

BEST FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Green Ridge grads are friends for 78 years • **Living 1B**

Weekend Edition

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Jail staff saves inmate in distress

By Chris Howell
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Correctional Officer Cheyenne Kessing was watching over inmates at the Pettis County Jail Dec. 23 when she had a strange suspicion that something wasn't right.

"We were in booking," Kessing told the Democrat on Friday, "and, I don't know, I just kind of got this feeling that I needed to pop up the camera."

Field Training Officer Micheal Laster was working alongside Kessing that day. He understands intuition and is glad Kessing went with her hunch.

"Intuition kind of comes with the territory," Laster said. "People with some experience have kind of a feel for it."

Kessing went ahead and pulled up the video

camera on her workstation.

"I just sometimes get a feeling that I need to, you know, watch for something; intuition, I guess," Kessing said. "And then, like, not even a minute later, we saw him just kind of going for it. He was tying the sheet around his neck. He was draping the sheet over the partition, and he was getting ready to just kind of tie it around, and when I looked over at the camera after I popped it up, he's just kind of draping it over there and he sat down."

"She was looking at the main computer and she turned and looked at it and it was like, 'What the...?'" Laster recalled. "As we were observing the cameras together, we watched him tie the second sheet."

See JAIL | 6A



Pettis County Correctional Officer Cheyenne Kessing, seen Friday, saw an inmate attempting to hang himself with a sheet Dec. 23. She credits a "feeling" with coaxing her to look in on the inmate at that moment.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Rep. Reedy to focus on firearms, driver education, property taxes

By Skye Melcher
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Going into his third term, state Rep. Rodger Reedy, R-Windsor, is ready to step into the 2023 Missouri legislative session in Jefferson City.

Reedy believes there will be several topics and issues that need to be addressed in 2023.

"In the past session or two, things kind of got bogged down and we didn't get some things passed that need to be addressed," Reedy said.

Reedy said those topics include caucus issues, preserving women's sports, the teaching of critical race theory and school reform concerns.

"When these bills get proposed, some of them may never move, they may never get anywhere, so I always encourage people to not get all shook up until you see a bill is moving," Reedy added.

He added that only around 10% of proposed bills are moved each year.

"A lot of these issues I don't think are as big a problem for us (rural areas) as maybe they are in some of the bigger metropolitan areas," Reedy said.

One of Reedy's priority bills for this session is setting a depreciation

schedule for vehicle property tax. He said this is to fight the large number of taxes residents have been paying the last few years, especially on older vehicles, due to the used car market.

"I just don't feel like it's right for people to have to pay more for vehicles that are older. It just doesn't make sense to me," Reedy added.

There are a couple of other bills Reedy is working on and some that he has worked on in past years.

See FOCUS | 7A

MUSTANGS VS. BULLDOGS

Northwest topped by hot-shooting Leeton • **Sports 11A**



From left, Sarah Uptegrove holding Lincoln Uptegrove, Micah Uptegrove holding Kimber Uptegrove, Lisa Uptegrove and Micah Uptegrove. In front, Sadie Uptegrove and Thea Uptegrove. The family is posing for a photo inside Base Outfitters and Range on Friday, Dec. 30.

PHOTOS BY MELIAH VENERABLE | WARRENSBURG STAR-JOURNAL

Shooting range opens in Knob Noster

New business offers simulator, clothing & hunting items

By Meliyah Venerable

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KNOB NOSTER — Base Outfitters and Range is now open in Knob Noster. Micah and Sarah Uptegrove, along with Micah's parents Micah and Lisa, opened Base Outfitters to give the Knob Noster community a new and different place for entertainment.

"We have been looking for a business to add to Knob Noster," Micah Uptegrove said. "Something to showcase the community and show that there is more to Knob Noster than the military base. Some

place for people to enjoy coming to."

The idea was brought to them by a family friend. It was originally to be a small hunting store, but the Uptegroves grew up hunting and shooting and thought a range would be something the community would benefit from.

"We were raised as hunters. We never had the opportunity to go to a shooting range because there is nothing around," Micah Uptegrove said. "We grew up shooting in the woods... it would have been nice to have a place like this to go."

The location offers a women's boutique, hunt-



Patriotic signs hang on the walls of each shooting lane inside the Base Outfitters range.

ing supplies, a gun store and a shooting simulator. The simulator offers many game modes to practice aim, shoot and no-shoot scenarios and more.

With a gun that feels real, it offers users the

chance to get real exercise and training. Uptegrove said anyone can benefit from the simulator. Veteran and new shooters both come in to use it and practice.

See OPEN | 6A

Calvary Episcopal to host Racial Healing service

By Faith Bemiss
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Calvary Episcopal Church is participating in the National Day of Racial Healing slated for Tuesday, Jan. 17, the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Pastor Anne Kyle said this is the first time the Sedalia church has offered the event, which is in its seventh year nationally. David Schlomer, the assistant to the rector and senior warden, will be leading the service, which will

be from 9 a.m. to noon.

The annual observance is hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. According to the foundation's website, National Day of Racial Healing "was created with and builds on the work and learnings of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) community partners. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity."

"On this day, individuals, organizations, and

communities across the U.S. come together to explore their common humanity and build the relationships necessary to create a more just and equitable world," Kyle explained.

She cited the National Racial Healing website: "Racial healing restores individuals and communities to wholeness. Racial healing repairs the damage caused by racism. It facilitates trust, builds authentic relationships, and bridges divides."

See HOST | 7A



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Group Swim Lessons!

Session 3 of our indoor group swim lessons begin on January 21 and run thru February 25th. Lessons are at the Heckart Community Center on Saturday mornings. \$40 per person. Register by January 13th! To register, call or stop by the Heckart Community Center or online registration is available!

Biddy Basketball/ Little Hoopsters!

Instructor led with parent interaction, this program will work to teach kids the skill set of basketball. \$25 per player for ages 3-6. Program starts February 27 and will be held at the Heckart Community Center. All players get a tshirt.

SilverSneakers, OnePass, & Renew Active

With the new year, be sure to update your SilverSneakers, OnePass, and Renew Active membership! Stop by the Heckart Community Center Front Desk to check your eligibility, verify your member ID number and contact information. Through these programs, the Heckart Community Center will now offer older adults a way to increase their levels of physical activity while motivating them to remain active.

OBITUARIES

Celia Earlene Knight

Celia Earlene Knight, 89, of Sedalia, passed away Saturday, December 31, 2022, at Cedarhurst Assisted Living.

She was born September 11, 1933, in Sedalia, a daughter of the late Oscar and Vallie (Kirkpatrick) Hart. On April 24, 1950, she married Claude Hubert Knight who preceded her in death on February 9, 1998.

Earlene had an interesting variety of experiences throughout her lifetime including business owner, farmer, Master Gardener, Red Cross Volunteer, Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, homeroom mother, world traveler, horseman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

Earlene was a member of First Baptist Church since the age of 5. She made her profession of faith in Jesus and was baptized at a young age. Through her 85-year membership she served as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher and kitchen volunteer and maintained the flower beds on the church grounds.

She and her husband owned and operated Knight's TV and Appliance in Sedalia and Warsaw. They also owned and operated a farm, raising cattle and planting conservation plots. Earlene always said farm life was a favorite period of her life and considered it an adventure.

After retirement, she and Claude moved to Warsaw for 15 years where they were active in the Warsaw Wildcat Boosters and Benton County Historical Society.

Earlene loved horses. She boarded the horses at the Missouri State Fair for many years. She looked forward to the Fair each year and was proud to say she had attended at least

one day one through 2021. She worked on a tram in her 80s.

She is survived by four children, Claude Alan Knight (Vicky), of TX, David B. Knight (Linda), of Galena, MO, Fred G. Knight (Charlene), of Sedalia and Vali "Missi" Suddarth (Jim), of Montreal, MO; two siblings, Edith Hart Woods, of MI, and Jim Hart, of Smithton; nine grandchildren Darinda Dick (Justin), of Sedalia, Josh Knight (Amber), of Springfield, Michael Knight (Inger), of TX, Amanda Davis (Chris), of Galena, Mary Knight, of TX, Katy Cason, of Sedalia, Adam Stewart (Betsie), of Rocky Mount, MO, Andy Stewart (Shehan), of Mustang, OK, and Bonnie Stewart, of Lake of the Ozarks; 20 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by nine siblings, Marion Lloyd Hart, Anita Hart Nadler, Kenneth Hart, Betty Hart Gamber, William Hart, Donna Hart Gross, Richard Hart, Ruth Hart Venable and Patty Hart Lawson.

Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Heckart Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Sisney officiating.

Pallbearers will be Josh Knight, Michael Knight, Adam Stewart, Andy Stewart, Jim Stephens and Tim Stephens.

Honorary pallbearers will be Claude Knight, David Knight, Fred Knight, Jim Hart, Mike Hart, Jim Lawson, Jim Suddarth, Herb Venable, Jerry Venable, and Chris Davis.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. until service time.

Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Bothwell Auxiliary in care of Heckart Funeral Home.

James Edman "Jim" Curry

James Edman "Jim" Curry, 79, of Sedalia, passed away Thursday, January 5, 2023, at Belton Regional Hospital.

He was born November 24, 1943, in Sedalia, son of Edman Wallace and Ruth Marian Moon Curry.

On June 15, 1968, at First Baptist Church in Sedalia, he married Jeanne Gottschalk.

Jim worked in construction, and as a meat cutter at Hughesville Locker. He was a member of Georgetown United Methodist Church and the Rod and Gun Club. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching NASCAR, and making stained glass. He always raised a big garden and enjoyed selling his produce. He will be remembered as a caring man.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Jeanne, of the

home; a son, Justin Curry, of Sedalia; three granddaughters, Sophia, Mikayla and Kaylee; a nephew, Duaine Sielert, of Las Vegas, NM; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Betty Ellen Sielert.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2023, at Heckart Funeral Home, with Pastor Kenny Cripe officiating.

Casket bearers will be Mike Walter, Greg Boswell, Dale Wilson, Ron Acklin and Dan Gottschalk.

Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until service time Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Georgetown United Methodist Church.

James Orval "J.O." Dotson II, 65, of Sedalia, MO, passed away Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia. He was born on February 19, 1957, in Sedalia, MO, the son of James Orval Dotson and Mildred Ruth (Glasscock) Dotson, who preceded him in death.

On April 8, 1977, in Sedalia, MO, he was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Joyce Elaine Farris, who resides in the home.

J.O. was raised and educated in Sedalia. He graduated in 1975 from Smith-Cotton, where he played tuba in the band and served on student council. He had a garage band with neighborhood friends, where he played guitar and sang. After high school, he worked as foreman for Mid-Mo Electric until the business relocat-

ed, then went to work for Hayes (Maxion) Wheels until his back injury.

J.O. was a loyal husband to Joyce and this April would have made 47 years of marriage. All his life, he enjoyed camping with family and friends and was an avid fisherman, competing in several fishing tournaments in his 20s. He was a skilled deer hunter and enjoyed looking for arrowheads, morel mushrooms, and a good deal at garage sales. For many years, he coached his daughters' softball teams, later teaching Ian to play baseball and spent a combined 30+ years at the ballpark. He was always their biggest fan and was a voice heard throughout the park or stadium.

J.O. was very influential

in the lives of all four of his grandsons, helping raise them and teaching important life lessons. He was kind, putting others before himself, and always helping someone. Whether it was working on cars, replacing appliances or other

odd jobs, he was there to help at a moment's notice. He was known to give rides to those walking in the rain, jump or push a stalled car, or make sure a neighborhood kid owned a bike or a ball glove. But most of all, he was very devoted to his family, working hard every day of his life, not for his own benefit, but for those he loved. His family will tell you he's the greatest man they've ever known and his sudden absence from their lives is of monumental regard.



Marjettue "Margaret" J. Jonson

years. She loved all kinds of flowers. She loved to cook but, more importantly, liked to serve her family during the holidays. She loved to spend time with her grandkids. She was an excellent crocheter.

Margaret is survived by her son, Gary Jonson of Kearney, MO; two daughters, Brenda Kempton (Mike) of Shawnee, KS, and Sherry Reid (Don) of Houstonia, MO; six grandchildren, Kelly Limpic (Jeff), Kevin Kempton (Adrienne),

Shawn Reid (Carrie), Kristin Reid, Lindsey Snider-Jones, and Ryan Snider; seven great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her husband, Margaret was preceded in death by her six siblings, Alvin Vaughn, Melvin Vaughn, Glyrous Vaughn, Jobe Vaughn, Oliver Vaughn, and Genova Vaughn, and her grandson, Matthew S. Kempton. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday,



Eddy Charles Brown

worked for O'Reilly's Auto Parts. He loved bowling, riding motorcycles, and going to watch drag races. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing little league baseball and being on a bowling team. Eddy enjoyed learning to play his harmonica over

the last few months.

Survivors include his mother, Wanda M. Brown; one son, Rodrick Watring; one stepdaughter, Sydney Brown; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Eddy was preceded in



Mary Jo (Vilmer) Means

School in 1947, and went on to complete business college. She married her high school sweetheart, John W. Means, in 1949, and they shared 74 wonderful years together.

Mary Jo was known for her beauty inside and out,

caring and lasting friendships, wide-open, loving heart and wise and gentle soul. To her family, she was everything.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her brothers, Robert and Larry Vilmer.



FUNERALS

Baker, Carolyn V.

11 a.m. 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.

Siercks, Pamela Joyce Huffman

2 p.m. Sunday at the Stover Cemetery. Arrangements are in the direction of Scrivner-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Stover.

Rubio, Felipe Chavez

2 p.m. Sunday at St. Vincent de Paul St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Brown, Eddy Charles

2 p.m. Monday at Crown Hill Cemetery in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Curry, James Edman "Jim,"

2 p.m. Monday at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Jonson, Marjettue "Margaret" J.

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

Dotson, James Orval "J.O." II

6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Knight, Celia Earlene

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

Along with his wife, J.O. is survived by two daughters, Marcella Dotson and Stephanie Dotson, both of Sedalia; four grandsons, Ian, Phoenix, Jace, and Pharris; a brother, Bill Dotson, of Sedalia; two sisters, Nancy Rittenhouse (Jim), of Hereford, AZ, and Ruth Earlene Hutcheson, of Sedalia; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, J.O. was preceded in death by a sister, Carol Dotson.

A celebration of gathering of family and friends will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2023, at Rea Funeral Chapel, Sedalia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sedalia School District Foundation Inc. for Smith-Cotton High School Baseball in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.

day, January 11, 2023, at Rea Funeral Chapel, with Pastor Jeremy Freeman officiating.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at the funeral chapel.

Burial will be at Memorial Park Cemetery, Sedalia, MO.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Kempton, Jeff Limpic, Shawn Reid, Tommy Sprinkle, Jobe Sprinkle, and Rob Holem.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

death by his father and three brothers, Bobby, Terry, and Kevin Brown.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023, at Crown Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the donor's choice. Arrangements are in the care of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia, MO.

She is survived by her husband, John, and daughters, Susan and Melissa.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Sierra View Chapel, 6201 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA. Remembrances may be made to the hospice of your choice.

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Columbia College Fall 2022 Dean's List

Columbia College recently announced its dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester.

Barnett: Aimee Weicken
Green Ridge: Emily Dove
Ionias: Camryn Schear
Tipton: Abby Backes
Versailles: Matti Hoepfner
Warrensburg: Grace Caponetto and Meredith Palmer

US approves Alzheimer's drug that modestly slows disease

By Matthew Perrone

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday approved a closely watched Alzheimer's drug that modestly slows the brain-robbing disease, albeit with potential safety risks that patients and their doctors will have to carefully weigh.

The drug, Leqembi, is the first that's been convincingly shown to slow the decline in memory and thinking that defines Alzheimer's by targeting the disease's underlying biology. The Food and Drug Administration approved it for patients with Alzheimer's, specifically those with mild or early-stage disease.

Leqembi, from Japan's Eisai and its U.S. partner Biogen, is a rare success in a field accustomed to failed experimental treatments for the incurable condition. The delay in cognitive decline brought about by the drug likely amounts to just several months, but some experts say it could still meaningfully improve people's lives.

"This drug is not a cure. It doesn't stop people from getting worse, but it does measurably slow the progression of the disease," said Dr. Joy Snider, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis. "That might mean someone could have an extra six months to a year of being able to drive."

Snider stressed that the medicine, pronounced "leh-KEM-bee," comes with downsides, including the need for twice-a-month infusions and possible side effects like brain swelling.

The FDA approval came via its accelerated pathway, which allows drugs to launch based on early results, before they're confirmed to benefit patients. The agency's use of that shortcut approach has come under increasing scrutiny from government watchdogs and congressional investigators.

Last week, a congressional report found that FDA's approval of a similar Alzheimer's drug called Aduhelm — also from Biogen and Eisai — was "rife with irregularities," including a number of meetings with drug company staffers that went undocumented.

Scrutiny of the new drug, known chemically as lecanemab, will likely mean most patients won't start receiving it for months, as insurers decide whether and how to cover it.

The drug will cost about \$26,500 for a typical year's worth of treatment. Eisai said the price reflects the drug's benefit in terms of improved

quality of life, reduced burdens for caregivers and other factors. The company pegged its value at over \$37,000 per year, but said it priced it lower to reduce costs for patients and insurers. An independent group that assesses drug value recently said the drug would have to be priced below \$20,600 per year to be cost-effective.

Some 6 million people in the U.S. and many more worldwide have Alzheimer's, which gradually attacks areas of the brain needed for memory, reasoning, communication and daily tasks.

The FDA's approval was based on one mid-stage study in 800 people with early signs of Alzheimer's who were still able to live independently or with minimal assistance.

Since then, Eisai has published the results of a larger 1,800-patient study that the FDA will review to confirm the drug's benefit, paving the way for full approval later this year.

The larger study tracked patients' results on an 18-point scale that measures memory, judgment and other cognitive abilities. Doctors compile the rating from interviews with the patient and a close contact. After 18 months, patients receiving Leqembi declined more slowly — a difference of less than half a point on the scale — than patients who received a dummy infusion. The delay amounted to just over five months.

There is little consensus on whether that difference translates into real benefits for patients, such as greater independence.

"Most patients won't notice the difference," said Dr. Matthew Schrag, a neurology researcher at Vanderbilt University. "This is really quite a small effect and probably below the threshold of what we'd call clinically significant."

Schrag and some other researchers believe a meaningful improvement would require at least a difference of one full point on the 18-point scale.

Leqembi works by clearing a sticky brain protein called amyloid that's one hallmark of Alzheimer's. But it's not clear exactly what causes the disease. A string of other amyloid-targeting drugs have failed and many researchers now think combination treatments will be needed.

Aduhelm, the similar drug, was marred by controversy over its effectiveness.

The FDA approved that drug in 2021 against the advice of the agency's own outside experts. Doctors hesitated to

prescribe the drug and insurers restricted coverage.

The FDA did not consult the same expert panel before approving Leqembi.

While there's "less drama," surrounding the new drug, Schrag said many of the same concerns apply.

"Is this slight, measurable benefit worth the hefty price tag and the side effects patients may experience?" he asked. "I have pretty serious doubts."

About 13% of patients in Eisai's study had swelling of the brain and 17% had small brain bleeds, side effects seen with earlier amyloid-targeting medications. In most cases those problems didn't cause symptoms, which can include dizziness and vision problems.

Also, several Leqembi users died while taking the drug, including two who were on blood-thinning medications. Eisai has said the deaths can't be attributed to the drug. The FDA label warns doctors to use caution if they prescribe Leqembi to patients on blood thinners.

Insurers are likely to only cover the drug for people like those in the company study — patients with mild symptoms and confirmation of amyloid buildup. That typically requires expensive brain scans. A separate type of scan will be needed to periodically monitor for brain swelling and bleeding.

A key question in the drug's rollout will be the coverage decision by Medicare, the federal health plan that covers 60 million seniors and other Americans. The agency severely restricted coverage of Aduhelm, essentially wiping out its U.S. market and prompting Biogen to abandon marketing plans for the drug.

Eisai executives said they have already spent months discussing their drug's data with Medicare officials. Coverage isn't expected until after the FDA confirms the drug's benefit, likely later this year.

"Once we have a Medicare decision, then we can truly launch the drug across the country," said Eisai's U.S. CEO, Ivan Cheung.

Betsy Groves, 73, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2021. A former lecturer at Harvard's school of education, she noticed she was having trouble remembering some student names and answering questions.

Her initial diagnosis, based on a cognitive examination, was later confirmed by a positive test for amyloid.

S-C color guard attends Governor's Prayer Breakfast



On Thursday, Jan. 5, the Smith-Cotton JROTC attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Jefferson City. Gov. Mike Parson, along with other government officials, citizens and faith community leaders, attended the annual event. The JROTC color guard presented the colors during the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem. From left, Cadet Lt. Col. Analesia Lorenzo, Cadet Capt. Stephanie Diaz, Cadet Capt. Mollie Miner and Cadet 1st Lt. Anna Lopez present the colors.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

DEATH NOTICE

Jett

Dennis Jett, 74, of Sheldon, died Dec. 28, 2022, at home.

There are no services planned. Burial will take place at a later date.

Rubio

Felipe Chavez Rubio, 56, of Sedalia, died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at his home.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, at St. Vincent de Paul St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia. Burial will be in Nuriio, Michoacan, Mexico. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

CRASH REPORTS

Warsaw man hurt in Benton accident

Zander D. Fletcher, 20, of Warsaw, sustained minor injuries at 5:25 p.m. Thursday in a Benton County accident.

