily than nuclear weapons," said Walsh, author of "Machines Behaving Badly." "If you can get a robot to kill one person, you can get it to kill a thousand."

Multiple countries, and every branch of the U.S. military, are developing drones that can attack in deadly synchronized swarms, according to Zachary Kallenborn, a George Mason University weapons innovation analyst.

So will future wars become a fight to the last drone?

That's what Putin predicted in a 2017 televised chat with engineering students: "When one party's drones are destroyed by drones of another, it will have no other choice but to surrender."

— Frank Bajak reported from Boston. Associated Press journalists Tara Copp in Washington, Garance Burke in San Francisco and Suzan Fraser in Turkey contributed to this report.

Move on from COVID? Child care disruptions continue

By Heather Hollingsworth and Claire Savage

Associated Press/Report for America

Forty-seven. That's how many days of child care Kathryn Anne Edwards' 3-year-old son has missed in the past year.

RSV, COVID-19 and two bouts of the dreaded preschool scourge of hand, foot and mouth disease struck one after another. The illnesses were so disruptive that the labor economist quit her full-time job at the Rand Corp., a think tank. She switched last month to independent contract work to give her more flexibility to care for her son and 4-month-old daughter.

In the first and even second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, multi-week quarantines and isolations were common for many Americans, especially children. But nine weeks of missed child care, nearly three years in?

"The rest of the world has moved on from the crisis that I'm still in," said Edwards, who studies women's issues. "That's sometimes how it feels like to me."

This fall and winter have upended life for working parents of little children, who thought the worst of the pandemic was behind them. The arrival of vaccines for younger children and the end of quarantines for COVID exposure were supposed to bring relief.

Instead, families were treated to what some called a "triple pandemic." Flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus cases collided, stressing children's hospitals and threatening the already imperiled child care system. Even parents of babies with less serious cases of COVID-19 have run into 10-day isolation rules that have taxed the patience of employers.

A record-high 104,000 people missed work in October because of child care problems, surpassing even early pandemic levels, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows. Child care-related absences fell to 59,000 in

November, but numbers still surpass typical pre-pandemic levels.

The instability has hurt many working parents' finances. Most of those who missed work in October because of child care problems didn't get paid, according to an analysis from the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank.

Now, doctors are bracing for the number of sick children to rise after families gathered for the holidays.

"I think we're going to have to be ready to do it all over again," said Dr. Eric Biondi, director of pediatric hospital medicine at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Maryland.

Illnesses among teachers and children have strained a child care system that's already short-staffed.

"This is the worst year I've ever seen in my entire life," said Shaunna Baillargeon, owner of Muddy Puddles Early Learning Program in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. She faces "a constant battle

of staff and children being sick with a different virus every day," with no backups if a teacher calls in sick.

At the Washington, D.C., day care where Jana Williams teaches, illness has caused classroom shut-downs almost weekly since October. Her 19-month-old daughter is also enrolled there, coming down with the same viruses.

"It's stressful," she said before Christmas, when she was home with her sick toddler. "You want to stay home and care for your child. But then it's like, you have to get to work."

During the early months of the pandemic, women in the prime of their careers left the labor market at a rate far exceeding men. They were more likely to work in the service-oriented fields that were decimated, and they often were caring for children, Edwards said.

Women have since returned to the workforce, particularly women of color, said economist Diane

Swonk of professional services firm KPMG.

But the participation of prime-age working women in the U.S. lags most industrialized nations, Swonk said. Advocates have long blamed the country's lack of universal preschool and paid family leave.

Finding child care and heading back to work has proved far from simple. At the pandemic's height, more than one-third of day care jobs were lost, Edwards said. Staffing hasn't fully recovered. As of November, the country had 8% fewer child care workers than before the pandemic, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows.

The strong labor market has driven up the cost to hire new workers. That means child care spots are pricey and hard to find. Even centers with openings may close when staff or kids are sick.

That babies and toddlers are prone to illnesses adds to the challenge. In the wake of COVID, day cares are more

anxious about accepting a snotty toddler.

Isolation guidelines have hit parents of babies especially hard. While older preschoolers who have COVID-19 may return with masks after five days, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children under 2 stay home for 10 days, or until they test negative twice, 48 hours apart.

One issue is masks aren't recommended for the under-2 crowd. Their smaller airways mean wearing them can increase the risk of suffocation, according to Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio.

Not all centers are adhering to the CDC's guidance. But many are following it to the letter, or even going further.

When Chicago educator Tamisha Holifield and her daughter had COVID-19 in May, the toddler had to miss 15 days of child care. Bouts of colds have followed, in what Holifield described

as a "constant whirlwind" of sickness that has been stressful both financially and emotionally.

"It's a major inconvenience. But I'm a single parent, so I don't have a choice. If I drop the ball, the game is over," Holifield said.

Disruption from illness can have ripple effects on young kids. Unduly stressed parents can become a stress on the baby, which can in turn cause sleep, gastrointestinal or socialization problems, said Dr. Sherri Alderman, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician.

The situation has also strained employers. Brad Lukas, chief nursing officer at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital in Michigan, has seen eight or nine nurses calling out per shift, some because of sick children.

"We're seeing a lot of people reduce their hours," Lukas said. His own wife cut back nursing shifts so she can mostly stay home with their young children.



Retirement Party for

Paul Kelly and Sandy Schlesselman



Paul and Sandy are callin' it quits!

They have decided they would rather binge watch Netflix shows and check the Weather Channel all day than work. So, they are turning in their keys to their son Noah and waving goodbye to the next generation of employees! Everyone is invited to help these retirees celebrate their years of community service and professional wisdom at a party to be held in their honor.

Saturday, January 21st
American Legion building in Cole Camp, MO from 2:00-5:00

Please come and take this one last opportunity to say something nice to Paul Kelly and Sandy Schlesselman before they become hermits! But speak loudly because their hearing isn't what it used to be...

(The party is sponsored and "soft foods" will be provided by the next generation at Paul Kelly Insurance Agency, LLC.)








Ground

From Page 1A

“It kind of put a halt to the construction part,” he continued. “And we just ended up buying only the land. So, in the last three years, we decided, well, why don’t we just do both.”

Rea said completion of the project would take around 10 to 12 months.

“Of course, there’s a couple of different factors involved,” Rea noted. “The weather this time of year is one. And also, shipping and delivery is another — so 10 to 12 months. So, we’re shooting for 10 months.”

He added that the project is exciting, but “it’s been a long journey.”

“You go through your ups and downs,” he noted. “There’s disappointments, and just like with anything, a big project, you get the news you don’t like to hear. And then you get it all fixed, and it’s all good now.”

“But yes, it’s an exciting time,” he continued. “It’s been a long time that we’ve been planning this. And I think it’s going to be something that



Claudia Rea, of Russellville, the mother of Brad Rea, was in attendance for the Rea Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services groundbreaking Tuesday morning.

will be good for families that we serve and for the community too as options here in Sedalia.”

They can better serve the community with the new facilities, he added.

“In our industry, we do a good job, I think,” Rea said. “We work really hard, our families are treated well, fairly, and like they are the only family we are working with — they get all of our attention. So, I think this will help us do a better job with that.”

Rea said at the ceremony that the “real

foundation” of the Chapel is the “staff and community.”

“Without you and your support, we would never have been able to offer such a great addition for funeral services,” he said. “The reality is, we never wish for anyone to pass away, but when that time comes... we would be honored to have the opportunity to serve you.”

During the 11 a.m. groundbreaking, Pastor Rusty Thomas opened the event with prayer, and Sarah Rea welcomed



On Tuesday, Rea Funeral Chapel Funeral Director Carissa Crow, left, and Receptionist Valerie Glenn hold the drawings for the two new buildings, the Sedalia Crematory Center, left, and the Rea Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services. The new Chapel will be 9,600 square feet and the crematory 2,400.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

visitors and introduced the Chapel staff. McColester greeted the crowd while Sedalia Mayor Andrew Dawson and Pettis County Western

Commissioner Jim Marcum spoke. Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce President Katie Shannon represented the Chamber. After the ceremony,

guests were invited to attend a lunch provided by LifePointe Church.

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

Parks

From Page 1A

“That will be one of our big projects,” Epple explained. “It’s a request for qualification, so for hiring someone to do a design of the new outdoor aquatic facility.”

Another big-ticket item for the department next year will be a new train for Moore’s Train House at Liberty Park.

“We have to replace it,” Epple said. “It did not pass inspection and it would cost us over \$80,000 to replace it, so buying a new one would be cheaper.”

A new train is estimated at \$50,000 to \$55,000, and Epple is driven to get the train system operating as soon as possible.

