

PRECISION GUIDANCE

Robot-assisted dentistry comes to Sedalia • **Living B1**

FAMILIAR FACE

Former Stover coach enjoying new role • **Sports A11**

Weekend Edition

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Saturday, February 4, 2023

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Ag Expo opens at Mathewson Exhibition Center



During the Central Missouri Ag Club Expo on Friday, members of the Missouri Army National Guard line up for free hot dogs at the Central Bank of Sedalia table inside the Mathewson Exhibition Center on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Erica Petersen, left, Central Bank business development and marketing, and Carrie McClain, a teller, said that MFA Oil Inc. donated the hot dogs, and the Ag Club donated the buns, condiments, and napkins.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



Gentrie Davis, a junior at Marshall High School and owner of GMae's Baking and Milling, talks to a man during the Central Missouri Ag Club Expo on Friday. Gentrie and her brother Gage Davis, a freshman, are members of the Marshall FFA Chapter, and their businesses, GMae's Milling and AGDash, are engaged through the National FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience.



The Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller smiles as her son, Isaac Zeller, 5, watches a model train at the Central Missouri Ag Club Expo on Friday. The train was at the Reece Nichols Realty table with realtor Hansel Morris.



The State Fair Community College Ag Club offers an assortment of goodies at its stand during Friday's Central Missouri Ag Club Expo in the Mathewson Exhibition Center. SFCC Ag Club members made most of the treats. The Ag Expo will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.



Judy Harrell takes an order Friday at the Pettis County Cattleman's food truck at the Central Missouri Ag Club Expo. The food truck will also be open at the Expo on Saturday, grilling hamburgers and ribeye steak for sandwiches.

Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers Saturday

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Two homes are under construction by Sedalia Habitat for Humanity, thanks to the caring people at First Baptist Church of Sedalia.

Habitat board President David Limbaugh explained the church's connection to the home-building non-profit.

"Our church had volunteered to put up siding, that was probably 20 years ago," Limbaugh said. "I volunteered because I grew up with some skills from my dad, carpentry and things, so I thought I could help."

Limbaugh spoke with the homeowner as she was putting in sweat equity on her house.

"She was excited," Limbaugh said. "It was going to change her life and relieve a lot of pressure. I just thought we were going to help work on the house, but it ended up what we're doing is changing people's lives."

The Habitat homes give the renters an avenue to



Tony Shepherd with Shep's Construction is teaching carpentry to volunteers working on the Habitat for Humanity home being worked on Saturday in Sedalia.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

homeownership by taking that financial hurdle away.

"It lets them earn some sweat equity and get proud about their house instead of living in a run-down rental place," Limbaugh said.

Habitat Sedalia wasn't always financially secure until, one day, the organization

received a surprise gift.

"Unfortunately, about five years ago, a lady that was one of the original people that started Habitat back in the '80s, she passed away and she left us a very nice bequest," Limbaugh recalled. "Her name is Ethel Hall.

See HOME | A6

Williams named Sacred Heart's Teacher of the Year

By Skye Melcher
skiem@sedaliademocrat.com

During the all-school mass on Friday, the Sacred Heart School Foundation announced the 2023 Teacher of the Year.

The school's faculty members vote for the Teacher of the Year award, presented each year at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week.

Eligible candidates must demonstrate a positive school spirit, be involved in the school, community and church, achieve an overall average evaluation on classroom teaching and have at least six years of

teaching experience at Sacred Heart.

Foundation President Kyle Herrick said during his remarks that this year's Teacher of the Year is dedicated to finding new strategies to keep her students engaged and excited about learning.

"A colleague says that our teacher of the year has a special way of making each child feel loved and important," Herrick said. "The positive impact of this person doesn't stop within the classroom. Her door is always open to her fellow colleagues and offers words of encouragement to others."

Herrick added that



Robin Williams

Friday was a day to rejoice and celebrate Sacred Heart's third grade teacher Robin Williams.

Williams has spent nearly 40 years in education and the last eight years at Sacred Heart.

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COMING UP SOON!

FORTNITE TOURNAMENT
at HCC Fitness Studio on
Saturday, February 11th starting at 10am

Players will compete in 4 solo rounds and earn points based on eliminations and placing.

For more information, contact Coach Jeff, jlynde@sedaliaparks.com

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Curry Mosby

Barbara was born in Sedalia, MO, to LD and Mildred Curry. As a young girl, Barbara already knew she wanted to be a nurse. She finished nursing school in Kansas City in 1953. Barbara worked as an RN for over 50 years, 36 of which were at Hemet Valley Hospital, Hemet, California.



Barbara is survived by her children Wes Mosby (Karen) of Carlsbad, CA, Dan Mosby (Cressy), Rosemarie Hayes (Sel) of Hemet, CA, and Kevin (Mary Jo) of Cathedral City, CA; five grandchildren; four (soon to be five) great-grandchildren; and two brothers, David Curry (Emma) and Tim Curry (Christie) of Sedalia, MO. Barbara will be missed by all.

In 1954, Barbara married Walter Mosby (predeceased) in Sedalia, MO. They moved with their four children to Hemet, California in 1967. Barbara's greatest joy in life was her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Nothing could make her smile quite like a baby! She loved gathering the entire family (plus some) for holiday meals. Earlier in life, she enjoyed golf, western dancing, and riding on the back of Walter's Harley-Davidson.

The family thanks Sun-west for their loving care. Services will be held at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Rosary will be held at Hemet Valley Mortuary on Saturday, February 11 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Barbara attended Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Hemet for 56 years. She was involved with the parish's blood pressure and health screening clinics for many

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Hemet Valley Mortuary, 403 N. San Jacinto St. Hemet, CA 92543, 951-658-4433.

Glenda Jane Berry Peter Horn

Glenda Jane Berry Peter Horn, 69, of Sedalia, died Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Rest Haven Convalescent and Retirement Home.



She worked as a CNA and head cook at Broadway Arms, and as a CNA at Elder Care.

She was born December 2, 1953, in Warrensburg, the daughter of Glen and Altha Berry.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Lloyd Peter and Jim Horn; three brothers, Larry, Mike and Bill Berry; one sister, Mary Sites; and one niece, Jennifer Berry.

Glenda graduated in 1972 from Warrensburg. She met Lloyd Peter and had Amy Peter along with Lloyd's seven other children. She was later married to Jim Horn Sr. until his passing.

She is survived by her daughter, Amy Peter, of Sedalia; three sisters, Louise Slade, of Belton, Virginia Barnes, of Lawrence, KS, and Wanda Reeves, of Sedalia; two brothers, Terry Berry (Dani), of Otterville, and Wayne Berry; her sons, Johnny Peter (Laurie), of Fonda, IA, Ed Johnson (Shelly), of Arizona, and Don Johnson (Debra), of Minnesota; daughters, Pam Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Dee Ann "Pogo" Peterson (Tracy), all of Minnesota, and Connie Kreager (Buck), of Arkansas; along with many nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Glenda moved to Sedalia in 1984. She was a member of Parkway Free Will Baptist Church where she asked the Lord Jesus into her heart. She was saved and baptized there. She loved her church and church family along with her Bible studies. She also enjoyed long phone visits with her friends.

Glenda loved playing cards, Skip Bo, Uno, Sorry, bingo and many others. She liked going to Warsaw to go fishing and going out to eat with Amy and her close friend, Kathy Vens, and others. Her favorite music was Christian and country. She loved her cats and dogs as family. She loved traveling, with some of her favorite trips including riding the train to Las Vegas, visiting Yellowstone National Park and Mt. Rushmore, and visiting relatives in Iowa.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at Heckart Funeral Home, with Rev. Gary Bigelow officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until service time. Burial will be at a later date in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Parkway Free Will Baptist Church.

DEATH NOTICE

Fitzpatrick

Howard L. Fitzpatrick, 79, of Lincoln, died Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at the Davis-Miller Funeral Home in Lincoln. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, at the funeral home. Interment will follow the funeral at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Reynolds

Mark Edward Reynolds, 65, of La Monte, died Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, at home surrounded by family.

A memorial service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

FUNERALS

Aaron Clark Hunton

10 a.m. Saturday at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Rita Kathryn Fairfax

2 p.m. Saturday at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Howard L. Fitzpatrick

11 a.m. Tuesday at the Davis-Miller Funeral Home in Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Mark Edward Reynolds

7 p.m. Tuesday at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Glenda Jane Berry Peter Horn

2 p.m. Wednesday at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Barbara Curry Mosby

10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13 at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Hemet, California. Arrangements are under the direction of Hemet Valley Mortuary in Hemet, California.

Means, Mary Jo (Vilmer)

11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22 at Sierra View Chapel in Carmichael, California. Arrangements are under the direction of Neptune Society of Northern California.

CRASH REPORTS

Independence man hurt in Johnson accident

Walter E. Capps, 23, of Independence, sustained minor injuries at 4:05 p.m. Thursday in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Capps was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt east on U.S. Highway 50 when he traveled up the left side of

the road and struck a concrete culvert.

He was wearing a seat belt and was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Upcoming local blood drives

Spring is close, but February often brings unpredictable winter weather that can cause blood drive cancellations and make it difficult for donors to make it to their appointments safely.

As the American Red Cross continues to monitor seasonal challenges that could impact the blood supply, donors are urged to make and keep appointments to help prevent a

shortage in the weeks to come. Donors of all blood types – particularly type O blood donors, the most needed blood group by hospitals – and platelet donors are needed daily to meet demand.

All who come to give in February will get a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, thanks to Amazon. Those who come to donate this month will also be entered to win a trip for two to Clearwater Beach, Florida. Book a time to give

blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

Feb. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lincoln High School, 101 W. Lamine in Lincoln.

Feb. 8 from 2 to 6 p.m. at La Monte High School, 301 S. Washington in La Monte.

Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Katy Trail Community Health Center, 821

Westwood Ave. in Sedalia.

Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Yeager's Cycle, 3001 S. Limit Ave. in Sedalia.

Feb. 14 from noon to 5 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — Warrensburg, 1515 SE Route DD in Warrensburg.

Feb. 15 from noon to 4 p.m. at Lamy's, 108 W. Pacific in Sedalia.

Feb. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Knights of Columbus, South Osage in Tipton.

Brownfield named January Cadet of the Month



On Jan. 25, five Smith-Cotton JROTC cadets competed in the first Cadet of the Month board for 2023. These cadets are selected for their academic performance, potential for leadership and service within the JROTC program. They are scored on their knowledge of military history, current events and the curriculum of the JROTC program. Cadet Jacob Brownfield was selected as the January Cadet of the Month. Brownfield is pictured with Don Barbour of the 40 & 8 veterans organization.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

Photo Submissions

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

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Boys & Girls Club names Youths of the Year



Nolan Gieschen, Smithton, was named Elementary Youth of the Year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI



Brooklyn Hathaway, Parkview, was named Junior Youth of the Year.



Austin Nations was named Teen Youth of the Year.

It was a night of inspiring stories during the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's Youth of the Year event, presented by Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co. The competition, hosted Jan. 31 at the Hayden Liberty Center, was attended by more than 100 family members and friends of the nominees.

Nolan Gieschen, Smithton Site, was named Elementary Youth of the Year; Brooklyn Hathaway, Parkview Site, was named Junior Youth of the Year, and Austin Nations (The CLUB) was named Teen Youth of the Year.

"We are so proud of our candidates this year," said Director of Operations Tyler Hudson. "It takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of a crowd and tell your story. We look forward to Brooklyn and Austin representing our Club during the state competition in April."

Youth of the Year is the Club's premier youth recognition program, which honors outstanding con-

tributions to a member's family, school, community and Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome. To be named a Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can achieve. In addition to the Youth of the Year title, Austin received a \$1,000 scholarship to State Fair Community College and a \$4,000 scholarship to Missouri State University.

"Youth of the Year is an opportunity to showcase our members' story of what Boys & Girls Club means to them," said Executive Director Gary Beckman. "For some, it's a place to do fun things with friends and get homework help, for others, it's about the relationships that inspire and encourage greatness. This group of remarkable young people makes the lives of all those around them better by their kindness, leadership, service and encouragement to others."

Release courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club of West Central Missouri.

SNHU FALL 2022 PRESIDENT'S LIST

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) announced the following students were named to the Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from Septem-

ber to December.

Knob Noster: Tina Warren and Bromlyn Smith
Whiteman Air Force Base: Gregorio Perales

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 Feb. 3

2:00 a.m.: Morgan R. Hawkins, 24, of Kansas City, was arrested after officers were dispatched to a burglary in progress in the 1900 block of South Harrison Avenue. The victim reported a subject was forcing entry into the front door of the residence. Officers arrived and located Hawkins exiting the front door. She told officers she did not reside at the residence but was known to the resident. She had an open knife on her person and was detained. Further investigation revealed the suspect unlawfully entered the residence and assaulted the resident. During the incident, the suspect presented a knife in a threatening manner. Hawkins was arrested and transported to the Pettis County Jail, where she was placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of first-degree burglary, domestic assault, and armed criminal action.

Incidents Jan. 29

4:43 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the SPD lobby in reference to a general information report. The reporting party said they loaned their vehicle to someone in the 2600 block of North Woodlawn Drive and it was returned damaged. The incident was documented with a general information report.

Feb. 1

4:27 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to a business in the 3100 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a theft report. The victim said he lost his wallet in the store and it was not turned in anywhere.

Feb. 2

9:53 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to a business in the 4400 block of Wisconsin Avenue in reference to a forgery report. Someone came into the store and paid with a counterfeit \$100 bill.

11:12 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to a business in the 800 block of Thompson Boulevard regarding a theft report. A suspect entered the store, put merchandise underneath their clothing, and ran out without paying.

12:27 p.m.: An officer took a theft report in the police station lobby regarding a bad check for services in the 700 block of Winchester Drive.

1:12 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to a business in the 3200 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a forgery report. Two suspects came into the store and used counterfeit \$100 bills to pay for items and get cash back.

7:43 p.m.: An officer responded to the police department lobby in reference to lost property. The subject said they left their purse outside in the 200 block of South Moniteau Avenue and when they came back, it was gone. There are no suspects.

Feb. 3

2:05 a.m.: Sedalia police officers were dispatched to Liberty Park, 1500 W. Third St., for a report of a dog that had fallen through the ice.

Just after officers arrived, the dog slipped under the ice and though Sedalia Fire Department personnel deployed their water rescue team, the dog drowned. The owner has not yet been identified.

2:31 a.m.: Sedalia officers, Sedalia Fire personnel, and Pettis County Ambulance District personnel were dispatched to the 500 block of East Fourth Street in reference to a possible overdose. Information provided stated the victim was not breathing or conscious. Officers arrived and found the caller, who stated they had administered Narcan and performed CPR on the victim before their arrival. The victim was not initially responsive, and did not appear to be breathing. He was placed on the floor and officers admitted a dose of Narcan nasally. The victim became responsive and was able to speak with officers, admitting to ingesting pills, causing the overdose. He was eventually transported to Bothwell Regional Health Center by PCAD for further evaluation.