According to a Mis-

souri State Highway Patrol report, Fletcher was driving a 2006 Jeep Liberty north on Bent Tree Drive when he traveled off the left side of the road and struck a ditch. Fletcher was not wearing a seat belt and was treated at Research Medical Cen-

ter in Kansas City. 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 Jan. 5

1:26 a.m.: Mason J. Heston, 19, of the 300 block of East Second Street, was arrested after a vehicle stop at East 17th Street and South Washington Avenue for a defective license plate light. Heston had no driver's license and was transported to the police department, issued a ticket, and released.

4:05 p.m.: Thelma D. Spradley, 55, of the 500 block of North Prospect Avenue, was arrested after officers were dispatched in reference to a physical domestic disturbance. One of the parties involved had minor injuries. Spradley was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of third-degree domestic assault.

4:35 a.m.: William Scott Gudde, 29, of the 22000

block of Glazebrook Road, was arrested after a vehicle stop in the 1300 block of South Limit Avenue for a faulty headlight. Gudde had a revoked driver's license and was transported to the Pettis County Jail for driving while revoked.

Incidents Jan. 4

2:46 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 400 block of South New York Avenue in reference to an assault. The reporting party stated that a male he met on a dating app has been assaulting him and stealing from him for the past two weeks.

5:42 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to a business in the 4400 block of Wisconsin Avenue in reference to a theft no longer in progress. A suspect stole over \$200 worth of items and returned them. The suspect has been identified, but no contact has been made. The case will be sent to the prosecutor for review.

Jan. 5

8:19 a.m.: An officer responded to the 300 block of West Main Street to investigate a reported motor vehicle theft. The victim said around 8 a.m.,

he heard his pickup start. When he went outside, the black 1994 GMC short bed was no longer there. There are no suspects.

3:02 p.m.: An officer took a phone report from the 1600 block of East Ninth Street regarding two stolen space heaters. There are no suspects and no damage was done to the residence when entry was made. The heaters were valued at \$92

5:12 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1600 block of Heck Avenue in reference to a hit-and-run accident. The victim's vehicle was sideswiped while parked on the roadway.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Jan. 5

9:34 p.m.: Terry D. Green, 68, of Butler, was arrested in Johnson County for felony driving while intoxicated, a lane violation, speeding, and no seat belt. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

Compiled by Chris Howell.



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CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The beauty of obligation

“There is something holy, something divine, hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it.” — St. Josemaria Escriva

The inconvenient thing about owning chickens is that you have to feed them. Every day. And unless you plan to put them in your house (please do not do this), that means stepping outside. Every day.

After a year and a half of poultry keeping, there’s a path worn from my shed to my back steps to the chicken coop. Every morning, a small bucket of crumble and a pail of kitchen scraps and a quick shake of the steel water fount to make sure it’s still filled. Every evening, a whispered song as I latch them safely in their house: “Goodnight ladies, it’s time to leave you now.”

Every day. In rainy April and mild June and sweltering August and golden October. And in December and January, when the cold wind whistles and the temperature drops to -30 with windchill.

It’s been good for me to be outside every day. Especially in the winter. Friday morning it was 23 degrees, bright and frosty, the nearly-full moon still hanging low in the sky. The ground was pleasantly hard (no mud on my boots!) and the waterer was frozen solid. I put the tea kettle on and went back to the run a second time, pouring the hot water over the steel and listening for the satisfying crackle of broken ice. The hens darted around in a cloud of steam, drinking the warm water.

I wouldn’t have noticed any of these beautiful things without the obligation of livestock. I would have jumped in and out of my car to take the kids to school, cussing at the frost on the windshield, and then spent the morning indoors doing housework. Some of us have the additional privilege of an attached garage, and barely have to encounter the weather at all.

But farmers, linemen, construction workers and even dog



Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

walkers know — obligation brings us face to face with beauty we would never have chosen to see for ourselves. We are forced out into stormy nights, cold, frosty mornings and downpours in order to do what must be done. We can hate it all we want, but we still begin a habit of noticing things: the ground under our feet or the smell of the air or the exact moment the sun breaks over a certain field.

Some measure of obligation, responsibility, drudgery is good for us. Good for our bodies and spirits. Excellent for our mental health. How can this be true? We’ve all this time been instructed to chase variety and novelty and comfort! While these things are also good, all our running and seeking put calluses on our souls. The ability to see everyday beauty is dulled, then completely obscured. It’s never lost. But sometimes, we must be cut back to the quick to be woken up again. A sudden daily responsibility — changing a diaper or spoon-feeding a sick elder or even getting yourself some chickens — is usually enough to get the job done.

If you find yourself dulled and sad and ungrateful, unable to find fulfillment in anything but the newest and most exciting experiences, stop chasing. Stop looking for the exotic and entertaining and comfortable. Instead, go out and walk a dog in the snow every morning. Or break the ice on a livestock tank. When you come back in, you’ll be grateful to be warm. But best of all, when the spring comes, you’ll be the first one to notice it.

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The power of doing good for others

Last week? A comedy of errors. This week? Theatre of the Absurd and Epic Theatre.

I’ve been fascinated with this week’s display in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Republicans are failing to elect a Speaker of the House, second in line to the Presidency after the Vice-President. The person chosen for that position is usually a serious politician, one who has been around for a while and understands the ins and outs of creating and, most importantly, passing legislation.

Over the past few decades, the Speaker has been more visible and perhaps more controversial. Nancy Pelosi, for instance, love her or hate her, has done what Mitch McConnell has done as Majority Leader in the Senate during his own tenure: She’s counted votes so successfully that she brought legislation to the floor only when she knew she had the votes to pass it. This means she’s found consensus among a group of Democrats with diverse views and agendas, and has passed meaningful legislation.

Pelosi worked this last term with a four-person majority and passed legislation that, among other



Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

things, funded (finally) the country’s infrastructure and lowered the cost of insulin to \$35 (the Senate passed that \$35 insulin bill for those on Medicare, but only seven Republicans voted for the same cap for those under 65).

This week, the Republican party, with the same majority of four, has been unable to elect a Speaker. Kevin McCarthy wants to be the Speaker, but about 10% of Republican Representatives want anyone else. So McCarthy, who ran for Speaker in 2015 but lost then, has now forced 11 separate votes, all of which he’s lost.

I have mixed emotions. First, I understand wanting something badly but having to rely on someone else to achieve it, and then watching time after time as it is kept at bay. On the other hand, I’m not crazy about the idea of a Speaker who says (I’m

paraphrasing his words) that he wants to hit Nancy Pelosi on the head with the gavel when he takes it from her (<https://bit.ly/3GpJGD2>).

For those who believe that the majority should rule, the person with the most votes in this mish-mash is Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader. Additionally, majority vote doesn’t count in the Presidential election, nor does it count in the Senate — except when they want it to. No, if someone wants the Speakership, he/she must have the requisite number of votes. And so far, McCarthy doesn’t have them. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Much more inspiring is this week’s Epic Theatre.

You probably know that Damar Hamlin, a safety for the Buffalo Bills, had a cardiac episode in Monday’s game with the Bengals. He collided with Tee Higgins, and the blow shocked his heart out of rhythm and stopped it. Fortunately, NFL teams have elite athletic trainers, and the Bills’ trainer got to Hamlin almost immediately. He quickly performed CPR and shocked Hamlin’s heart with a defibrillator, like the ones the Bothwell Foundation is raising money to buy for our area locations. Hamlin

was transported by ambulance to the nearby emergency room, which is also a trauma center. There, he was intubated and sedated, and now, his doctors say that the trainer’s quick action not only saved Hamlin’s life, it kept him from neurological damage and will allow for a good recovery.

The best part of this story is who this kid — he’s 24 — is. He received lots of scholarship offers after high school but chose to stay close to home because he wanted to be an example for his 2-year-old brother. This year, he began a GoFundMe to supply toys and needed items to the daycare that cared for him. He asked for \$2,500.

At Monday’s game time, the balance was around that. On Friday morning, it stood at over \$7 million.

People all over the country, those who couldn’t do anything but watch in horror and hope as this young man brushed death on a football field, are ensuring that he feels their concern.

Of the two theatres, I prefer the latter. I believe in the power of doing good for others. I wish our politicians did.

Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

What’s behind the high food prices?

While some prices are beginning to drop, food costs remain stubbornly high. The Consumer Price Index for November showed food costs up 10.6% over a year ago. If you eat out, you’re paying 12% more.

High food prices have been particularly tough on my breakfast, with eggs, milk, cereal, butter and bacon posting sharp increases. Coffee prices are said to be falling, although I can’t say I’ve noticed it.

There are various explanations for what’s driving food prices, but there’s general agreement that the following factors account for most of the increases:

High transportation costs. Food has to be transported all the way up the chain to grocery stores, and those big trucks run on diesel fuel, which has soared in price over the last year. At mid-week, the nation-



Doug Kneibert
Contributing Columnist

al average cost of diesel fuel was \$4.58 a gallon.

There’s another factor at work here. Over-the-road trucking companies are facing a serious shortage of drivers, so they’ve put more money into salaries and benefits. All that contributes to higher costs for food and everything else.

Labor shortages, the problem that has plagued the economy ever since COVID hit, is still with us. Food companies also have to pay more to get workers. The law of supply

and demand, and how it can drive up prices, is reverberating throughout the economy.

Although prices have fallen some lately, agricultural fertilizer costs soared last year. Add that to the persistently high cost of food.

The war in Ukraine, the former breadbasket of the old Soviet Bloc, has disrupted Ukraine’s lucrative exports of wheat, pushing prices up everywhere.

As can be seen, several factors have converged to keep food prices high. Will they ever get back to normal?

I put that question to Ron Morrison, who owned and operated an IGA store in Knob Noster for 30 years and knows a lot about the food business.

“They’ll ease down, but not much,” he said of food prices. Morrison agreed that transportation costs are a major

element driving up prices. But he said labor costs are “a tremendous factor, considering the competition.”

It sounds like high food prices will be a fact of life for some time to come. That added burden falls most heavily on the poor and those on fixed incomes.

Open Door is designed to meet that need, and “it has grown tremendously,” according to Michelle O’Donnell, director of development.

“We’ve had more seniors coming to us for food,” she said, adding that “they pose a challenge, as they’ve always thought of themselves as being self-sufficient.”

If you’re looking for a local charity to support in these hard times, keep Open Door in mind.

Doug Kneibert is a former editor of the Sedalia Democrat.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest. Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

- All letters to be considered for publication must include the name and address of the writer and a daytime telephone number where the writer may be reached during normal business hours.
- All letters must be signed. The name and hometown of the writer will be published.
- Letters must be 250 words or less.
- Letters may be mailed to:

Letters to the editor, Sedalia Democrat, 111 W. Fourth St., Sedalia, Mo., 65301 or emailed to news@sedaliademocrat.com.

EPA moves to toughen standards for deadly soot pollution

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is proposing tougher standards for a deadly air pollutant, saying that reducing soot from tailpipes, smokestacks and wildfires could prevent thousands of premature deaths a year.

A proposal released Friday by the Environmental Protection Agency would set maximum levels of 9 to 10 micrograms of fine particle pollution per cubic meter of air, down from 12 micrograms set a decade ago under the Obama administration. The standard for particle pollution, more commonly known as soot, was left unchanged by then-President Donald Trump, who overrode a scientific recommendation for a lower standard in his final days in office.

Environmental and public health groups that have been pushing for a stronger standard were disappointed, saying the EPA proposal does not go far enough to limit emissions of what is broadly called "fine particulate matter," the tiny bits of soot we breathe in unseen from tailpipes, wildfires, factory and power plant smokestacks and other sources.

In a development that could lead to an even lower standard, the EPA said Friday it also would take comments on a range of ideas submitted by a scientific advisory committee, including a proposal that would lower the maximum standard for soot to 8 micrograms. A microgram is one-millionth of a gram.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the proposal to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for fine particle pollution would help prevent serious health problems, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Those populations include children, older adults and those with heart and lung conditions as well as low-income and minority communities throughout the United States.

"This administration is committed to working to ensure that all people, regardless of the color of their skin, the community they live in or the money in their pocket, have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and the opportunity to lead a healthy life," Regan said at a news conference. "At EPA, we are working every single

day to create cleaner and healthier communities for all and have been doing so for over 50 years."

Harold Wimmer, the president of the American Lung Association, called the EPA's proposal disappointing, saying it is "inadequate to protect public health from this deadly pollutant."

"Current science shows that stronger limits are urgently needed ... to protect vulnerable populations," Wimmer said, calling for the EPA to lower the standard to 8 micrograms or lower.

Seth Johnson, an attorney for the environmental group Earthjustice, called the EPA plan "a disappointment and missed opportunity overall." While it would strengthen some public health protections, "EPA is not living up to the ambitions of this administration to follow the science, protect public health and advance environmental justice," Johnson said. He urged the EPA "to hear communities, not industrial polluters, and strengthen this rule. Overburdened communities have the right to breathe clean air."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups called for the current standards to be

maintained.

"The United States has some of the best air quality in the world, thanks to steady reductions in contributors to particulate matter emissions over the last decade," said Chad Whiteman, vice president of environment and regulatory affairs at the chamber's Global Energy Institute.

The proposed rule could "stifle manufacturing and industrial investment and exacerbate permitting challenges that continue to hamper the economy," Whiteman said.

Mike Ireland, president of the Portland Cement Association, which represents U.S. cement manufacturers, added that the EPA's proposed action "is yet another regulatory burden that will hamper the cement industry's ability to manufacture sustainable construction materials to meet the nation's infrastructure needs."

EPA scientists have estimated exposure at current limits causes the early deaths of thousands of Americans annually from heart disease and lung cancer as well as causing other health problems.

Dr. Doris Browne, president of the National Medical Association, the oldest and largest national

organization representing African American physicians, hailed the plan as "the bold action needed to protect public health across the country."

Appearing with Regan at a news conference, Browne said the proposal is likely to have lasting benefits across the country "but especially for those communities of color and low-income communities that experience the increase in particulate matter pollution." Smog, soot and other pollution near factories, power plants and other hazards has a "devastating impact on public health," she said.

The EPA proposal would require states, counties and tribal governments to meet a stricter air quality standard for fine particulate matter up to 2.5 microns in diameter — far smaller than the diameter of a human hair. A micron, also called a micrometer, is equal to one-millionth of a meter.

The standard would not force polluters to shut down, but the EPA and state regulators could use it as the basis for other rules that target pollution from specific sources such as diesel-fueled trucks, refineries and power plants.

A 2022 report by the American Lung Associa-

tion found that 63 million Americans live in counties that experience unhealthy daily spikes in soot pollution and 21 million live in counties that exceed annual limits for soot pollution. Most of those counties were in 11 Western states, the report said. People of color were 61% more likely than white people to live in a county with unhealthy air quality, the report said.

Fresno, California, displaced Fairbanks, Alaska as the metropolitan area with the worst short-term particle pollution, the report found, while Bakersfield, California, continued in the most-polluted slot for year-round particle pollution for the third year in a row.

As of Dec. 31, five metropolitan areas were not in compliance with current standards, the EPA said. Four of those areas are in California, including the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which includes Pittsburgh, also is out of compliance.

The EPA will accept comments on the proposed rule through mid-March and will hold a virtual public hearing over several days. A final rule is expected this summer.

Global food prices in 2022 hit record high amid drought, war

ROME (AP) — Global prices for food commodities like grain and vegetable oils were the highest on record last year even after falling for nine months in a row, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said, as Russia's war in Ukraine, drought and other factors drove up inflation and worsened hunger worldwide.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly traded food commodities, dipped by 1.9% in December from a month earlier, the Rome-based organization said Friday. For the whole year, it averaged 143.7 points, more than 14% above the 2021 average, which also saw large increases.

The December decline was led by a drop in the price of vegetable oils amid shrinking import demand, expectations of increased soy oil production in South America and lower crude oil prices. Grain and meat were also down, while dairy and sugar rose slightly.

"Calmer food commodity prices are welcome after two very volatile years," FAO chief economist Maximo Torero said in a prepared statement. "It is important to remain vigilant and keep a strong focus on mitigating global food insecurity given that world food prices remain at elevated levels, with many staples near record highs, and with prices of rice increasing, and still many risks associated with future supplies."

Last year, the U.N. organization's Food Price Index hit the highest level since its records began in 1961, according to FAO data.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February exacerbated a food crisis because the two countries were leading global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and

other products, especially to nations in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia that were already struggling with hunger.

With critical Black Sea supplies disrupted, food prices rose to record highs, increasing inflation, poverty and food insecurity in developing nations that rely on imports.

The war also jolted energy markets and fertilizer supplies, both key to food production. That was on top of climate shocks that have fueled starvation in places like the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are badly affected by the worst drought in decades, with the U.N. warning that parts of Somalia are facing famine. Thousands of people have already died.

On Capitol attack anniversary, challenge of Hawley announced

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Two years to the day since U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley's now-famous raised-fist salute to rioters at the U.S. Capitol, a Marine veteran who ran unsuccessfully for Senate in 2022 announced Friday that he'll try to unseat Hawley in 2024.

Lucas Kunce, 40, served 13 years in the Marines. A video released by his campaign shows the photo of Hawley with his fist raised on Jan. 6, 2021 — a photo that drew strong criticism from some, but also appears on coffee mugs that the senator sells. Kunce's video also shows security camera footage of Hawley running through the Capitol hallway in the chaotic aftermath of the attack.

"I swear, this coward's always running from something," Kunce says in the video. "When things get tough, Missourians deserve a

U.S. senator who will stand up for them, not run away."

Kyle Plotkin, a spokesman for the Hawley campaign, dismissed the Kunce announcement.

"We welcome this desperate woke activist to yet another political race," Plotkin said in an email. "He just barely finished losing his last one. Maybe he's running in the wrong state."

Kunce was among several candidates running for Senate in 2022 after two-term incumbent Roy Blunt announced his plans to retire, and seemed headed for the Democratic nomination before the late entry of Anheuser-Busch brewing heir Trudy Busch Valentine. She narrowly defeated Kunce in the August primary, then was soundly defeated by Republican Eric Schmitt in November.

Kunce faces long odds in 2024. Missouri, a swing state a generation ago, has moved decidedly to the right over the past decade. Every statewide elected official in

Missouri is now a Republican.

Kunce did show significant fundraising skills last year, out-raising every candidate, even Republicans. He fashioned himself as a populist and his campaign announcement for 2024 cited his military history and his family's financial hardships when he grew up in Jefferson City.

Hawley, 43, is in his first term as senator. He was elected Missouri attorney general in 2016 before successfully running for Senate in 2018.

The week before the attack on the U.S. Capitol two years ago, Hawley became the first Republican senator to announce he would object to the certification of the 2020 presidential election. After the release of the photo showing him with his fist raised, a one-time mentor, former U.S. Sen. John Danforth of Missouri, called supporting Hawley "the worst decision I've ever made in my life."





***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.)



Pictured are four of the five 25-yard shooting lanes that make up the shooting range at Base Outfitters and Range. The range has two 50-yard lanes, which ties for the longest ranges available in Missouri.

PHOTOS BY MELIYAH VENERABLE | WARRENSBURG STAR-JOURNAL

Open

From Page 1A

“We wanted to try and include something for everybody,” Sarah Uptegrove said. “We will have introductory classes, a women’s

boutique. We just tried to make it where everybody can get something out of this store when they come here.”

The range is made up of five 25-yard lanes and three 50-yard lanes. The 50-yard lane ties for the longest range in the

state of Missouri, which Uptegrove decided to do to make the range a little more special.

Family memberships are offered, as well as shooting leagues that allow people to compete against each other. Base Outfitters and Range offers a variety



Base Outfitters and Range also features a women’s boutique. It offers a large amount of women’s clothing as well as Base Outfitters gear.

of classes like conceal and carry and safety classes.

The goal for the Uptegroves was to provide a safe place to shoot or learn how to shoot.

“We want there to be a fun and safe place for people to go,” Micah Uptegrove said. “There

are not a lot of entertainment options around here. So having a place where people can go have a good time, make friends and learn how to use firearms safely is our main goal.”

Base Outfitters and Range is at 801 Deerbrook Drive in Knob Noster. It

is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit base-outfitters.com or call 660-233-8015.

Meliyah Venerable can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Jail

From Page 1A

Maybe he’s making a canopy, but we’re going to go stop that anyway. He put it over his neck, and the second it touched his neck, we both went, ‘All right,’ slid on gloves, walked over, and then hoisted him off the ground.”

The incident unfolded so fast, the two officers had to react quickly to avert disaster.

“We didn’t really think about calling anybody,” Kessing said. “We had two officers available; the other officers were passing meds at the time, they were busy. He saw it a little bit after I did. We gloved up as fast

as we could, walked over, opened the door, and just kind of picked him up.”

Training at the jail and closely following safety procedures help keep both officers and inmates safe.

“Any correctional officers should be ready to deal with most situations off the top of their head,” Laster said. “It doesn’t matter what the situation was, doesn’t matter whose fault it was. The goal is to prevent any harm from happening to anybody. Holiday blues do get to people; you have to have a heightened sense of awareness whenever it comes to a holiday. It’s good to know that someone survived rather than perished and he is able to be out there with his family now.”

The Pettis County Jail

is having new cameras installed, which will soon be better able to monitor activities at the facility.

“The new ones are going to be a lot clearer than the ones we have now,” Kessing said. “We’ll be able to see a bit more detail of what’s going on.”