“We built this beautiful train house and now the train doesn’t work, so that’s a problem,” Ep-

ple said. “We’ll move forward with expansion of Liberty Lights — that’ll be year four of expansion of that — and then those are kind of the capital improvements.”

Goals for Parks and Recreation include corporate memberships for the Heckart Community Center and the Liberty playground completion, which will start in March 2023 and run into 2024.

The biggest possible improvements to the

parks system hinge on Sedalia receiving a \$1 million matching grant for work on Liberty Park Stadium.

“We applied for a grant and we will find out if we have received that grant at the end of January,” Epple said. “If we do receive the grant, it’s a match grant. It was written for Liberty Park Stadium and would give us the opportunity, if we received that grant, to turf the outfield, to

do some improvements with the grandstand, to add air conditioning and heating in the restrooms and concessions so we don’t have to winterize them.”

State Fair Community College begins playing baseball at Liberty Park in February, and as the current stadium restrooms are unheated and closed for winter, port-a-potties must be rented.

“Just some other im-

provements throughout,” Epple added. “It’s a great facility. I think it’s one of the jewels of Sedalia and we hope we can get this grant.”

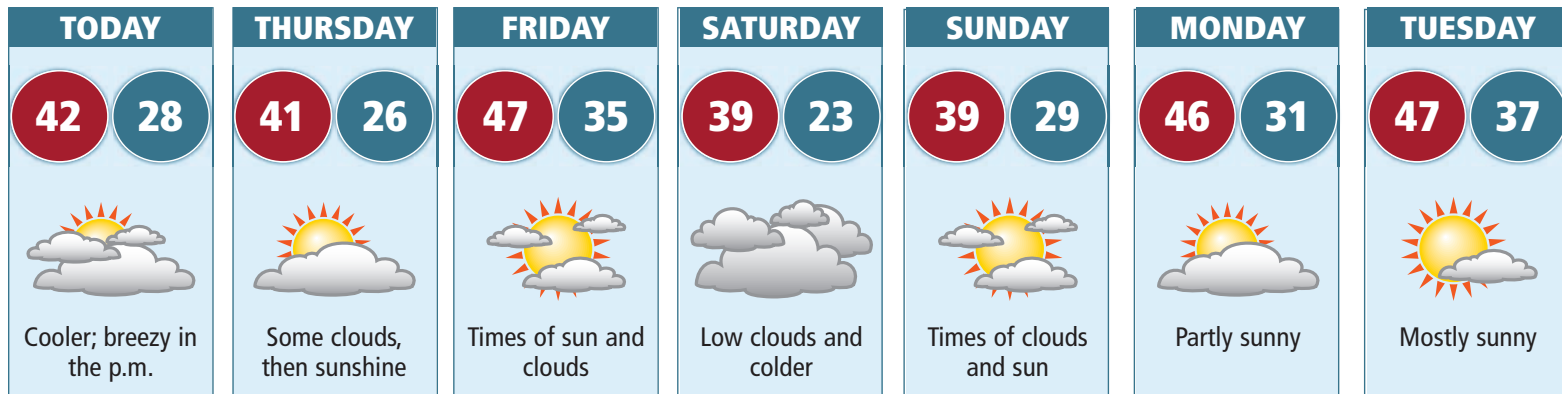
In case Sedalia doesn’t get the grant, Epple has presented a less expensive option, including expanded lighting for the soccer fields at Clover Dell Park and improvements to the dog park.

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

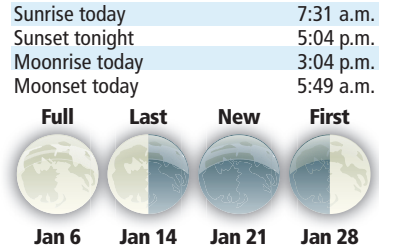
THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON



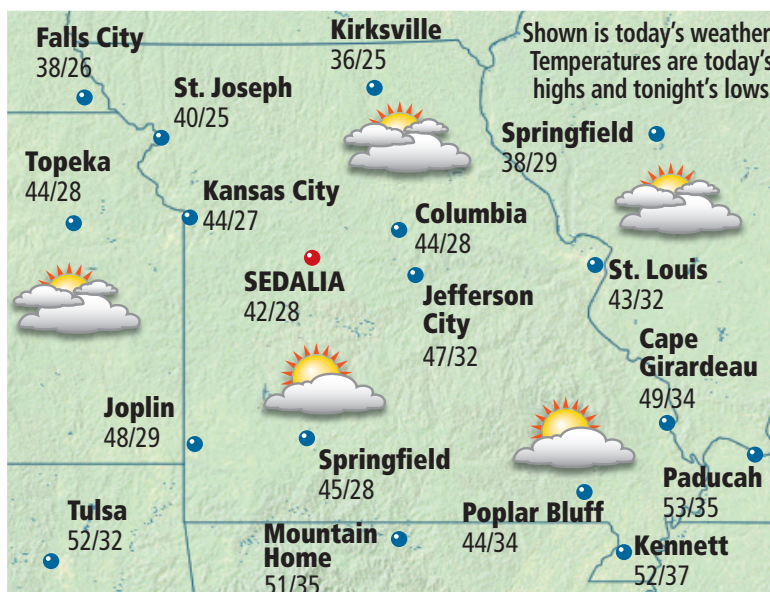
WEATHER HISTORY

A storm on Jan. 4, 1982, drenched San Francisco, Calif., with 12 inches of rain and dumped 10 feet of snow on Lake Tahoe in just two days. The extreme storminess was blamed on a strong El Nino.

ALMANAC

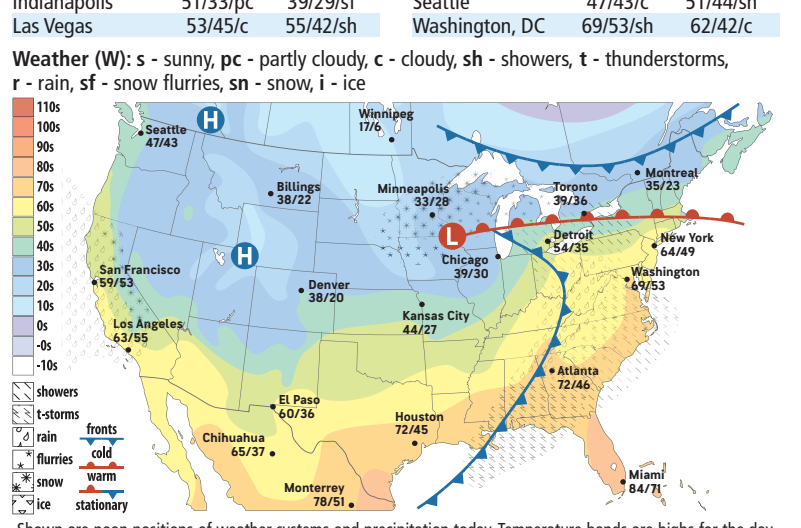
Sedalia Regional Airport Monday

TEMPERATURES			
High	64		
Low	42		
Normal high	39		
Normal low	20		
Record high	69 in 2004		
Record low	-15 in 2001		
PRECIPITATION			
Monday	0.09"		
Month to date	0.09"		
Normal m-t-d	0.14"		
Year to date	0.09"		
Normal y-t-d	0.14"		
HEATING DEGREE DAYS			
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.			
Monday	12		
Month to date	26		
Season to date	1859		
Normal season to date	2115		
Last season to date	1376		
RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Tuesday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fid Stg
Blue Lick	7.25	-0.08	24
Valley City	3.12	+0.02	22
Lamine			
Otterville	0.91	-0.02	15
Missouri			
Boonville	1.00	-0.58	21



NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Thursday	Today	Thursday
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	72/46/r	61/37/s	Milwaukee	37/30/c
Baltimore	68/52/sh	63/43/pc	Nashville	68/39/r
Billings	38/22/s	34/28/pc	New Orleans	76/51/t
Boston	49/41/c	43/35/r	Norfolk	73/58/t
Buffalo	47/39/r	42/34/sf	Oklahoma City	51/28/s
Charlotte	68/48/t	65/36/s	Orlando	84/67/t
Chicago	39/30/c	34/30/sf	Phoenix	65/47/pc
Cleveland	61/37/sh	42/31/sf	Pittsburgh	61/38/r
Dallas	62/38/s	65/45/s	Portland, ME	43/29/sh
Denver	38/20/s	39/23/pc	Portland, OR	44/41/sh
Detroit	54/35/sh	38/32/sf	Sacramento	58/51/r
Honolulu	79/68/pc	83/68/s	St. Louis	43/32/c
Houston	72/45/pc	72/51/s	San Francisco	59/53/r
Indianapolis	51/33/pc	39/29/sf	Seattle	47/43/c
Las Vegas	53/45/c	55/42/sh	Washington, DC	69/53/sh