Pettis County Sheriff's Office Arrests Feb. 2

1:49 a.m.: Garry Brunner, 37, of Warsaw, was arrested after deputies responded to the southern end of the county on U.S. Highway 65 to assist Benton County deputies who were in pursuit of a white Dodge Charger. The driver was known by Benton County deputies to have parole violation warrants and to have removed his ankle monitor. He was also throwing narcotics from the vehicle, which entered Pettis

County in excess of 120 mph. Deputies were able to deploy Stop Sticks multiple times as he fled north from Benton County and joined the pursuit as it continued through Sedalia city limits. The vehicle eventually came to a stop near U.S. 65 and Swope Road due to being disabled by a missing tire. Brunner was taken into custody without further incident. Deputies located methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. He was transported back to Benton County by Benton County deputies.

Incidents Feb. 2

10:14 a.m.: Deputies were given a lost wallet that was found on West Broadway Boulevard near Walmart. They were unable to contact the owner as they reside outside Pettis County and there are no records of them in the system. If you are missing a wallet you may have lost near Walmart, contact the Sheriff's office.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Feb. 2

10:03 p.m.: Gary L. Perfater, 38, of Windsor, was arrested in Henry County for driving while intoxicated and speeding. He was transported to the Henry County Jail and released.

6:02 p.m.: Ty J. Bradley, 52, of Belton, was arrested in Saline County for driving while intoxicated, failure to signal, and speeding. He was transported to the Saline County Jail and released.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

US tells owners to park old Hondas until air bags are fixed

DETROIT — Honda and the U.S. government are urging owners of about 8,200 older vehicles not to drive them until dangerous air bag inflators are replaced.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on Friday issued a "Do Not Drive" advisory for the 2001 through 2003 vehicles with Takata inflators that have a high possibility of exploding and hurling shrapnel in a crash.

The safety agency says the risk to drivers and passengers is dire because the so-called "Alpha" inflators have a 50% chance of exploding in a crash. If the inflators blow apart, they can shoot shrapnel toward a driver's face that could kill them or cause serious injuries.

The agency says the Honda and Acura vehicles were recalled previously but records show that repairs have not been made in the affected vehicles. Honda already has replaced 99% of the dangerous inflators.

Vehicles affected include the 2001 and 2002 Honda Accord and Civic, the 2002 Honda CR-V and Odyssey SUVs, the 2003 Honda Pilot, the 2002 and 2003 Acura 3.2 TL and the 2003 Acura 3.2 CL.

Owners can check to see if their cars are covered by going to <https://www.nhtsa.gov/>

recalls and keying in their 17-digit vehicle identification number.

"These inflators are two decades old now, and they pose a 50% chance of rupturing in even a minor crash," NHTSA Acting Administrator Ann Carlson said in a statement. "Don't gamble with your life or the life of someone you love — schedule your free repair today before it's too late."

Takata used ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion to inflate air bags in a crash. But the chemical can become more volatile over time when exposed to moisture

in the air and repeated high temperatures. The explosion can rupture a metal canister and hurl shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

Since 2009, the exploding air bags have killed at least 33 people worldwide, including 24 in the United States.

Most of the deaths and about 400 injuries have happened in U.S., but they also have occurred in Australia and Malaysia.

Honda said it has reached out to the owners more than 18 million times with mailed notices, emails, phone calls and even home visits. The

company says repairs are free and parts are available. It's offering free towing and loaner vehicles if needed.

Potential for the dangerous malfunction led to the largest series of auto recalls in U.S. history, with at least 67 million Takata inflators recalled. The U.S. government says that millions have not been repaired. About 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide. The exploding air bags sent Takata Corp. of Japan into bankruptcy.

Honda by far had the highest number of vehicles with Takata inflators.


HUGE SHOUT OUT TO THE MISSOURI BANK TEAM!

TMB's "Denim for Donations" program has been giving back to our communities while having a little fun with casual attire since 10/2020. Every Friday, denim can be worn for a small donation and then each month the collected funds are given to a non-profit organization. Since the inception of the program, The Missouri Bank has donated over \$19,190 (\$7,700 of that being from 2022 alone)!

The Missouri Bank wants to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to our loyal employees for the continued support in making this program possible!

Our dedicated team's generosity is the backbone of this program and it is because of their contributions that TMB is able to provide these donations to our communities.

Click the QR code to see more info. about our denim program!



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CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

My child is not your workforce experiment

This is an open letter to Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

I recently heard through the rumor mill that the four-day school week in Missouri might be on the chopping block. Concerned, I searched for news and came up with this disturbing interview in the Springfield News-Leader, by education reporter Claudette Riley: "Top MO education officials question if 4-day school weeks are 'right thing for students.'"

"Missouri Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven told the state board Tuesday that it gives her 'great pause' to see the number of districts switching to a four-day school week as a strategy to improve teacher recruitment and retention.

"Eventually, if we are a state full of four-day weeks it will no longer be a teacher recruitment and retention strategy and we will have a number of schools operating on a four-day week, which is not typical for the workforce that they are preparing to enter," she said."

That, Ms. Vandeven, is what we millennials call "saying the quiet part out loud."

Fifth graders? Third graders? Kindergartners, even? Preparing for the workforce? Really?

How dystopian of you.

I am a proud public school parent. I went to public kindergarten and high school. I come from a family of public educators and administrators with centuries of combined experience. I grew up listening to educational theory as Sunday dinner conversation. I care deeply about the quality of public education, especially rural public education.

Our particular district is excellent, from the lunch ladies to the superintendent. It gives me true joy to see my kids and their friends thrive there. They've learned to read and picked out favorite books at the library. They've triumphantly brought home math tests and peppered me incessantly with science facts. We have boxes full of art projects, jeans full of holes because "I have to slide in gym class!" They talk excitedly about the read-a-thon, their ag-science experiment, the cafeteria's fabulous chicken and noodles ...

But, Ms. Vandeven, one thing they've never said is, "Wow, mom! This school is so great at preparing us for the workforce!"

And thank God. Because that's scary.

What is childhood education for? It's a deep question, but out of all possible answers I could provide, the furthest from my mind as a parent is "conforming my children from a young age to the mold of the deeply flawed corporate world of the early 21st century."

Instead, my answer might go like this: The purpose of education is to develop my child's humanity — curiosity and wonder, powers of memory and abstract thought and analysis, physical coordination and grace, ability to overcome personal challenges, skill in living among a variety of unique human beings ...

I could go on and on. Not until I got to the bottom of the list, and not until they were at least teenagers, would "preparing



Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

for the workforce" make an appearance. Because that narrow-minded, short-sighted, utilitarian worldview does not actually produce human beings who are workforce ready. Or life ready. It chews up and spits out anxiety-ridden, hopeless, depressed young people who have been groomed their entire lives to believe that their deepest purpose is to pay bills and die, that their intrinsic worth depends on it, and if they just hit the right standardized markers, life will go smoothly for them. No learning is valuable unless it's a means to the ultimate goal of profit. (Usually, someone else's!) I know.

I am part of the generation whose education politicians promised everyone the same thing in different wrapping paper — kids, if you just get good test scores and a college degree, you'll get a well-paying 9-5 desk job and be set for life!

And look where we are now. \$1.745 trillion in student debt, alarming rates of depression and mood disorders at younger and younger ages, plummeting childhood literacy and math skills ... it's no wonder that homeschooling has been growing steadily in popularity for the past 20 years. As classical education expert Jeremy Wayne Tate says, "Few parents are going to want their children to waste their formative years in joyless, factory-style learning environments when superior alternatives exist."

Our four-day school week is my superior alternative to the bleak "workforce development" factory. My children have an extra day for rest, enrichment, and instruction that I do not want or expect the school district to provide. Not all parents have the privilege of an extra day with their kids, but they should, so I will continue to advocate for policies that make this superior alternative available to more Missouri families, especially those families with single parents or two working parents.

I am a proud public school parent. But Ms. Vandeven, if you are going to insist on treating my small children like drones to be polished rather than whole human beings to be nurtured and developed, my family and I will have the serious discussion about removing them from a hostile system. That's never off the table.

Because my children are not your workforce experiment.

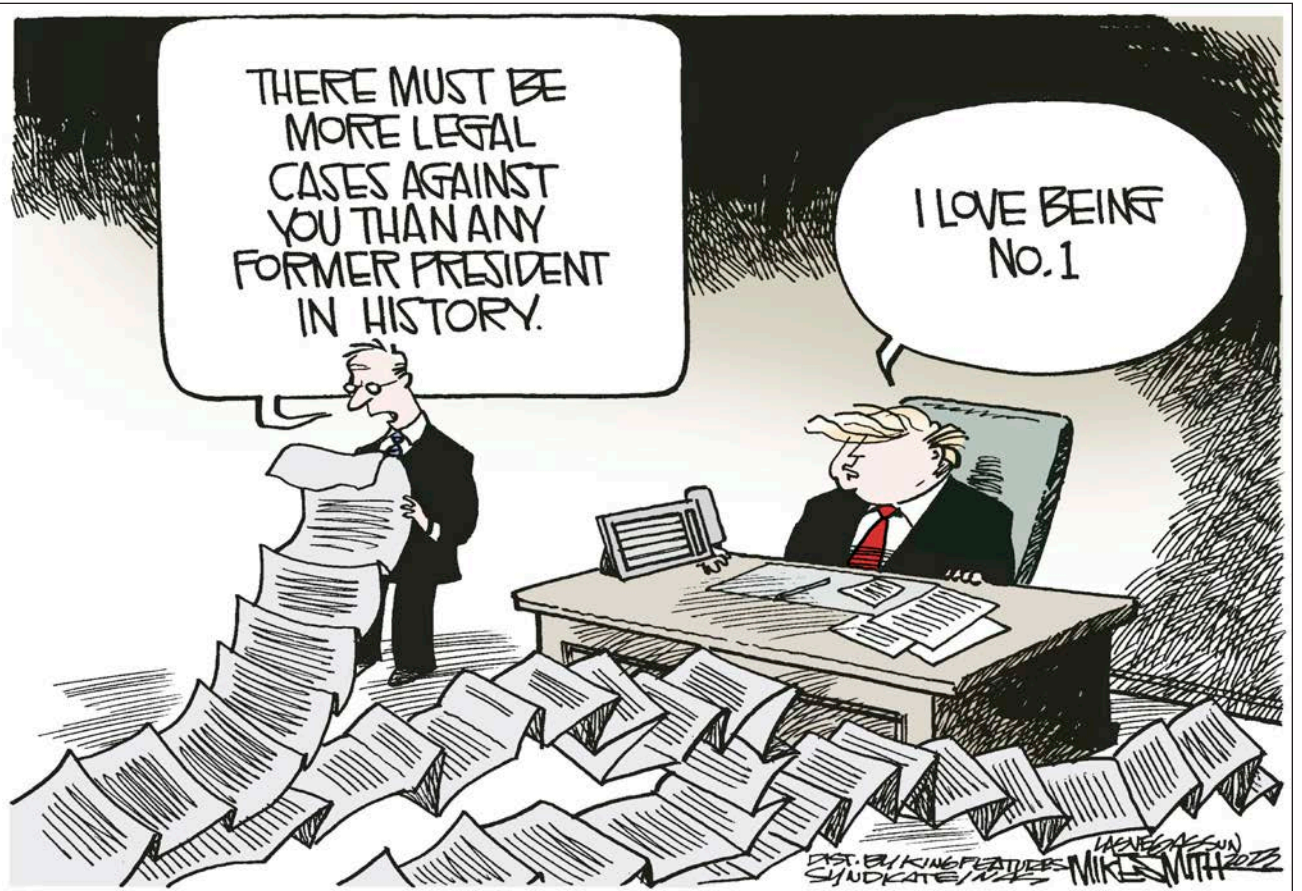
They are not cogs in your machine.

They are not tiny chess pieces for your adult political games.

They may be someone's future employees, but first, they need to learn to be good, healthy and whole human beings.

They have a right to be educated that way.

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Learning about Black history will lead to 'more perfect union'

February is Black History Month. According to History.com, the origins date back to 1915, when "the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) ..." was formed. The group "sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass" (<https://bit.ly/3HBhxcR>). President Gerald Ford, in 1976, formally recognized February as Black History Month, saying that he thought all Americans should know more about the contributions of Black Americans to our country's history.

And until now, we have done that. But Missouri and other states, led by Gerald Ford's party, are introducing legislation censoring schools' and teachers' lessons on the history of Black people in the U.S. As I read reports about legislators' intransigence regarding an important, though oftentimes inconvenient and horrifying, part of our country's development, I believe I understand the gist of their objections as this: teaching Black history will perhaps make students feel "guilty" or "uncomfortable" about what they discover.

Perhaps students would have reason to



Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

feel uncomfortable, and maybe guilty, as they hear about how Black Americans have been treated through the years. I know I certainly did.

We've all heard about Rosa Parks, who refused to move to the back of the bus. We know about the four little Black girls who were killed in Alabama in 1963 while they were in Sunday School, when KKK members bombed their church — and were not prosecuted until first, 1977, and then in the 1990s. We know about the Little Rock Nine, who had to be escorted into Central High School by the National Guard — and who were spat upon until their clothing was sopping wet.

Those stories are so well-known that I believe we might have become injured to the cruelty that Black people have suffered at the hands of their fellow Americans.

Those stories are important, but many more exist. Because I grew up in an era when we taught the same history every year, beginning with Columbus and ending with the Civil War, I didn't know them. In fact, the first time I even heard of Juneteenth was after I moved to Sedalia from Kansas City.

As I see my own evolution as to racial injustice, I can see how important it is to view our racial history throughout our lives, as our perspectives change with us. That's why I believe that limiting students' exposure to the racism practiced throughout our history is wrong.

I've related the first time my consciousness was awakened — which is probably where the offensive "woke" mantra comes from — which was after college. I didn't understand why the Black students were offended by the KAs' waving around a Rebel flag. It was just the fraternity being silly as "Southern Gentlemen"! Why would this be important at all?

However, as I became involved in the justice system, the educational system, the banking system — well, just life — I found that things are not always equal, and I began to see the KAs' Rebel flag differently.

Since then, I have read about the afore-

mentioned Juneteenth; Emmett Till, who was lynched in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman in a store; the 1921 "Black Wall Street" massacre, when white marauders burned the Greenwood neighborhood in Tulsa, "... leaving 35 blocks burned to the ground; as many as 300 dead; hundreds injured; 8,000 to 10,000 left homeless; more than 1,470 homes burned or looted; and eventually, 6,000 detained in internment camps" (<http://bit.ly/3Y-6J0Kk>); the deadly Civil Rights march in Selma in 1965; the integration of the U.S. military in WWII; the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male," which ended in 1972; and more.

While things may have improved as to racial justice, they are not perfect, which is demonstrated in the uproar about "Black Lives Matter." I take seriously the words "to form a more perfect union." I think that means we educate ourselves to find out what has happened, and what must be done in order to make our union more perfect. If we have to feel guilty or uncomfortable during the process, so be it. We should start now.

Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The other big city in Missouri

When Sedalians need to go to a big city for some reason, Kansas City is the logical choice, being only 85 miles away.

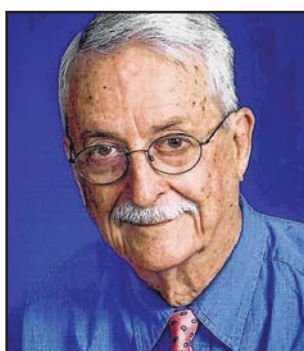
But don't forget the other big city in Missouri — St. Louis, nestled on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

Trivia question: who was St. Louis? Time's up, he was King Louis IX of France, who reigned from 1226 to 1270.

There were numerous kings of France, but only Louis IX holds the co-title of saint of the Catholic Church. Perfection is not required of saints, but they must exhibit "heroic virtue." King Louis did.

I will be quoting Professor Thomas F. Madden, who teaches medieval history at St. Louis University, drawing from an article he wrote for the ecumenical journal *First Things*, titled "In Defense of King Louis IX."

The statue-topplers



Doug Kneibert
Contributing Columnist

were in full swing in 2020, and they had the magnificent statue of King Louis in Forest Park in their sights. The statue depicts him on horseback, holding his sword aloft by the blade in the form of a cross.

Madden writes that "a group of Catholics mobilized to protect the statue with vigils and prayers." They were successful, for it still stands.

The claim that Louis was "vehemently Islamophobic" (he led

two crusades) can be explained. Start with the crusades themselves.

Madden writes that "the Crusades were aimed at recapturing territories in and around the Holy Land that had been conquered by Muslim armies. Louis's first Crusade was a response to the conquest of Christian-controlled Jerusalem by a Turkish and Egyptian force in 1244. After the Holy City was taken, the victors massacred the Christian inhabitants and desecrated the churches."

Remember the above paragraph next time someone tells you the crusades were an act of aggression.

The charge of anti-Semitism against King Louis has validity, but he stopped short of persecution. Perhaps the best that can be said is that he was a man of his times, a point Madden stresses:

"As a medieval his-

torian, I always cringe when medieval people are judged by modern standards. Their world was very different from our own."

That King Louis IX was a devout and observant Catholic cannot be doubted. Madden provides examples:

"At his own expense, he continually paid to feed and clothe hundreds of Paris's poor. Every evening he shared the royal table with local homeless ... He established several hospitals for the poor and homes for battered women and ex-prostitutes. He personally visited lepers and washed their sores."

If you've never beheld the statue of St. Louis, try to work it in some-day. (While you're there, check out the spectacular Gateway Arch, which I consider the eighth Wonder of the World.)

Doug Kneibert is a former editor of the Sedalia Democrat.

Biden seems close to campaign mode in firing up Dem meeting

By Will Weissert and Chris Mejerian

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — President Joe Biden hasn't yet announced a reelection campaign, but he sounded like someone already running while firing up a national meeting of the Democratic Party on Friday.

"No matter who is president, things are going to change radically in the next 15 years," Biden said at a reception for the Democratic National Committee during its meeting in downtown Philadelphia. "And the question is, Are we going to be leading the pack? Or are we going to be the end of it?"

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris came to the party gathering to tout what they called their administration's successes — including growing the economy and overseeing major public works and health care and green technology spending packages approved by Congress.

They got good news even before arriving: a strong jobs report released hours earlier showed employers created a net 517,000 jobs last month, exceeding economists' expectations, which Biden called "strikingly good news," saying

"I'm not saying we've done everything right. I'm gonna make more mistakes over the next period of time. But we've got the right attitude," said Biden, who said he wanted to reverse a trend of too many Americans having lost faith in their country's ability to do great things.

Harris was even more direct, telling those gathered: "It's not the time to pat ourselves on the back. It's the time to see it through."

"And that's going to take as much work, if not more, than everything that everyone here put into where we are today,"

the vice president said.

Prior to heading to the party meeting, Biden and Harris visited a water treatment plant and hailed \$15 billion in funding to remove lead pipes from service lines around the country, including in Philadelphia. That comes from a bipartisan infrastructure package, which is also bankrolling railway projects the president spent this week trumpeting.

"The issue has to do with basic dignity," Biden said. "No amount of lead in water is safe. None."

With the State of the Union address coming next week, Biden has renewed calls for political unity, something he's acknowledged being unable to achieve despite his promises to do so as a candidate in 2020. But those appeals haven't tempered Biden's broadsides against his predecessor, Donald Trump, and the Republican Party's continued fealty to the former president's "Make America Great Again" movement.

"This ain't your father's Republican Party," Biden said Friday, adding that the GOP agenda was so extreme, "We have to keep pointing out what the other team wants."

The president is facing increasing pressure in Washington, where a special counsel is investigating how classified documents turned up in his home and a former office, and a Republican-controlled House is investigating everything from the administration's immigration procedures at the U.S.-Mexico border to the overseas ties of the president's son Hunter.

That's made some Democrats anxious to see Biden stay on the political offensive.

"The president is trying to solve the problems of the nation on infrastructure, on microchips, on gun safety, on health care, and I think



President Joe Biden stands on stage with Vice President Kamala Harris and Jana Curtis, founder of Get the Lead Out Riverwards, before he speaks about his infrastructure agenda while announcing funding to upgrade Philadelphia's water facilities and replace lead pipes, Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at Belmont Water Treatment Center in Philadelphia.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SEMANSKY | AP PHOTO

he's going to talk about doing that," said Randi Weingarten, a DNC member and president of the American Federation of Teachers. "And then also compare (that) to the GOP, which seems to be on a revenge agenda."

Biden's speech comes the day before the DNC is set to approve an overhauled presidential primary calendar starting next year that would replace Iowa with South Carolina in the leadoff spot. New Hampshire and Nevada would go second, followed by Georgia and Michigan — a change the president has championed to ensure that voters of color have more influence deciding the party's White House nominee.

The new calendar would be largely moot if Biden runs again, since party elders won't want to oversee a drawn-out primary against him. The president is addressing the

Democrats as the party has been solidly unified in its opposition to the new Republican-controlled House and with no major Democratic challenger thought to be preparing to run against him.

Biden's expected announcement of a reelection campaign is still likely weeks away. But his advisers have been preparing for one for months, making staffing arrangements and readying lines of political attacks against Republicans seen as early presidential front-runners, including Trump, who launched his campaign in November, and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Alan Clendenin, a DNC member from Florida, said Biden has strengthened the economy, reestablished U.S. global standing and promoted inclusive values — the opposite of what Trump and DeSantis stand for.

"They predicted gloom

and doom. He's proved them all wrong," said Clendenin, who kicked off a DNC Southern caucus meeting by noting that Florida has begun lagging behind other states in key policy areas and joking of its governor, "That's what happened when you're led by the devil."

Biden repeatedly denounced "extreme MAGA Republicans" as a threat to the nation's democracy in the runup to last fall's midterm elections, when his party pulled off a stronger-than-expected showing. The president has since worked to portray today's GOP as beholden as ever to Trump, saying at a separate DNC fundraiser in New York earlier this week, "You'd think that what would happen is that there would be a little bit, as we Catholics say, (of) an epiphany."

"Well, instead, it's been the exact opposite," Biden said. "They've just doubled down."

Biden will have a harder time campaigning on future legislative accomplishments now that the GOP controls the House. A coming fight over extending the nation's legal debt ceiling may only harden partisan clashes.

Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he and the White House would continue talking about ways to avoid a debt limit crisis. But, referring to federal spending, McCarthy said, "The current path we're on we cannot sustain."

Biden has also suggested that simply bashing Republicans won't be enough, however, noting that Democrats have seen their support among Americans without a college degree decline. He said Friday night that his party "stopped talking to" blue-collar workers.

"We have to get working-class people to say we see them," the president added.

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APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Home

From Page A1

She went to First Christian Church and she and a bunch of other ladies were just sitting around talking about Habitat for Humanity. They had heard about it, and they thought they would try to start it up here.”

The money situation has eased up since the endowment, but there is much work to do.

“It’s been a long climb uphill, but we have arrived where we’re pretty solid now and she left enough money that we can pretty much build two houses a year and not have any worries about the money,” Limbaugh explained.

The homes are sold to those who fit the requirements of currently living in substandard housing, cannot get their own mortgage, and are willing to put in 250 hours working on their new home. The loan will be paid off eventually in manageable payments, taking the financial pressure off these first-time homeowners.

“We still sell it to the people we’re building for and

that comes back to us eventually, but this just takes the pressure off the immediate need for money,” Limbaugh added.

Habitat tries to find volunteers to defray the cost of hiring subcontractors, estimating they save approximately 30 to 40% per house.

“Everything’s gotten so high now, we need volunteers to step up to the plate,” Limbaugh said. “Everyone likes helping Habitat because if you get next to the homeowner and just listen to their story, it’s going to be a life-changing experience.”

Tony Shepherd with Shep’s Construction was the lone worker on the two homes Friday morning but is hoping for lots of help Saturday.

“They wanted to find a good contractor that could oversee the volunteers and teach them,” Shepherd said. “A lot of volunteers want to learn how to do things and some are just an extra set of hands. We appreciate all kinds of help, no skill or highly skilled. We have a gentleman coming out tomorrow that knows how to install windows and doors, so he’ll be a blessing.”

Shepherd hopes to get the



These two Habitat for Humanity homes are being built thanks to a bequest by First Baptist Church member Ethel Hall, whose generous gift now funds two homes per year. Saturday, volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, tools and lunch.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

windows and doors hung Saturday to get the homes closed in and likes volunteers willing to learn.

“I love to teach people that want to learn,” Shepherd said. “Some people don’t really have a clue or don’t want to pick up a hammer,

so they’re good at cleaning up. We have hospitality people that want to bring snacks and feed us, so we have a position for anyone that wants to come out.”

Volunteers are invited to just show up at 28th Street and Lafayette Avenue to

help, though Shepherd would prefer volunteers call so he can have enough tasks ready, hand warmers available and plenty of lunch ordered for everyone.

“Since we’re doing two at once, that means we need double volunteers,” Shepherd

said. “We need volunteers for each house.”

Shepherd can be reached at 660-429-9189. For more information, visit HabitatSedalia.org.

Chris Howell may be reached at 660-520-0146.

Teacher

From Page A1

She was born and raised in Sedalia and is a life-long St. Vincent de Paul parish member. Williams received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Central Missouri. She is certified to teach elementary and special education and has also received her administrative certification.

“Our Teacher of the

Year believes academics should be challenging but not frustrating,” Herrick said. “Learning new skills should be serious business but not boring business. She strives to partner with parents to help strengthen a child’s relationship with God.”

Once Williams was announced as Teacher of the Year, the parish cheered as she walked toward the stage in tears. This is her first time winning the award.

“I’m speechless and I’m

just so honored,” Williams told the Democrat after the presentation. “The people here are so good. They love what they’re doing and for them to give me this, I’m just speechless.”

Williams added that she has worked so hard but not for the award. She was in administration for a long time and that job requires telling teachers what to do. When she returned to the classroom, she had to figure out if she could be a teacher again.

“It’s one of the hardest things I’ve ever done in my life but one of the most fulfilling things ever,” Williams said.

To be recognized for that fulfilling struggle is heartwarming for Williams, as teaching is what she really wanted to do during all those years in administration.

“This is what I love, this is what I was supposed to do and I’m just so grateful I lived long enough to do it,” she added.

From Williams’ point

of view, she said public school teachers have it harder than religious school teachers. Williams has an extra tool to connect with kids: God and faith.

“To me, the most important thing in education is to build relationships with my kids because once I do that, they’ll learn the academic stuff,” she said.

Williams thanked all the faculty members who voted for her to be the Teacher of the Year.

“I couldn’t have done it

without them...” Williams added. “We’re there together. They’re there to support me. If I got a question, I can always go to them, a concern. We share the joys. They’re just my best friends.”

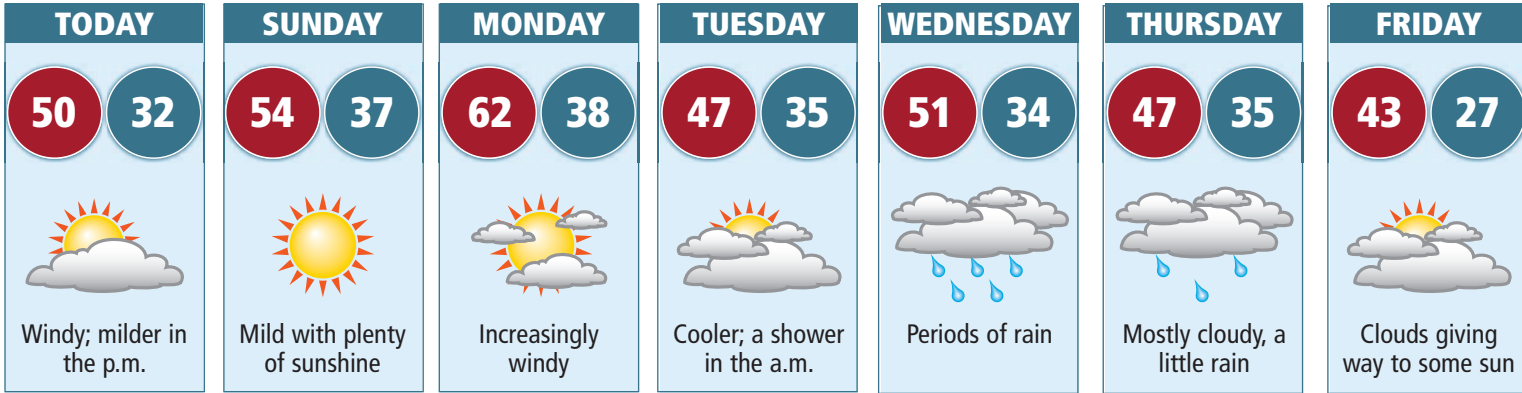
“I am so thankful to be able to share my faith of the church and the parish,” she continued. “I’ve had that forever and now I can share that with schoolchildren and I think that’s important.”

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

THE WEATHER

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:16 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:38 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:36 p.m.
Moonsset today	7:03 a.m.



WEATHER HISTORY

Pacific winds usually regulate San Francisco’s climate. On Feb. 4, 1887, however, 4 inches of snow accumulated. Excited residents staged a massive snowball fight.