Sheriff Brad Anders said his staff proved the worth of his department.

“It’s fantastic. I couldn’t be prouder of anybody in this office right now,” Anders said. “It’s training and their dedication that led to this outcome. We do our best here at the jail to make sure everybody is safe, and we are advancing towards that goal every day.”

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



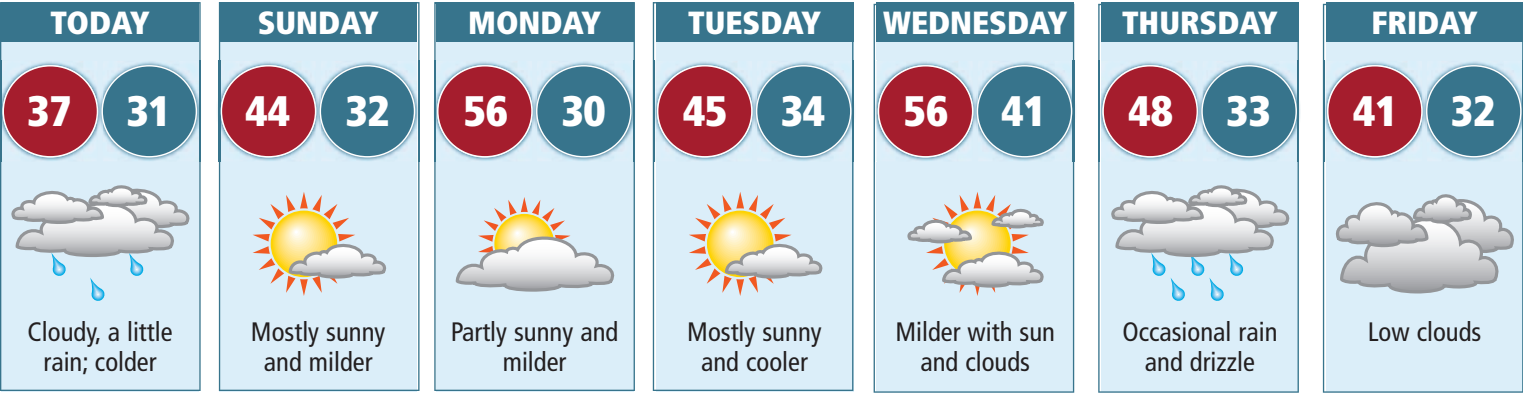
From left, Field Training Officer Micheal Laster with the Pettis County Jail, Sheriff Brad Anders, and Corrections Officer Cheyenne Kessing pose for a photo Friday. Laster and Kessing are credited with saving an inmate’s life in December with their quick actions.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

THE WEATHER

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:31 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:07 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:42 p.m.
Moonset today	8:24 a.m.



WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 7, 1953, 1-3 inches of ice accumulated in parts of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. In Norwalk, Conn., 90 percent of the residents lost telephone and electric service.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES

High	43
Low	31
Normal high	38
Normal low	20
Record high	69 in 1956
Record low	-12 in 1940

PRECIPITATION

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.09"
Normal m-t-d	0.34"
Year to date	0.09"
Normal y-t-d	0.34"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

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

Thursday	28
Month to date	94
Season to date	1927
Normal season to date	2223
Last season to date	1480

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	9.32	-4.76	24
Valley City	4.11	-0.99	22

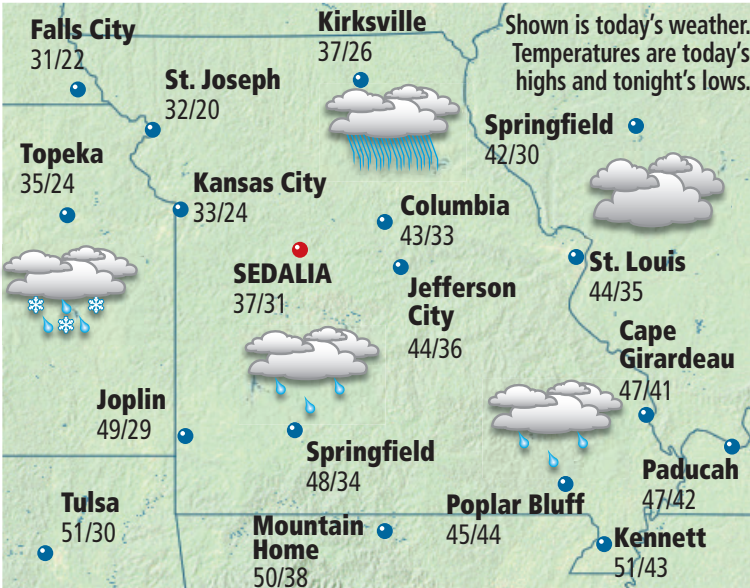
Lamine

Otterville	1.03	+0.05	15
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Missouri

Boonville	5.91	+2.42	21
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Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023



BRANSON

High: 46. Low: 36. A bit of rain during the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

KANSAS CITY

High: 33. Low: 24. A snow shower this morning followed by a little rain this afternoon. Mainly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

ST. LOUIS

High: 44. Low: 35. Cloudy today with a little rain. Occasional rain and drizzle this evening. Times of clouds and sun tomorrow with a flurry.

NEW YORK CITY

High: 44. Low: 30. Intervals of clouds and sun today; breezy during the afternoon. Clear tonight. Times of sun and clouds tomorrow.

LOS ANGELES

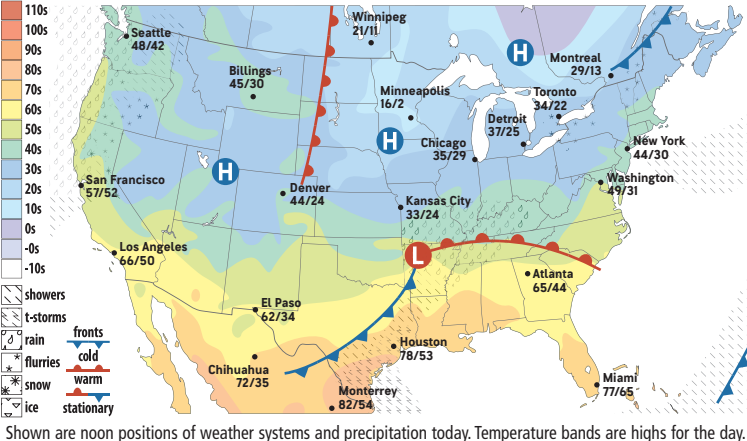
High: 66. Low: 50. Mostly cloudy today. Partly cloudy tonight. Cool tomorrow with clouds and sun. Monday: a thick cloud cover and cool with a chance of rain.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Sunday
	Hi/Low	Hi/Low
Atlanta	65/44/s	61/42/c
Baltimore	48/29/pc	42/36/c
Billings	45/30/pc	46/33/pc
Boston	44/26/pc	38/32/pc
Buffalo	35/24/sf	36/29/pc
Charlotte	56/43/pc	52/42/sh
Chicago	35/29/pc	38/27/c
Cleveland	35/26/sf	39/28/c
Dallas	64/40/pc	63/39/s
Denver	44/24/pc	46/29/c
Detroit	37/25/pc	36/27/pc
Honolulu	83/67/s	83/71/s
Houston	78/53/t	68/50/r
Indianapolis	42/29/pc	36/28/c
Las Vegas	56/40/pc	58/42/c

	Today	Sunday
	Hi/Low	Hi/Low
Milwaukee	35/25/pc	38/26/c
Nashville	50/46/c	55/35/r
New Orleans	76/58/s	70/52/sh
Norfolk	52/35/pc	46/40/r
Oklahoma City	50/27/pc	55/35/s
Orlando	74/54/s	80/59/s
Phoenix	68/46/s	68/44/pc
Pittsburgh	36/24/c	37/31/r
Portland, ME	41/22/pc	35/24/s
Portland, OR	48/42/r	49/44/sh
Sacramento	55/48/r	58/52/sh
St. Louis	44/35/r	40/30/pc
San Francisco	57/52/r	60/53/r
Seattle	48/42/r	50/41/sh
Washington, DC	49/31/pc	43/38/c

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



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

Summary: A weak storm with mostly rain but a bit of snow and wintry mix in the northern edge will advance through the Central states today. A new storm will spread drenching rain and mountain snow to the West Coast.



Focus

From Page 1A

“I have a bill that pertains to the discharge of firearms,” Reedy said. “There are two parts to my firearms bill. One has to deal with putting in a statute that farmers and ranchers can protect their livestock that are being bothered by predators according to wildlife code. The second part of my firearms (bill) is Blair’s Law.” Blair’s Law states a person commits the offense of unlawful discharge of a firearm if that person, with criminal negligence, discharges a firearm within or beyond the limits of any municipality. It was passed after a young girl died in 2011 after being struck by celebratory gunfire during a Fourth of July celebration. Reedy said examples include celebratory shooting and careless shooting into

the air. “What my bill does is make the penalty stiffer for people that do that type of thing because people need to be responsible with what they’re doing,” Reedy added. An education bill Reedy is working on would include driver’s education and safety in health courses for high school students. He said he hopes that having this type of education will lower the number of young adults killed each year in traffic accidents. There wouldn’t be an additional cost for adding the health courses, just a change in curriculum. During the legislative session, many representatives and senators, including Reedy, send out an email roundup of what happened each week. For more information on how to receive Reedy’s weekly updates, email rodder.reedy@house.mo.gov. *Skye Melcher can be reached at 660-530-0144.*

Host

From Page 1A

Kyle said Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri sent out a bulletin about the service and encouraged churches to participate. Kyle and Schlomer said they would have a reading or prayer about every 30 minutes during the service. “Some of them will be responsive,” Schlomer added. “Some won’t. There will be reading from scripture, prayers, (and) writings of Dr. King.” Each participating church is doing something different, Kyle noted. “I think some churches are going to open for silent reflection,” she said. “And people are certainly welcome to come (and reflect).” Those who wish to participate may come and go during the service; the event is open to everyone. Kyle added the national event isn’t necessarily faith-based, but Calvary is offering the service as a

Christian community of faith. “The Episcopal Church, like other denominations and like other organizations within our nation, are looking very seriously at racial reconciliation at this time,” Kyle noted. “(They are) helping to become a community where the lines that have divided us are dissolved. Here in Sedalia, we are still very much a north side, south side... community.” There are 18 churches in the Diocese participating, from St. Joseph to Springfield. The National Day of Racial Healing will be hosted from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Calvary Episcopal Church, 713 S. Ohio Ave. For more information, call the church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday or Thursday at 660-826-4873 or visit Calvarye.org. For more information about the National Day of Racial Healing, visit healourcommunities.org. *Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.*

STATE BRIEFS

Patrol: Missouri man dies after being shot by police officer

LAURIE, Mo. (AP) — A central Missouri man has died after being shot by a police officer during a confrontation at a home, police said. Brian Mummert, 44, of Sunrise Beach, was shot and killed Thursday night by a Laurie police officer, the Laurie police department said in a news release. When the department was called to a report of domestic assault at a Laurie home, the officer approached Mummert on the porch and asked him to comply with orders after noticing a gun. The officer fired a shot when Mummert began to draw his weapon, according to police. The officer was not injured. The Missouri State Highway Patrol will investigate the shooting. **Kansas City man sentenced after 2018 shootings left 3 dead** KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City man has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison in

the shooting deaths of three people and the wounding of two others, including a 4-year-old child, in 2018. Issac J. Fisher, 39, was sentenced Thursday to two life sentences with no chance of parole and another life sentence, which will run consecutively, as well as sentences for 14 other counts. He was convicted in October for the shootings, which occurred within an hour on Oct. 7, 2018 at three separate locations in south Kansas City and Raytown, prosecutors said. The dead included Angenette Hollins, 34, the mother of Fisher’s children; his stepbrother, Jarrin A. Walton; and his cousin, Jason L. Jones. Another adult and a 4-year-old child were injured in one of the shootings. Court records indicate Fisher argued with Hollins at her home and a witness heard four of five gunshots. He was seen leaving the scene with a handgun, prosecutors said. He then stole a car at another home and drove to Walton’s home in Raytown, where he fatally shot his stepbrother and shot and injured another adult and a 4-year-old child, according to court records. A 1-year-old was not injured. He then drove to his Jones’ home in Kansas City, where he shot his cousin, prosecutors said.

As COVID surges in China, US begins testing more travelers

By Laura Ungar and Shelby Lum

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Shubham Chandra knows how dangerous the coronavirus can be: He lost his dad during the pandemic. So when he cleared customs at Newark Liberty International Airport and saw people offering anonymous COVID-19 testing, he was happy to volunteer. “It’s a minimum amount of effort to help a lot of people,” said the 27-year-old New York City man, who had just stepped off a plane from Cancun, Mexico. The airport testing is part of the government’s early warning system for detecting new variants, which began expanding recently in the wake of a COVID-19 surge in China. With the addition of Los Angeles and Seattle, there are now seven airports where arriving passengers can volunteer for COVID-19 tests. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention program now covers about 500 flights from at least 30 countries, including more than half from China and surrounding areas. As of Thursday, the CDC is also requiring travelers to the U.S. from China, Hong Kong and Macao to take a COVID-19 test no more than two days before travel and provide a negative result before boarding a flight. And down the road, some scientists are calling for wider use of an additional strategy: screening wastewater from toilet tanks on arriving airplanes. “Without surveillance, it’s very hard to know what’s going on,” said Dr. Stuart Campbell Ray, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University. “Hopefully, with more sampling, we will get more information about what’s circulating.” Some scientists are worried the COVID-19 surge in China could unleash a new coronavirus mutant on the world, since every infection is another chance for the virus to change. There’s no sign of a new variant from China at this point. But one reason for new testing requirements, according to the CDC, is a lack of adequate and transparent information from China on viral strains infecting people there. “We have very little control over what happens elsewhere,” said epidemiologist Katelyn Jetelina, a consultant to the CDC. “What we can control is what’s happening in the United States.” The airport program is based on an unfortunate reality: “Travelers ... go across the globe quickly and they can get and spread infectious diseases really fast,” said Dr. Cindy Friedman, chief of CDC’s travelers’ health branch. Friedman said the program is a partnership with two companies that take care of the testing and lab work — XpresCheck and Concentric by Ginkgo. A pilot program was expanded around the time the first omicron variant emerged in the U.S. more than a year ago. Besides Newark, Seattle and Los Angeles, the program includes New York’s Kennedy, Washington’s Dulles and airports in Atlanta and San Francisco.

The latest expansion of the traveler surveillance program aims to capture more flights from China. But on Wednesday in Newark, some of the targeted planes arrived from Mexico, France and Belgium. After clearing customs, travelers could stop at a table, swab their noses and fill out a form. Chandra said it took about a minute. Like other travelers, he won’t get the results. But he tests for COVID-19 when he flies to Ohio every other month to see his mom, he said, since “the last thing I want to do is bring (the virus) home to her.” About 10% of people on targeted flights volunteer. Their samples are pooled and PCR tested. Positive ones are genetically sequenced. Volunteers get free home COVID-19 tests. Over time, Friedman expects the program to grow and potentially go global. It’s already shown it can spot coronavirus variants early — detecting omicron variants BA.2 and BA.3 and reporting them to a global database weeks before others did. But Jetelina said a surveillance program at seven airports is “just not that big” so trying to spot variants might be like “looking for a needle in the haystack.” To aid the search, experts suggest taking more samples from airplane bathrooms. “It’s a little gross when you start thinking about it,” Jetelina said. “But these are really long flights and we would expect the majority of people would go to the bathroom.” The CDC, which

monitors wastewater in municipal systems, ran a pilot program last summer testing airplane wastewater at Kennedy airport. Friedman said the agency is working to expand this type of surveillance. Such testing has been used elsewhere. A study last year in the journal Environment International looked at wastewater testing from 37 flights chartered to bring Australians home earlier in the pandemic, concluding that the practice “can provide an additional and effective tool” for monitoring the virus coming into a country. Recently, Canada announced an expanded wastewater pilot program and Belgium said it would test wastewater from airplanes coming from China. As surveillance continues, scientists believe that the omicron variant BF.7, which is extremely adept at evading immunity, is driving China’s current surge. CDC data shows BF.7 is already in the U.S., and currently accounts for about 2% of COVID-19 cases. The most prevalent mutant in the U.S. is XBB.1.5, another variant responsible for 41% of U.S. cases. Ray said this one attaches more tightly than its competitors to a receptor that allows viruses to enter a cell. Scientists said the virus will surely keep evolving — which is why they need to keep searching for new variants. The coronavirus is like a predator stalking humanity, Ray said, and “the predator adapts to the prey.” *Ungar reported from Louisville, Kentucky.*

FTC proposes rule that would ban employee noncompete clauses The Federal Trade Commission proposed a rule Thursday that would ban U.S. employers from imposing noncompete clauses on workers, a sweeping measure that could make it easier for people to switch jobs and deepen competition for labor across a wide range of industries. The proposed rule would prevent employers from imposing contract clauses that prohibit their employees from joining a competitor, typically for a period of time, after they leave the company. Advocates of the new rule argue that noncompete agreements contribute to wage stagnation because one of the most effective ways to secure higher pay is switching companies. They argue that the clauses have become so commonplace that they have swept up even low-wage workers. Opponents argue that by facilitating retention, noncompete clauses have encouraged companies to promote workers and invest in training, especially in a tight labor market. The public has 60 days to submit commentary on the rule before it takes effect. During a Cabinet meeting, President Joe Biden called the FTC action “a huge step forward in banning non-compete agree-

By Alexandra Olson and Michelle Chapman

AP Business Writers

ments that are designed simply to lower people’s wages.” “These agreements block millions of retail workers, construction workers and other working folks from taking better jobs and getting better pay and benefits in the same field,” Biden said. The FTC has moved aggressively to curb the power of major corporations under Chair Lina Khan, a legal scholar and Washington outsider whose appointment by Biden signaled a tough antitrust stance. The agency estimates that the new rule could boost wages by nearly \$300 billion a year and expand career opportunities for about 30 million Americans. “Noncompetes block workers from freely switching jobs, depriving them of higher wages and better working conditions, and depriving businesses of a talent pool that they need to build and expand,” Khan said in a prepared statement. The FTC’s proposal comes amid an already competitive job market, particularly in industries that suffered mass layoffs during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and have since struggled to recall their workers. Many workers remain on the sidelines, holding out for better pay, coping with lingering childcare or health

issues, or opting for early retirement. “There is a potential that it will contribute to the ‘great resignation’ that everyone is talking about to some degree, but employers are simply losing one of the tools in their toolbox and there are other ways to retain top talent,” said Vanessa Matsis-McCready, associate general counsel and director of human resources for Engage PEO, which provides HR services for small- and medium-sized companies. “You will see a lot of business trying to retain top talent via raises or other fringe benefits.” Employers nationwide are still hiring and layoffs are historically low, despite high-profile job cut announcements from companies such as software provider Salesforce, Facebook’s parent company Meta, and Amazon. The government is expected to announce Friday that employers added a solid 200,000 jobs last month, and that unemployment remained 3.7%, near a half-century low. A 2019 analysis by the liberal Economic Policy Institute estimated that 36 million to 60 million workers could be subject to noncompete agreements, which the group said companies have increasingly adopted in recent years. While such agreements are most common among higher-paid workers, the study found that a signifi-

cant number of low-wage workers were subjected to them. The study found that more than a quarter of responding establishments where the average wage is less than \$13 an hour use noncompetes for all their workers. On Wednesday, for example, the FTC took action against three companies for unlawfully imposing noncompete clauses against workers, including low-wage security guards who were threatened with a \$100,000 fine if they violated the agreement. The EPI study found that many companies still impose noncompete clauses in several states that already ban or restrict them, including in California, where the practice has been prohibited for a century. The proposed FTC rule would require companies to scrap existing noncompete causes and actively inform workers that they are no longer in effect, as well as prohibiting the imposition of new ones. The proposal is based on a preliminary finding that noncompete clauses quash competition in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act. It would not generally apply to other types of employment restrictions, like non-disclosure agreements. *Associated Press writers Chris Rugaber and Nancy Benac in Washington contributed to this report.*

Jan. 6 remembrance led by Dems; GOP wrestles with its rebels

By Zeke Miller,
Mary Clare
Jalonick and Calvin
Woodward
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden conferred high honors Friday on those who stood against the Jan. 6 Capitol mob two years ago and the menacing effort in state after state to upend the election, declaring "America is a land of laws, not chaos," even as disarray rendered Congress dysfunctional for a fourth straight day.

Democrats at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue commemorated the police officers attacked that day and the local election workers and state officials who faced fierce intimidation from supporters of former President Donald Trump, who fought to keep him in office after his defeat.

"Our democracy held," Biden said in awarding Presidential Citizens Medals to about a dozen recipients from across the country in the White House East Room. "We the people did not flinch."

Yet democracy's vulnerability was equally on display at the Capitol as Republicans struggled to break their stalemate over the next House speaker, leaving that chamber in limbo for what should have been the first week under a GOP majority.

A resolution to the immediate crisis may be near as GOP leadership continued negotiations to appease its hard-right flank. Rep. Kevin McCarthy flipped more than a dozen colleagues to support him in his quest to lead the chamber, finally showing progress but still short of a majority.

Hours earlier, lawmakers held a moment of silence to commemorate the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the building that drew mostly Democrats, with brief remarks from Democratic leaders past and incoming — Reps. Nancy Pelosi and Hakeem Jeffries — and none from the GOP.