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Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled Wall Decor and Gifts

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Metal Table Decor

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Includes Crafts Department

Decorative Table Clocks, Spheres & Globes

Lamps



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Does not include "Your Price" items

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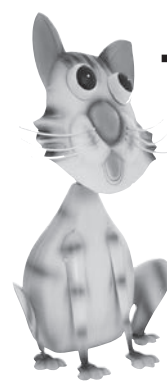
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Solids & Prints

All Paper Craft & Gift Bags
Includes Solid & Prints

All Rolled Basket & Gift Wrap

Candy Wafers
12 oz bag
Price As Marked

1.99

12" Balloons
25 Count
Solid Color

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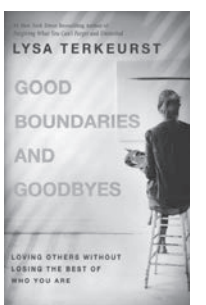


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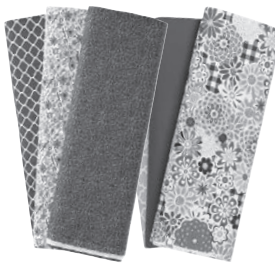
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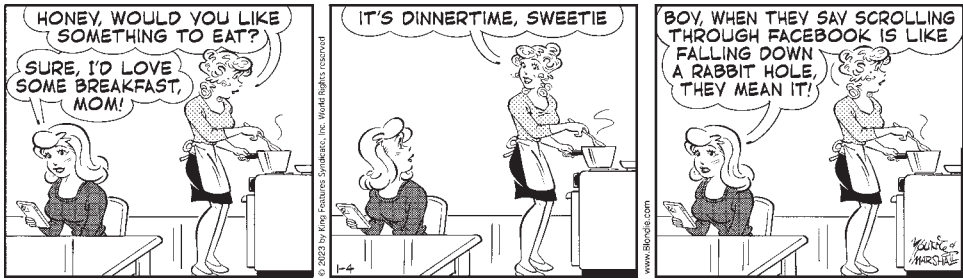
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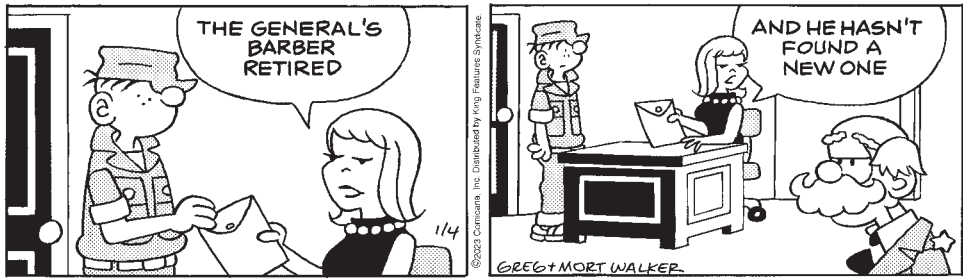
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



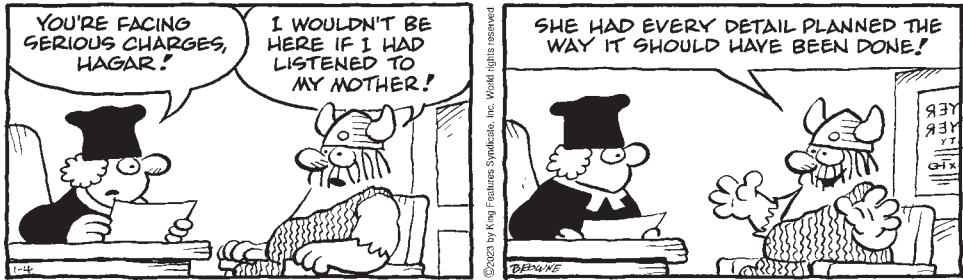
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT, GREG AND BRIAN WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



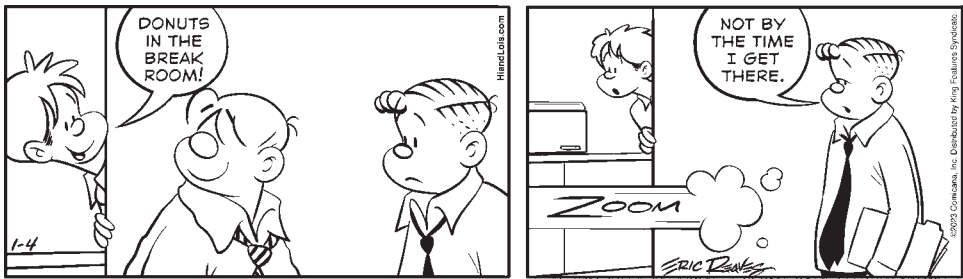
ZITS

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



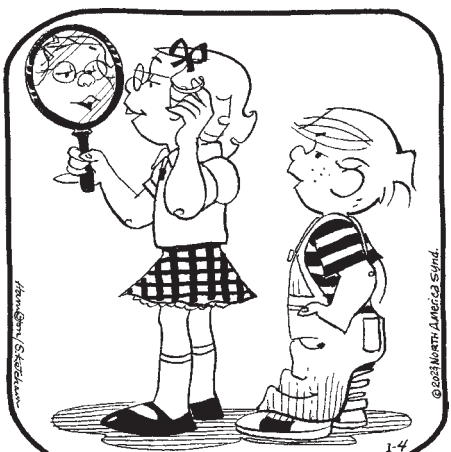
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



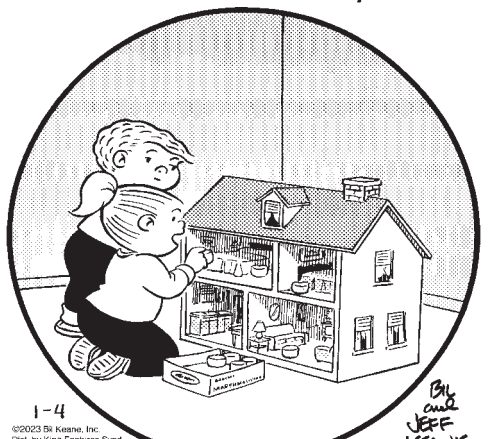
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fly catchers
 - 5 Mauna Loa setting
 - 11 Realty unit
 - 12 Kampala's country
 - 13 Tibia setting
 - 14 Need
 - 15 "Anna-bell Lee" author
 - 16 Londoner, e.g.
 - 17 Skirmishes
 - 19 Lingerie item
 - 22 Burger topper
 - 24 Fable ending
 - 26 Med. sch. subject
 - 27 Puzzle book feature
 - 28 Track great Owens
 - 30 Corn
 - 31 Really impress
 - 32 Get smart
 - 34 Tailless cat
 - 35 Upper limit
 - 38 Find not guilty
 - 41 Bud's place
 - 42 Role for Damon
 - 43 Gobi setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Bee's cousin
 - 2 Canyon sound
 - 3 Paper carrier
 - 4 Capitol Bldg. figure
 - 5 Step on it
 - 6 Illegal hiring practice
 - 7 Poet Whitman
 - 8 Some amount of
 - 9 Chapel reply
 - 10 McKellen of "X-Men"
 - 16 Outlaw
 - 18 Goes bad
 - 19 Cranium
 - 20 Make fun of
 - 21 Out of the wind
 - 22 Mexican region
 - 23 Over again
 - 25 General Bradley
 - 29 Galahad's mother
 - 30 Upper limit
 - 33 Stage direction
 - 34 Darkness
 - 36 Tag sale words
 - 37 Fuel from bogs
 - 38 Crunch targets
 - 39 Barracks bed
 - 40 Status —
 - 41 Big truck

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Yesterday's answer

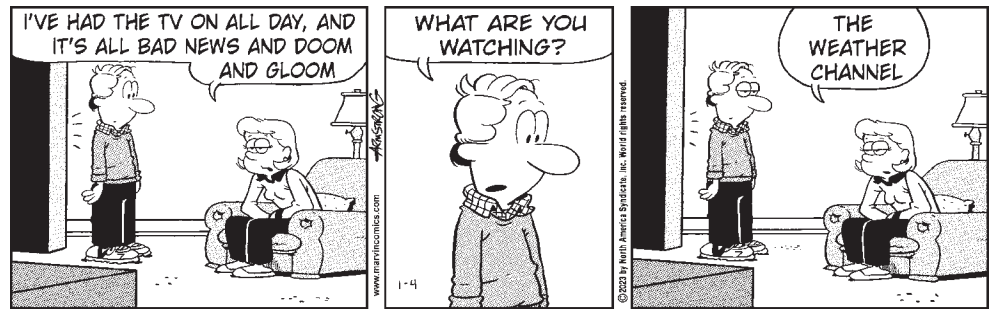
- 16 Outlaw
- 18 Goes bad
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- 20 Make fun of
- 21 Out of the wind
- 22 Mexican region
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- 30 Upper limit
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- 36 Tag sale words
- 37 Fuel from bogs
- 38 Crunch targets
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- 40 Status —
- 41 Big truck