ALMANAC

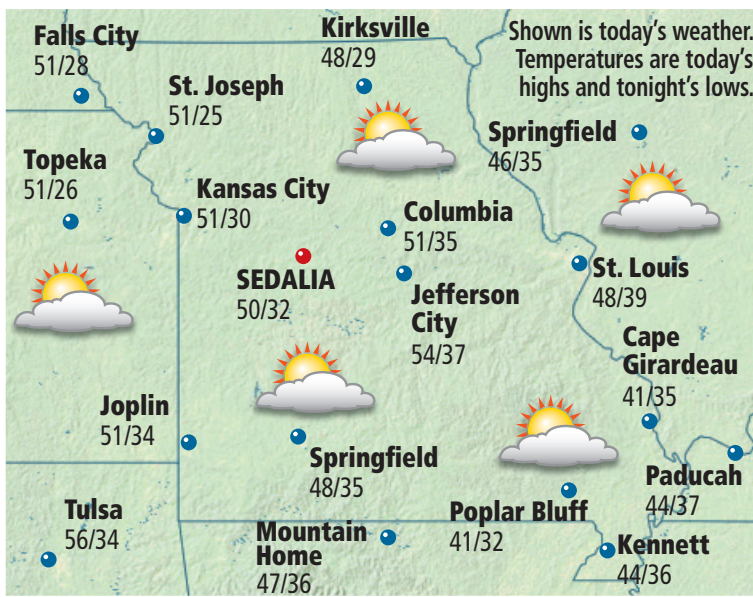
Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES	
High	50
Low	18
Normal high	40
Normal low	20
Record high	70 in 2003
Record low	-22 in 1979

PRECIPITATION	
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal m-t-d	0.12"
Year to date	1.55"
Normal y-t-d	2.04"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.	
Thursday	31
Month to date	73
Season to date	2750
Normal season to date	3247
Last season to date	2430

RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.20	-0.03	24
Valley City	2.97	-0.06	22
Lamine			
Otterville	1.34	-0.11	15
Missouri			
Boonville	2.26	-0.06	21

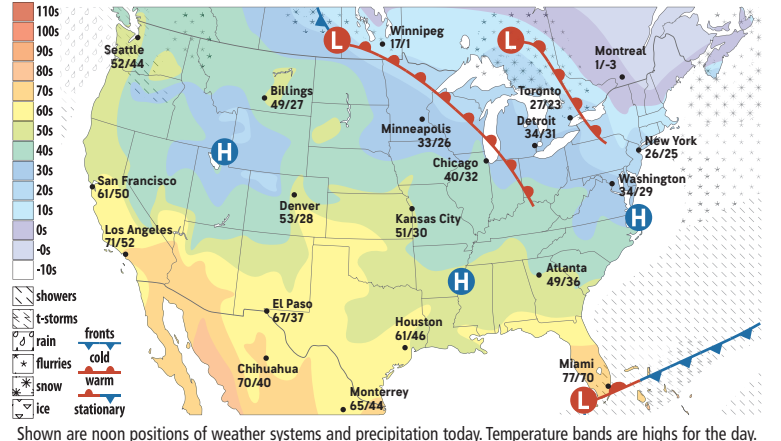


BRANSON High: 50. Low: 38. Sun through high clouds today. A moonlit sky tonight. Sunshine tomorrow; a nice end to the weekend.
KANSAS CITY High: 51. Low: 30. Breezy today with clouds and sun. Clear and moonlit tonight. Mild tomorrow with plenty of sunshine; a nice end to the weekend.
ST. LOUIS High: 48. Low: 39. Partly sunny today. Mostly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny and milder tomorrow; a nice end to the weekend.
NEW YORK CITY High: 26. Low: 25. Partly sunny and cold today. Bitter cold; be sure to wear layers. Partly cloudy tonight. Periods of sunshine tomorrow.
LOS ANGELES High: 71. Low: 52. Sun followed by increasing clouds today. Mostly cloudy tonight with occasional rain late. A shower in the area tomorrow.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Sunday	Today	Sunday
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	49/36/s	60/39/pc	Milwaukee	39/33/pc
Baltimore	31/27/s	49/35/pc	Nashville	51/40/s
Billings	49/27/pc	42/35/c	New Orleans	60/49/s
Boston	18/15/s	45/39/c	Norfolk	34/30/pc
Buffalo	29/25/sn	42/31/sf	Oklahoma City	57/31/pc
Charlotte	44/31/s	54/34/pc	Orlando	71/59/c
Chicago	40/32/pc	40/29/pc	Phoenix	78/46/s
Cleveland	38/33/c	44/30/c	Pittsburgh	33/29/pc
Dallas	57/43/pc	65/50/s	Portland, ME	9/6/s
Denver	53/28/pc	45/31/pc	Portland, OR	52/44/c
Detroit	34/31/c	41/25/c	Sacramento	61/46/c
Honolulu	80/73/sh	84/72/sh	St. Louis	48/39/pc
Houston	61/46/pc	71/51/s	San Francisco	61/50/r
Indianapolis	40/36/pc	45/29/pc	Seattle	52/44/sh
Las Vegas	63/46/s	65/45/pc	Washington, DC	34/29/s

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



Summary: Frigid air will ease up in the Northeast today as snow skirts the northern tier of the Great Lakes. Showers will linger in Florida as a new storm approaches the West Coast from California to Washington.



Biden, Black caucus agree on path forward on police reform

By Chris Megerian, Farnoush Amiri and Seung Min Kim

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Members of the Congressional Black Caucus left a meeting Thursday with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris with an agreement on how to address the issue of policing in America after the recent killing of Tyre Nichols.

“We have agreement on how we will continue to work forward both from a legislative standpoint as well as executive and community-based solutions, but the focus will always be on public safety,” Rep. Steven Horsford of Nevada, the chairman of the Black Caucus, told reporters later Thursday.

Also at the White House were Sens. Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Cory Booker of New Jersey — two of the three Black senators — and Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, Jim Clyburn of South Carolina and Joe Neguse of Colorado.

The group of Black lawmakers did not disclose details about the agreement made in the room but said there will be more information about the “legislative package” in the days ahead.

“This is going to require all of us, including Republicans, to get across the finish line,” Horsford said.

Before the meeting began, Biden said his hope was that “this dark memory spurs some action that we’ve all been fighting for.”

At Nichols’ funeral Wednesday in Memphis, Tennessee, Harris said the White House would

settle for nothing less than ambitious legislation to address police brutality.

“We should not delay. And we will not be denied,” Harris said. “It is nonnegotiable.”

Bipartisan efforts in Congress to reach an agreement on policing legislation stalled more than a year ago, and Biden ended up signing an executive order named for George Floyd, whose murder at the hands of Minneapolis police set off nationwide protests nearly three years ago.

Even some political allies of Biden are frustrated with what they view as his excess caution on the issue.

“I think the president is missing the opportunity to be a historic president when it comes to the social issues that continue to plague our country,” said Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-N.Y. “That’s what we need.”

Bowman described Biden as “a champion of the status quo in many ways” and said Biden needs to be “a champion of a new vision for America.”

The solution, Bowman said, is not “thoughts and prayers, come to the State of the Union after your kid gets killed,” a reference to Nichols’ mother and stepfather being invited to attend next week’s speech.

Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, said he was in touch with the White House last Friday, when video of Nichols’ beating became public, about whether the situation could be a catalyst to “get things moving again.”

His organization, the nation’s largest police



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris meet with members of the Congressional Black Caucus in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. From left are Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Colo., Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., and caucus chair Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev.

PHOTO BY SUSAN WALSH | AP PHOTO

union, had participated in previous attempts to reach a bipartisan deal, and Pasco said “we welcome any constructive effort to help us do our jobs better.” The union’s president, Patrick Yoes, has condemned Nichols’ killing and said that “our entire country needs to see justice done — swiftly and surely.”

Pasco said “we’re kind of in a wait-and-see mode right now,” with Republicans recently regaining control of the House, making legislative progress much harder. “You’ve got to look at the political realities here,” he said.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on Thursday signaled an openness to discussing the issue.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, the sole Black

Republican senator, said resurrecting the previous Democratic bill is a “non-starter.” He has implored Democrats to put aside “tribalism” in order to strike a deal.

“I’ve been working toward common ground solutions that actually have a shot at passing,” Scott said. “Solutions to increase funding and training to make sure only the best wear the badge.”

Biden has embraced calls for overhauling how police do their jobs while also emphasizing his longtime support for law enforcement and rejecting proposals to cut money. He was elected with strong support from Black voters and is now preparing a reelection campaign for 2024.

Harris, a former

prosecutor and the first person of color to serve as vice president, has faced scrutiny for her approach to police issues.

Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League, said he was encouraged that Harris attended the funeral. “This is what people expect, that you’ll be there for them at a time of need,” he said.

Now, Morial said, “we need a substantive response, not a political response where they say, ‘Let’s just pass something.’”

Biden’s executive order was the product of negotiations among civil rights leaders and law enforcement organizations. It mostly focuses on federal agencies by requiring them to review and revise policies on the use of force. The administration

is also encouraging local departments to participate in a database to track police misconduct.

But steps such as making it easier to sue officers for misconduct allegations have remained elusive. And the White House made it clear Thursday that no executive action taken by the president can substitute for federal legislation.

“We haven’t gotten even a fraction of the changes that are necessary,” said Rashad Robinson, president of the activist group Color of Change. “We haven’t gotten the kind of structural change to policing that is required.”

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

A surprising burst of US hiring in January: 517,000 jobs

By Paul Wiseman

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — For nearly a year, the Federal Reserve has been on a mission to cool down the job market to help curb the nation’s worst inflation bout in four decades.

The job market hasn’t been cooperating.

Consider what happened in January: The government said Friday that employers added a sizzling 517,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate dipped to 3.4%, the lowest level since 1969.

The job gain was so large it left economists scratching their heads and wondering why the Fed’s aggressive interest rate hikes haven’t slowed hiring at a time when many foresee a recession nearing.

Friday’s report added instead to the picture of a resilient U.S. labor market, with low unemployment, relatively few layoffs and many job openings. Though good for workers, employers’ steady demand for labor has also helped accelerate wage growth and contributed to high inflation.

Still, the Fed’s inflation watchers might be reassured somewhat by January’s wage data: Average hourly pay rose 4.4% last month from a year earlier, slower than the 4.8% year-over-year increase in December.

And from December to January, wages rose 0.3%, below the 0.4% increase the previous month.

On top of the sizzling job growth it reported for January, the government on Friday also revised up its estimate of the gains in November and December by a combined 71,000.

President Joe Biden called the jobs report “strikingly good news” and asserted that his Republican critics were wrong in their warnings of continued high inflation and a coming recession and layoffs.

“Our plan is working,” Biden said, “because of the grit and resolve of the American worker.”

January’s hiring gain, which far exceeded December’s 260,000, was broad-based across industries. A category that includes restaurants and bars added 99,000 workers. Professional and business services jobs, including bookkeepers and consultants, rose by 82,000.

Governments added 74,000, boosted by the end of a worker strike against California’s state university system. Health care added 58,000 jobs, retailers 30,000. Construction gained 25,000 jobs. Manufacturing added 19,000.

Economists had collectively estimated that the economy added just 185,000 jobs last month.

“This is a labor mar-

ket on heat,” said Seema Shah, chief global strategist at Principal Asset Management. It would be difficult, she suggested, “to see the Fed stop raising rates and entertain ideas of rate cuts when there is such explosive economic news coming in.”

The Fed has raised its key rate eight times since March to try to slow the job market and contain inflation, which hit a 40-year high last year but has slowed since then.

Yet companies are still seeking more workers and are hanging tightly onto the ones they have. Putting aside some high-profile layoffs at big tech companies like Microsoft, Google, Amazon and others, most workers are enjoying an unusual level of job security even at a time when many economists foresee a recession approaching.

For all of 2022, the economy added a sizzling average of roughly 375,000 jobs a month. That was a pace vigorous enough to have contributed to some of the painful inflation Americans have endured. A tight job market tends to put upward pressure on wages, which, in turn, feed into inflation.

But year-over-year measures of consumer inflation have steadily eased since peaking at 9.1% in June. At 6.5% in December, though, inflation remains far above

the Fed’s 2% target, which is why the central bank’s policymakers have reiterated their intent to keep raising borrowing rates for at least a few more months.

Giacomo Santangelo, an economist at the jobs website Monster, said he doubted the Fed would take much comfort from the decelerating wage gains — or relent in its rate-hiking campaign.

“As long as unemployment continues to go down,” Santangelo said, “as long as the economy continues to be strong, the Fed’s going to keep fighting inflation.”

The Fed is aiming to achieve a “soft landing” — a pullback in the economy that is just enough to tame high inflation without triggering a recession. The policymakers hope that employers can slow wage increases and inflationary pressures by reducing job openings but not necessarily by laying off many employees.

But the job market’s resilience isn’t making that hoped-for outcome any easier. On Wednesday, the Labor Department reported that employers posted 11 million job openings in December, an unexpected jump from 10.4 million in November and the largest number since July. There are now about two job vacancies, on average, for every unemployed American.

And in response,

many employers have raised wages.

Stew Leonard Jr., CEO of Stew Leonard’s, a supermarket chain in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, said the company’s series of hourly wage increases over the past two years have helped expand their job applicant pool. Entry-level hourly wages are now \$17.

For more specialized workers like butchers and bakers, hourly wages start at \$25 to \$30. Those pay gains have helped the chain attract about 10 to 12 applicants per job posting, the same level as before the pandemic. Earlier, the chain had been receiving as few as seven applicants per posting.

“If you want good people, you have to pay,” Leonard said.

He said he’s unsure whether the company will have to keep raising pay.

“It’s almost a day-to-day decision,” he said. “But right now, we’re happy.”

Over the past year or so, the job market has earned the label “The Great Resignation” because jobs are so plentiful and many workers are willing to change jobs to seek better pay or working conditions.

Centura Health, a nonprofit that runs hospitals and clinics in Colorado and Kansas, has offered \$15,000 “retention” bonuses to

retain nurses, respiratory therapists and others for 24 months; 2,500 have accepted the offer. And for employees who perform routine but vital tasks like changing sheets and delivering meals to patients, Centura has raised entry-level hourly pay as high as \$18.

By streamlining hiring and directing managers to prioritize the filling of vacancies, Centura has slashed the time needed between receiving an application and putting a new hire to work.

Sebastien Girard, who holds the title of “chief people officer,” said Centura has about 1,500 job openings each month. The market for clinical staff, like doctors, nurses and radiologists, remains extraordinarily tight, he said, though it’s eased a bit recently for other positions.

Girard doesn’t think labor shortages are going away. He thinks America’s aging population means there will be an ongoing scarcity of available workers.

“The Great Resignation is there to stay,” he said. “It is a generational shift.”

AP Business Writers Christopher Rugaber and Josh Boak in Washington and Anne D’Innocenzio in New York contributed to this report.

Biden's handwritten notes part of classified docs probe

By Zeke Miller, Colleen Long and Nomaan Merchant

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is a man who writes down his thoughts. And some of those handwritten musings over his decades of public service are now a part of a special counsel's investigation into the handling of classified documents.

It isn't clear yet what the investigators are looking for by taking custody of notes from his time as vice president and his decades in the Senate that were found in his Delaware homes in Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington.

Biden's attorneys did not say whether the notes were considered to be classified, only that they were removed. But over his 36 years in the Senate and eight as vice president, Biden had a front-row seat to a lot of highly sensitive moments in U.S. history, including the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the 2011 death of Osama bin Laden and unfolding political turmoil in Ukraine.

The special counsel is working to determine how classified information from Biden's time as senator and vice president came to wind up in his home and former office — and whether any mishandling involved criminal intent or was unintentional. But they'll also have to determine whether the notes they took are considered personal and therefore belong to Biden, and would then likely be returned to him.