The event was focused on the Capitol Police



President Joe Biden speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, during a ceremony to mark the second anniversary of the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol and to award Presidential Citizens Medals to state and local officials, election workers and police officers for their "exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens" in upholding the results of the 2020 election and fighting back the Capitol mob.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SEMANSKY | AP PHOTO

officers who protected the building that day and families of law enforcement officers who died after the riot. Jeffries said 140 officers were seriously injured and "many more will forever be scarred by the blood-thirsty violence of the insurrectionist mob. We stand here today with our democracy intact because of those officers."

At the White House ceremony, Biden described the violence in evocative and at times graphic detail — the officer speared by a flagpole flying the American flag, the beatings, the bloodshed and racist screams from rioters who professed to be pro-law enforcement as they overran police and hunted for lawmakers.

"Sick insurrectionists," he said. "We must say clearly with a united voice that there is no place ... for voter intimidation or election violence."

Although the horrors of that day came down on members of both parties, it is being remembered in a largely polarized fashion now, like other aspects of political life in a divided country.

Biden, in his afternoon remarks, played up the heroism of the honorees, whether in the face of the violent Capitol mob or the horde of

Trump-inspired agitators who threatened election workers or otherwise sought to overturn the results.

But he couldn't ignore warning signs that it could happen again.

In the midterms, candidates who denied the outcome of 2020's free and fair election were defeated for many pivotal statewide positions overseeing elections in battleground states, as were a number of election deniers seeking seats in Congress.

Yet many of the lawmakers who brought baseless claims of election fraud or excused the violence on Jan. 6 continue to serve and are newly empowered.

Trump's 2024 candidacy has been slow off the starting blocks, but his war chest is full and some would-be rivals for the Republican presidential nomination have channeled his false claims about the 2020 race.

As well, several lawmakers who echoed his lies about a stolen election at the time are central in the effort to derail McCarthy's ascension to speaker — unswayed by Trump's appeals from afar to support him and end the fight.

The protracted struggle leaves the House leaderless, unable to pass bills and powerless

to do much more than hold vote after vote for speaker until a majority is reached. Everything from national security briefings to helping their constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy is on pause because the members-elect can't yet take their oath of office.

Some Democrats see a throughline from Jan. 6.

The chaos of the speaker's election "is about destruction of an institution in a different way," said Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington, one of the lawmakers who fled the rioters two years ago.

Then, the insurrectionists trapped some lawmakers in the House chamber but never breached it. They held up national business for hours that day.

Now some have felt trapped in the same chamber by the repeated, fruitless votes for speaker and House business is held up for this week and perhaps longer.

"The stream of continuity here is extremism, elements of Trumpism, norms don't matter," says Democratic Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois. "It's not about governing, it's about pontificating and advocating an extremist point of view."

Democratic Rep. Annie Kuster of New Hampshire said, "It is a very small minority who

want to throw this institution into chaos."

At least nine people who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, died during or after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police as she tried to break into the House chamber and three other Trump supporters whom authorities said suffered medical emergencies.

Two officers, Howard Liebengood of the Capitol Police and Jeffrey Smith of the Metropolitan Police, were at the Capitol that Jan. 6 and died by suicide in the days following the attack. Biden honored both Friday with posthumous medals.

A third officer, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, collapsed and died after engaging with the protesters. A medical examiner later determined he died of natural causes.

The Metropolitan Police announced months later that two more of their officers who had responded to the insurrection, Kyle DeFreitag and Gunther Hashida, had also died by suicide.

On Capitol Hill, the mostly Democratic lawmakers held a 140-second moment of silence in honor of those officers as some of their families said their names and a bell was rung in their honor.

"I wish we didn't have to be here," said Ken Sicknick, brother of Brian Sicknick, after the ceremony.

After the unsatisfying midterm election for Trump allies, the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack wrapped up its work with a recommendation to the Justice Department to prosecute the former president. A special counsel and ultimately Attorney General Merrick Garland will now decide whether to indict him.

While the congressional investigations have ended, the criminal cases are still very much continuing, both for the 950 arrested and charged in the violent attack and for Trump and his associates who remain under investigation. The second seditious conspiracy trial begins this week, for members of the far-right Proud Boys.

In a measured but significant step, Congress in December amended the Electoral Count Act to limit the role of the vice president in counting electoral votes, to make it harder for individual lawmakers to mount objections to properly certified election results and to eliminate "fake electors" like those deployed by Trump allies in a bid to overturn his defeat to Biden.

After all that, Biden, who made it a tentpole of his agenda to prove to the world that democracies can deliver for their citizens, said he hoped that this was "the first time we're really getting through the whole issue relating to Jan. 6. Things are settling out."

But then came the fight for speaker, rare in the annals of Congress.

"And now, for the first time in 100 years, we can't move?" Biden said earlier this week. "It's not a good look. It's not a good thing."

"Look," he went on, "how do you think it looks to the rest of the world?"

Associated Press writer Colleen Long contributed to this report.

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SEDALIA
DEMOCRAT

Southwest starts on reputation repair after cancellations

By David Koenig
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — With its flights running on a roughly normal schedule, Southwest Airlines is now turning its attention to repairing its damaged reputation after it canceled 15,000 flights around Christmas and left holiday travelers stranded.

CEO Robert Jordan said Thursday that Southwest has processed about 75% of the refund requests it has received. The airline has also returned most lost bags to their owners, and hired an outside firm to sift through requests for reimbursement of things like hotels and meals that stranded passengers paid out of their own pockets, he said.

The massive disruptions began Dec. 22 with a winter storm, and snowballed when Southwest's ancient crew-scheduling technology was overwhelmed, leaving crews and planes out of position to operate flights. It took the airline eight days to recover.

Jordan said in a brief interview that Southwest is still studying what went wrong, and he doesn't want to make changes in technology until that review is done. He expressed optimism but offered few specifics about avoiding a repeat meltdown.

Southwest is giving 25,000 frequent-flyer points to customers whose flights were canceled or significantly delayed between Dec. 24 and Jan. 2, and seems to be making progress on refunds, but executives concede it will take many weeks to process the reimbursement requests.

Danielle Zanin is still waiting to hear whether Southwest will cover the \$1,995.36 that she spent during a four-day odyssey getting her family of four home to Illinois after their flight was canceled in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Even if she eventually gets the money, it may not be enough for her to try Southwest again.

"It would take a lot for the airline to prove to me that they can fix whatever technology they use to get flight crews and planes where they need to go. It's just not worth the hassle that I went through," Zanin said. She said she plans to go back to flying on American Airlines even if it costs more.

Southwest hopes that refunds, reimbursements and loyalty points will persuade people not to switch to other airlines, known in the industry as "booking away."

"Book-away typically has a short half-life, perhaps as little as a month, given it appears from many accounts that Southwest is being very generous reimbursing not only flight but other out-of-pocket costs" and is serious about fixing the technological shortcomings that made the crisis worse, said Robert Mann, an airline consultant in New York.

Retaining loyal customers is crucial if Southwest is to limit the financial damage of the meltdown. The company has yet to say how much money it lost because of the canceled flights — Jordan promised more information before Southwest reports quarterly results on Jan. 26.

Raymond James airline analyst Savanthi Syth estimated that the storm will cost Southwest about \$585 million in lost revenue, plus higher expenses. Mann figures it's between \$500 million and \$600 million in cash, vouchers and frequent-flyer points.

Airlines — including Southwest as recently as October 2021 — have recovered quickly from previous meltdowns, whether they were caused by bad weather, crew shortages, IT outages or other factors. Passenger numbers, if they declined at all, recovered quickly.

"The reputational damage is only as relevant as what consumers can do about it," said Michael Mazzeo, who teaches strategy at Northwestern University's business school and has examined airline competition. "In a lot of markets, there is little or no competition to Southwest. When there is no outlet for consumers, the damage is more limited."

Southwest, American, United and Delta control about 80% of the domestic air-travel market. Southwest — it started 50 years ago as a low-cost competitor to big airlines but has gradually become much more like them — has a particularly outsized presence in some big states including California, Arizona and Texas.

Southwest remained relatively quiet for several days even after it became clear that it was struggling while other airlines recovered from the winter storm — and after it came under repeated criticism from consumers, media reports and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

As canceled flights piled up day after day, Southwest

gave few updates and rejected requests for interviews with key executives. It posted a video apology by Jordan Dec. 27, followed a day later by a video with another executive. Company executives did not speak generally to the media until Dec. 29, when they announced that Southwest would resume normal operations the following day.

"The company was slow to come forward in terms of corporate PR communications until the government went after them, the (Transportation) secretary called the CEO directly and demanded they move fast to take care of those people," said Larry Yu, a George Washington University professor who studies crisis

management in the tourism industry. "Short-term, it's big damage."

But Yu also noted that Southwest has decades of reputation for relatively low fares and good service to fall back on. He praised the airline for promising refunds, reimbursements and frequent-flyer points.

"They have to do something to win back those customers," Yu said. Now, he added, Southwest must make good on vows to improve its technology, "because you don't want to equate low-cost with low-tech."

Jordan said Southwest has good technology, but he said the airline will re-examine IT priorities once it better understands how the

December failure unfolded.

The debacle has also focused attention on Southwest among lawmakers in Congress.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said Wednesday that he will re-introduce a "passenger bill of rights," which failed to become law in the last Congress.

"The Southwest debacle creates a moment when the forces in favor of this kind of consumer-protection measure could prevail," he said in an interview.

The Senate Commerce Committee said this week it will hold hearings on the Southwest meltdown. Blumenthal said witnesses should include executives from Southwest and other airlines.

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

PrizeweeK Puzzle

This week's puzzle is worth: **\$1950** for SEDALIA DEMOCRAT Subscribers

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Entries must be received by Noon on Wednesday

Puzzles in 2 pieces will be rejected

ACROSS:

- 4. Photo of volcanic lava surge wins prize, with judge's praise focusing on the _.
- 5. Reflecting back on life, grandmother claims that lighthearted _ can really make a home a cheerful one.
- 9. In discussion involving _ and possible dangers, captain appears, to adventurers onboard, to be confident about boat excursion.
- 11. Pickling demonstrator advises audience that liking vinegar is important since cucumbers need to be sliced, then _ in vinegar solution.
- 12. "Trying to use a summer _ for protection in a winter storm is crazy!" says sister.
- 13. Having made _ his specialty, he soon gains a reputation for consistently finding solutions to problems pertaining to them.
- 16. Girlfriend remarks, "Here's a disturbing news story that'll _ even the most rational person."
- 17. After art class, student groans when friends point out _ mark on her new white dress.
- 18. After having hosted Christmas weekend complete with rambunctious children, grandparents appreciate no more noisy _.

DOWN:

- 1. Boastful host at inn tells guest he buys best-quality _, although skeptical guest sees no sign of it.
- 2. In answer to customer's inquiry about piece of furniture, store clerk explains that super _ best describes such comfortable seating.
- 3. "A must-see, especially for its unique _," reads promotion for latest museum exhibit of pottery from archaeological site.
- 6. Elderly retired secretary recalls, "A great thing about retiring is not having to _ my boss's boring speeches."
- 7. Mother disapproves of daughter's newly dyed hair, claiming it should be completely natural, with no _ of blue.
- 8. Relative comments, "I hate seeing Jessica _ , especially because it makes any disappointment more difficult to handle."
- 10. Father says teen is making regrettable choices because she doesn't take the time to pause first, leading to _ decisions.
- 12. Warned up.
- 14. Frostily.
- 15. Waiting to get response to crucial question asked to team member, coach shouts across field, "No one _ the answer to him!"

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Clip out completed puzzle and return to this newspaper

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THIS LIST INCLUDES, AMONG OTHERS, THE CORRECT WORDS FOR THIS PUZZLE.

BOYS	HUT	SADDEN	SOURD
DIVER	ICILY	SHADE	SOUSED
FAINT	MADDEN	SHAPE	TAPE
FLOW	MOPE	SOAP	TELLS
GLOW	PAINT	SOFA	TINT
HAT	RASH	SOFT	TOYS
HEATED	REINS	SONG	TYPE
HINT	RIVER	SONS	VEINS
HOPE	RUSH	SOUP	YELLS

OFFICIAL RULES

1. Solve the **PRIZE WEEK PUZZLE (PWP)** by filling in the missing letters to make the words that you think best fit the clues. Read the clue carefully, for you must think them out & give every word its true meaning.

2. Check the word list given. It has all the contest answers, plus some that you will have to eliminate.

3. You need not be a subscriber to the Sedalia Democrat in order to enter PWP, but you must be a resident of our circulation area. You may submit as many entries as you wish on the entry blank printed in the Sedalia Democrat. **(MECHANICALLY PRODUCED OR CARBON DUPLICATE FACSIMILES OF ANY TYPE WILL BE REJECTED. PUZZLES IN 2 OR MORE PIECES WILL BE REJECTED.)**

4. Anyone is eligible to enter PWP meeting the above requirements except employees of the Sedalia Democrat and family members of their household.

5. All entries must be received by mail at the Sedalia Democrat or deposited as instructed above by Noon Wednesday following the date of publication. The Sedalia Democrat will award prize money to the contestant who sends in an all-correct solution. In the event of more than one all-correct solution the prize will be divided equally among the winners. If no all-correct solution is received, the weekly grand prize will be increased by \$50.00 to Sedalia Democrat subscribers, \$25 to non-subscribers & added to the following week's PWP.

6. There is only one correct solution to each PWP & only the correct answer can win. The decision of the judges is final & all contestants agree to abide by the judges' decision. All entries become the property of the Sedalia Democrat. Only one prize will be awarded to a family unit.

7. The winner & answers will be published in the Following Friday's

paper. Every entry will be checked. No claiming is necessary.

8. The Sedalia Democrat reserves the right to correct any typographical errors which may appear during the PWP game. **ERASURES OR CROSS OUTS WILL VOID ANY ENTRY.**

9. PWP clues may be abbreviated & such words as AN, THE & A omitted.

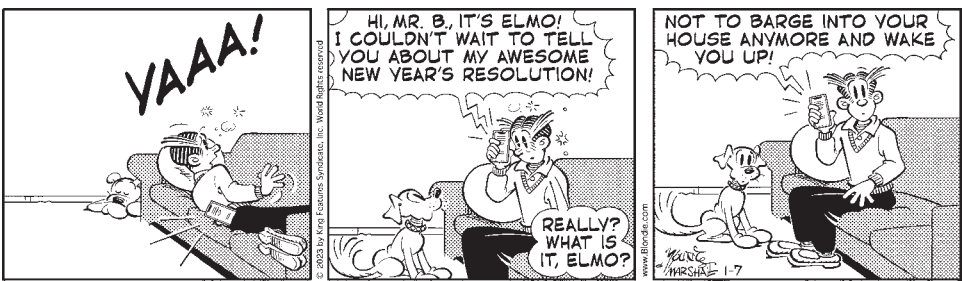
10. In fairness to all, the Sedalia Democrat cannot answer questions or respond to phone calls or letters regarding the PrizeweeK puzzle.

11. When you've completed your PWP, **CUT IT OUT & BRING IT OR MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW:**

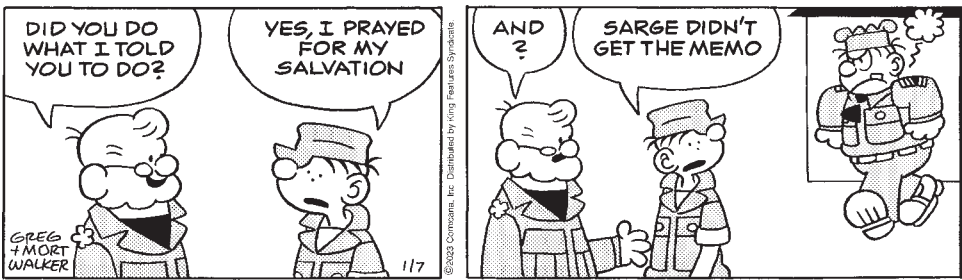
12. Players can only win one (1) time in a 12 month period. One winner per household during a 12 month period allowed.

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BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



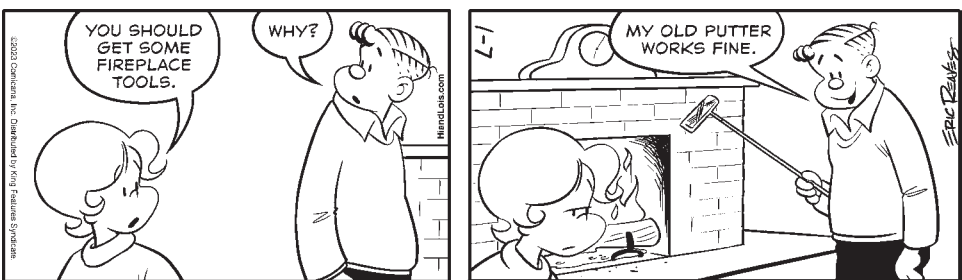
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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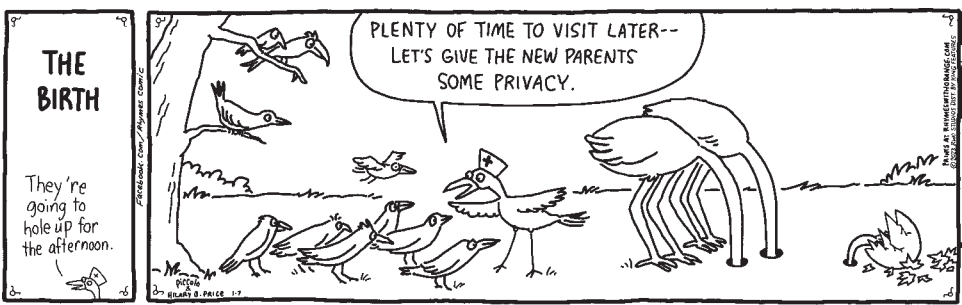
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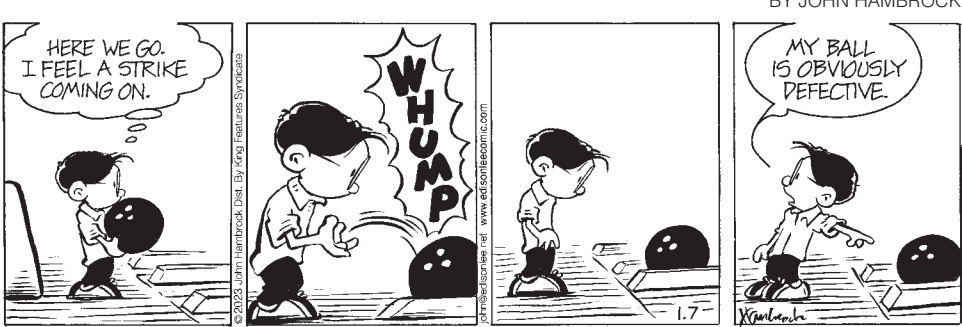
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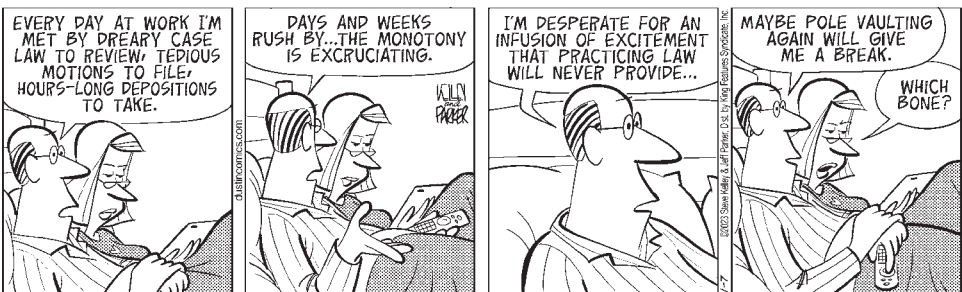
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE



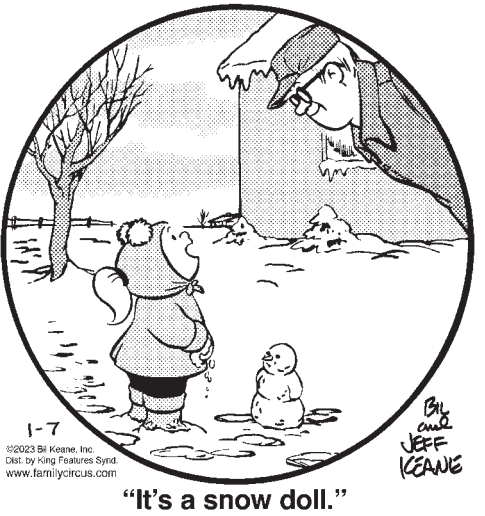
DUSTIN



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Southern dish
6 Hardly wordy
11 Bolshevik leader
12 Succulent plants
13 Tennis star Naomi
14 Schemes
15 List of lines
17 Game cube
18 Total
19 Studio time
22 Agreeable answer
23 Horse restraint
24 HMO fee
25 Can feature
27 Isr. neighbor
30 Meals
31 Heady brew
32 Shelley work
33 Brings dishonor upon
35 Seminar group
38 Uniform color