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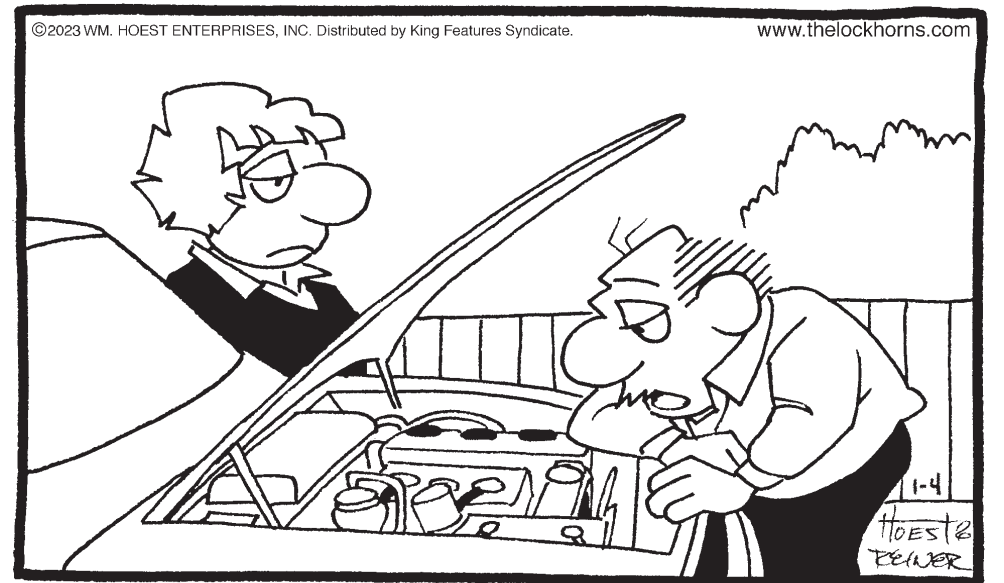
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



SUDOKU

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

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/04



No. 11 Jennies edge Nebraska-Kearney

By Joe Andrews
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — If there was one difference between No. 11 Central Missouri and Nebraska-Kearney, it arrived in the turnover category.

A free throw ahead of the lopers with 30 seconds to go, No. 11 Central Missouri made sure it wasn't the one coughing the ball up. The Jennies closed off the game at the free-throw line, winning 55-50 on Monday at the Multipurpose Building.

"I thought we played some very winning plays right there at the end," Central Missouri head coach Dave Slifer said. "I thought Olivia Nelson, there at the end of the third quarter, made a tremendous bucket. Probably should've been an and-1. And the charge she took, I think it was a two-point game at the time, not many seconds left, was a big-time charge. She just finds ways to help us win." Kearney turned the ball

over 15 times in the contest compared to UCM's (11-0, 7-0 MIAA) 10. Perhaps the most impactful arrival as redshirt sophomore Kade Hackerott and junior Ashley Tull blocked off junior Trinity Law from driving into the paint with :28 remaining.

The pressure prevented the Lopers (13-3, 6-2 MIAA) from tying the game or taking their first lead since the first minute. It set up a foul from fifth year student Elisa Backes sending redshirt sophomore Brooke Littrell to the free throw line.

"We kind of had a foul to give," Slifer said. "I don't think they knew that. Kade tried to take credit for it later [like], 'oh I knew we had a foul to give.' She was pretty aggressive, and Ashley came over and without fouling played really good defense. I had to qualify that without fouling, because she has a tendency to get a few fouls."

Central Missouri was whistled for nine personal



Central Missouri redshirt sophomore Brooke Littrell drives the ball towards the basket against Nebraska-Kearney on Monday, Jan. 2, at the Multipurpose Building. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

fouls, compared to Kearney's 16. Nelson drew five of the fouls, with Littrell second in line with four. UCM hit 12-of-19

free-throws, anchored by Littrell's 4-of-7, Tull's 3-of-4 and freshman Cierra Smith's 3-of-4. The free throws count-

er a 36.8% shooting rate UCM finished the game with. They made 21-of-57 shots, posting 7-of-17 in the first quarter, 5-of-14

in the second quarter, 5-of-13 in the third quarter and 4-of-13 in the fourth quarter.

See JENNIES | 11A



Kansas City Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon (1) reacts after scoring a touchdown during an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo. PHOTO BY PETER AIKEN | AP PHOTO

Chiefs begin prep with Week 18 set to go on as scheduled

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs began practicing Tuesday for their regular-season finale against the Las Vegas Raiders, which could ultimately earn the AFC West champions the No. 1 playoff seed in the conference in an unprecedented situation for the NFL.

Just as the Chiefs were warming up, the league

announced that Week 18 games would be played as scheduled, including Kansas City's visit to Las Vegas on Saturday.

But the league also said the Bills-Bengals game from Monday night, which was suspended when Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest, would not be resumed this week.

The Bills, who are 12-3 and beat Kansas City in their head-to-head matchup,

needed to beat the Bengals to keep pace with the Chiefs (13-3) for the best record in the AFC, and with it the top seed and lone first-round postseason bye.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid and quarterback Patrick Mahomes were scheduled to speak to reporters Tuesday, but the team pushed back their availability out of respect for Hamlin, who remains in critical condition in a Cincinnati hospital.

See CHIEFS | 14A

Ronaldo rejected offers included Sporting KC

By James Robson
AP Soccer Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo was presented as the superstar new signing of Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr on Tuesday, with the team's president saying the Portugal great deserves to be the highest paid player on

the planet.

Ronaldo said he turned down "many clubs" around the world to complete one of the most surprising transfers in the sport's history, which could reportedly earn him up to \$200 million a year.

Al Nassr president Musalli Almuammar would not confirm the

exact figures in the two-and-a-half-year contract.

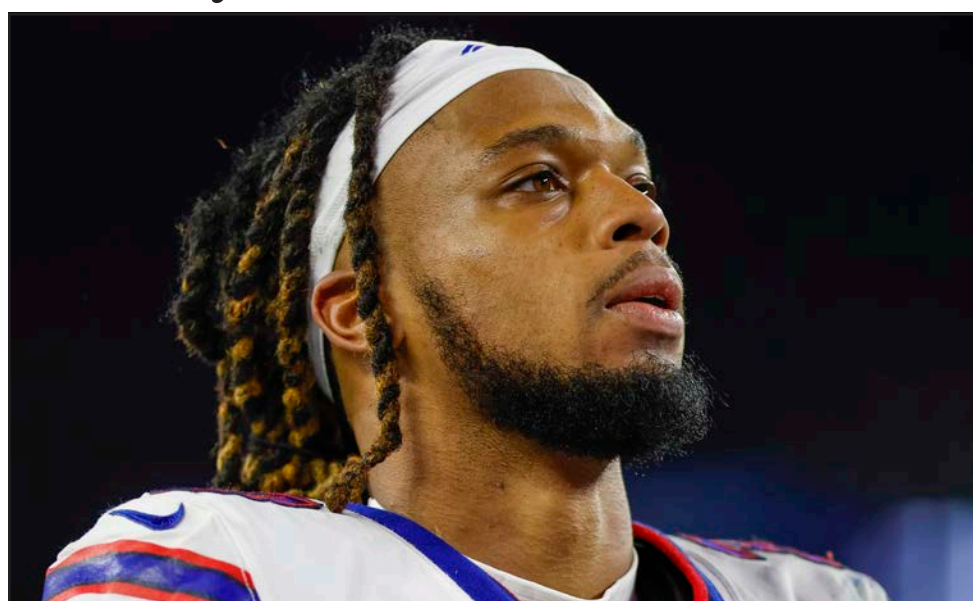
"He is the best player in football history so it is normal he will be the highest in terms of cost or salary," Almuammar said. "This is something that he really deserves, so the amount of money he will take, he really deserves."

See RONALDO | 14A



Cristiano Ronaldo greets Saudi fans during his official unveiling as a new member of Al Nassr soccer club in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Ronaldo, who has won five Ballon d'Ors awards for the best soccer player in the world and five Champions League titles, will play outside of Europe for the first time in his storied career. PHOTO BY AMR NABIL | AP PHOTO

Family of Bills' Hamlin thanks supporters, asks for prayers



Buffalo Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin (3) leaves the field after an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, in Foxborough, Mass. Hamlin was in critical condition early Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, after the Bills say his heart stopped following a tackle during the Monday Night Football game, which was indefinitely postponed. FILE PHOTO BY GREG M. COOPER | AP PHOTO

By John Wawrow
AP Sports Writer

The family of Damar Hamlin expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support shown toward the Buffalo Bills safety who suffered cardiac arrest after making a tackle while asking everyone to keep the hospitalized player in their prayers on Tuesday.