Some of the documents held by Trump also had handwritten notes, according to the FBI. In seeking permission to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in August, an FBI agent wrote in an affidavit that some of the documents returned to the National Archives last January contained what appeared to

be Trump's handwriting. The affidavit does not say whether agents believed those notes to discuss classified material.

Under the Presidential Records Act, records of a presidential administration generally belong with the National Archives, especially classified items. There are some exceptions, including when records are determined to be purely personal.

But even a handwritten note can be considered classified if someone is recording observations related to a classified document or briefing. Such notes can be deemed classified even if not marked as such.

Larry Pfeiffer, a former senior director of the White House situation room and chief of staff to retired CIA Director Michael Hayden, said that when he took notes during secret or top-secret meetings, he would mark each page by specific levels of classification.

"It's pretty clear in those meetings when they're hearing classified information," he said. When Pfeiffer left the CIA, he submitted his notebooks to the agency archives.

Longtime aides say they believe Biden has been keeping personal diaries for decades, though the only public glimpse of them so far has come in Biden's book "Promise Me, Dad," which chronicled the then-vice president's heartache and grief over his son Beau's fatal cancer diagnosis.

In the book, Biden quotes passages written in his diary about Beau's condition and death that were written on Air Force Two, in the vice president's residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington, and at his Wilmington home, as well as one jotted down as he weighed whether to run for president in 2016. In the book, Biden describes taking the notes as he navigated being a supportive parent for an ailing

family member and largely maintaining his official schedule of meetings and calls.

He details how he had a secure phone installed at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston so he could work while he was there with his son as Beau underwent treatment. But he also wrote about his debate over whether he'd run for office in 2016:

"A lot happening, I wrote in my diary when I finally got some downtime in Wilmington the next weekend. 'Need to be careful it doesn't get away from me. I need to slow down, ramp down my schedule.'"

It's unknown whether handwritten notes may have been turned over to the Department of Justice by former Vice President Mike Pence or whether any of former President Donald Trump's writings from his time in office was found during the FBI's search of his Florida estate last year.

It was also unclear whether recent former presidents and vice presidents would make any of their personal notes written during their time in office available for review to determine whether they contained any potential federal records or information that should be classified.

Attorney General Merrick Garland and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines have declined to discuss their investigations or brief members of Congress.

The leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee sent a third letter Thursday urging Garland and Haines to allow the panel to view the papers in secret and be briefed on their potential risk to national security.

Sens. Mark Warner of Virginia and Marco Rubio of Florida wrote that without access to the documents, "we cannot effectively oversee the efforts of

the Intelligence Community to address potential risks to national security arising from the mishandling of this classified information."

There's a precedent in keeping personal records personal: Access to Ronald Reagan's personal diaries was sought after he left office by his former national security adviser John Poindexter as he faced trial for his role in the Iran-Contra affair. A federal judge accepted Reagan's invocation of executive privilege to shield the diaries from disclosure.

Reagan frequently wrote about the substance of his official meetings — including details on classified sessions — and impressions of world leaders, often commingled with mundane details about his life like his dinner companions and personal calls. But it wasn't until after Reagan's death and with the consent of his widow, Nancy Reagan, that they were published.

There have been multiple cases in recent years of high-level officials mishandling notes about classified operations. Former CIA Director David Petraeus was prosecuted for his handling of eight notebooks of classified and unclassified notes he collected during his time leading U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan. According to a plea agreement, Petraeus kept the notebooks in his private possession and allowed his biographer, with whom he was having an affair, to review them.

He pleaded guilty in 2015 to one count of unauthorized removal and retention of classified material and received probation.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was found by the FBI to have discussed classified material in emails kept on her private server. Some of those emails had classified information at the time they were sent, while others were subsequently

classified during the FBI's investigation of her use of the server.

Then-FBI Director James Comey recommended against charging Clinton in 2016 because he said there was not clear evidence Clinton or her subordinates intended to violate laws about classified information.

Biden's lawyers were closing up his office at the Penn Biden Center think tank last November when they came across classified documents in a locked closet. The records were turned over to the Justice Department. But after Biden's lawyers searched his Wilmington home and found additional classified items, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed a special counsel to investigate. Biden has said he was surprised the documents were there, and has cooperated with investigators, including voluntarily consenting to the FBI searches.

When FBI agents searched Biden's Wilmington home last month, they "also took for further review personally handwritten notes from the vice-presidential years," according to his lawyer, Bob Bauer. When the FBI searched Biden's Rehoboth Beach home on Wednesday, they took "some materials and handwritten notes that appear to relate to his time as Vice President" but found no other classified documents, according to Bauer.

The White House has refused to comment on what was in Biden's notes, other than to say some of the writing pertained to his time as vice president.

"I think that they want to make sure that the Justice Department has access to the information that they need to sift through materials as a part of this ongoing investigation," White House spokesman Ian Sams said Wednesday. "And so I'm not going to characterize too much of the underlying contents."

Report: Navy ships face growing maintenance delays, costs

WASHINGTON — Navy ships are getting fewer steaming hours because of growing maintenance delays and costs, a troubling trend that comes as at time when the U.S. is struggling to keep pace with China's growing fleet.

Operating and support costs grew by about \$2.5 billion across 10 ship classes while the number of propulsion hours in which ships were operating or training dipped during a 10-year period that ended in 2021, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office.

The Navy saw increased maintenance delays, breakdowns and cannibalization of parts — moving them from one ship to keep another one going — during the period.

The analysis shows "persistent sustainment challenges that have worsened," compounded by maintenance delays and deferred maintenance noted in previous reports by the GAO, a congressional agency that audits federal programs.

"Over time this situation has resulted in worsening ship conditions and increased costs to repair and sustain ships," the GAO said.

A spokesperson for Naval Surface Forces said the Navy appreciates the GAO's recommendations for improving maintenance delivery times. The goal is 75 mission capable ships — this figure doesn't include aircraft carriers, sealift ships or submarines — among the 164 ships assigned to

the Surface Force, said Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson.

"This imperative for 75 mission capable ships drives every program and action we take, and across our force, the enterprise is aligned to reach this north star," Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Forces, said this month at a Surface Navy Association event.

The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship and littoral combat ships experienced the greatest number of severe "casualty reports" that impair a ship's ability to operate effectively, the GAO report said. San Antonio-class amphibious transport docks and Arleigh Burke-class destroyers experienced the biggest maintenance delays, the report said.

The maintenance delays and other problems were troubling at a time when the Navy is struggling not only to keep up with China, which already has a larger fleet, but also is facing other adversaries at sea — including Russia.

But Diana Maurer, director of defense capabilities and management at the GAO, said the Navy's leadership understands there is a problem and is focused on making improvements. "It's encouraging that it's not business as usual," she said.

The report, released on Wednesday, focused on surface ships and did not look at the submarine fleet. The next report will likely expand to include both surface and undersea vessels.

New rules would limit sugar in school meals for first time

By Jonel Aleccia

Associated Press

U.S. agriculture officials on Friday proposed new nutrition standards for school meals, including the first limits on added sugars, with a focus on sweetened foods such as cereals, yogurt, flavored milk and breakfast pastries.

The plan announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also seeks to significantly decrease sodium in the meals served to the nation's schoolkids by 2029, while making the rules for foods made with whole grains more flexible.

The goal is to improve nutrition and align with U.S. dietary guidelines in the program that serves breakfast to more than 15 million children and lunch to nearly 30 million children every day, Vilsack said.

"School meals happen to be the meals with the highest nutritional value of any meal that children can get outside the home," Vilsack said in an interview.

The first limits on added sugars would be required in the 2025-2026 school year, starting with high-sugar foods such as sweetened cereals, yogurts and flavored milks.

Under the plan, for instance, an 8-ounce container of chocolate milk could

contain no more than 10 grams of sugar. Some popular flavored milks now contain twice that amount. The plan also limits sugary grain desserts, such as muffins or doughnuts, to no more than twice a week at breakfast.

By the fall of 2027, added sugars in school meals would be limited to less than 10% of the total calories per week for breakfasts and lunches.

The proposal also would reduce sodium in school meals by 30% by the fall of 2029. They would gradually be reduced to align with federal guidelines, which recommend Americans aged 14 and older limit sodium to about 2,300 milligrams a day, with less for younger children.

Levels would drop, for instance, from an average of about 1,280 milligrams of sodium allowed now per lunch for kids in grades 9 to 12 to about 935 milligrams. For comparison, a typical turkey sandwich with mustard and cheese might contain 1,500 milligrams of sodium.

Health experts say cutting back on sugar and salt can help decrease the risk of disease in kids, including obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and other problems that often continue into adulthood.

The plan, detailed in a

280-page document, drew mixed reactions. Katie Wilson, executive director of the Urban School Food Alliance, said the changes are "necessary to help America's children lead healthier lives."

But Diane Pratt-Heavner, spokeswoman for the School Nutrition Association, a trade group, said school meals are already healthier than they were a decade ago and that increased regulations are a burden, especially for small and rural school districts.

"School meal programs are at a breaking point," she said. "These programs are simply not equipped to meet additional rules."

Vilsack emphasized that the plan phases changes in over the next six years to allow schools and food manufacturers time to adjust to the new standards. He said in a press conference Friday that the USDA will also fund grants of up to \$150,000 to help small and rural schools make the changes.

"Our hope is that many school districts and food providers accelerate the timeline on their own," he said.

Courtney Gaine, president of the Sugar Association, said the proposal ignores the "many functional roles" sugar plays in food beyond sweetness and

encourages the use of sugar substitutes, which have not been fully studied in children. Sugar substitutes are allowed under the new standards, Vilsack said.

As part of the plan, agriculture officials are seeking feedback about a proposal that would continue to require that 80% of all grains offered in a week must be whole grains. But it would allow schools to serve non-whole grain foods, such as white-flour tortillas, one day a week to vary their menus.

Another option suggests serving unflavored nonfat and lowfat milk to the youngest children and reserving chocolate and other flavored milks for high school kids.

A 60-day public comment period on the plan opens Feb. 7.

Shiriki Kumanyika, a community health expert at Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health said if they're done right some of the changes will be hard for kids to notice: "They'll see things that they like to eat, but those foods will be healthier," she said.

AP Videojournalist Shelby Lum and AP Science Writer Maddie Burakoff contributed to this report.

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Chinese balloon high over US stirs unease far below

By Matthew Brown and Amy Beth Hanson

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Chinese balloon drifting high above the U.S. and first revealed over Montana has created a buzz down below among residents who initially wondered what it was — and now wonder what its arrival means amid a chorus of alarm raised by the region's elected officials.

The balloon roiled diplomatic tensions as it continued to move over the central U.S. on Friday at 60,000 feet (18,288 meters). Secretary of State Anthony Blinken abruptly canceled an upcoming trip to China.

Curiosity about the bobbling sky orb swept the internet, with search terms like “where is the sky balloon now?” and “spy balloon tracker” surging on Google. On Facebook, wobbly videos of blue skies and the white splotch filled speculative feeds as communities tried to track its path over the U.S.

In Montana — home to Malmstrom Air Force base and dozens of nuclear missile silos — people doubted Beijing's claim that it was a weather balloon gone off course. And the governor and members of Congress pressed the Biden administration over why the military did not immediately bring it down from the sky.

“I question whether or not we would even found out about this if people hadn't spotted it in Billings,” said Chase Doak, a resident of the southern Montana city who appears to have captured some of the first known video footage and photographs of the balloon.

“It needs to be removed from the sky somehow,” Doak added. “And if China is now taking responsibility, they need to answer for why it's here in our airspace.”

A white balloon with what appeared to be a solar array hanging beneath it was seen over Billings Wednesday afternoon, around the same time the local

airport was temporarily shut down and a day before the Pentagon revealed it was tracking a Chinese spy balloon over the state.

Initial speculation over its origins ranged from the foreign to the extra-terrestrial.

Todd Hewett of Billings said his 10-year-old son Matt saw the balloon and thought it was a comet he had been looking for. Hewett got some shaky footage, using a cellphone to take video through a telescope, and came away skeptical of the Chinese claim that it was a civilian weather balloon. He wanted the federal government to take action.

“Shoot it down,” he said. “If we could somehow pierce the bottom of it to allow some of the gas to escape to allow for a more controlled descent (that) would be nice .. but if we can't do that ... blow it up.”

Montana has some experience with balloons launched by adversaries: Japan in World War II targeted the western U.S. with incendiary “balloon bombs” that

were floated over North America with plans to harm people and start forest fires. More than 30 of the bombs made of rice paper landed in Montana, according to the Montana Historical Society.

In Oregon, five children and a pregnant woman on a church picnic were killed in 1945 when they found one of the bombs and it exploded.

On Friday in Kansas City, Missouri, the National Weather Service said it received reports of a large balloon in the Kansas City metro area and posted two images of white orbs taken from the weather station office in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. The service confirmed it was not a National Weather Service balloon.

The Live Storm Chasers Facebook page included several posts from people who reported seeing a white orb that could be the balloon over Missouri at midday Friday.

Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke put out a poll to his constituents ear-

ly Friday saying the balloon was still over the state and asking if should be shot down. When the Pentagon said the balloon had since drifted over the central U.S., Zinke remained unappeased and raised the possibility that China had more than one balloon over the U.S., during an interview with The Associated Press.

“I don't know if that's the only balloon. We've asked for those answers,” he said.

The former U.S. Navy SEAL said the balloon should have been shot down. “The message that it gives to our allies is, we're not capable of dealing with a balloon,” he said.

Republicans in Montana have grown increasingly outspoken in recent years about China posing a threat to U.S. national security. A bill pending before the state Legislature would ban “foreign adversaries” from owning, leasing or renting critical infrastructure or farmland.

The bill did not name any countries but its sponsor, Republican

state Sen. Ken Bogner of Miles City, singled out China as being interested in acquiring lands and resources in the U.S. to “help them with spying efforts.”

Bogner said Friday that the balloon over Billings was “yet another example” of China's attempts to operate within the U.S.

That anti-China sentiment marks a shift from a just a few years ago, when Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines visited China, hosted the Chinese ambassador on a visit to a Montana ranch and helped secure a deal to export more beef to China.

The beef deal later fell through, and Daines has since emerged as a strong critic of China.

“This is not the first time a Chinese balloon has entered American airspace over sensitive national security areas,” Daines said in a Friday statement to the AP.

“I don't think anyone believes this was merely a civilian aircraft.”

Legal recreational pot sales begin for Missouri adults

By Summer Ballentine

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Recreational marijuana sales in Missouri officially began Friday after the state health department unexpectedly began approving dispensary permits early.

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

Under the amendment, non-medicinal pot use became legal in the state in December. But sales were stalled because the health department had until Friday to issue business licenses.

Almost all of the state's medical marijuana dispensaries applied to sell recreational pot, according to Lisa Cox, spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Of the medical marijuana facilities that

applied to sell cannabis recreationally, 335 were approved as of Friday. That includes 207 dispensaries, 72 manufacturers and 56 cultivation facilities, according to the agency.