39 Ledger item

- 40 Principle
41 Put away
42 Reads over

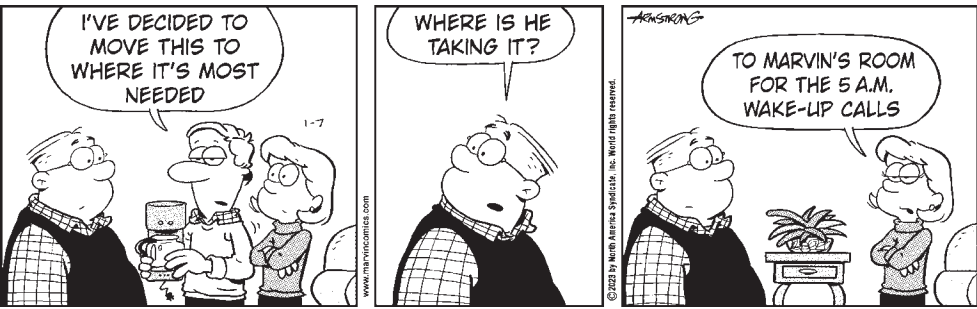
DOWN

- 1 Not matte
2 Save
3 Up — (indignant)
4 Poly-nesian idol
5 Pics
6 Keg need
7 Angled pipe
8 Band aide
9 Grad-to-be
10 German steel city
16 Service pieces
20 Hockey plays
21 Pig's place
24 Busy one in Apr.
25 Intellec-tual showoff
26 Interested in trying
27 Thin layer
28 Late hour
29 Plagues
30 Boxing ring
34 Guinness of film
36 Misstep
37 Caustic stuff

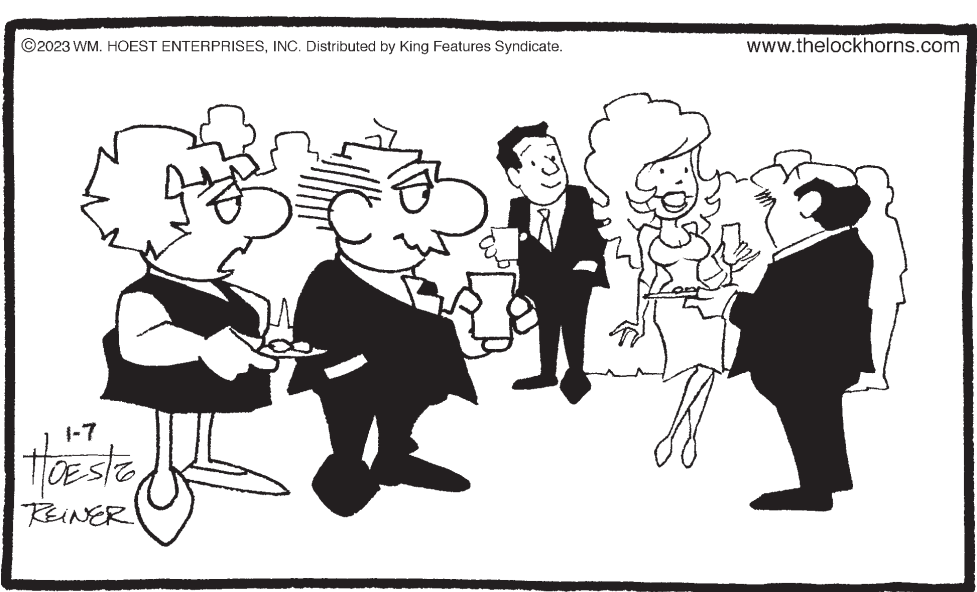
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
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			24							
	25	26						27	28	29
30								31		
32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

1-7

MARVIN



THE LOCKHORNS



SUDOKU

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

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/07

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/06



Outside shooting leads Leeton past Mustangs



Northwest senior Gavin Killion knocks down a mid-range jumper against Leeton in Thursday night’s non-conference home game.

PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

HUGHESVILLE
— Northwest may get another shot at Leeton down the road, and when it does, the Mustangs will hope to meet a team that was anything but down on its shooting luck Thursday night.
The Bulldogs knocked down a season-high 10 3-pointers to get past Northwest 66-51 in a battle of top-10 Class 1 schools.
It was a matchup to circle for a number of reasons. Northwest, No. 4 in the latest MBCA Poll to Leeton’s No. 10, owns two wins from the three district playoff meetings that have taken place the past four seasons. Also, it meant a date with the Bulldogs’ head coach who went to Hughesville in the offseason, Rick Mills.
“I don’t think the guys super-anticipated it, but everyone in the community [did],” said Leeton head coach Ross Shull, who exchanged pleasantries

with Mills after his team’s sixth-consecutive victory. “They were hearing it. They knew the extent of it and what it meant and really wanted it.”
Mills called the experience “fun,” adding, “[It was the] best I’ve seen Leeton play in three years, and that says a lot because they’ve played pretty well.”
On whether emotions of the game took a role, Mills responded, “I think it played [a part] a lot, and I think Leeton was very pumped up by the way they hit their 3s... We didn’t execute against their press very well in the first half.”
It was quickly apparent that the Bulldogs (9-2) were feeling it from deep. Camden Uptegrove and Dylan Shackelford hit back-to-back 3-pointers separated by just seconds and a Northwest turnover near mid-court that got them off to a 10-2 start, then Uptegrove hit another just over a minute late to push the lead to a dozen.
See LEETON | 15A



Cutline Cleveland Browns defensive end Jadeveon Clowney (90) warms up before the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, in Jacksonville, Fla. Jadeveon Clowney was sent home Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, before practice and will likely not play in Sunday’s season finale in Pittsburgh after he made critical comments about the team.

FILE PHOTO BY GARY MCCULLOUGH | AP PHOTO

Browns done with Jadeveon Clowney after critical comments

By Tom Withers
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Jadeveon Clowney’s last move with the Cleveland Browns happened off the field — a public bashing born of frustration and disappointment.
The team countered accordingly.
Clowney was sent

home from practice on Friday, one day after he harshly criticized the organization and coaching staff in an explosive interview that effectively ended his second season in Cleveland just ahead of the finale in Pittsburgh.
Coach Kevin Stefanski refused to directly address Clowney’s status — or provide any specif-

ics about his decision to punish the defensive end — as the Browns (7-9), who always seem to be embroiled in drama, prepared to face the Steelers (8-8) on Sunday.
However, Stefanski did indicate Clowney won’t be on the trip.
“Nothing comes above the team,” he said.
See BROWNS | 15A

NFL owners approve playoff plan after Bills-Bengals canceled

By Rob Maaddi
AP Pro Football Writer

NFL owners have approved a resolution that could lead to a neutral site for the AFC championship in response to the cancellation of Monday night’s Bills-Bengals game after Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field.
The league held a special meeting Friday to consider the recommendation of Commissioner Roger Goodell and the league’s competition committee.
“We believe this is a focused approach that would only affect four teams and directly address the potential for competitive inequity resulting from 30 teams playing 17 games and two playing 16 games,” Goodell said in a video conference call. “It was critical for the owners to vote (Friday) so that clubs going into this weekend what they’re playing for.”
The league chose to cancel the Bills-Bengals game instead of resuming it this week or next week to avoid disrupting the start of the postseason and impacting the remainder of the playoff



A sign shows support for injured Buffalo Bills NFL football player Damar Hamlin outside Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., Thursday Jan. 5, 2023.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY T. BARNES | AP PHOTO

field.
Hamlin is breathing on his own and able to talk after having his breathing tube removed, his agent said Friday. It’s the latest step in his remarkable recovery in the four days since going into cardiac arrest during the game at Cincinnati. Hamlin even joined the Bills’ team meeting via videoconference.
The Bills-Bengals game had major playoff implications for the AFC. Buffalo (12-3) entered Monday night needing a win to maintain the AFC’s No. 1 seed. The Kansas City

Chiefs (13-3) now hold that spot. The Bengals (11-4) had a chance to earn that top seed with two more wins and a loss by the Chiefs.
The AFC championship will be played at a neutral site if the participating teams played an unequal number of games and both could have been the No. 1 seed and hosted the game had all AFC clubs played a full 17-game regular season.
The league is considering several sites, including indoor and outdoor stadiums.
See NFL | 15A

Chiefs would be top seed in AFC with win over Raiders

By Mark Anderson
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs now know they control their destiny.
With the NFL’s decision to cancel the suspended Monday night game between Buffalo and Cincinnati, a Chiefs victory at Las Vegas on Saturday makes them the AFC’s No. 1 seed.
There’s a catch, however: NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell proposed Thursday night that the AFC championship game would be played at a neutral site if the Chiefs earn home-field advan-

tage over Cincinnati or Buffalo by virtue of having played one more game and end up meeting either of those teams. That proposal went before NFL clubs for approval on Friday.
The Bills-Bengals game was postponed in the first quarter when Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest. He has shown signs of improvement but remains in critical condition at a Cincinnati hospital.
Kansas City (13-3) began its preparations this week for the Raiders not knowing what decisions the league would make regarding playoff seeding

or even this weekend’s schedule.
“All I can do is come in here and give it everything I have in the building and then when I go home just appreciate my family,” Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. “I know there’s a job to do, and you have to go in there and do it. But at the end of the day, you just want to make sure (Hamlin’s) all right because that’s what’s most important.”
As for the Raiders (6-10), their season ends this weekend, but that doesn’t mean the game is inconsequential for them.
See CHIEFS | 15A



Kansas City Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon (1) celebrates after scoring past Denver Broncos cornerback Pat Surtain II (2) and teammate JuJu Smith-Schuster (9) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL | AP PHOTO

HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. EST today (2 p.m. to 7 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Cancer into Leo.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023:

You are patient, reserved and conservative. You value the respect you get from others. You are direct and straightforward when dealing with everyone. Your theme this year is one of service to others, especially family members. Therefore, it's important to take care of your own health. Perhaps it's time for a makeover.

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)

★★ You might have a power struggle with a parent today, especially about something from the past. This also might involve seeing a parent or an authority figure from your past. Either way, this discussion will be passionate and possibly a test of wills. Tonight: Play!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ This is a classic day for arguments about politics, religion or racial issues, because people want to rehash something from the past. With Venus high in your chart, you can make people listen to you. (You're smooth and charming.) Tonight: Cocoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ This is the perfect day to do careful business with debt, insurance matters, inheritances and anything to do with shared property, because you're ready to do this. You're also ready to discuss old problems and past issues so you can move forward, especially financially speaking. Tonight: Share ideas!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Discussions with partners and friends will be intense today. Quite possibly, some kind of power struggle might take place. This might even be with an ex-partner or an old friend. You have the leverage today to encourage things to go your way. Tonight: Count your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Clean up old business related to your job or your work today. Likewise, you also might revisit past advice or methods related to your health. You have strong opinions today, and you want to be heard. Fortunately, relations with others are relatively diplomatic. Tonight: You win!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Important discussions with your kids or with a romantic interest will take place today. You might rehash issues from the past, or perhaps you will talk to someone from the past you haven't seen in a while. Don't waste time grandstanding. Get to the point. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Power struggles might take place with a family member today, especially a parent. You might rehash old issues or talk to a relative or parent you haven't seen in a while. There might be a debate about how to make improvements at home or how to fix something. Tonight: Schmooze.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ You might experience a clash of egos today with someone, especially a relative, neighbor or sibling. If so, this is likely a repeat of something that happened before. Be careful; this distraction could put you into a mild accident-prone situation. Tonight: You're high-viz.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Money squabbles are likely today. Or you might have a quarrel with someone about shared responsibilities or shared property. This is a problem that has been addressed before, and it's back again. With Venus in your House of Communications, you are tactful and diplomatic. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Power struggles with partners and close friends are likely today. Could this be because ex-partners and old friends are back in your life? Don't waste time doing this. Your time is precious. Accomplish what you can and focus on how to improve your home or help a family member. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Disputes with co-workers might arise today. Or perhaps you're at odds with someone about a health issue or your pet. Fortunately, Venus is in your sign now, and Venus will sweeten your words and make you diplomatic in all your dealings with others. Tonight: Cooperate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Don't try to convince a friend or a member of a group about your point of view about something -- perhaps a social occasion, sports topic or even your kids. This difference of opinion might also arise in a romantic relationship. (There are none so deaf as those who are wearing headphones.) Tonight: Get organized.

BORN TODAY

Actor Nicolas Cage (1964), actress Lauren Cohen (1982), actor Jeremy Renner (1971)



Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh calls time during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football semifinal playoff game against TCU, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, in Glendale, Ariz. PHOTO BY RICK SCUTERI | AP PHOTO

Michigan: NCAA looking into potential football infractions

By Larry Lage

AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Michigan announced Friday that it has received notice from the NCAA that it is looking into potential rules infractions in the Wolverines football program.

Athletic director Warde Manuel said the "draft allegations" were received Thursday.

"We have cooperated and will continue to cooperate with this investigation," Manuel said. "Out of respect to the NCAA's enforcement process, we will not offer further comments."

The investigation is believed to involve impermissible texts and calls — including some by coach Jim Harbaugh — to high school prospects during part of a pandemic-related dead period for contact with potential recruits, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on

Thursday.

The NCAA was also looking at whether a member of Michigan's off-field football staff violated rules by doing on-the-field coaching during practice, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because Michigan officials were not making details of the investigation public.

The announcement came a day after Harbaugh said he expects to coach at Michigan next season, posting a statement on the team's social media accounts following reports of his interest in returning to the NFL.

"I am aware of the rumors and speculation over the past few days," Harbaugh said. "College and NFL teams have great interest in all our personnel, from players to coaches to staff, and I truly believe that is a testament to the strength of our University of Michigan football program."

Carolina Panthers owner David Pepper had a conver-

sation with Harbaugh about the team's head coaching position, according to a second person familiar with the situation who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the Panthers do not typically release details of their coaching search.

Harbaugh also has been mentioned as a possible candidate to coach in Denver and Indianapolis, one of four teams he played quarterback for in the league from 1987 to 2000.

"As I stated in December, while no one knows what the future holds, I expect that I will be enthusiastically coaching Michigan in 2023," Harbaugh said. "I have spoken with president Santa Ono and athletic director Warde Manuel and appreciate their support of me and our program."

Harbaugh coached the San Francisco 49ers from 2011-2014, winning two NFC West titles and reaching the NFC championship

game three times in four seasons. He was 44-19-1 during that span and helped the 49ers get to the Super Bowl a decade ago, where they lost 34-31 to the Baltimore Ravens, led by his brother, John.

Jim Harbaugh left the 49ers after going 8-8 in 2014 — the only season the 49ers didn't make the postseason under his direction — to take the job at Michigan.

The 59-year-old Harbaugh has a 74-25 record in eight seasons with the Wolverines, who were 13-0 this season before getting beat by TCU in a College Football Playoffs semifinal. Harbaugh also spent four seasons as head coach of Stanford and three more at San Diego.

Harbaugh was the AP NFL Coach of the Year in 2011 and AP College Coach of the Year in 2021.

AP College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo in New York and AP Sports Writer Steve Reed in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed.

Sophia Smith named US Soccer Female Player of the Year

By Anne M. Peterson

AP Sports Writer

Forward Sophia Smith was named the U.S. Soccer Female Player of the Year on Friday after leading the national team with 11 goals and starting in a team-high 17 matches.

The 22-year-old Smith is the youngest player to win the award since Mia Hamm won it, also at 22, in 1994. Smith is also the youngest player to lead the United States in scoring since Hamm had 10 goals in 1993.

"Obviously this is surreal, and I'm super humbled," Smith said in a statement. "It's been a very exciting year, and certainly there's been some challenges, but just being able to grow and develop in the environments with the National Women and the Thorns, and being surrounded by such amazing players, players that I have looked up to for so long, has pushed me to become a better player and person."

Smith, who plays for the Portland Thorns, was also named the National Women's Soccer League Most Valuable Player after scoring 14 goals in 18 regular-season matches. She also scored for the Thorns in the league's title game,

"This was a big year for Sophia, and she deserves this recognition, but I'm just excited about where she can take her game from here,"



United States forward Sophia Smith (11) reacts after scoring her second goal of the match during the first half of an international friendly soccer match against Nigeria, Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, in Kansas City, Kan. Forward Sophia Smith was named the U.S. Soccer Female Player of the Year on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, after leading the national team with 11 goals and starting in a team-high 17 matches. FILE PHOTO BY NICK TRE. SMITH | AP PHOTO

national team coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "She is a special player with special qualities, but the best thing is that she has the humbleness, work ethic and drive to keep developing all aspects of her game."

Smith is currently nursing a foot injury that kept her off the national team's roster for its January training camp in New Zealand. The United States will play New Zealand on Jan. 18 in Wellington and on Jan. 21 in Auckland. The matches will help both teams ramp up for this summer's World Cup, which will be hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

Smith is one of the

players who have emerged as Andonovski has focused on developing young talent in preparation for the World Cup.

Andonovski said in a conference call with reporters on Thursday that Smith's injury is not serious.

"We felt that this was the time that we wanted to fix this and not have any problems going forward," he said. "In fact, she's back to training or light training now. Because of the treatment that she received in December, she wasn't able to train and get up to speed or necessary fitness in order to be in the January camp."

Smith is just the fourth

player in history to win both player of the year and young player of the year honors, joining Lindsey Horan, Julie Ertz and Tobin Heath.

Smith finished second on the team with 1,192 minutes played last year. She became the youngest player since 2000 to score a hat trick when she had her first career three-goal match against Uzbekistan on April 9.

The awards are decided through votes cast by national team coaches and players, members of the U.S. Soccer board of directors, the federation's athletes' council, NWSL coaches, select media members, college coaches and fans.

WWE's Vince McMahon is back after misconduct investigation

By Michelle Chapman
AP Business Writer

Vince McMahon is re-joining the board of WWE several months after he retired from the sports entertainment company during an investigation into alleged misconduct.

WWE said Friday that McMahon, the founder and majority shareholder of WWE, would return as executive chairman. It also announced a board shakeup.

Shares surged more than 22%.

McMahon retired as WWE's chairman and CEO in July. He had stepped down temporarily from the posts a month earlier. The Wall Street Journal reported over the summer that McMahon agreed to pay more than \$12 million over the past 16 years to suppress allegations of sexual misconduct and infidelity.

The Stamford, Connecticut, company said Friday that it would be looking at "all strategic alternatives to maximize shareholder value."

There have been rumors that WWE may be interested in selling the organization to another entertainment company.

McMahon appeared to address that possibility in a letter to the board, dated Dec. 20, but published Friday.



In this Sunday, April 1, 2007, file photo, WWE Chairman Vince McMahon, center, held by "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, prepares to have his hair cut off by Donald Trump, left, and Bobby Lashley, right, after Lashley defeated Umaga at Wrestlemania 23 at Ford Field in Detroit. McMahon is rejoining the board of WWE several months after he stepped down as CEO and chairman of the sports entertainment company during an investigation into alleged misconduct. Shares surged more than 22% in midday trading on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

FILE PHOTO BY CARLOS OSORIO | AP PHOTO

"I believe WWE has a unique opportunity during this critical juncture to maximize value for its shareholders and all other stakeholders," McMahon wrote. "Specifically, given the rapidly evolving media landscape in which more and more companies are seeking to own the intellectual property offered on their streaming platforms – I firmly believe that the best thing to do for all of WWE's shareholders and other stakeholders is to

undertake a comprehensive review of strategic alternatives." The company said in early November that an investigation of a special committee formed to look into the misconduct allegations was completed and that the committee was disbanded. The company on Friday did not immediately return requests from The Associated Press seeking details about the findings of that committee. It did

say at the time that the company was implementing some of the suggestions of the committee. McMahon's return coincides with the airing of some of WWE's biggest premium live events of the year. The Royal Rumble takes place this month in Texas, while Wrestlemania, a two-day event, begins in April. McMahon said in a prepared statement that he doesn't intend for his return to have any impact

on the roles, duties or responsibilities of WWE's existing management team. His daughter, Stephanie McMahon, serves as co-CEO, along with Nick Khan. McMahon's son-in-law, Paul Levesque, who wrestled under the name Triple H, serves as chief content officer. McMahon controlled a majority of company shares even after his retirement, giving him the power to engineer a board shakeup upon his return.

Three board members, JoEllen Lyons Dillon, Jeffrey R. Speed and Alan M. Wexler, were ousted to make room for McMahon and two other board members, Michelle Wilson and George Barrios. Vince McMahon has been among the most recognizable faces at WWE for decades. When he purchased what was then the World Wrestling Federation from his father in 1982, wrestling matches took place at small venues and appeared on local cable channels. WWE matches are now held in professional sports stadiums and the company has a sizeable overseas following. The organization underwent a seismic transformation under McMahon with events like WrestleMania, a premium live production that draws millions of fervent viewers. Revenue in 2021 exceeded \$1 billion for the first time and the company has television deals with Fox and NBCUniversal. It announced a multi-year expansion of its original programming partnership with A&E in May 2022. WWE stars have become crossover sensations, including Hulk Hogan, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and John Cena.

Column: A round of applause, please, for playoff-crasher TCU

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Columnist

Let's all give a round of applause to TCU, the interloper at this year's national championship game. The Horned Frogs might not win the title — reigning champ Georgia is a two-touchdown favorite heading into the game Monday night — but they've given the College Football Playoff something it desperately needed. Variety. Face it, the last thing we needed was another rematch of teams from the same conference. "I've always believed that the cream rises and the more opportunities that schools outside of the traditional brands get, the more those schools can become traditional brands," TCU coach Sonny Dykes said. The four-team CFP has been largely monopolized by an exclusive cabal of powerful programs during its first eight years of existence.