"We are deeply moved by the prayers, kind words and donations from fans around the country," Hamlin's family wrote in a message posted on the Twitter account of the player's marketing representative, Jordan Rooney. "Your generosity and compassion has meant the world to us."

The family also thanked the first responders, medical staff at UC Medical Center, the Bills and Cincinnati Bengals for their support.

The Bills announced that the 24-year-old Hamlin spent the night in intensive care and remained in critical condition a day after his heart stopped while making a tackle in the opening quarter of a game against the Bengals. Medical staff restored his heartbeat during frantic moments on the field before he was loaded into an ambulance, with teary-eyed players and coaches on both teams having difficulty hiding their emotions.

"First and foremost, the Bengals continue to send

thoughts and prayers to Damar Hamlin and his family. Our hearts are with everyone in this unprecedented time — what we can do is support one another," Bengals president Mike Brown said in a statement released by the team.

"As medical personnel undertook extraordinary measures, both teams demonstrated respect and compassion while fans in the stadium and people around the country bolstered the support for Damar and love for each other," Brown added. "The Bengals are thankful for the love and compassion shown by all. Praying for Damar."

See HAMLIN | 14A

SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday

**ON TAP
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL**

Cole Camp vs Eugene (at Stover)

Green Ridge vs Holden (at Stover)

Smith-Cotton JV at Stover

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lincoln at Crest Ridge

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING

Tipton at Fatima Quad

Windsor at Lone Jack with Kingsville

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM

Smith Cotton, Sacred Heart at Truman

**ON AIR
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**

4 p.m. CBSSN — Charleston at NC A&T

5:30 p.m. FS1 — Villanova at Georgetown

SECN — Auburn at Georgia

6 p.m. ACCN — Duke at NC State

BTN — Penn St. at Michigan

CBSSN — Loyola of Chicago at Davidson

ESPN2 — Iowa St. at Oklahoma

ESPNU — Texas A&M at Florida

7:30 p.m. FS1 — UConn at Providence

SECN — Missouri at Arkansas

8 p.m. ACCN — Wake Forest at North Carolina

BTN — Illinois at Northwestern

CBSSN - DePaul at Butler

ESPN2 — TCU at Baylor

ESPNU — Clemson at Virginia Tech

9:30 p.m. FS1 — Colorado St. at Nevada

IIHF HOCKEY (MEN'S)

1:30 p.m. NHLN — World Junior Championship: Czech Republic vs. Sweden, Semifinal, Halifax, Nova Scotia

5:30 p.m. NHLN — World Junior Championship: U.S. vs. Canada, Semifinal, Halifax, Nova Scotia

NBA BASKETBALL

6:45 p.m. ESPN — Milwaukee at Toronto

9:05 p.m. ESPN — Miami at LA Lakers

NHL HOCKEY

6 p.m. TNT — New Jersey at Detroit

8:30 p.m. TNT — Tampa Bay at Minnesota

SOCCER (MEN'S)

9:30 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Bologna at AS Roma

11:30 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Juventus at Cremonese

2 p.m. USA — Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur at Crystal Palace

TENNIS

5 a.m. TENNIS — United Cup: Group Stage City Finals; Adelaide-ATP/WTA, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds

5 p.m. TENNIS — Adelaide-ATP/WTA, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds

5 a.m. (Thursday) TENNIS — United Cup: Semifinals; Adelaide-ATP/WTA, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds



Brooklyn Nets head coach Jacque Vaughn talks to Cam Thomas (24) during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in New York. The Nets won 139-103. PHOTO BY FRANK FRANKLIN II | AP PHOTO

Nets roll to 12 in a row as Vaughn builds winner in Brooklyn

By Brian Mahoney
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacque Vaughn was viewed as such a temporary solution in Brooklyn that his successor was already assumed before he coached one game.

That was two months ago. The Nets had parted ways with Steve Nash and were expected to hire suspended Boston coach Ime Udoka. Vaughn would run the show until Udoka arrived, then slide back down the bench.

Turns out, Vaughn hasn't gone anywhere — except nearly to the top of the NBA.

He has led the Nets to 12 straight victories, the

longest winning streak this season, and within a game of the Celtics for the best record in the NBA. Vaughn not only got the Nets playing good basketball, he also provided calmness to a franchise that had endured 10 months of turbulence.

"Obviously, it's worked out," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the Nets routed San Antonio 139-103 on Monday night — the second straight game in which the Nets never trailed and the second time in six games Brooklyn rang up 100 points through three quarters. (The first was 91 in the third-biggest first half in NBA history against Golden State on Dec. 21.)

The Nets always figured to score with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving heading the roster. But Vaughn demanded they become better rebounders and has turned them into better defenders, making the Nets look capable of keeping this hot streak going.

"You can tell there's a special energy in the locker room, so we just want to take care of that," Irving said.

Vaughn showed the Nets what he could do in 2020, when he coached them during the NBA's pandemic restart at Walt Disney World. Missing a number of their top players who either couldn't or chose not to play, Vaughn guided an undermanned Brooklyn team to a 7-3 finish and a playoff berth.

Yet general manager Sean Marks hired Nash, his former teammate, despite Nash's lack of coaching experience. Marks cited the Hall of Fame point guard's ability to build relationships within a team and expected that would help the Nets craft a culture.

Nash couldn't, but Vaughn appears to be doing so. He ended his career playing for Popovich in San Antonio, and remembers how time together during team dinners and bus rides helped the Spurs players and coaches build what was long the NBA's model organization.

"And so it you can create that in the locker room, that's what this thing is about," said Vaughn, who was chosen as the Eastern

Conference coach of the month for December.

As he was finishing his career in the 2008-09 season, Vaughn found motivation lacking. He had young children and noticed it was tougher to work out. He had prided himself on always being in the best shape on the team. He discussed his options with Popovich, who offered Vaughn the chance to hang around the Spurs and watch the coaches work.

Vaughn no doubt learned plenty about Xs and Os from the five-time champion. But it's his demeanor, the way he speaks confidently yet optimistically that has made Vaughn the right guy at the right time.

"The thing about Jacque is that he doesn't want the camera. He's not going to seek attention. He's a quiet dude but he's very contemplative," Popovich said. "He thinks things through and he'll have a sort a peace about him and he engenders respect. He doesn't do anything unnecessarily. He'll have standards, he'll hold them accountable and he knows what he's doing."

W-K ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

The Sedalia Democrat is pleased to announce Lucas Mason and Myra Claas as area players of the week for Sunday, Dec. 25 to Saturday, Dec. 31.

BOYS: Green Ridge junior Lucas Mason notched 14 points in a 40-29 win against Hardin-Central on Dec. 28. He tied teammate Logan Dove's total as the Tigers won for the third time in four outings.



GIRLS: Tipton senior Myra Claas went for 34 points in a 65-27 win over Russellville on Dec. 28. She knocked down six of her team's 10 3-pointers to keep the Lady Cardinals undefeated.

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions after 7 p.m. EST today (4 p.m. PST). The Moon is in Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023:

You are fun-loving, aware and sensitive to everything around you. You have a quirky charm and are a great team player. This is a wonderful year to socialize and enjoy life! Let your guard down and loosen up a bit! Welcome old friends back into your world.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ This is an excellent day to work with others, especially friends and groups. In particular, you will make good headway discussing long-range plans or future goals. You're not afraid to think big today, and yet you won't overlook details. (An unusual combination.) It's a productive day! Tonight: Listen carefully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Business and commerce are favored today. For starters, you might get some behind-the-scenes help from someone. Certainly, people admire you right now. Meanwhile, you are personally prepared to talk to someone in authority to get approval for what you want to do. Do it! Tonight: Double-check your money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ It's a wonderful day to make long-range travel plans or explore prospects about publishing, higher education, medicine and the law. Grab every opportunity to learn something new. You'll enjoy dealing with people from other cultures, because they might teach you something. You love to learn. Tonight: Be alert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Financial arrangements and negotiations will go well for you today, because you can attract money to you. This is an excellent day to ask for a loan, a mortgage or to do fundraising. You might work from behind the scenes; nevertheless, you'll get results! Tonight: Caution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ This is a marvelous day to schmooze with partners, close friends and members of the general public. You can accomplish a lot now because you're keen to work. You can especially wrap up old business. On top of this, others will cooperate because you're so charming. Tonight: Avoid confusion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Whatever you want to do today, be aware of the fact that you can get more done by cooperating with others. This is an excellent day for meetings, conferences and working with groups or units. You might get the practical and financial support you need from someone as well. Tonight: Assume nothing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ It's a playful day! Enjoy sports events, social outings, the entertainment world and fun activities with kids. This is also a good time to make long-range plans for future travel or higher education. Publishing discussions will go well, along with proposals about legal or medical matters. Tonight: Test ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ This is the perfect day to entertain. Stock the fridge and invite the gang over. In addition, you might set some time aside today to plow through paperwork. Your mind can handle a lot of details. It will feel good to tie up loose ends about shared property, inheritances and banking matters. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You feel sociable today, which is why you will enjoy contact with siblings, relatives and neighbors. You will love learning new things. Study will be easy. You're so optimistic, as you look around you, you'll appreciate your daily surroundings more. This is a feel-good day! Tonight: Listen carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Business and commerce are favored today. Value your moneymaking ideas. Go after moneymaking plans; they will succeed, especially if they involve foreign countries or dealing with people from other cultures. You've got the smarts, the patience and the know-how. Tonight: Expect confusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today you're content and at peace with the world, which is why you feel benevolent to others. This generous feeling might even influence financial enterprises. In fact, legal matters and anything to do with investments, medicine or the law will go well! Tonight: Social disappointments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might meet a new friend today. For some of you, this friend could become a lover, a secret romance. Meanwhile, a private discussion could bring about some practical improvements to your home or a family member. Everything to do with your wealth and your assets is favored today. Tonight: Scrutinize family.

BORN TODAY

Musician Michael Stipe (1960), actress Julia Ormond (1965), actor, comedian Dave Foley (1963)



South Carolina guard Zia Cooke, second from right, shoots over Georgia guard Audrey Warren, right, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Athens, Ga., Monday, Jan. 2, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALEX SLITZ | AP PHOTO

NCAA recommendations call for bigger championship events

By Ralph D. Russo

AP College Football Writer

Bigger brackets. Less bureaucracy. More benefits for athletes.

The NCAA Division I transformation committee concluded its work with a 22-page report released Tuesday that recommends a variety of changes to the top level of college sports, but only one likely to catch the attention of the average fan.

The committee is recommending allowing 25% of teams in sports sponsored by at least 200 schools to compete in championship events. That opens the door to possible expansion of the March Madness basketball tournaments from 68 to as many as 90 teams each.

Expansion of the basketball tournaments is not imminent. It might not even be likely in the near future. Even if adopted, the decision on whether to expand particular tournament fields will be made on a sport-by-sport basis.

The committee's final report will be presented to the Division I Board of Directors for consideration ahead of next week's NCAA convention in San Antonio.

The report also pushed for more sport-by-sport governance in Division I and enhanced expectations for DI schools to create a more uniform experience for athletes.

Led by Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey and Ohio University athletic director Julie Cromer, the 21-member committee comprised mostly of college sports admin-

istrators and university presidents held weekly meetings for most of the last year.

The report mostly clarifies and details concepts Sankey, Cromer and others have been discussing publicly for weeks.

The goal was to reform the highest and most lucrative level of college athletics, which includes more than 350 schools. The result will be changes that mostly could go unnoticed by outside college sports conferences and athletic departments.

The committee's recommendations represent a step in a process that could take years to play out.

No schools will be getting booted from Division I and the committee recommended giving schools approximately two years to meet enhanced membership expectations.

The committee also said NCAA revenue could be used to subsidize schools in need of help meeting the new expectations for membership.

Among the notable recommendations: — Require schools to create a "direct pathway for full-time clinical services of a licensed mental health professional exclusively dedicated to serving student-athletes."

— Schools and conferences should create Student-Athlete Advisory Committees, similar to those used by the NCAA to allow athletes to be more involved in decisions.

— Require more accountability, training

and certification for coaches.

The committee has also recommended expanding permissible benefits to athletes to include more pay for travel, elite training away from the school, educational incidentals and more money toward housing and meals.

The committee recommended a review of membership requirements to the top tier of Division I football, known as the Bowl Subdivision. Those requirements are now mostly tied to attendance minimums.

Under governance, the committee recommended the creation of sport-by-sport oversight committees similar to those currently used in basketball and football. A movement to decentralize the governance of college athletics was spurred by the Supreme Court's unanimous decision against the NCAA in June 2021 in an anti-trust case.

Soon after that ruling, Mark Emmert, now the outgoing NCAA president, called for shifting the power structure of the association to create a more deregulated version of college sports. First, the NCAA streamlined its constitution, cutting it by more than half to focus on the overarching goals of the association: Providing broad opportunities for participation in college sports and having those involved remain students.

That set the stage for a comprehensive reform of Division I, where there are 363 Division I schools with athletic budgets ranging from

well over \$100 million annual to less than \$10 million. The transformation committee was tasked with examining DI membership qualifications, athlete benefits, access to championship events, revenue sharing, governance, enforcement and transfer rules.

From the start, Sankey has tried to temper expectations about the committee's work, pointing out that what qualifies as transformation of DI was never clearly defined by the board.

Over the last few months, it became clear that while reforms would and could be made — the committee's recommendations regarding sport-specific time periods when athletes could transfer and retain immediate eligibility have already been adopted — radical change would not happen.

The committee instead handed off several items to the NCAA Division I Legislative Committee Modernization of the Rules Subcommittee, such as the elimination of the volunteer coach designation and a cap on recruiting visits.

For the D-I board, the committee recommended a review on rules regarding athletes entering professional drafts and using agents.

As for rules related to athletes cashing in with celebrity endorsement deals — a profound change over the last 18 months in college sports — the committee's report made clear the solution is beyond the NCAA's reach: "Congress is the only entity that can grant that stability."

Jennies

From Page 9A

Kearney had slightly a slightly better success rate, making 22-of-56 (39.3%). UCM still led 17-14 at the end of the first quarter, 28-24 at halftime and 40-34 at the end of the third quarter.

"I didn't realize how much they would sag in and take our post play away," Slifer said. "We should've done a better

job with that. I was hoping at halftime that surely this game would get a whole lot more wide open. It did not. There was not much happening on either team's offensive end."

Littrell logged her sixth double-double on the year in the contest, logging 13 points and 13 rebounds. Nelson also had 13 points while Tull had 11 and redshirt sophomore Lauren Frost had 10. Littrell also logged five blocks.

Backes led Kearney

with 15 points while redshirt junior Shiloh McCool had 10, Law had nine and fifth year student Brooke Carlson had eight.

The lead keeps UCM at the top of the MIAA. It remains one game ahead of Fort Hays State and two ahead of Kerney and Missouri Western.

"[The last two games] have been great for us," Slifer said. "Those are teams that have won a lot of games and are going to win a lot of games. It looks good right now

to look at the standings and see us up there, 7-0 is what we are right now I think in the MIAA standings. It's a good start. It's still early yet, and we've got some road games coming up. But boy, you got to win these at home to have a chance to win on the road."

Central Missouri returns to the court Thursday, Dec. 5, as it visits Washburn. Tip is slated for 5:30 p.m.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Chiefs

From Page 9A

They are now scheduled to address reporters on Wednesday.

Mahomes was among many Chiefs players who tweeted they were “praying hard” for Hamlin, who collapsed after making a tackle in the first quarter of Monday night’s game. Hamlin was surrounded by team and independent medical staff within seconds, and along with local paramedics, they spent about 20 minutes providing emergency care on the field.

The Bills said that Hamlin’s heartbeat was restored before the 24-year-old safety was transferred by ambulance to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where he remained sedated in the intensive care unit Tuesday.

The Chiefs tweeted they were “sending thoughts and prayers to @HamlinIsland and the @BuffaloBills,” while Frank Clark offered “prayers for Damar” and fellow defensive end Carlos Dunlap tweeted it was “bigger than ball at this point.”

Chiefs wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling tweeted: “Man I hope he’s OK man. We risk our lives daily for this game. And y’all take that shit for granted. Send as many prayers up for him. Lord protect him.”

In a letter sent from Roger Goodell to all teams, and obtained by The Associated Press, the NFL commissioner said: “We advised Buffalo and Cincinnati that last night’s game will not be resumed this week. No decision has been made regarding the possible resumption of the game at a later date and we have not announced

any changes to this week-end’s schedule.

“We will promptly advise all clubs of any decisions that are made regarding these matters,” Goodell said.

If the Bills-Bengals game is not completed, and each team is left with a 16-game regular season, it could cost Buffalo the No. 1 seed — even though it beat the Chiefs in October. The Bills are scheduled to play the Patriots on Sunday, but if Kansas City beats the Raiders a day earlier, Buffalo could finish no better than a half game behind the Chiefs in the standings.