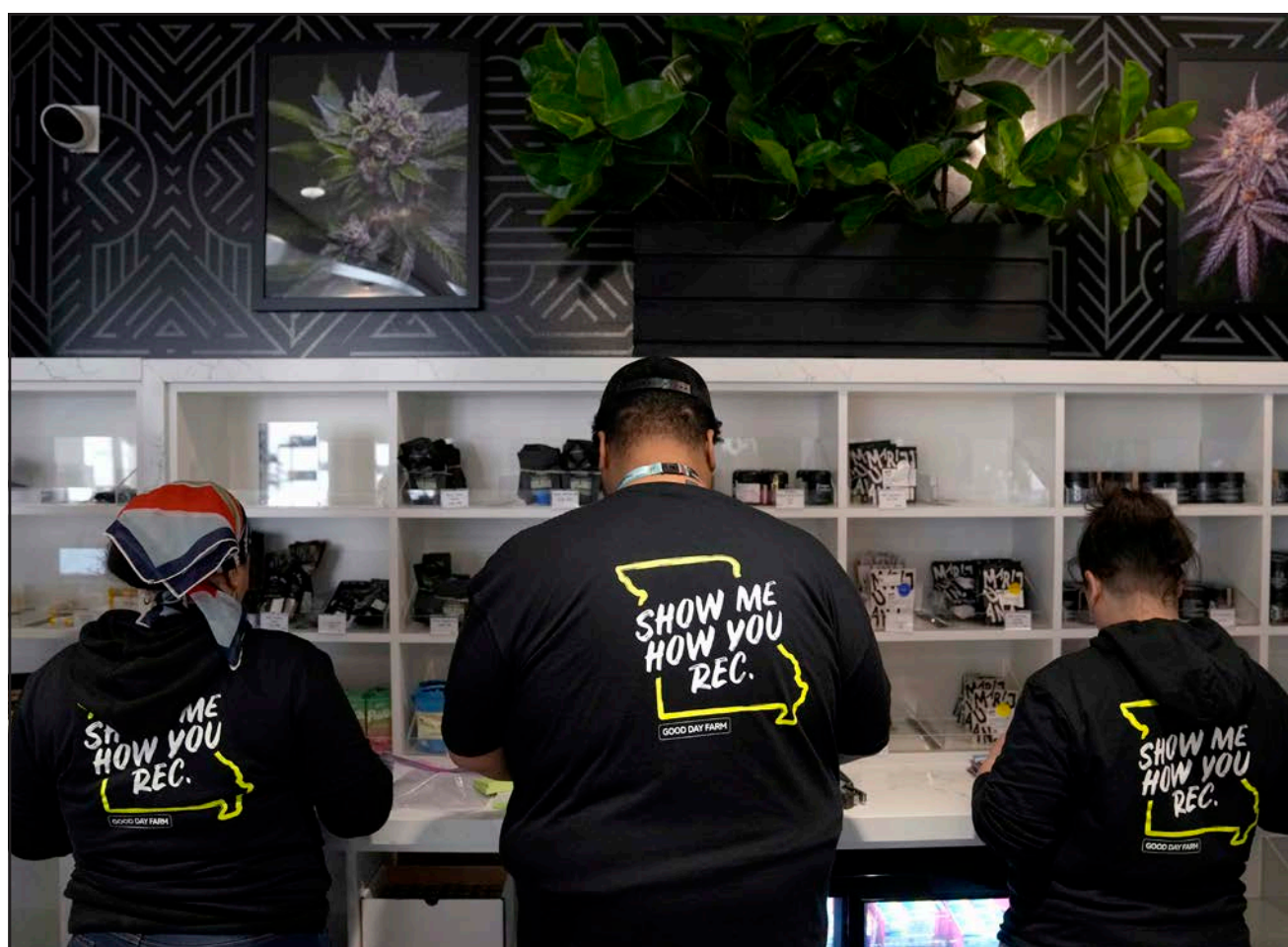
Close to 200 dispensaries were inspected Friday and given the go-ahead to sell to consumers.

Ryan Herget, CEO of Good Day Farm, said the company expects sales at its 19 Missouri stores, which previously only sold cannabis for medical use, to double or triple. He said the company hired about 200 new employees in anticipation of increased demand.

One of the company's first customers Friday was Gregory Williams, 55, of St. Louis, who welcomed the legalization of marijuana.

“It means a little liberation, a little less red tape,” along with revenue for the city and for business people, Williams said. He plans to buy weekly.

Teresa Gooch, 62, of Troy, Missouri, said she recently had a medical procedure and uses marijuana for pain relief. She



Employees, known as budtenders, from left to right, Chloe Wynn, Randy McFadden and Maria Colarelli prepare marijuana products at Good Day Farm dispensary Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, in St. Louis. Recreational marijuana sales were allowed to begin on Friday in Missouri after the state's health department gave approval.

PHOTO BY JEFF ROBERSON | AP PHOTO

said it's “amazing” to be able to go to a store and try different strains to see what works best.

Adults who want to grow their own cannabis can now apply for a permit through the health department.

If the agency does not approve or deny licenses by Friday, dispensaries that previously only sold medical marijuana will automatically be permitted to sell recreational pot as well.

Missouri's constitu-

tional amendment to legalize recreational pot use also called for the expungement of records of past arrests and convictions for nonviolent marijuana offenses, except for selling to minors or driving under the

influence. More than 5,200 past crimes had been wiped from Missourians' records as of Thursday.

— AP photojournalist Jeff Roberson in St. Louis contributed to this report.

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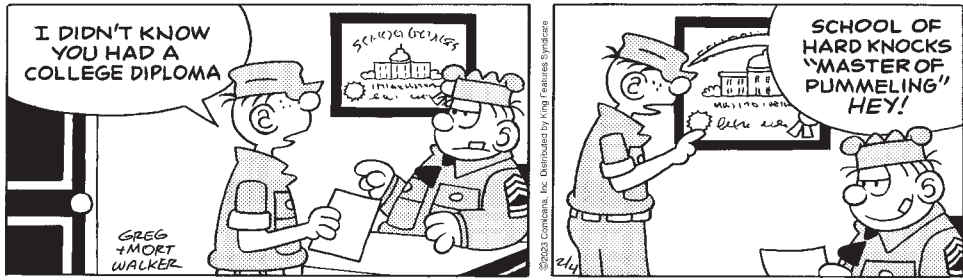
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



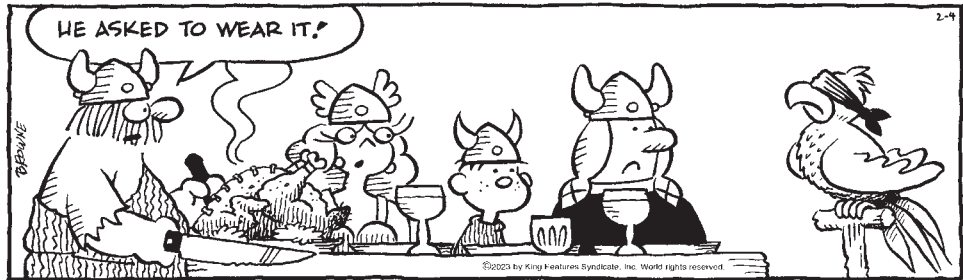
BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



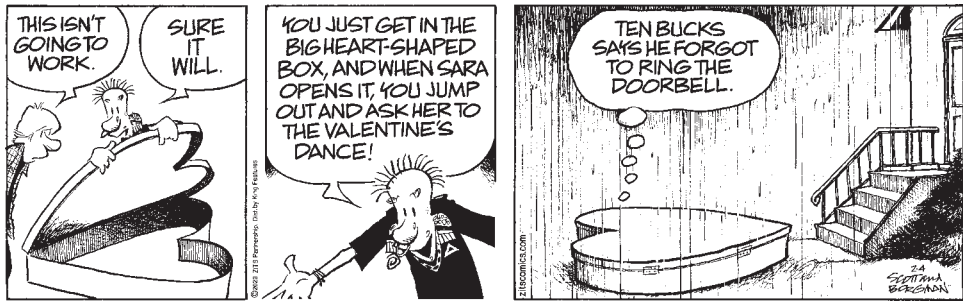
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



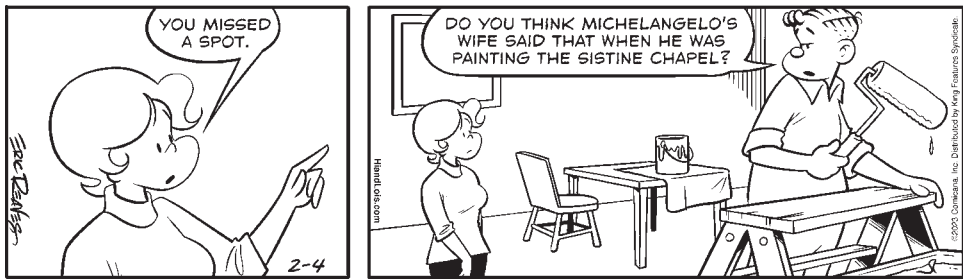
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



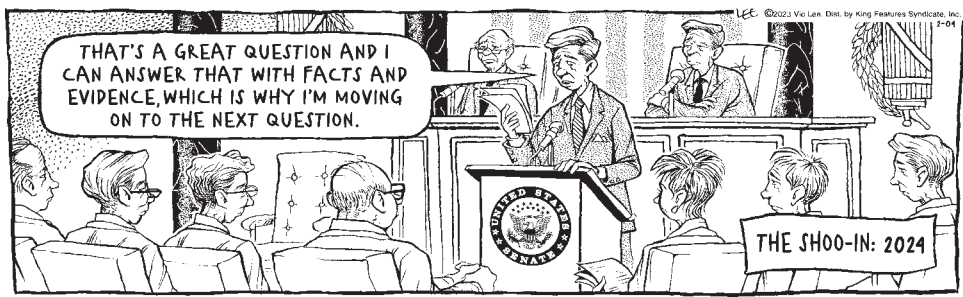
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



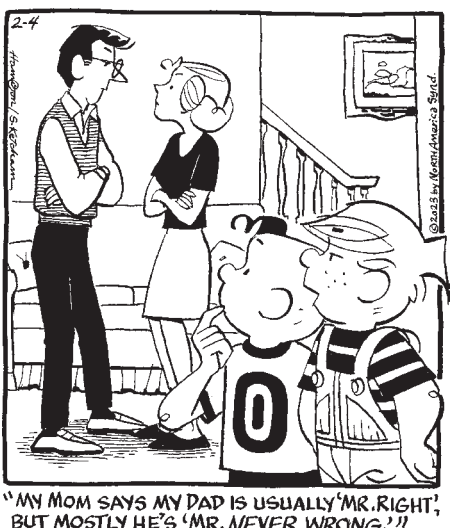
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Beat it!" girl, often
 - 6 Stylishly uninhibited
 - 11 Eucalyptus eater
 - 12 "Hello" singer
 - 13 "As You Like It" forest
 - 14 Craze
 - 15 Sword-making city
 - 17 Harris and O'Neill
 - 18 Hydrocarbon suffix
 - 19 Ex-GI
 - 22 Bright beam
 - 23 Pageant toppers
 - 24 Zodiac dozen
 - 25 Senator Sanders
 - 27 Gold unit
 - 30 City of northern Italy
 - 31 Gorilla, for one
 - 32 Imitating
 - 33 Lenin's successor
 - 35 Missteps
 - 38 Key
 - 39 Fork features
- 40 Flower**
- 41 Bring to bear**
- 42 Like some communities**
- DOWN**
- 1 Axel performer
 - 2 Solar halo
 - 3 Boo — ("To Kill a Mockingbird" recluse)
 - 4 Out of the wind
 - 5 Making decrees
 - 6 Toast spread
 - 7 Writer Tarbell
 - 8 Swiss city
 - 9 Moves smoothly
 - 10 Brewing need
 - 16 Starts
 - 20 Like some tigers
 - 21 Cal. spans
 - 24 Hit letters
 - 25 Bungle
 - 26 Galahad's mother
 - 27 Pavlova's field
 - 28 Individually
 - 29 Signed a lease
 - 30 Treat, as a turkey
 - 34 Seoul setting
 - 36 For each
 - 37 Retired jet

P	A	C	E	R	S	A	W	U	P
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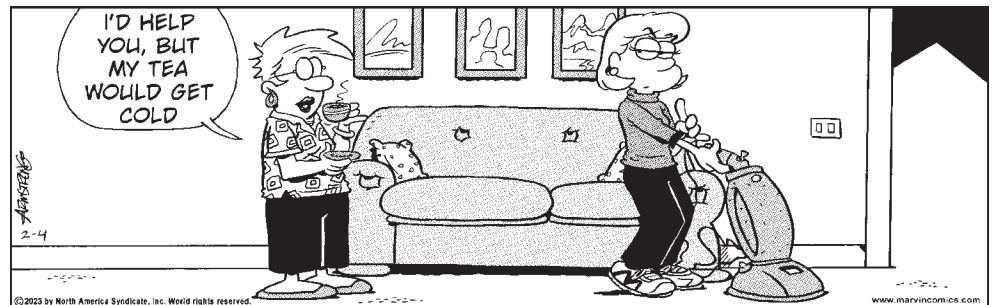
Yesterday's answer

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32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

2-4

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

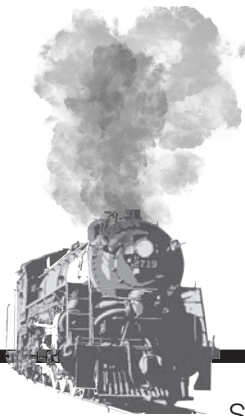
5	2	6	1	4	8	9	7	3
8	4	7	5	9	3	1	2	6
9	1	3	6	2	7	8	4	5
3	9	8	2	6	5	4	1	7
2	6	1	4	7	9	5	3	8
7	5	4	3	8	1	6	9	2
6	8	2	7	1	4	3	5	9
4	7	5	9	3	6	2	8	1
1	3	9	8	5	2	7	6	4

Difficulty: ★★★

2-3

Difficulty: ★★★

2-4



Former Stover coach Haag enjoying new role

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

Ernie Haag was back in Sedalia a few times the past week, even on the sidelines. But he wasn't clad in orange and black.

The longtime Stover girls basketball skipper joined Warrensburg's boys basketball staff in the off-season and was present for Wednesday night's road game at Smith-Cotton.

After arriving at Morgan County R-I in 1991, Haag racked up over 400 victories with the Lady Bulldogs and helped bring the program its second Kaysinger Conference Tournament Championship in 2015-16.

"Being able to stay in one place for this long, that was really neat," Haag told the Democrat in 2021.

"There were some opportunities to leave here and there, but for some reason it didn't work out either on my end or their end. So I just kind of got comfortable. This town has embraced our family, taking care of us through some rough times. We lost a newborn son in '98, and this town just backed us, supported us, and loved us. It's a special place."