Alabama has played in the title game a whopping six times. Clemson reached the finale four times. Ohio State and Georgia were two-time finalists before this season. The only other schools to make it this far were Oregon in the very first year of the playoff and LSU, which capped its dominating 2019 season with a crown. Most annoying of all, a pair of national title show-downs were simply do-overs of Southeastern Conference championship games between Alabama and Georgia. Great for the SEC. Not so much for the rest of the nation. Now comes TCU, which is technically part of the Power Five group of conferences that rule the sport but sure feels like an outsider. "I think it's great to have a new face," said ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit, who will call the championship game at SoFi Stadium near Los Angeles. "Not only just a new face, but their story and what

they had to do to get here." The TCU journey is much more than what the Horned Frogs accomplished this season, going from un-ranked at the start of the year to becoming the first Big 12 school to win a playoff game and earn a shot at the title. The small, private school from Fort Worth, Texas, has been a vagabond in this era of conference realignment. First, the Horned Frogs were tossed from their longtime home when the Southwest Conference collapsed in the 1990s. Jilted by an expanded Big 12, they bounced from the Western Athletic Conference to Conference USA to the Mountain West Conference in search of a stable home. After initially accepting an invite to move again, to the Big East, TCU wound up jumping instead to the Big 12 when that league — desperate for new members to ensure its survival — finally came calling in 2012. "Man, it just doesn't seem that long ago TCU was in

the Mountain West and trying to get respect from people around the country," Herbstreit recalled. That quest for respect can be traced to the 2010 season, when the Horned Frogs finished 13-0 and No. 2 in the national rankings. Who knows what might've been if the playoff had come along sooner? But that was the BCS era, when only two teams got an opportunity to play for the championship, and the big boys weren't about to let a Mountain West school storm their club. Auburn beat Oregon in the championship game, while TCU had to be content with a Rose Bowl victory over Wisconsin. "I think that really helped their brand that day and then eventually to join the Big 12," Herbstreit said, though he quickly added: "A lot of people still don't respect them." Indeed, even after the Horned Frogs were selected for the playoff — despite an overtime loss to Kansas State

in the Big 12 title game for their only defeat so far — the focus was squarely on No. 1 Georgia's bid to repeat as champion and the possibility that Big Ten rivals Michigan and Ohio State could meet again in the title game. That scenario fell apart when the unbeaten Wolverines were knocked off by TCU in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal and Georgia, of course, finished off the Big Ten with its comeback win over the Buckeyes. Finally, we've got a true Cinderella playing for the championship. "If you're really taking a poll with Georgia fans, they don't know a whole lot about TCU," Herbstreit said. "To me that's fun. Because they're not going to back down, I assure you, and they're incredibly confident, and I think it's going to be a great game." There could be a lot more great games when the CFP expands from four to 12 teams for the 2024 season, not to mention the hope that even more fresh faces will

get a shot at winning it all. It may sound a bit farfetched, but maybe a program such as Tulane — which knocked off mighty Southern Cal in the Cotton Bowl — follows the path laid out by Gonzaga in men's basketball, a once-obscure school that built its reputation through countless tournament appearances and, eventually, a couple of trips to the championship game. "There's a lot of good football teams that deserve to be in the playoff," Dykes said. "If you exclude them, it's hard to break in." His voice rose with excitement as he looked ahead to a playoff expanded three-fold. "You can't help but look at how much fun it's going to be when we get to that 12," Dykes said. "The best thing, it's going to include more people. And I'm a big believer in inclusion." Until then, another round of applause for TCU. The Horned Frogs already made this playoff a winner.

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TCU head football coach Sonny Dykes smiles as he speaks to reporters in Fort Worth, Texas, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. TCU answered questions about its toughness in the semifinal game. Now the Horned Frogs are even a bigger underdog going into the national championship game against Georgia, another physical team like Michigan was.

FILE PHOTO BY LM OTERO | AP PHOTO

Browns

From Page 11A

Angry that he wasn't being showcased more in Cleveland's defense, Clowney said in an interview Thursday with cleveland.com that he didn't feel appreciated and was "95% sure" he wasn't coming back for a third season.

Clowney further claimed the Browns have given four-time Pro Bowl defensive end Myles Garrett preferential treatment and were focused only on getting him to the Hall of Fame. He added he needs to be around "somebody that believes in me and my ability."

Clowney made it clear he has no personal issues with Garrett, who has 15 sacks going into the Week 18 matchup with

Pittsburgh.

Garrett said he understood that Clowney wanted to be more productive, but was disappointed in how his teammate ultimately expressed it.

"This is our team," Garrett said. "He's my brother. He's my teammate and I wish we could have talked about this man-to-man and to us as coaches as well. Could have sat us all down and had just a conversation and that would've probably been the way I would've handled it.

"But hindsight is 20/20. He's feeling a lot of emotion towards what has been a season of ups and downs and there's no perfect way to handle things. But I wish he would've handled it a little bit differently."

Garrett said his relationship with Clowney

remains "cordial" and he didn't take the comments to heart.

Asked if he would welcome Clowney back at any point, Garrett said: "We want volunteers, not hostages."

"If you feel like no one believes in you here," Garrett said, "then go where you feel like you're wanted and loved and appreciated."

Clowney revived his career last season in Cleveland, recording nine sacks — his most since 2018 — and pairing with Garrett up front to give the Browns one of the NFL's most feared pass rushes.

He re-signed as a free agent for \$11 million with the Browns in May, but Clowney's second season didn't go the way he or the team had hoped. A few games in, he expressed disappointment that the

Browns were changing his assignment during in games in order to give Garrett more favorable matchups.

Because Garrett is one of the game's premiere players, it made sense for the Browns to move him to expose an opponent's weakness. Clowney didn't see it that way.

Defensive line coach Chris Kiffin revealed that Clowney refused to play on any down other than third in the Oct. 23 game at Baltimore. He was benched for the first series the following week against Cincinnati for his behavior.

Kiffin said the decision to move Garrett around is natural.

"We're going to put our best player in the best position to win," he said.

Kiffin also disagreed with Clowney's assertion that Garrett was treated

differently.

"It was a frustrating season for all of us — everybody in this organization, defensively and for him," Kiffin said. "Obviously, he didn't have the production he had last year so he is frustrated. The way he went about it I don't agree with, but we are here today dealing with it."

Clowney came to the Browns' facility and attended a position meeting with his fellow defensive lineman before being told to leave.

Kiffin said he spoke with Clowney before he was dismissed by Stefanski.

"I'll just say I addressed the room that I thought he handled it the wrong way as a man," Kiffin said.

The upheaval surrounding Clowney is similar to last season's messy situation with

wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who was suspended by the Browns and eventually traded after weeks of drama.

Stefanski doesn't think there's a disconnect between his players and staff.

"Every team, all 32, we all deal with things throughout the season," he said. "Sometimes they stay in-house and you deal with them, and sometimes they don't. That is very similar to family. That is what we do. We operate as a family. Sometimes you make tough decisions, but that is what we are trying to do."

Clowney was the No. 1 overall pick in 2014 by Houston. He spent five seasons with the Texans before playing one year with Seattle and Tennessee.

NFL

From Page 11A

Those circumstances involve Buffalo or Cincinnati qualifying for the game as a road team. If Buffalo and Kansas City both win or tie this weekend, a Bills-Chiefs AFC title game would be at a neutral site.

If Buffalo and Kansas City both lose and Baltimore wins or ties, a Bills-Chiefs AFC title game would be at a neutral site.

If Buffalo and Kansas City both lose and Cincinnati wins, Bills or Bengals against Kansas City in the AFC title game would be at a neutral site.

Also, if Baltimore defeats Cincinnati in Week 18, the Ravens would have two wins over the Bengals, a divisional opponent, but Cincinnati will have a higher winning percentage for a 16-game schedule than Baltimore will for a 17-game schedule.

Therefore, if Baltimore defeats Cincinnati and those two clubs are

schedule to play a wild-card game against each another, the site for that game would be determined by a coin toss.

If the Bengals win this weekend or if Baltimore and Cincinnati are not scheduled to play each other in the wild-card round, the game sites would be determined by the regular scheduling procedures.

Bengals coach Zac Taylor made it clear the team isn't happy with the league changing the rules. The NFL's 2022 policy manual for game operations states "a team's standing in its division or in its conference" will be determined by winning percentage if a game is canceled. Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the canceled game, the league proposed new rules.

"We just want the rules to be followed," Taylor said. "When a game is canceled, you turn to winning percentage to clarify everything, so we don't have to make up the rules. There's several instances this season

when the club is fined, or people in our building are fined, and we're told to follow the rules. It's black and white. It's in the rule book. So, when you're told we're going to change that, I don't want to hear about fair and equitable in that case."

Rich McKay, the NFL competition committee chairman, said the teams had some input in the process. Katie Blackburn, the executive vice president for the Bengals, told the committee the team wasn't in favor of the proposal.

"She made a presentation, pretty eloquent and made her points," McKay said. "There was plenty (consideration) given to them because they are the affected team so you wanted to hear from them. I think on the neutral-site situation, basically all three teams going in had to kind of agree they were OK with that situation. Didn't mean they're going to vote for it, but they were OK with it. And so that always obviously helps with making a proposal like that."

Leeton

From Page 11A

Northwest found its legs and eventually clipped the lead back to seven points early in the second quarter, but Leeton continued to make the scoring look easy, hitting over half -- seven, to be exact -- of its tries beyond the arc before half-time, including Cody Shackelford's bank at the horn that put the Bulldogs ahead by 23.

"Yeah, you know something special might happen when you're calling the bank after hours," Shull said.

Dylan Shackelford stroked triples from the same spot on the wing in the third to help keep the Mustangs at bay, and though Northwest won the quarter, 13-9, it only did so much to eat into the deficit.

"The second half was a different story, we handled [their press] and got easy baskets," Mills said. "But when you dig yourself a hole 25 down, it's hard to come back."

Leading the scoring, Leeton's Uptegrove scored all but three of his 18 points before the break. He was complimented by a dozen from Cody Shackelford and 10 by Grant Harper. The Mustangs (12-2), whose only

other defeat up to Thursday came by two points to undefeated Lincoln, were led by Issac Neiters' 17 points, followed by 16 from Gavin Killion and 12 from Lain Tichenor.

When asked what Northwest would have to do if the teams met again in March, Mills prioritized the team's ability to pass under pressure.

Killion was one of two players honored on the night for recently hitting 1,000 career points. Of him, Mills said, "We honored him tonight, and he's had a great career, a four-year starter, All-State in baseball. A point guard and leader on the ball club. He sets a good example at every practice and every game. I'm very happy I've gotten to coach him his senior year."

LEETON 49, NORTHWEST 28

Signature pressure from the Lady Bulldogs allowed them to slide past Northwest in the first act of Thursday's doubleheader.

The Lady Mustangs managed just three field goals by halftime, at which point had built a comfortable lead of 14 points, and Northwest couldn't convert enough looks or keep Leeton (10-1) off the boards enough to find a way back.

Northwest junior Karli Smith talked

about the pressure and the progress in the scoreline -- the Lady Mustangs fell 65-10 to Leeton in last year's playoff meeting.

"The pressure was the main thing we worked on at practice," Smith said. "It helped a lot and we learned the difference between what to do with a man-to-man and a zone press. Reading the court was a big thing we had to do and we did it a lot. We still made mistakes but I'm proud of us because it was much better than our score last year against them, and kudos to them, they're a state-ranked team so I'm glad we stayed with them this year."

Bailey Fleming was good on four 3s for 15 points to pace Leeton. Fellow seniors Jordan Crooks and Jaedyn Johnson added a dozen each as well. Freshman forward Gabby Meyer headed Northwest's attack with 10.

Smith was also celebrated for hitting the 1,000-point marker in the past week. "It means a lot to me," she said. "Basketball's kind of my thing, and I think it means more that I hit it my junior year than anything else, and that my team backs me up and supports me for everything. I couldn't do it without them or the coaches I've had."

Chiefs

From Page 11A

Las Vegas faces a lot of questions in the offseason, most notably at quarterback. Jarrett Stidham will start his second game in a row in place of the benched Derek Carr. Stidham threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns in Sunday's 37-34 overtime loss to San Francisco.

"I think he showed what he's capable of and what he can do," Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams said. "Definitely has some potential. I think that sustaining that and doing it again will be something that'd be big for him as far as seeing how (the coaches) view him and how they want to move forward."

SPECIAL TEAMS SITUATION

The Chiefs have struggled on special teams most of the season. Last week, punt returner Kadarius Toney lost a fumble, Kansas City missed a point-after because of holder Tommy Townsend's miscue and a field-goal attempt was blocked.

Making things even worse, kicker Harrison Butker experienced back spasms in practice Wednesday, and it's

unclear whether he will play against the Raiders. The Chiefs planned to sign a kicker to the practice squad as insurance.

PERSONAL HIGHLIGHT REEL

Adams made two tremendous catches against the 49ers.

On one, he brought in a touchdown pass on the left side of the end zone, leaping and finding a way to land both feet inbounds.

On another, he somehow grabbed a deep pass barely off the ground and held on to it for a 45-yard gain that set up a touchdown. That play was reviewed and the call of a completed pass upheld.

"What I enjoy more (than watching his highlights) is reading the comments of every Niner fan that said it was incomplete," Adams said. "That makes me a little bit happier than praising myself and patting myself on the back. I like the people that are pissed off about it."

CHIEFS INJURY WOES

Kansas City had been charmed all season when it came to injuries until last week. A flurry of them against the Broncos has coach Andy Reid facing some uncertainty on Saturday. Left guard Joe Thuney (sore an-

kle), wide receiver Skyy Moore (lacerated hand) and cornerback L'Jarius Sneed (hip pointer) are all important contributors who missed practice time this week.

CLOSE CALL

The Raiders nearly beat the Chiefs in Kansas City when the teams met on Oct. 10, blowing a 17-point lead in the 30-29 loss.

Las Vegas coach Josh McDaniels said only so much can be taken out of the game for the rematch because both teams have undergone significant changes.

"So I think there's definitely some challenges in terms of just getting to know the personnel that's out there now as opposed to what it was," McDaniels said. "But I definitely think that any time you have previous knowledge of an opponent and you've played against them (it's beneficial), especially for the players.

"It's not always a precursor of what's going to happen the next game, as we know. The second game of these division rivalries is always a little bit different because you're going to change some things."

AP Sports Writer Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

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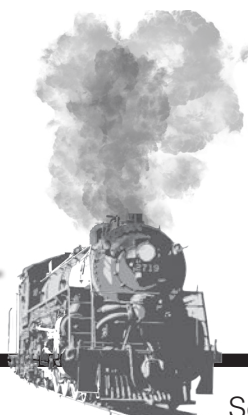
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Finding new ways to improve in a new year

Remember at the end of 2019 when we were excited to enter a new decade? Regardless of how the previous 10 years had gone for you, the 2020s seemed like a fresh start, a time to try new things or just another chance to accomplish something. While sure, you can start a new goal on a Tuesday in the middle of the summer, there's a reason New Year's resolutions are so popular. And if a new year offers the promise of a clean slate, a new decade only amplifies that feeling.



Nicole Cooke
Democrat Editor

Well, it only took three months to realize this new decade probably wasn't going to turn out as we had hoped. The COVID-19 pandemic was monumental, yet only the tip of the iceberg regarding the sheer number of historic events we've already experienced in the last two years.

So here we are again: another new year, sandwiched between a global virus, political and racial unrest, and war across the world, and whatever happens in the next seven years of the 2020s.

I don't remember which column I mentioned it in, but I've previously shared that I've never been one to set specific New Year's resolutions. I've learned in my third decade that as much as I'd like to change some bad habits, many of them are here to stay. I try not to set myself up for failure by creating an unrealistic goal that will inevitably never be achieved, which can just further ingrain those bad habits you were trying to undo.

While I am a fan of those people who set a high bar for themselves every year and set out to achieve something that looks more similar to a bucket list than a list of resolutions, I've never really been one of those people.

Instead, I just set out to improve myself in one way or another. This past year, that improvement came in the form of realizing that sometimes, you have to put yourself first. Taking a break, saying no, and giving yourself grace when you realize you're trying to fit 12 tasks into a window of time that only has room for about five. And part of giving yourself grace includes finding that narrow line between letting yourself off the hook when you really shouldn't be and crossing something off your to-do list that probably wasn't essential in the first place.

Even though I ended the year with a week's worth of wasted PTO, I forced myself to take off as much time as possible without feeling guilty. There were weeks my column didn't get written or I pushed a story to the following week when I had more time. Dishes piled up in the sink and chores waited another day. None of those things completely cured my burnout, but it eased the problem a little. And that fact alone made me realize it's OK not to do too much.

My 2022 improvement also came in the form of learning that it's OK to learn. I know that sounds silly as someone who graduated from high school and college and gets paid to learn on a daily basis. But in a world where everyone seems set in their ways and opinions have slowly morphed into unmoveable facts, learning has become somewhat radical.

Part of learning means it's also OK to change your mind or viewpoint when new information comes your way. For me, I had a wide range of education.

Continued on Page 4B



Friends, from left, Gwen Hinken, of Sedalia, and Jackie Bell and Sue Larimore, both of Green Ridge, have been friends since 1945. The women, 83, are part of eight women, graduates from Green Ridge High School, who have been best friends for 78 years.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Best friends for life

1957 Green Ridge grads are friends for 78 years

By Faith Bemiss

fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

It is rare for two friends to stay close for life, but to have eight women who've been best friends for 78 years is a gem. The friends, all 1957 graduates from Green Ridge High School, still go to lunch with each other once a month.

In 1945, six of the friends entered first grade in the class of Miss Grace Still at Green Ridge R-VIII School. Gwen (Arnett) Hinken, Sue (Harbit) Larimore, Jackie (Kendrick) Bell, Carol (DeCluster) Draper, Rosalie (Ruffin) Elkins, and Anna Lee (Skidmore) Shackles at a young age became friends for life. They were soon joined by Mary Ann (Lewis) Harding and Evelina (Shipp) Turner. They christened their friendship as "Just Us Girls" at the age of 10, not realizing the acronym spelled JUGS, Hinken noted with a smile on Thursday.

On Thursday, Hinken, Bell, and Larimore gathered at Hinken's Sedalia home and talked about their seven-decade friendship. Hinken said they remained close but married after high school, had jobs, and raised families. In 1983 the group decided they should meet once a year for lunch.

They did so until they lost friends Anna Lee Shackles and



In a 1957 Green Ridge High School graduation photo, best friends Gwen (Arnett) Hinken, Sue (Harbit) Larimore, Jackie (Kendrick) Bell, Carol (DeCluster) Draper, Rosalie (Ruffin) Elkins, Anna Lee (Skidmore) Shackles, Mary Ann (Lewis) Harding and Evelina (Shipp) Turner stand with other women in their class.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GWEN HINKEN

Evey Turner. It was Bell at the time who spoke up and noted, "time is short, and once a year is not enough." So in 2007, the six remaining friends began meeting on the last Wednesday of the month. Age has not been a deterrent; at 83, the women still meet.

Jackie, who now uses a walker, said the friends always have a good time. As she came into Hinken's home Thursday morning, she noted, laughing, that she would have been there sooner, but as she got into her

car, her walker rolled down the street.

"We always have something to celebrate one way or another," she noted, smiling. "Sometimes it's pretty calm, and sometimes we are really rambunctious."

The women laughed and said they had never been kicked out of a restaurant "yet." But, Hinken added with a twinkle in her eye, "we don't drink, cuss or chew."

Larimore, smiling, said she enjoys getting together once a month.

"I look forward to it," she said.

In all their decades together, the friends have never been mad at each other. Instead, they all agreed they "just like each other" and have similar personalities.

When asked what high school was like for them, Hinken interjected, "fun!"

"By the time that Sue and Jackie and Mary and I were seniors, we were almost inseparable," she added. "We would go at least one night a week to each other's homes and stay all night."

"And we all four slept in the same bed — two at the top and two at the bottom," she continued with a smile. "Well, we really couldn't replicate that today."

Bell added they would need a "king-sized bed for sure" nowadays.

Since they didn't have cars, they rode the school bus to each other's houses.

"Whoever's house we were going to, we rode that bus," Bell explained. "Then all piled off — I remember one time we went to Mary Ann's, and Mrs. Lewis didn't know we were coming. I don't know what she did; maybe she threw another potato in the pot or something."

Although they are now in their 80s, Hinken said, they are "tech-savvy" and know how to text each other. So, they stay in touch between luncheons.

See FRIENDS | 4B



In 2007, the Rosy Ridge Runners, composed of six best friends from the class of 1957 from Green Ridge High School, pose for a photo. Back row from left, Gwen Hinken, Carol Draper, Rosalie Elkins, and Mary Ann Harding; front row, Jackie Bell, Jeanette Pace, a visitor, Evelina Turner, and Sue Larimore.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GWEN HINKEN

BIRTHDAYS

Demois
Mildred Demois will observe her 77th birthday Jan. 7.
She was born Jan. 7, 1946.
Mildred was married to the late Jeff Velton.
Before retiring, she was an in-home caregiver and worked in housekeeping and the laundry.
Birthday cards may be sent to Mildred at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Gardner
Maggie Gardner will observe her 78th birthday Jan. 9.
She was born Jan. 9, 1945, in Edwards.
Before retiring, she was a secretary for RE/MAX of Kansas City.
Maggie has one child, the late Michelle Nelson.
Birthday cards may be sent to Maggie at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Horn
JoAnn Horn observed her 87th birthday Jan. 2.
She was born Jan. 2, 1936, in Benton County.
Before retiring, she was a housekeeper and factory worker at Inter-State Studios.
JoAnn has three children, Tim Horn, Jack Horn and Tom Horn, all of Sedalia.
Birthday cards may be sent to JoAnn at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

Stevenson
Randall Stevenson will observe his 70th birthday Jan. 10.
He was born Jan. 10, 1953, in Sedalia.
Before retiring, he worked at Hayes Wheels (Maxion) and Stevenson Tractor Co.
Randall has five children, Larry Stevenson, Linda Reid, Glenda Stevenson, Leroy Stevenson and Jerry Stevenson.
Birthday cards may be sent to Randall at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St. Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

BRL2GO SCHEDULE

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Monday
9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Fristoe, The Place Café.
1:15 to 4 p.m.: Warsaw, Drake Harbor.
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Applewood Christian School.
9:45 a.m. to noon: Lakeview, BB Bar and Restaurant.
1:15 to 3:45 p.m.: Warsaw Walmart.