The Bengals, who also beat the Chiefs, would win the AFC North and lock in the No. 3 seed with a win over Baltimore on Sunday.

Not that anyone was worried about the playoffs Tuesday. The focus across the league remained on Hamlin’s well-being.

“Please please please be okay,” Chiefs safety Justin Reid tweeted.

NOTES: Chiefs LG Joe Thuney (ankle) and WR Skyy Moore (hand) watched practice from the sideline Tuesday, but did not participate in the portion open to reporters. Both were hurt in last Sunday’s win over Denver. Cornerback L’Jarius Sneed (hip) was not seen on the field. ... WR Mecole Hardman was at practice. The Chiefs hoped he would play against the Broncos before a setback in his recovery from an abdominal injury. They must activate him Wednesday or place him on season-ending injured reserve. ... The Chiefs placed practice squad WR Cornell Powell on the injured list and resigned RB Jerriion Ealy.

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi contributed to this report.

Ronaldo

From Page 9A

Ronaldo was presented to thousands of fans at Al Nassr’s Mrsool Park against a backdrop of fireworks and smoke machines.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus forward will play in the Saudi Pro League after rejecting offers from Europe, North America and beyond.

Soccer commentator and former U.S. international Taylor Twellman tweeted on Dec. 30 that multiple Major League Soccer clubs inquired about the Portuguese star, but that the first at the table was Sporting Kansas City. He was the first to offer insight that Sporting held multiple meetings with Ronaldo’s team with a package reported to be “very close.”

An additional report by The Kansas City Star on Jan. 2 revealed that the blueprint for an initial proposal arose in an October meeting when problems began to bubble between Ronaldo and Manchester United. The eventual pitch to Ronaldo’s team was so promising that it led to multiple other meetings and an eventual offer with a “commercial package” which provided a guarantee of additional revenue with escalators to sweeten the deal.

The Star’s report clarified that Ronaldo’s team informed SKC he would take the Saudi Arabia deal sometime

following the World Cup, but that they would have been the choice had he chosen to come to North America.

“I’m so proud to make this big decision in my life. In Europe my work is done. I won everything and played for the most important clubs in Europe. This is a new challenge,” Ronaldo said at a news conference where he only answered questions from the master of ceremonies, despite sitting in a room full of journalists.

The 37-year-old Portugal international, who has won five Ballon d’OR awards for the best player in the world and five Champions League titles, will play outside of Europe for the first time in his storied career.

“Nobody knows this, but I had many opportunities in Europe, Brazil, Australia, the U.S., even Portugal, many clubs tried to sign me. I gave my word to this club,” Ronaldo added. “I want to give a different vision of this country and football. This is why I took this opportunity.”

Excitement built throughout the day ahead of Ronaldo’s introduction, with fans making their way to the stadium early in anticipation of his arrival.

Large video screens on the exterior walls of the ground pictured him in Al Nassr’s yellow and blue shirt, alongside the words “Hala Ronaldo.”

When he eventually walked out onto the field at the 25,000-capacity stadium, the crowd chanted his name raucously.

“I want to make you all happy. This is my goal,” he said.

Ronaldo had his contract with United terminated in November after conducting an explosive TV interview in which he criticized manager Erik ten Hag and the club’s owners, the Glazer family.

Al Nassr, the 18-time Saudi champions, made an offer to him during the World Cup, which was held in Qatar in November and December. However, the deal was not confirmed until Dec. 30.

Ronaldo flew into Riyadh’s King Khalid International Airport on Monday night, where he and his family were greeted by fans, before undergoing medical tests at Mrsool Park on Tuesday.

The hugely ambitious transfer is expected to heap unprecedented focus on Saudi soccer ahead of a potential bid to stage the World Cup in 2030, as well as on Al Nassr, which is little known outside of Asia.

The Saudis have shown increasing interest in high-profile soccer. Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund completed the takeover of Premier League club Newcastle in 2021 despite questions raised about human rights in the oil-rich kingdom and “sportswashing.”

For Ronaldo, it likely brings the curtain down on his career in elite club soccer.

Last summer he wanted to move to a club that was competing in the Champions League after United failed to

qualify for Europe’s biggest club competition.

Despite links with Chelsea, a transfer did not materialize.

He also endured a disappointing World Cup, which saw him dropped by Portugal for its last two games before leaving the field in tears following a loss to Morocco in the quarter-finals.

Ronaldo only managed three goals for United in 16 games this season, with one of those coming from the penalty spot.

However, there have still been landmarks.

He scored his 700th club career goal against Everton in October and became the first male player to score in five World Cups with his penalty in Portugal’s 3-2 win against Ghana in the group stage.

Ronaldo will aim to win a league title in a fourth different country after winning seven domestic championships in England, Spain and Italy combined.

“I am coming here to win, play, enjoy and be part of the success of the country and the culture of the country,” he said.

Ronaldo was handed a two-match suspension by the English Football Association in November for knocking a mobile phone out of the hand of a supporter following a game against Everton last April.

He had already left United by the time of the ruling, but the FA said the suspension would be transferred to any new club.

Hamlin

From Page 9A

Hamlin was hurt while tackling Bengals receiver Tee Higgins on a seemingly routine play that didn’t appear unusually violent. Hamlin was administered CPR on the field and was joined in the ambulance by

his mother before leaving for the hospital.

As the second-year Bills player lay sedated in a hospital bed with his family by his side, Hamlin’s competitive and giving spirit has not been lost on those who know him.

“All I can say is he’s fighting. He’s a fighter,” Rooney told ABC’s “Good Morning

America.” “The family is in good spirits. We’re obviously just taking it minute by minute, hour by hour.”

The chilling scene, which played out in front of a national television audience on ESPN’s “Monday Night Football,” has put the NFL on hold, with the game suspended. It sparked an outpouring of support for placing Hamlin’s life ahead of sports and pushed to the forefront the generous person the player is.

“Got a lot of respect and love for him as a human being, his commitment to the pursuit of his goals and dreams of doing what it is he’s doing right now, which is playing in the NFL,” said Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, who has known Hamlin since he was 12. “To watch him make personal decisions and make that a realization, it’s just an honor to get to know young people like that. Had

an opportunity to express that to him whenever I’ve seen him.”

Hamlin’s teammates also rallied to his support.

“Damar Hamlin is a kind, caring, extremely hard worker. He is loyal, honest and can always put a smile on your face,” Bills offensive lineman Rodger Saffold wrote in a Twitter post. “He is more than an athlete, he is a son and brother. I pray God gives him mercy and brings him back to us.”

Numerous NFL teams canceled their media availabilities on Tuesday, including the New England Patriots, who are scheduled to travel to Buffalo for both teams’ season finales on Sunday.

The NFL’s schedule is now in flux after the game between Buffalo (12-3) and Cincinnati (11-3) — a showdown with AFC playoff race implications — was postponed indefinitely.

The league announced Tuesday that Commissioner Roger Goodell informed both teams that their game would not resume this week. No decision has been made on whether it will be played at a later date, with the league not making any changes to its Week 18 schedule.

Both playoff-bound teams were supposed to play two games, including completing Monday night’s, before the postseason is set to open on Jan. 14.

Hamlin is from McKees Rocks, a hard-scrabble exurb of Pittsburgh, and was selected by Buffalo in the sixth-round of the 2021 draft out of Pitt. He spent his rookie season limited to playing special teams roles, and took over the starting job in Week 3 in place of veteran Micah Hyde, who remains sidelined by a neck injury.

Overnight, Hamlin went

from being a relatively unknown backup to the forefront of an international outpouring of support, including fans of all teams.

Hamlin’s charitable foundation “Chasing M’s” — the M stands for millions — eclipsed its modest goal of raising \$2,500 to more than \$4 million by Tuesday afternoon. Hamlin established the foundation when he was in his senior year at Pitt, to help those such as him in pursuing their dreams.

Bills and Bengals fans gathered at the hospital following the postponement of the game, with many returning on Tuesday.

Elena Weiler, 33, from Amelia, Ohio, and Billy Jeffers held a sign that said “Pray for Hamlin 3” with candles in front.

“It don’t matter if you’re a Bengals fan or a Bills fan, we’re here to show our support,” said Jeffers, wearing a Bengals sweatshirt.