Now, as an assistant, he's ended what turned out to be a brief retirement and gotten a chance to help

out his alma mater.

"I just love the game," Haag said following Wednesday's game against S-C. "It's a blast. Having an opportunity to work with [head coach] Chris [Nimmo] and [assistant] Matt [Thomas] is special, and to go back home and spend some time coaching where I played is really a neat time."

Haag called arriving at the job a fluke. "I was just looking through jobs on the internet bored and saw that assistant [position], talked to Chris and it all worked out. I was very fortunate."

The feeling is mutual. "I've got two awesome assistants," Nimmo said. "To be blunt, he told me he was interested and I told our administration we've got to make it happen. To their credit, they did."

"His energy [is great]. He's a Warrensburg grad -- we're honoring the 1983 team that he was a part of...he knows the tradition. He develops great relationships with our kids and he's an extremely knowledgeable coach."

After spending his entire career and becoming synonymous with one program, Haag was asked about the unfamiliar feeling of wearing different colors on the bench.

See COACH | A15



Warrensburg assistant coach Ernie Haag communicates on the sideline in the fourth quarter of the team's game Wednesday night at Smith-Cotton. Haag collected over 400 career wins in his decades with the Stover Lady Bulldogs before ending his brief retirement to return to his alma mater. PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid celebrates with defensive end Frank Clark, right, after the NFL AFC Championship playoff football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo. The Chiefs won 23-20. PHOTO BY BRYNN ANDERSON | AP PHOTO

4th down coaching decisions could prove key in Super Bowl

By Josh Dubow
AP Pro Football Writer

If the Super Bowl comes down to a key fourth-down decision, that might bode well for the Philadelphia Eagles.

The analytically inclined Eagles have long been one of the NFL's most aggressive organi-

zations when it comes to the crucial fourth-down calls.

Those decisions helped fuel the team's first Super Bowl title five years ago under coach Doug Pederson and have helped Philadelphia get back to the title game this season under his successor Nick Sirianni thanks to two key fourth-down con-

versions in the first half of the NFC title game against San Francisco.

The Eagles have converted more fourth downs than any other team in the regular season and playoffs combined, despite playing from ahead more than any other team this season.

See KEY | A15

Nets' Kyrie Irving requests trade, according to reports

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — All-Star guard Kyrie Irving has asked the Brooklyn Nets for a trade, according to ESPN and The Athletic.

Irving made the request after talks about a new contract did not go to his liking, the news outlets reported Friday.

The NBA's trade deadline is Thursday. The Nets — coming off a 43-point loss at Boston on Wednesday — open a five-game homestand on Saturday against Washington. They play six of their last

seven games before the All-Star break at home; the only "road" game in that stretch is at the New York Knicks.

But whether Irving will be part of any of that is unclear now.

Irving's agent and stepmother, Shetellia Irving, told Bleacher Report last week that she had reached out to the Nets regarding an extension. Kyrie Irving — whose current deal with the Nets expires after this season — is eligible for a four-year contract worth as much as \$200 million.

See NETS | A15



Brooklyn Nets' Kyrie Irving during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023 in New York. Irving has asked the Nets for a trade, according to ESPN and The Athletic. Irving made the request after talks about a new contract did not go to his liking, the news outlets reported Friday, Feb. 3, 2023. FILE PHOTO BY FRANK FRANKLIN II | AP PHOTO

Analysis: Eagles weren't afraid to make difficult decisions

By Rob Maaddi
AP Pro Football Writer

The Philadelphia Eagles are playing for another Super Bowl title because they weren't afraid to make difficult decisions following a disastrous 2020 season.

Just three years after hoisting the Lombardi Trophy for the first time in franchise history, the organization was at a crossroads following a 4-11-1 finish in the pandemic-altered season. Philadelphia had gone from winning it all to winning one playoff game to losing in the wild-card round to last place.

Coach Doug Pederson and the front office didn't

see eye-to-eye. Franchise quarterback Carson Wentz was debating his future after being benched for a terrible performance in the first season of a lucrative contract extension he'd received two years earlier.

Pederson was fired and Wentz was traded three years after finishing third in NFL MVP voting and helping put the Eagles in position to win that Super Bowl by going 11-2 before he was injured.

Those moves laid the foundation for a rebuild that only ended up being a quick retool.

Pederson was an excel-

lent coach in Philadelphia, turning Chip Kelly's mess into a championship team in just two years. He led the Eagles to a pair of division titles and three playoff appearances in five seasons.

He took his aggressive coaching style, strong leadership skills and sharp mind to Jacksonville this season and transformed the Jaguars from doormat to AFC South champions.

But Pederson had to go in Philadelphia because he disagreed with management on some issues, including his assistant coaches. His loyalty ended up costing him his job.

See EAGLES | A15



Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman, center, stands with defensive end Brandon Graham (55), offensive tackle Lane Johnson (65), defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, and center Jason Kelce (62) after the NFC Championship NFL football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, in Philadelphia. The Eagles won 31-7. PHOTO BY MATT SLOCUM | AP PHOTO

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday

ON TAP

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

7 p.m. State Fair Community College at Mineral Area College

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

5 p.m. State Fair Community College at Mineral Area College

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

1:30 p.m. Green Ridge vs Windsor (at SFCC)

3 p.m. Cole Camp vs Stover (at SFCC)

4:30 p.m. Sacred Heart vs Northwest (at SFCC)

6 p.m. Lincoln vs Tipton (at SFCC)

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING

Cole Camp at Thundering Herd Tournament

Windsor at MMA Varsity Colonel Classic

ON AIR

AUTO RACING

5 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Practice, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles

7:30 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles

BOWLING

3 p.m. FS1 — PBA: The U.S. Open, Match Play, Indianapolis

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)

11 a.m. ESPN — Kansas at Iowa St.

ESPN2 — Virginia at Virginia Tech

ESPNEWS — Texas A&M-CC at SE Louisiana

ESPNU — UCF at Cincinnati

FOX — Michigan St. vs. Rutgers, New York

FS1 — UConn at Georgetown

11:30 a.m. USA — Davidson at UMass

Noon ACCN — Georgia Tech at NC State

CBS — Texas Tech at Baylor

SECN — Mississippi at Vanderbilt

TNT — HBCU Legacy Classic: Morgan St. vs. Delaware St., Newark, N.J.

1 p.m. ESPN — Auburn at Tennessee

ESPN2 — Florida St. at Louisville

ESPNU — Tulane at Memphis

FS1 — Butler at Marquette

1:30 p.m. FOX — Illinois at Iowa

USA — George Mason at Loyola of Chicago

2 p.m. ACCN — Miami at Clemson

2:30 p.m. SECN — Arkansas at South Carolina

TNT — HBCU Legacy Classic: Norfolk St. vs. Hampton, Newark, N.J.

3 p.m. CBSSN — Murray St. at Indiana St.

ESPN — Purdue at Indiana

ESPN2 — Texas at Kansas St.

ESPNU — Alabama at LSU

4 p.m. ACCN — Syracuse at Boston College

FOX — St. John's at Xavier

5 p.m. CBSSN — 5Wofford at Furman

ESPNEWS — Bradley at N. Iowa

SECN — Missouri at Mississippi St.

5:30 p.m. ESPN — North Carolina at Duke

6 p.m. PAC-12N — Washington St. at

UCLA

6:30 p.m. FOX — Villanova at Creighton

7 p.m. CBSSN — Utah St. at Colorado St.

ESPNEWS — Oklahoma at West Virginia

ESPNU — Dayton at St. Bonaventure

7:30 p.m. ESPN — Florida at Kentucky

ESPN2 — Oklahoma at West Virginia (Joined in Progress)

SECN — Georgia at Texas A&M

8 p.m. BTN — Maryland at Minnesota

8:30 p.m. FS1 — Washington at Southern Cal

PAC-12N — Oregon St. at Arizona

9 p.m. CBSSN — Wyoming at San Jose St.

ESPN2 — Oregon at Arizona St.

ESPNU — Santa Clara at San Francisco

9:30 p.m. ESPN — Gonzaga at Saint Mary's (Cal)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)

1 p.m. CBSSN — Fairleigh Dickinson at Wagner

5 p.m. ESPNU — Baylor at Iowa St.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

1:30 p.m. NFLN — Senior Bowl: National Team vs. American Team, Mobile, Ala.

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN)

3 p.m. PAC-12N — Oregon St. at Washington

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN)

3 p.m. BTN — Notre Dame at Michigan St.

5:30 p.m. BTN — Penn St. at Ohio St.

COLLEGE WRESTLING

1 p.m. BTN — Rutgers at Maryland

GOLF

2:30 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Third Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Noon GOLF — PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Third Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.

2 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Third Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.

2:30 a.m. (Sunday)

GOLF — DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Final Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

HORSE RACING

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

3 p.m. CNBC — 1/ST RACING TOUR: From Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla. and Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

8 p.m. CBS — Bellator 290 Main Card: Fedor Emelianenko vs. Ryan Bader (Heavyweights), Inglewood, Calif.

NBA BASKETBALL

5 p.m. ESPN2 — LA Lakers at New Orleans

7:30 p.m. ABC — Dallas at Golden State

NHL HOCKEY

2 p.m. ABC — NHL All-Star Game: 3-on-3 Tournament, Central vs. Pacific, Sunrise, Fla.

3 p.m. ABC — NHL All-Star Game: 3-on-3 Tournament, Metropolitan vs. Atlantic, Sunrise, Fla.

11 a.m. CNBC — Six Nations: Ireland at Wales (Taped)

1 p.m. CNBC — Six Nations: Scotland at England (Taped)

SKIING

2 p.m. NBC — FIS: Freestyle World Cup, Mammoth Mountain, Calif. (Taped)

SOCCER (MEN)

6:30 a.m. USA — Premier League: Arsenal at Everton

8:20 a.m. FS2 — FIFA Club World Cup: Wydad AC vs. Al Hilal SFC, Second Round, Rabat, Morocco

9 a.m. USA — Premier League: Leicester City at Aston Villa

10:50 a.m. FS2 — FIFA Club World Cup: Seattle vs. Al Ahly, Second Round, Tangier, Morocco

11:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: West Ham United at Newcastle United

9 p.m. FS2 — Liga MX: Club América at Santos Laguna

SOCCER (WOMEN)

5:25 a.m. CBSSN — FASL: Manchester City at Leicester City

7:30 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: AC Milan at Juventus

TRACK AND FIELD

3 p.m. NBC — New Balance Indoor: The Boston Grand Prix, Boston

TENNIS

4 a.m. TENNIS — Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Semifinals

5 a.m. TENNIS — Lyon-WTA, Hua Hin-WTA Semifinals

4:30 a.m. (Saturday)

TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA Final

5 a.m. (Saturday)

TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA Final

Sunday

ON AIR

AHL HOCKEY

5 p.m. NHLN — 2023 AHL All-Star Skills Competition: From Laval, Quebec

AUTO RACING

4 p.m. FOX — NASCAR Cup Series: Clash at The Coliseum Heat Races, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles

7 p.m. FOX — NASCAR Cup Series: The Busch Light Clash at The Coliseum, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles

BOWLING

1 p.m. FOX — PBA: The U.S. Open, Finals, Indianapolis

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)

11 a.m. ESPNU — La Salle at Saint Joseph's

FS1 — DePaul at Seton Hall

USA — Fordham at Richmond

Noon CBS — Ohio St. at Michigan

3:30 p.m. BTN — Penn St. at Nebraska

5 p.m. ESPN2 — Houston at Temple

ESPNU — California at Utah

5:30 p.m. BTN — Northwestern at Wisconsin

6 p.m. FS1 — Stanford at Colorado

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)

11 a.m. ACCN — Georgia Tech at Miami

BTN — Iowa at Penn St.

ESPN2 — North Carolina at Louisville

FOX — South Carolina at UConn

Noon SECN — Georgia at Vanderbilt

1 p.m. ACCN — Virginia at Pittsburgh

ESPN2 — LSU at Texas A&M

ESPNU — Kansas St. at Texas Tech

FS1 — Indiana at Purdue

2 p.m. PAC-12N — Stanford at Washington

SECN — Arkansas at Auburn

3 p.m. ACCN — Clemson at Wake Forest

ESPN2 — Ohio St. at Maryland

ESPNU — Florida at Mississippi

4 p.m. PAC-12N — Utah at Oregon

SECN — Alabama at Missouri

COLLEGE WRESTLING

1 p.m. BTN — Illinois at Michigan St.

FIGURE SKATING

3 p.m. NBC — U.S. Figure Skating Championships: Exhibition Gala, San Jose, Calif. (Taped)

GOLF

2:30 a.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Ras Al Khaimah Classic, Final Round, Al Hamra GC, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Noon GOLF — PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.

2 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Final Round, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.

HORSE RACING

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

3 p.m. FS1 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

NBA BASKETBALL

5 p.m. ESPN — Philadelphia at New York

NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL

2 p.m. NBATV — Mexico City at Lakeland

NFL FOOTBALL

2 p.m. ABC — 2023 NFL Pro Bowl Games: NFC All-Stars vs. AFC All-Stars, Las Vegas

ESPN — 2023 NFL Pro Bowl Games: NFC All-Stars vs. AFC All-Stars, Las Vegas

RODEO

11 a.m. CBS — PBR: The Wrangler Long Live The Cowboys Classic, 15/15 Bucking Battle, Sacramento, Calif. (Taped)

4 p.m. CBSSN — PBR: The Wrangler Long Live The Cowboys Classic, Championship Round, Sacramento, Calif.

8 a.m. CNBC — Six Nations: France at Italy (Taped)

SOCCER (MEN)

5:55 a.m. CBSSN — SPFL: Celtic at St. Johnstone

8 a.m. USA — Premier League: Leeds United at Nottingham Forest

10:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur

11 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Bologna at Fiorentina

7 p.m. FS2 — Liga MX: Toluca at Monterrey

TENNIS

4:30 a.m. TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA Final

5 a.m. TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA Final

8:30 a.m. TENNIS — Lyon-WTA Final



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Raiders hire former Commanders OC Scott Turner

By Mark Anderson
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — Former Washington Commanders offensive coordinator Scott Turner is joining the Las Vegas Raiders' staff. He likely will help oversee the passing game. Turner was the Commanders' offensive coordinator the past three seasons. He was fired Jan. 10. Washington ranked 20th in total offense, 21st in passing and 24th in scoring this season. Joining the Raiders represents a little bit of a homecoming for

Turner. He was a backup quarterback at UNLV in 2003 and 2004.

LAS VEGAS — Former Washington Commanders offensive coordinator Scott Turner is joining the Las Vegas Raiders' staff, likely helping oversee the passing game.

"I'm just happy to be a part of the staff and it's obviously coach (Josh) McDaniels' deal, and I'm just going to be ready to contribute and help the best I can," Turner said Friday. "I'll get out there and get a feel for

the team. It's just everything's so new right now."

The 40-year-old Turner was the Commanders' offensive coordinator the last three seasons before he was fired Jan. 10. Washington ranked 20th in total offense, 21st in passing and 24th in scoring this season.