Friday
9 a.m.: St. Joseph Catholic School.
9:15 a.m.: Pilot Grove C-4 School.
9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Bunceton.
1:30 p.m.: Prairie Home R-5 School.
1:40 to 3:45 p.m.: Prairie Home Duncan Diner.

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library Fiction
“Tom Clancy Red Winter,” by Marc Cameron.
“The Lipstick Bureau: A Novel Inspired by True WWII Events,” by Michelle Gable.
“Wicked Dreams,” by Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush.
“A Hard Day for a Hangover,” by Darynda Jones.
“W.E.B. Griffin the Devil’s Weapons,” by Peter Kirsanow.
“Into the West,” by Mercedes Lackey.
“Stella Maris,” by Cormac McCarthy.
“The Book of Everlasting Things,” by Aanchal Malhotra.
“The Widow Maker,” by Hannah Morrissey.

Nonfiction
“City of Fortune,” by Victoria Thompson.
“Stories We Tell: Every Piece of Your Story,” by Joanna Gaines.
“The Bezos Blueprint: Communication Secrets of the World’s Greatest Salesman,” by Carmine Gallo.
“‘Bravo Company’ An Afghanistan Deployment and Its Aftermath,” by Ben Kesling.
“Breathe In, Breathe Out: Restore Your Health, Reset Your Mind and Find Happiness Through Breathwork,” by Stuart Sandeman.
“Con/Artist: The Life and Crimes of the World’s Greatest Art Forger,” by Tony Tetro and Giampiero Ambrosi.

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library Fiction
“Sleep No More,” by Jayne Ann Krentz (suspense).
“Without a Trace,” by Danielle Steel (fiction).
“Code 6,” by James Grippando (suspense).
“The World We Make,” by N.K. Jemisin (science fiction).
“A Hard Day for a Hangover,” by Darynda Jones (mystery).
“The Villa,” by Rachel Hawkins (suspense).
“Three-Edged Sword,” by Jeff Lindsay (suspense).
Nonfiction
“Requiem for the Massacre,” by RJ Young.
“The Earl and the Pharaoh,” by The Countess of Carnarvon.
“The Sassoons,” by Joseph Sassoon.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Pettis County Recorder of Deeds Barbara Clevenger recently issued marriage licenses to:
Joseph Dickson Hawkins, 27, and Makenzie Nicole Goodloe, 25, both of Allen Park, Michigan;
Jose Torres Chavez, 38, and Maria Cruz Rubio Quetzecua, 37, both of Sedalia;
Jeremy Lee Sim-

DIVORCES

These people were recently granted divorces in Pettis County Circuit Court:

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization that delivers meals to seniors, the homebound and handicapped citizens of Sedalia. The food is prepared by Superior Vendall and is delivered by volunteers. Meals cost \$4. For more information on receiving meals or becoming a volunteer, call 660-826-5039.
Meals will be delivered by Calvary Baptist Church.
Monday: Chicken

Prince Harry's book exposes grief, war, drugs, family rifts

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Bereaved boy, troubled teen, wartime soldier, unhappy royal — many facets of Prince Harry are revealed in his explosive memoir, often in eyebrow-raising detail.

From accounts of cocaine use and losing his virginity to raw family rifts, "Spare" exposes deeply personal details about Harry and the wider royal family.

The Associated Press purchased a copy of the Spanish-language edition of the book ahead of its publication around the world on Tuesday. Its revelations have electrified the British media — but have been met with silence from Buckingham Palace.

BROTHER AND SON

The book opens with a quote from American writer William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Harry's story is dominated by his rivalry with elder brother Prince William and the death of the boys' mother, Princess Diana, in 1997. Harry, who was 12 at the time, has never forgiven the media for Diana's death in a car crash while being pursued by photographers.

The loss of his mother haunts the book, which Harry dedicates to wife Meghan, children Archie and Lili "and, of course, my mother."

The opening chapter recounts how his father Prince Charles — now King Charles III — broke the news of his mother's accident, but didn't give his son a hug.

Harry reveals that years later he asked his driver

to take him through the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris, site of the fatal crash, hoping in vain that it would help end a "decade of unrelenting pain. He also says he once consulted a woman who claimed to have "powers" and to be able to pass on messages from Diana.

Harry adds that he and William both "begged" their father not to marry his long-term paramour Camilla Parker-Bowles, worried she would become a "wicked stepmother."

Harry also is tormented by his status as royal "spare" behind William, who is heir to the British throne. Harry recounts a longstanding sibling rivalry that worsened after Harry began a relationship with American actress Meghan Markle, whom he married in 2018.

He says that during an argument in 2019, William called Meghan "difficult" and "rude," then grabbed him by the collar and knocked him down. Harry suffered cuts and bruises from landing on a dog bowl.

Harry says Charles implored the brothers to make up, saying after the funeral of Prince Philip in 2021: "Please, boys. Don't make my final years a misery."

Neither Buckingham Palace, which represents King Charles III, nor William's Kensington Palace office has commented on any of the allegations.

WILD TEENAGE YEARS

The memoir suggests the media's party-boy image of Harry during his teen and young adult years was well-deserved.

Harry describes how he lost his virginity at 17 — in

mons, 37, and Sheila Marie Brown, 48, both of Sedalia;
Oleksander Volovodyk, 25, of Sedalia, and Susanna Opalko, 24, of Republic;
Emily Rose Schooler, 22, and Ryan Scott Needham, 23, both of Sedalia;
Eric Brian Fisk, 45, and Suzanne Sabra St. Cyr, 52, both of Sedalia.

Robert L. Cashman and Lisa L. Cashman;
Rachel L. Williams and Jason A. Williams.

breast filet, potato wedges, peas, brownie and milk.
Tuesday: Chili, pimento cheese sandwich, crackers, applesauce and milk.
Wednesday: Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, broccoli,

banana and milk.
Thursday: Chicken Alfredo, breadstick, corn, peaches and milk.
Friday: Pork chop, posh potatoes, green beans, cookie and milk.

said Harry's comments "are a microcosm of the trauma experienced by Afghans at the hands of occupation forces who murdered innocents without any accountability."

PERSONAL JOURNEY

Harry credits Meghan with changing the way he sees the world and himself. He says he was "wrapped in privilege" and had no understanding of unconscious bias before he met her.

The young prince notoriously wore a Nazi uniform to a costume party in 2005, and claims in the book that William and his now-wife Kate encouraged the choice of outfit and "howled" with laughter when they saw it. He was recorded using a racist term about a fellow soldier of Pakistani descent in 2006, but says he did not know the word was a slur.

Meghan and Harry cited the U.K. media's treatment of the biracial American actress as one of the main reasons for their decision to quit royal duties and move to the U.S. in 2020.

The book gives no sign that royal family relations will be repaired soon. Harry told ITV in an interview to promote the book that he wants reconciliation, but that there must be "accountability" first.

In the final pages, Harry describes how he and William walked side by side during the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth II in September, but spoke barely a word to one another.

"The next day, Meg and I returned to the United States," he says.

a field behind a pub to an older woman who loved horses and treated the teenage prince like a "young stallion." It was, he says, a "humiliating episode."

He also says he took cocaine several times starting at the same age, in order "to feel. To be different." He also acknowledges using cannabis and magic mushrooms — which made him hallucinate that a toilet was talking to him.

ARMY REVELATIONS

Harry spent a decade in the British Army, serving twice in Afghanistan. He says that on his second tour, as an Apache helicopter co-pilot and gunner in 2012-2013, he killed 25 Taliban militants. Harry says he felt neither satisfaction nor shame about his actions, and in the heat of battle regarded enemy combatants as pieces being removed from a chessboard. "Baddies eliminated before they could kill Goodies."

Veterans criticized the comments and said they could increase the security risk for Harry. Retired Col. Richard Kemp said it was "an error of judgment," and regarding enemy fighters as chess pieces is "not the way the British Army trains people."

"I think that sort of comment that doesn't reflect reality is misleading and potentially valuable to those people who wish the British forces and British government harm," he told the BBC.

The Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi called the Western invasion of Afghanistan "odious" and

Justice Jackson working on a memoir, titled 'Lovely One'

By Hillel Italie
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is working on a memoir. Jackson, the first Black woman appointed to the court, is calling the book "Lovely One."

"Mine has been an unlikely journey," Jackson said in a statement released Thursday by Random House.

"But the path was paved by courageous women and men in whose footsteps I placed my own, road warriors like my own parents, and also luminaries in the law, whose brilliance and fortitude lit my way. This memoir marries the public record of my life with what is less known. It will be a transparent accounting of what it takes to rise through

the ranks of the legal profession, especially as a woman of color with an unusual name and as a mother and a wife striving to reconcile the demands of a high-profile career with the private needs of my loved ones."

No release date has been set for "Lovely One." Jackson, 52, was born Ketanji Onyika Brown. The book's title comes from the English translation of Ketanji Onyika, the name suggested by an aunt who at the time was a Peace Corps worker in West Africa.

Jackson joined the court last year after President Joe Biden named her to succeed the retiring Stephen Breyer. She had previously been a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"My hope is that the fullness of my journey as

a daughter, sister, wife, mother, litigator, and friend will stand as a testament for young women, people of color, and dreamers everywhere," Jackson added, "especially those who nourish oversized ambitions and believe in the possibility of achieving them."

"Lovely One" is Jackson's first book, but not the first by a current member of the Supreme Court. Justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor are among those who have released books in recent years. Justice Amy Coney Barrett has a deal with the Penguin Random House imprint Sentinel.

Financial terms for "Lovely One" were not disclosed, although interest in her makes it likely her advance is at least comparable to the 7-figure deals negotiated in the past for

memoirs by Sotomayor and Justice Clarence Thomas.

In announcing Jackson's book, Random House called it a story she tells with "refreshing honesty, lively wit, and warmth."

"Justice Jackson invites readers into her life and world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her," the announcement reads in part, "from growing up in Miami with educator parents who broke barriers during the 1960s to honing her voice as an oratory champion to performing improv and participating in pivotal student movements at Harvard to balancing the joys and demands of marriage and motherhood while advancing in Big Law — and, finally, to making history upon joining the nation's highest court."



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Community Calendar

JANUARY

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

SUNDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 E. Pettis St.
- Noon and 7 p.m.: Alcoholics Anonymous 12x12 Non-smoking group, Sunday through Saturday; at 417 W. Pettis St., sedalia12x12aa@gmail.com.
- 1:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- 7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

MONDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 10 a.m.: Show-Me Mad Tatters, University Extension Office Conference Room, 1012A Thompson Blvd.
- 10:30 a.m.: Be Forever Young, Parkview Christian Church, 1405 E. 16th St.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- Noon: Sedalia Rotary Club, Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.
- 1:45 p.m.: TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 0102 Sedalia meets at the Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., in the lower level meeting room. All are welcome to attend. The first meeting is always free.

- Call 660-525-4142.
- 5 p.m.: Sedalia Public Library Board of Trustees at Public Library, 311 W. Third St.
- 6 p.m.: Cornerstone Celebrate Recovery. A Bible-based 12-step program for Hurts, Habits and Hangups; Cornerstone Baptist Church, 660-827-4833.
- 6 p.m.: Pettis County Democratic Central Committee at Lincoln-Hubbard Apartments, 711 N. Osage Ave.
- 6 p.m.: Smithton Senior Citizens Group Pitch and Pool, Smithton Senior Center on Washington Street.
- 6:10 p.m.: Daughters of Isabella for Rosary; meeting at 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.
- 6:30 p.m.: Bingo at VFW Post 2591, 121 S. Ohio Ave. Bonanza blackout starts at 6 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m.: Show Me Sound, Sweet Adelines International, are meeting in-person rehearsals at Wesley United Methodist Church basement, 1322 West Broadway Blvd. All women who like to sing are welcome. For more information, call 660-851-2205.
- 7 p.m.: Cole Camp Area Historical Society, Cole Camp Jung Memorial Library in Cole Camp.
- 7 p.m.: Sedalia Chorale Rehearsal, rehearsal room 67 in the Stauffacher Center at State Fair Community College.
- 7:30 p.m.: Windsor

School Board, High School Library, 210 North St.

TUESDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 8 a.m.: Central MO Business Builders (BNI), at Heckart Family Center, 903 S. Ohio Ave.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- Noon: Sedalia Business Network meets at Colton's Steak House, 4101 W. Broadway Blvd.
- Noon: Sedalia Optimist Club, in Room C at the Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.
- 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Birthright Pregnancy Center, 1810 W. 11th St., Tuesday through Friday; and other hours by appointment. The office number is 660-826-9060.
- 2 p.m.: Book Club at Sedalia Public Library, 311 W. Third St.
- 5:30 p.m.: Diversified Community Outreach, True Vine Church of God in Christ, 600 N. Moniteau Ave.
- 6 p.m.: NarAnon meetings at LifePointe Church, 2921 W. Broadway Blvd.
- 6 p.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Track at Smith-Cotton Track.
- 6 p.m.: Sedville Crazy Quilters Guild at Central Bank Annex Building, in the basement, 403 W. Broadway Blvd.
- 6:30 p.m.: Pettis County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.
- 6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Shrine Fun Kor, Sedalia Shrine Club, 1615 Elm Hills Blvd.

- 6:30 p.m.: Sedville Petal Pushers, University of Missouri Pettis County Extension Office, 1012 A Thompson Blvd.
- 6:30 p.m.: Women's Democrat Club, Deer Brook Villas, 960 Mitchell Rd.
- 7:30 p.m.: Sedalia Chapter No. 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Temple, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.
- 7 p.m.: Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a 12-step fellowship of men and women at the First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St.; for more information, call Barbara at 660-827-6522.
- 7 p.m.: Women of the Moose, Moose Lodge, 119 Winchester Ave.

WEDNESDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 10 a.m.: TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 958, First Baptist Church, 200 E. Sixth St. First visit is free; 816-916-6237.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- Noon: Sedalia Lions Club, Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.
- 4 to 7 p.m.: Knights of Columbus Council No. 831, Family Night Buffet. Located at U.S. Highway 65 and Elm Hills Boulevard. The public is invited. Cost for adults is \$8; for children 6 to 12 years, \$4.
- 5:30 p.m.: Amigos de Cristo, Teen Mom Classes at 3003 W. 11th St., 660-826-2788.
- 6:30 p.m.: West Central Beekeepers Association meeting at the Pettis County Extension Office,

1012-A Thompson Blvd. 7 p.m.: Sedalia Lodge 236, Sedalia Masonic Center, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

THURSDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 10 a.m.: Retired Masons, card playing, followed by contributive luncheon, Masonic Lodge, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.
- 10:30 a.m.: Fair City Garden Club, in the downstairs meeting room at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St. New members welcome.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- Noon: Kiwanis of Sedalia, at Lamy's, 108 Pacific St.
- 12:30 p.m.: Friends of Boonslick Regional Library, downstairs meeting room at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

- 1 p.m.: Sedalia Duplicate Bridge Club at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.
- 6 p.m.: Women in Crisis Group, call 660-827-5555 for location.
- 6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Civil Air Patrol building, U.S. Highway 50.
- 7 p.m.: Blind of Central Missouri, First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St. Info 660-826-1690.
- 7 p.m.: Fraternal Order of Eagles 4286, Lincoln.
- 7 p.m.: Sedalia Bible Academy, Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., Sedalia. For more information, call 660-826-9988. It is free and

- open to the public.
- 7 p.m.: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2591 Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post, 121 S. Ohio Ave.
- 7 p.m.: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2591, VFW Post, 121 S. Ohio Ave.

FRIDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.
- 11:30 a.m.: The Pettis County Republican Women in the open atrium area at Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.
- Noon: Pettis County Pachyderms, Room C at the Heckart Community Center.
- 6 p.m.: Warsaw Marine Corps League Leathernecks, 607 E. Jefferson St. in Warsaw.

SATURDAY

- Each day: AA meets at 417 W. Pettis St.
- 7 a.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Group Run every Saturday at Clarendon and Katy Trail.
- 8 to 11 a.m.: All-you-can-eat breakfast, American Legion Post 642, 2016 W. Main St. Cost is \$6.
- 8 a.m.: Pettis County Democrat Breakfast Club, pancake breakfast, at FCS office, 2600 S. limit Ave.
- 10 a.m.: Valley of Hope Support Group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren meeting at Community of Christ Church, 2000 S. Ingram Ave.
- 11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

EXPLAINER: What is the metaverse and how will it work?

By The Associated Press

The term "metaverse" is the latest buzzword to capture the tech industry's imagination — and while Facebook parent Meta is the best-known entrant into this futuristic virtual concept, it's certainly not the only one. Mark Zuckerberg's all-in embrace — including renaming his company and investing tens of billions of dollars — might be the biggest thing to happen to the metaverse since science fiction writer Neal Stephenson coined the term for his 1992 novel "Snow Crash." But Zuckerberg and his team are hardly the only tech visionaries with ideas on how the metaverse, which will employ a mix of virtual reality and other technologies, should take shape. At this year's CES, the tech industry showcase in Las Vegas, the metaverse is a "key theme," said Kinsey Fabrizio, senior vice president at the trade group Consumer Technology Association. She pointed to automaker Stellantis and software giant Microsoft, which have a partnership to create a showroom in the metaverse. Another company, OVR, lets people smell the metaverse. As with any emerging technology, there are plenty of concerns around the metaverse, including whether it could allow big tech companies access to even more personal data, or contribute to the spread of hate and misinformation along with other online harms that exacerbate real-world

problems. Then there are those goggles. For now, anyone who wants to enter the metaverse must wear a virtual reality headset — an immediate deal breaker for some people. WHAT IS THE METAVERSE? Think of it as the internet brought to life, or at least rendered in 3D. Zuckerberg has described it as a "virtual environment" you can go inside of — instead of just looking at on a screen. Essentially, it's a world of endless, interconnected virtual communities where people can meet, work and play, using virtual reality headsets, augmented reality glasses, smartphone apps or other devices. It also will incorporate other aspects of online life such as shopping and social media, according to Victoria Petrock, an analyst who follows emerging technologies. "It's the next evolution of connectivity where all of those things start to come together in a seamless, doppelganger universe, so you're living your virtual life the same way you're living your physical life," she said. WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IN THE METAVERSE? Things like going to a virtual concert, taking a trip online, and buying and trying on digital clothing. The metaverse also could be a game-changer for the work-from-home shift that has evolved from the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of seeing co-workers on a video call grid, employees could see them virtually.



An attendee stands between cameras used to live broadcast into the metaverse during a Sony news conference before the start of the CES tech show Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY JOHN LOCHER | AP PHOTO

Those who can afford the VR headsets that cost at least hundreds of dollars — and want to wear them, of course — would be able, through their avatars, to flit between virtual worlds created by different companies. Tech companies still have to figure out how to connect their online platforms to each other. Making it work will require competing technology platforms to agree on a set of standards as well. IS THE METAVERSE JUST A META PROJECT? Zuckerberg is going big on what he sees as the next generation of the internet because he thinks it's going to be a major part of the digital economy. But he has

acknowledged that "no one company" will build the metaverse by itself. Other companies talking up the metaverse include Microsoft and chipmaker Nvidia, along with a bevy of startups. "We think there's going to be lots of companies building virtual worlds and environments in the metaverse, in the same way there's been lots of companies doing things on the World Wide Web," said Richard Kerris, vice president of Nvidia's Omniverse platform. "It's important to be open and extensible, so you can teleport to different worlds whether it's by one company or another company, the

same way I go from one web page to another web page." Video game companies also are taking a leading role. Epic Games, the company behind the popular Fortnite video game, has raised \$1 billion from investors to help with its long-term plans for building the metaverse. Game platform Roblox is another big player, outlining its vision of the metaverse as a place where "people can come together within millions of 3D experiences to learn, work, play, create and socialize." Consumer brands are trying to jump on the trend too. WILL THIS BE ANOTHER WAY TO GET MORE OF MY DATA?

Zuckerberg's embrace of the metaverse in some ways contradicts a central tenet of its biggest enthusiasts. They envision the metaverse as online culture's liberation from tech platforms like Facebook that assumed ownership of people's accounts, photos, posts and playlists and traded off what they gleaned from that data. "We want to be able to move around the internet with ease, but we also want to be able to move around the internet in a way we're not tracked and monitored," said venture capitalist Steve Jang, a managing partner at Kindred Ventures who focuses on cryptocurrency technology.

Friends

From Page 1B

After forming their monthly luncheon meetings, the six friends created their own Red Hat Club and called it the Rosy Ridge Runners. Hinken said the membership was limited to six because three friends had vans, and they could all go “clubbing in one vehicle.” As a result, the friends traveled as far away as Kansas City and Branson for Red Hat gatherings.