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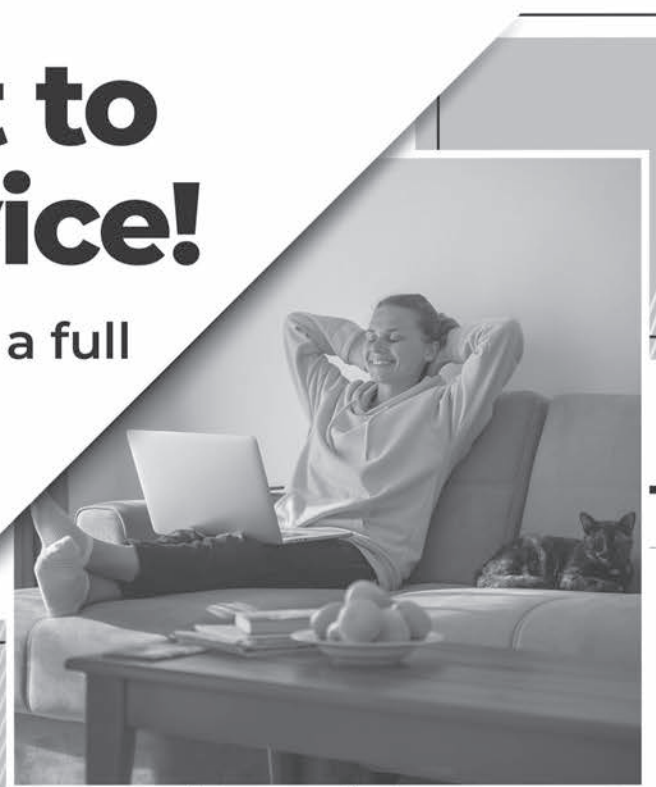
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Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI DIVISION 6
Lewis Roofing, LLC Plaintiff,
vs.
Michael Root Defendant,
Case No. 07G2-AC00669-01
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue and authority of Execution No. 22 EXEC 27, issued from the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri, returnable on the 6th day of February, 2023, and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of the plaintiff above named, and against the defendants above named, I have levied upon and seized all the right, title, interest, and estate of the defendant Michael Root in and to the following described real estate, situate in Pettis County, Missouri, to wit: Beginning at a point in the East line of Grand Avenue midway between the South line of 9th Street and the North line of 10th Street in the City of Sedalia, Missouri, running thence East 150 feet to the West line of said alley running North and South, thence South along the West line of said alley 62 feet; thence West 150 feet to the East line of Grand Avenue; thence North along the East line of said Grand Avenue 62 feet to the place of beginning; being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4,

Street Superintendent

The City of Holden is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Street Superintendent. Salary and benefits to commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The Public Works Director directs and manages storm water projects and maintenance, street construction and maintenance, and maintenance of City facilities under the direction of the City Administrator and serves at the pleasure of Mayor and City Council.

Primary duties include: management and supervision of department and staff, including payroll oversight and budgeting; development, specification and management of street and stormwater projects and maintenance; reporting to City Administrator and City Council of project status, budget constraints, and departmental needs and oversight.

Desired Qualifications:

- Valid Missouri Class C Driver License with satisfactory driving record.
- Proof of citizenship and/or eligibility to legally work in the United States.
- Five years or more in same or similar position with local government or similar employer.
- Thorough knowledge of regulations, policies and procedures that apply to streets operations and maintenance.
- Knowledge of administrative procedures, personnel management, and Microsoft Office applications.
- Advanced interpersonal skills to handle sensitive and confidential situations and documentation.
- Analytical ability to gather and summarize data for reports, solve problems, and prioritize work.
- Make independent judgments that have highly significant impacts on the City.
- Basic knowledge and experience with automotive and mechanical repair.
- Sufficient experience to safely operate heavy equipment.

Working conditions are inside and outside year-round. Some evening and/or weekend work may be required for special events and/or emergency response situations. Physical requirements are those that would be considered normal for hearing, vision, mental acuity, and general physical dexterity.

Resumes and applications may be submitted to the City Administrator by postal mail or by email at the addresses below. A detailed position description is available upon request.

City Administrator
cityadmin@cityofholden.com
101 W. 3rd
Holden, MO. 64061
816-732-4811



Legal Notice

Township 45 North, Range 21 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, in the City of Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri. and I will on the 10th day of January, 2023, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at 2:00 pm at the West front door of the County Court House in Sedalia, Pettis County, State of Missouri, and during the session of the

Legal Notice

Circuit Court, sell at public vendue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title, interest, and estate of the above-named defendants, in and to the real estate, to satisfy the execution and costs.
By: /s/ Brad Anders
Brad Anders, Sheriff of Pettis County, Missouri
4X 12/14, 21, 28/22, 1/4/23

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF HEARING TO APPROVE INITIATIVE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF REAL PROPERTY INTO THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. ONE OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of approving the Initiative Petition for Annexation of Real Property

WALK-IN INTERVIEWS

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Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to jobs@sedalia.com or mail to City of Sedalia, Human Resources Department, 200 S Osage, Sedalia, MO 65301. Additional information about the city and the various departments is available on the city's website: www.sedalia.com.

Legal Notice

into the Fire Protection District No One of Pettis County, Missouri.

BE ADVISED THAT certain citizens and voters of Pettis County, Missouri have petitioned the Fire Protection District Number One of Pettis County, Missouri to annex certain real property into the Fire Protection District No One of Pettis County, Missouri. Said real property was under the former protection of the Houstonia Rural Fire Association and is legally described as:

THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 24, 25 AND 36 OF TOWNSHIP 48 NORTH, RANGE 23 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 AND 36 OF TOWNSHIP 48 NORTH, RANGE 22 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 1 AND 12 OF TOWNSHIP 47 NORTH, RANGE 23 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20 AND 21 OF TOWNSHIP 47 NORTH, RANGE 22 WEST, ALL FORMERLY PART OF THE HOUSTONIA FIRE DISTRICT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI. The aforementioned Initiative Petition was signed by ninety-one (91) certified voters which represents more than 25% of the persons who voted in the last gubernatorial election and who reside in the area to be annexed.

Notice is given to all persons interested to appear at the office of the board (23502 Radio Hill Road, Sedalia, MO) on the date and time referenced above to show cause in writing, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

/s/ Shayla Ficken, Secretary
Fire Protection District No One of Pettis County, MO
1x-1/4, 2023

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of the Bank of Odessa, Odessa, Missouri, will be held at its Banking House in the City of Odessa, Missouri, the 10th day of January, 2023.

Said meeting will be convened at 10 o'clock a.m. and continue at least three hours, unless the object for which such meeting is called be accomplished sooner.

The purpose for which the

Legal Notice

meeting is called is to elect seven Directors for said Bank to serve during the ensuing year, and for the transaction of any other business, which may properly come before the meeting.

Joe Pollard,
CEO and President
Debra S. Steelman, Secretary
3x-12/28, 2022; 1/4, 7, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
CIVIL DIVISION - PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of DENNIS DALE PARKER Deceased.
COURTNEY E. PARKER, Petitioner
Case No. 22PT-PR00240
NOTICE OF HEARING TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP
STATE OF MISSOURI TO:
All unknown and unascertained heirs at law of Dennis Dale Parker, Deceased, and all persons known or unknown

Legal Notice

claiming an interest in the Estate of Dennis Dale Parker, Deceased, as heir or through an heir of Dennis Dale Parker, Deceased;

You are hereby notified that Courtney E. Parker, Petitioner, has filed a Petition for Determination of Heirship, the object and general nature of which is to ask the Court to determine those persons who are the heirs of Dennis Dale Parker, Deceased, who died on December 2, 2021.

The persons interested in such determination of heirship are those persons, known and unknown, who claim to be the heirs of decedent.

You are further notified that unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition on January 24, 2023 a judgment adverse to your interest will be entered against you. It is ordered that a copy hereof

Legal Notice

be published according to law in the Sedalia Democrat Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation published in Pettis County, Missouri.

A true copy for the record. Witness my hand and the seal of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, Pettis County, Missouri on the 19th day of December, 2022.

Susan Sadler, Circuit Clerk,
by: /s/Darla Ebeling Clerk
Circuit Court - Probate Division
4X 12/21, 28/22, 1/4, 11/23

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JOB OPENING – ADMINISTRATOR, PETTIS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER, SEDALIA, MO

The Pettis County Health Center Board of Trustees is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Administrator. The Administrator is responsible for the operation of the Pettis County Health Center, including financial management, personnel supervision, community representation, coordination with community coalitions, and service on appropriate local, state and national committees and boards. The Administrator reports to the elected Board of Trustees, serves as the county registrar for vital records, and acts as the County Health Officer with the approval of the county commission.

Minimum qualifications include a baccalaureate degree in nursing, public health or a related discipline, a minimum of 5 years of public health experience, US citizenship and demonstrated management, financial and budgeting experience. A master's degree in a related field is preferred. Experience may be considered in lieu of academic degree. A candidate must have a current Missouri license, if applicable. An excellent benefit package is available and salary is commensurate with experience.

PLEASE SEND RESUMES TO:
Ann Richardson
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees
annrichardsonpettisco@gmail.com

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled

Pettis County HEALTH CENTER

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