As she talked, Hinken opened a photo book of the friends’ excursions and said she takes

pictures each time they have lunch.

“We go in alphabetical order who chooses the place and the time,” Hinken said of their lunches.

This month is Hinken’s turn to choose the time and place for their friends’ lunch.

“Friendship is a blessing and one that many do not have the privilege to enjoy,” she said. “How fortunate I have been to have had these dear friends for 78 years. And besides, they know where all the skeletons are hidden.”

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



Sue Larimore, top left, Gwen Hinken, top right, and Jackie Bell, seated, pose for a photo during their interview with the Democrat this week. The trio is part of a larger group of women friends who have stayed connected since high school.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Cooke Column

Continued From Page 1B

I realized I have naturally wavy/curly hair (thanks, Instagram Reels) and that I could let those curls grow wild if I stopped conforming to beauty standards by straightening my hair every day since high school. Shockingly, my hair is much healthier now that I'm not putting several hundred degrees of heat on my locks every morning. And I've gotten more compliments than ever on my hair.

I've had to take a new approach to news coverage at the Democrat. Our press deadline changes that started in March significantly impacted what could make it into the next day's print edition. You guys, our readers, saw right here in the pages of the Democrat that I admitted I could change my mind from time to time, specifically regarding our election coverage in print. Almost a year later, I'm still trying to figure out the best

approach to our night-time coverage that doesn't even begin until after the presses have started rolling, but I've been open to suggestions during a situation that is new to all of us.

My overall view hasn't changed drastically over the last year, but I've changed a few opinions after I heard another perspective or read a new piece of information. I'm not asking the Republicans to become Democrats or for liberals to become conservatives, but I think a little bit of perspective, research and good old-fashioned face-to-face conversations would go a long way in our divisive political society.

So for 2023, my resolution remains the same as it has for years: to improve. I hope you try the same. Whether by a little or by a lot, let's all try to find a way to make ourselves, and our world, better.



In 1983, the eight best friends (two not shown) decided to meet once a year for lunch. The first meeting took place at Liberty Park. After the death of Anna Lee Shackles and Evelina Turner in 2007, they began meeting once a month and still do.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GWEN HINKEN

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Barbara Walters, news pioneer and 'The View' creator, dies

By Frazier Moore
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Walters, the intrepid interviewer, anchor and program host who blazed the way as the first woman to become a TV news superstar during a career remarkable for its duration and variety, has died. She was 93.

ABC broke into its broadcast to announce Walters' death on air Friday night.

"She lived her life with no regrets. She was a trailblazer not only for female journalists, but for all women," her publicist Cindi Berger also said in a statement, adding Walters died peacefully at her New York home.

An ABC spokesperson did not have an immediate comment Friday night beyond sharing a statement from Bob Iger, the CEO of ABC parent The Walt Disney Company.

"Barbara was a true legend, a pioneer not just for women in journalism but for journalism itself," Iger said.

During nearly four decades at ABC, and before that at NBC, Walters' exclusive interviews with rulers, royalty and entertainers brought her celebrity status that ranked with theirs, while placing her at the forefront of the trend that made stars of TV reporters.

Late in her career, she gave infotainment a new twist with "The View," a live ABC weekday kaffee klatsch with an all-female panel for whom any topic was on the table and who welcomed guests ranging from world leaders to teen idols. With that side venture and unexpected hit, Walters considered "The View" the "dessert" of her career.

A statement from the show said Walters created "The View" in 1977 "to champion women's voices."

"We're proud to be part of her legacy," the statement said.

Walters made headlines in 1976 as the first female network news anchor, with an unprecedented \$1 million



In this Oct. 7, 2014, file photo, Barbara Walters addresses an audience at the John F. Kennedy School of Government on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Barbara Walters, the intrepid interviewer, anchor and program host who led the way as the first woman to become a TV news superstar during a network career remarkable for its duration and variety, has died, Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. She was 93.

FILE PHOTO BY STEVEN SENNE | AP PHOTO

salary that drew gasps. Her drive was legendary as she competed — not just with rival networks, but with colleagues at her own network — for each big "get" in a world jammed with more and more interviewers, including female journalists following in her trail.

"I never expected this!" Walters said in 2004, taking stock of her success. "I always thought I'd be a writer for television. I never even thought I'd be in front of a camera."

But she was a natural on camera, especially when plying notables with searing questions.

"I'm not afraid when I'm interviewing, I have no fear!" Walters told The Associated Press in 2008.

In a voice that never lost its trace of her native Boston accent or its substitution of Ws-for-Rs, Walters lobbed blunt and sometimes giddy questions, often sugar-coated with a hushed, reverential delivery.

"Offscreen, do you like you?" she once asked actor John Wayne, while Lady Bird Johnson was asked whether she was jealous of her late husband's reputation as a ladies' man.

In May 2014, she taped her final episode

of "The View" amid much ceremony to end a five-decade career in television (although she continued to make occasional TV appearances). During a commercial break, a throng of TV newswomen she had paved the way for — including Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric, Robin Roberts and Connie Chung — posed for a group portrait.

"I have to remember this on the bad days," Walters said quietly, "because this is the best."

Her career began with no such inklings of majesty.

Walters graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1943 and eventually landed a "temporary," behind-the-scenes assignment at "Today" in 1961. Shortly afterward, what was seen as the token woman's slot among the staff's eight writers opened. Walters got the job and began to make occasional on-air appearances with offbeat stories such as "A Day in the Life of a Nun" or the tribulations of a Playboy bunny. For the latter, she donned bunny ears and high heels to work at the Playboy Club.

As she appeared more frequently, she was spared the title of "'To-

day' Girl" that had been attached to her predecessors. But she had to pay her dues, sometimes sprinting between interviews to do dog food commercials.

She had the first interview with Rose Kennedy after the assassination of her son, Robert, as well as with Princess Grace of Monaco and President Richard Nixon. She traveled to India with Jacqueline Kennedy, to China with Nixon and to Iran to cover the shah's gala party. But she faced a setback in 1971 with the arrival of a new host, Frank McGee, who insisted she wait for him to ask three questions before she could open her mouth during interviews with "powerful persons."

Although she gained celebrity status in her own right, the celebrity world was familiar to her even as a little girl. Her father was an English-born booking agent who turned an old Boston church into a nightclub. Lou Walters opened other clubs in Miami and New York, and young Barbara spent her after-hours with regulars such as Joseph Kennedy and Howard Hughes.

Those were the good times. But her father made and lost fortunes

in a dizzying cycle that taught her success was always at risk of being snatched away, and could neither be trusted nor enjoyed.

Sensing greater freedom and opportunities awaiting her outside the NBC studio, she hit the road to produce more exclusive interviews, including with Nixon chief of staff H.R. Haldeman.

By 1976, she had been granted the title of "Today" co-host and was earning \$700,000 a year. But when ABC signed her to a \$5 million, five-year contract, she was branded the "the million-dollar baby."

Reports failed to note her job duties would be split between the network's entertainment division and ABC News, then mired in third place. Meanwhile, Harry Reasoner, her seasoned "ABC Evening News" co-anchor, was said to resent her salary and celebrity orientation.

It wasn't just the shaky relationship with her co-anchor that brought Walters problems.

Comedian Gilda Radner satirized her on "Saturday Night Live" as a rhotacistic commentator named "Baba Wawa." And after her interview with a newly elected President Jimmy Carter in which Walters told Carter "be wise with us," CBS correspondent Morley Safer publicly derided her as "the first female pope blessing the new cardinal."

It was a period that seemed to mark the end of everything she'd worked for, she later recalled.

"I thought it was all over: 'How stupid of me ever to have left NBC!'"

But salvation arrived in the form of a new boss: ABC News president Rooney Arledge moved her out of the co-anchor slot and into special projects. Meanwhile, she found success with her quarterly primetime interview specials. She became a frequent contributor to newsmagazine "20/20," and later co-host. A perennial favorite was her review of the year's "10 Most Fascinating People."

By 2004, when she stepped down from "20/20," she had logged

more than 700 interviews, ranging from Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Moammar Gadhafi, to Michael Jackson, Erik and Lyle Menendez and Elton John. Her two-hour talk with Monica Lewinsky in 1999, timed to the former White House intern's memoir about her affair with President Bill Clinton, drew more than 70 million viewers.

Lewinsky tweeted that she had lunch with Walters a few years ago where "of course, she was charming, witty and some of her questions were still her signature interview style."

A special favorite for Walters was Katharine Hepburn, although a 1981 exchange led to one of her most ridiculed questions: "What kind of a tree are you?" (Walters would later object that the question was perfectly reasonable within the context of their conversation).

Walters did pronounce herself guilty of being "dreadfully sentimental" at times and was famous for making her subjects cry, with Oprah Winfrey and Ringo Starr among the more famous shedders.

But her work also received high praise. She won a Peabody Award for her interview with Christopher Reeve shortly after the 1995 horseback-riding accident that left him paralyzed.

Walters' first marriage to businessman Bob Katz was annulled after a year. Her 1963 marriage to theater owner Lee Guber, with whom she adopted a daughter, ended in divorce after 13 years. Her five-year marriage to producer Merv Adelson ended in divorce in 1990. Walters wrote a bestselling 2008 memoir "Audition," which caught readers by surprise with her disclosure of a "long and rocky affair" in the 1970s with married U.S. Senator Edward Brooke.

Walters' self-disclosure reached another benchmark in May 2010 when she made an announcement on "The View" that, days later, she would undergo heart surgery. She would feature her successful surgery — and those of other notables, including Clinton and David Letterman — in a prime-time special.

Walters is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline Danforth.

"I hope that I will be remembered as a good and courageous journalist. I hope that some of my interviews, not created history, but were witness to history, although I know that title has been used," Walters told the AP upon her retirement from "The View." "I think that when I look at what I have done, I have a great sense of accomplishment. I don't want to sound proud and haughty, but I think I've had just a wonderful career and I'm so thrilled that I have."

— *Moore, a longtime Associated Press television writer who retired in 2017, was the principal writer of this obituary. Associated Press journalists Stefanie Dazio and Alicia Rancilio contributed to this report.*



Walters Barbara is seen after opening night on the ABC evening news with anchor partner Harry Reasoner, on Oct. 4, 1976.

FILE PHOTO BY AP PHOTO

Velvet: A decor favorite now that never went away

By Kim Cook
Associated Press

It was all over the fashion runways. Women's Wear Daily raved about Armani dresses in this material. Harper's Bazaar called it one of 2022's biggest trends. At Britain's film awards, celebrities partied in Louis Vuitton, Ralph Lauren and Gucci versions. It's even found its way down to casual wear, in jeans, T-shirts and slouchy overshirts.

Once the luxurious material of nobility, velvet's now a fashion favorite at both the private-label and mass-market level.

And as often happens, what rides high in fashion ends up doing the same in home décor.

"As an interior designer, I love infusing fashion trends in my designs," says Cincinnati-based Amy Youngblood. "Many of my clients have come to recognize that both interior design and fashion give you the freedom to creatively explore and develop a better understanding of yourself and others around you. Fashion is the driving force which interior design follows, and finds its inspiration from."

But should we say velvet is "trending"?

Here's Jessica Dodel-Feder, executive editor at HGTV Magazine:

"I was talking to our home and style directors about this, and honestly, we all feel like velvet never really went away. It's one of those classic fabrics that add texture and depth to a space without introducing pattern. And that's cool," she says.

For John McClain, an interior designer in Orlando, Florida, and author of the new "The Designer Within" (Gibbs Smith), the plush fabric is on speed dial in his little black book of upholstery.

"Velvet is a mainstay in my designs," he says.

He's done a home theater wall in velvet for a client, and says it has ex-



This image provided by John McClain Design shows the formal room of a residence with velvet primarily on the sofa. Women's Wear Daily raved about Armani dresses in the material. Harper's Bazaar called it one of 2022's biggest trends. At Britain's film awards this year, celebrities partied in Vuitton, Lauren and Gucci versions. It's even found its way down to casual wear, in jeans, T-shirts and slouchy overshirts. Once the luxurious material of nobility, velvet's now a fashion favorite at both the private-label and mass-market level.

PHOTO BY JOHN MCCLAIN DESIGN/ZEKE RUELAS VIA AP

cellent sound abatement properties. He called the fabric "our seating cover of choice."

Velvet, he says, can offer deep color and a rich feel that "shines at a dinner party." At the same time, it can be much more resilient than people assume — particularly if you get a commercial-grade synthetic velvet.

"Nobody knows the difference, because the 'hand,' or feel, is so soft. It feels as sophisticated — and as nice — as its natural cotton counterpart," he says,

Dodell-Feder agrees. "For most families, performance velvet will probably do the trick. It's not as luxe as real velvet, but it's easier to care for and has a similar plushness. Because I have a dog, when I bought a sofa for my living room, I went with performance velvet," she says.

And Jillian Hayward Schaible, a designer in

Milton, Massachuett, also cautions clients to select the right kind of plush velvet for their furniture.

"It can add lovely depth in both texture and sheen on any piece, from furniture to accents. If you're looking for a pet-friendly, family-friendly fabric, we'd recommend opting for a performance velvet," she says.

Velvet is made of natural fibers like silk, cotton, linen, wool; less expensive versions may have a synthetic blend. Performance velvet is made of polyester.

Domino magazine's editors recently coined the name "Plazacore" for a style that nods to the Manhattan hotel that was home to the children's-book character Eloise. It's evoked by accessories like crystal, polished metallics and cushy velvet throws.

As for color, McClain says he typically goes

for light neutrals — "yes, even in a family with kids" — but that sometimes "we also love the punch of a colorful velvet. It's a statement maker."

New York City designer Gideon Mendelson says he puts velvet on sofas, chairs, headboards and, when the budget allows, walls. He likes soft grays and camels as well as "deeper tones of teal, chocolate brown, and burgundy."

HGTV's deputy home director Lora Yoon Huh sees a trend toward warm shades. "Lately, I've been seeing velvet in sunset colors like ochre and orange."

But the magazine did a recent shoot of a bed with a pale pink velvet pillow. Says Huh: "There's something about the way velvet catches the light that gives any color beautiful dimension."

And designer Nicole Fisher placed

a champagne-hued, crushed-velvet bed in a home in New York City's West Village, for a sophisticated yet comforting spot. Then, in the TV room, she placed a pair of ottomans in a soft but vibrantly patterned velvet to riff off the space's sapphire-blue walls.

"There are so many ways to incorporate that cozy vibe with velvet," she says.

A look at what some retailers are offering:

For big pieces, check out Anthropologie's Juneau buffet, a statement piece with a swanky, speakeasy vibe. It could be an entertainment space with its abundant storage, Carrara marble top and brass accents. Available in blush, deep turquoise or moss-green channeled velvet.

The retailer's other offerings include the Lena Elowen chair. Antique French and Italian botanical tapestries were

the inspiration for the velvet upholstery.

You'll find more comfy, stylish seating at Arhaus, Article, and Lulu and Georgia. And at Thuma, there's a lovely pillowy washable velvet headboard cover, in charcoal, fog and linen colorways.

Aerin has smart moss or dusky blue-hued velvet trays and picture frames trimmed with brass that would be chic accessories. Parachute's washed cotton velvet bedding comes in a beautiful loden green or bronze hue.

And for an unusual spin on the material, consider Artaic's stunning mosaic tile designed to emulate the look of crushed velvet. It comes in two colorways: emerald, and cabernet.

—
New York-based writer Kim Cook covers design and decor topics regularly for The AP.

'Romeo & Juliet' stars sue over 1968 film's teen nude scene

By Andrew Dalton
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The two stars of 1968's "Romeo and Juliet" sued Paramount Pictures for more than \$500 million on Tuesday over a nude scene in the film shot when they were teens.

Olivia Hussey, then 15 and now 71, and Leonard Whiting, then 16 now 72, filed the suit in Los Angeles County Superior Court alleging sexual abuse, sexual harassment and fraud.

Director Franco Zeffirelli, who died in 2019, initially told the two that they would wear flesh-colored undergarments in the bedroom scene that comes late in the movie and was shot on the final days of filming, the suit alleges.

But on the morning of the shoot, Zeffirelli told Whiting, who played Romeo, and Hussey, who played Juliet, that they would wear only body makeup, while still assuring them the camera would be positioned in a way that would not show nudity, according to the suit.



"Romeo and Juliette" movie director Franco Zeffirelli, left, actors Olivia Hussey, center, and Leonard Whiting are seen after the Parisian premiere of the film in Paris on Sept. 25, 1968. The two stars of 1968's "Romeo and Juliet" sued Paramount Pictures for more than \$500 million on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, over a nude scene in the film shot when they were teens.

FILE PHOTO BY EUSTACHE CARDENAS | AP PHOTO

Yet they were filmed in the nude without their knowledge, in violation of California and federal laws against indecency and the exploitation of children, the suit says.

Zeffirelli told them they

must act in the nude "or the Picture would fail" and their careers would be hurt, the suit said. The actors "believed they had no choice but to act in the nude in body makeup as demanded."

Whiting's bare buttocks and Hussey's bare breasts are briefly shown during the scene.

The film, and its theme song, were major hits at the time, and has been shown to generations

of high school students studying the Shakespeare play since.

The court filing says the Hussey and Whiting have suffered emotional damage and mental anguish for decades, and that each

had careers that did not reflect the success of the movie.

It says given that suffering and the revenue brought in by the film since its release, the actors are entitled to damages of more than \$500 million.

An email seeking comment from representatives of Paramount was not immediately returned.

The lawsuit was filed under a California law temporarily suspending the statute of limitations for child sex abuse, which has led to a host of new lawsuits and the revival of many others that were previously dismissed.

Hussey defended the scene in a 2018 interview with Variety, which first reported the lawsuit, for the film's 50th anniversary.

"Nobody my age had done that before," she said, adding that Zeffirelli shot it tastefully. "It was needed for the film."

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Hussey and Whiting have.

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Legal Notice

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: R PAUL BEARD
Case Number: 22PT-PR00244
CARROLL E CHANCELLOR, Deceased.
Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted (Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of CARROLL E CHANCELLOR, Decedent:
On 1-5-2023, the last will of the decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of CARROLL E CHANCELLOR, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is: LARRY CHANCELLOR, 11944 HWY TT, WARSAW, MO 65355.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: JEFFREY L DULL, LAW OFFICES OF DULL & HEANY LLC, 1116 E OHIO, CLINTON, MO 64735, 660/885-9600.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 31-OCT-2022
Date of first publication: 07-JAN-2023

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk

4x-1/7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

Notice to Bidders
Smithton R-VI School District HVAC Replacement
The Smithton R-VI School District is accepting proposals from qualified contractors for HVAC upgrades to be done at its campus in Smithton, Missouri. Proposals need to be received at 505 S. Myrtle Avenue; Smithton Missouri 65350 by February 3, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. Work is to be done between June 30, 2023 and August 11, 2023. Winning bidder must present proof of insurance and any required work permits. All Contractors and Subcontractors shall conform to the most current State of Missouri, Division of Labor Standards. All Contractors and Subcontractors shall conform to the Missouri Prevailing Wage Law, if such provision applies to this Project.
The project consists of the upgrade and replacement of HVAC units in locations across the campus. Qualified bidders may visit <https://planroom.drexelter.com/View/Default.aspx> for complete bidding documents. Please contact Kevin Pearson at Smith and Boucher, Inc., kpearson@smithboucher.com or call (913) 344-0036 for questions regarding the scope of work. If you would like to inspect the site please contact David Bray at (660) 343 5316. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
2x-1/7, 11, 2023

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 22PT-PR00237
SEDRICK L LEWIS, Deceased.
Notice of LIMITED Letters of Administration Granted (Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of SEDRICK L LEWIS,

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Legal Notice

Decedent:
On 12-21-2022, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of SEDRICK L LEWIS, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is: SEDRICK L LEWIS, JR, 3404 RIDGECREST DR, COLUMBIA, MO 65202.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: JEFFREY M RINNE, KURL-BAUM RINNE LAW FIRM LLC, 9101 W 110TH ST, STE 200, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66210, 913-334-5444.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 23-OCT-2014
Date of first publication: 24-DEC-2022

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/ Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk

4x-12/24, 31, 2022; 1/7, 14, 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 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 meet-

Legal Notice

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

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 22PT-PR00246
SASHA M SKAGGS, Deceased.

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted (Independent Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of SASHA M SKAGGS, Decedent:
On 1-5-2023, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of SASHA M SKAGGS, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is: BRETT ANTHONY STONE, 8020 MT NEBO CHURCH RD, PILOT GROVE, MO 65276
The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: R SCOTT GARDNER, 416 SOUTH OHIO AVE, SEDALIA, MO 65301-4410, 660-827-0204.

Legal Notice

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 04-OCT-2022
Date of first publication: 07-JAN-2023

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk

4x-1/7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

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Pettis County Health Center is seeking to hire a full time health educator to work primarily in the area of substance abuse prevention. This position will also include securing additional certifications such as CPR instructor and child passenger safety technician. Qualifications include a Bachelor degree in fields that involve education, social sciences, or human sciences. Experience working with adolescents is preferred. Experience will be considered if degree not completed. Training for certification as a prevention specialist will be provided.

Salary and benefits provided as determined by the grant funding. Applications accepted until position is filled.

Resumes should be submitted to Robin Bartlett at robin.bartlett@lpha.mo.gov, mailed to Pettis County Health Center at 911 E. 16th Street, Sedalia, MO 65301 or delivered to the Health Center.

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