Turner, the son of longtime former NFL offensive coordinator and head coach Norv, oversaw eight quarterbacks during his time with the Commanders. Their offense was ranked

in the bottom half of the league all three seasons.

Joining the Raiders represents a little bit of a homecoming for Turner, who was a backup quarterback at UNLV in 2003 and 2004 and still has a Las Vegas area code for his phone number.

"I just came out there and met with the staff earlier this week, and it obviously brings back some memories," Turner said. "A little bit different situation. I'll be coming out with my wife and kids. But it'll be good to be back."

HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: After 4 a.m. EST today (1 a.m. PST) there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Leo.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023:

You were born ahead of your time. You are courageous and idealistic. You have amazing organizational abilities. You give excellent advice. Simplicity is the key to life this year. Take charge of your health. Physical exercise is important. Stay grounded and levelheaded. Work hard.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ This is a wonderful day to socialize! Accept all invitations to party. Enjoy sports events, musical performances, the theater, movies, art galleries, fun outings and playful activities with kids. Meet friends to share conversation and laughter. Artists will be especially productive! Tonight: Play!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ This is a lovely day to entertain at home. Invite the gang over for pizza and beer or quiche and pinot gris, whatever your pleasure. In fact, this is the perfect time for a gathering of people where you like to discuss how to promote the welfare of others. Tonight: Cocoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today you feel vibrant and alive because you're full of positive, mental energy. Enjoy talking to others. You'll be persuasive and convincing, which means this is a promising day for those in sales, marketing, teaching or writing. Take a short trip if you can. Tonight: Enjoy conversations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Business and commerce are favored today, because money-making decisions can lead to future profits. Yay! You might be bolder than usual in taking a chance on something because you feel saucy and confident. Discussions about inheritances and shared property will go well. Tonight: Special treats.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky Jupiter and fiery Mars, which pumps up your energy and your optimism. It also gives you the ability to deal skillfully with others in a friendly manner. You will especially be interested in helping others or doing something to benefit an important cause. Tonight: It's all about you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your ambition is strong; you're ready to work. Today you will achieve whatever you want because privately, in a quiet way, you feel pleased with yourself and inwardly happy. You're starting to see the results of your hard work, which will no doubt bring you kudos and acknowledgements. Tonight: Solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ This is a wonderful day to schmooze with others — friends, spouses, partners and members of the general public. Conversations with others will be dynamic and enthusiastic, especially discussions about travel, politics, philosophy or religion. Everyone has an opinion! Tonight: Schmooze.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You make a great impression on others today. People see you as friendly, enthusiastic and successful. In turn, you feel playful and flirtatious. Nevertheless, your primary focus right now is on home and family. People will follow your lead. Tonight: Take a bow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You have a strong urge to explore new ideas and meet people who are different. You want to expand your world today. If you can travel somewhere, you will. You have lots of energy today to share with others, especially if there is an exchange of cultural information. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This is an excellent day for money and work. If you work, you'll get money. Discussions about shared property, inheritances and how to use the wealth and resources of a third party will also be successful. No matter what happens, you will come out smelling like a rose! Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ This is a powerful day for you. The Moon is opposite your sign, while it dances with fiery Mars and lucky Jupiter. This will expand your world in your relations to those who are closest to you — spouses, partners and close friends. Enjoy sharing time with others. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This is a productive day for your sign because you can see that your efforts are directly tied to your earnings. You have energy, ideas and follow-through to go after what you want. If you work at home, you might improve your workspace or help someone else do likewise. Tonight: Work.

BORN TODAY

Actress Gabrielle Anwar (1970), Argentine politician Isabel Peron (1931), civil rights activist Rosa Parks (1913)

California makes flag football a girls' high school sport

By Amy Taxin

Associated Press

California approved a plan Friday to make flag football a girls' high school sport amid soaring popularity of the game and a push to get more female athletes on the field.

The move by the California Interscholastic Federation — the state-wide body that governs high school athletics — makes flag football an official sport for girls in the nation's most populous state for the upcoming 2023-24 year. The plan was approved unanimously by the organization's federated council in Long Beach, said Rebecca Brutlag, an agency spokesperson.

Paula Hart Rodas, president-elect of the CIF Southern Section's council, said the goal is to get more girls involved in high school sports and tap into a widespread love of football by many who are loath to play tackle. Southern California schools spanning from Long Beach to Corona are hoping to start teams in the fall and the approval allows districts to add the sport to their budgets, Hart Rodas said.

"You can love the game of football and not love getting tackled but still want to participate," Hart Rodas said. "Flag right now is aimed directly at getting more girls involved in athletics by adding a different sport that we know girls across the country are interested in, but not willing to play tackle for a variety of reasons."

The move adds California to a growing list of states that have included girls' flag football in high



Aly Young, 17, left, and Shale Harris, 15, reach to catch a pass as they try out for the Redondo Union High School girls flag football team on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, in Redondo Beach, Calif. California officials are expected to vote Friday on the proposal to make flag football a girls' high school sport for the 2023-24 school year.

FILE PHOTO BY ASHLEY LANDIS | AP PHOTO

school athletic programs, such as Alabama and Nevada. New York state's public high school athletic association took a similar step this week and expects to host the first state championship for girls flag football in the spring of 2024.

The vote in California comes amid a surge in interest in flag football among younger players in recreational leagues and burgeoning support from the NFL and teams such as the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers, which have been running a pilot high school league for girls in Southern California.

Scores of schools signed up to participate in the pilot and those selected to do so — and the eager young players who played in it — have widely been seen as pioneers in the sport.

Paul Schmidt said being part of a start-up has been

exciting for his 14-year-old daughter, who had never played flag football before she tried out for the team at Redondo Union High School, one of the schools participating in the league. Making the sport official should make it easier to secure field time, he said, and gives a boost to a tight-knit team of girls that has bonded around starting something new.

"She loves it, loves it. It's exciting to be in a new sport," he said.

Rising interest in flag football — in which no one gets tackled and a play ends when an opposing player pulls a flag from a belt around the ball-carrier's waist — comes amid concern about the risk of concussions and other injuries from tackle football.

In the decade leading up to 2018-19, the number of girls playing flag football in U.S. high schools doubled to 11,000, according to the National Federation of State High

School Associations.

Without the CIF's approval, California high schools could organize flag football clubs. But coaches said allowing official interscholastic competition will likely drive more schools to start teams and develop a pipeline of players.

Troy Vincent Sr., the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, wrote in the Sacramento Bee that times have changed since he played professional football, which back then was "broadly seen as a man's game." He said high school players might be able to play into college and beyond as universities have also ramped up the sport.

Vincent is also pushing to get flag football added to the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

"This is no longer just a backyard sport for girls' pickup games during family holiday gatherings," he said.

Super Bowl prop betting increasing in popularity

By Mark Anderson

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jay Kornegay was behind the counter in 2004 when someone approached with \$5,000 to bet on the Super Bowl but had no idea how to decide.

The man, not a regular sports bettor, thought for a few moments and decided to put it all on the Carolina Panthers to score exactly 29 points at 30-1 odds.

Kornegay couldn't believe it, but took the man's money — and later returned it plus the winnings. The bet cashed when the Panthers scored that amount in a three-point loss to the New England Patriots.

The Super Bowl draws a larger portion of casual bettors than other American sporting events, and the numerous proposition options each year underscore how the game's mass appeal goes well beyond professional gamblers and hardcore fans.

"We're certainly going to write a lot more tickets on the propositions than the game," said Kornegay, vice president of race and sports operations at Westgate Las Vegas. "They've become so popular."

This year's Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles is Feb. 12 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, the first time the championship will be played inside a venue with a sportsbook.

Next year's Super Bowl will be in Las Vegas, the nation's sports betting



A person gambles as betting odds for NFL football's Super Bowl are displayed on monitors at the Circa resort and casino sports book Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY JOHN LOCHER | AP PHOTO

capital.

Sportsbooks have taken advantage of the increasing popularity of prop bets, which could range from whether there will be a safety to whether the Chiefs or Eagles will score more points than LeBron James or Steph Curry when their teams meet the day before the big game.

Most props will be made available next week, but Caesars Sportsbook already has its 2,000-option menu available. Among the choices is whether the first turnover will be an interception or fumble. The interception is minus-170, meaning someone would need to bet \$170 to win \$100. The fumble is listed at plus-140, which means a \$100 bet would pay \$140.

Jason Scott, BetMGM vice president of trading, said he expects to put out 700 or 800 such bets by

next week for its properties in 20 states plus Washington, D.C. Kornegay said Westgate will have about 500 bets with roughly 1,000 options. Jeff Benson, Circa Sports operations manager, said his casino's booklet will be 12 or 13 pages front and back.

"I think you have a ton of people that want just to bet the props," Benson said. "They don't really care who wins. That's really a way for them to enjoy the game."

The number of bets on props is considerably higher than traditional wagers such as which team will cover the point spread and whether the total number of points will be higher or lower than the posted figure. The Eagles are 1 1/2-point favorites at FanDuel Sportsbook, and the total is 50 1/2 points.

Kornegay estimated that

for every traditional Super Bowl bet, there are six or seven prop wagers.

Scott said that while some of the more unusual prop bets draw much of the attention, more than 99% of the money tends to go to about 30 high-profile bets such as which player will score the first touchdown.

The popularity of props is a fairly recent phenomenon.

Caesars is believed to have published the first prop bet when it posted at 20-1 odds that defensive lineman and goal-line running back William "the Refrigerator" Perry would score a touchdown for the Chicago Bears in the 1986 Super Bowl. The odds plummeted to 2-1 by kickoff, and Perry rewarded bettors by reaching the end zone late in the third quarter.

Krzyzewskiville, rowdy Duke fans part of Coach K's legacy

By Aaron Beard

AP Basketball Writer

DURHAM, N.C. — Emma Smith never forgot the discomfort of camping out on Duke's campus during a rainstorm, her tent filling with water and mud. Didac Garcia-Grau's freshman year saw two tents lost to wind damage.

And for JT Galla, there was nothing quite like seeing sub-freezing temperatures in the forecast for that night's campout in "Krzyzewskiville."

"I think everybody has a moment where they think to themselves: 'Why am I doing this?'" Galla said. "But I don't think anybody has a moment where they think to themselves: 'I wish that I didn't do this.'"

For decades, the reward was securing a coveted spot inside Cameron Indoor Stadium to cheer Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski's Blue Devils against hated North Carolina. This Saturday, rivalry renewal and all, it's different. Krzyzewski retired after last season as the winningest coach in the history of college basketball and a five-time NCAA champion.

Yet the annual pop-up community of up to 130 tents and more than 1,500 students remained until this week next to the sign bearing his name. Both Krzyzewskiville and the famed rowdiness in those courtside bleachers are part of Coach K's legacy, one successor Jon Scheyer and the "Cameron Crazies" aim to preserve as one of the sport's most fearsome homecourt advantages.

"It's kind of like a bucket-list item that you want to be able to look back on with your kids one day and be like, 'I slept in a tent in K-ville and went to the coolest game in college sports,'" said Smith, now a senior who, with Garcia-Grau, were this year's co-



Duke student fans react during an NCAA college basketball game against Miami on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Durham, N.C. Duke's famously rowdy students spent weeks camping out and getting ready for Saturday's annual rivalry game with North Carolina. And everyone from successor Jon Scheyer to the "Cameron Crazies" remain determined to preserve the fearsome homecourt advantage that is part of former coach Mike Krzyzewski's unparalleled legacy.

FILE PHOTO BY JACOB KUPFERMAN | AP PHOTO

head line monitors for Krzyzewskiville.

Duke's 83-year-old arena is a cramped-confines throwback. It holds 9,314 fans in a time of bigger and glitzier venues.

It also was a critical piece to Krzyzewski's 42-year run, with his teams winning 88% of games here — including an Atlantic Coast Conference-record 46-game streak from 1997-2000 — and carrying a sellout streak from November 1990 that recently pushed past 500 games.

A few years into his tenure, student demand for the UNC game led to Krzyzewskiville campouts. And the already-rowdy students gained broader fame in nationally televised games with their body paint, costumes, homemade signs and coordinated jeers. The Crazies sit along an entire sideline teeming with sweat,

wit, spite and chaos.

Galla, a senior neuroscience major who first camped out during the 2019-20 season, put it simply: "I leave with my ears ringing every time."

The intensity is there any time the Tar Heels visit from nearby Chapel Hill. And it was particularly true for Krzyzewski's emotional Cameron finale in March that ended with UNC spoiling his sendoff before the Tar Heels won again in the Final Four — the first-ever NCAA Tournament meeting between the rivals — and ended Krzyzewski's career.

It's easy to see how much the Cameron vibe matters for the Blue Devils: The only time Duke lost as many as five home games in 27 seasons came in 2020-21 with no fans due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Jon Scheyer knows it well after a playing career that included being

the leading scorer on Krzyzewski's 2010 title winner. The 35-year-old is counting on it as Duke's first-year head coach.

"What I want Duke fans to feel is they're right alongside us in this journey," Scheyer said, adding, "When we're home, we're all scrapping, clawing, fighting together."

Students who camp outside of Cameron in the weeks leading up to the UNC game follow a Krzyzewskiville policy manual checking in at 44 pages.

They could register for one of 70 priority "black" tents representing up to 12 people. If more than 70 registered — Garcia-Grau said this year's number was 140 — tents were awarded based on scores for each group on a trivia test about that year's Blue Devils.

The first groups were

allowed to set up tents in early January this year, and other tents followed with lower priority. Groups had to keep a minimum number of people in tents at all times for line checks (other than during grace periods for students to leave, such as inclement weather).

Krzyzewskiville was taken down in recent days after the admission order had been determined for Saturday.

Along the way, students had decorations such as a photo of player Jacob Grandison and the Grand Canyon — dubbed the "Grandison Canyon" — or a mocking photo of UNC center Armando Bacot from last year's Final Four weekend in New Orleans.

Some do homework in a study tent with tables and charging areas for electronics. Some stream movies or TV shows. Others play games or

chat with fellow campers.

The smell of alcohol typically lingers — along with the buzz — as groups made their way into Cameron for games. And there has long been the sense of community that can only come passing on a perfectly acceptable dorm room to sleep in a tent on a cot on a chilly night.

It's all part of the experience, one that feels unchanged after Krzyzewski's handoff to Scheyer.

"Our whole lives, people are going to ask, 'Oh did you go to a basketball game? If they know anything about college basketball, they'll ask, 'Oh did you go to the UNC game or did you tent?'" Garcia-Grau said.

"Everyone wants to do it. ... So I think it's like, a crucial part of being a Duke student is being a Cameron Crazie at some point in your career."

AP source: MLB forms economic group as regional TV in peril

By Ronald Blum

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Concerned about a possible bankruptcy for the company that owns local broadcasting rights to 14 of the 30 Major League Baseball teams, the league has formed a new economic study committee that will gather next week at the owners' meetings in Palm Beach,

Florida.

The existence of the committee was disclosed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the planning who spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

The committee also will examine revenue disparity among MLB clubs.

Los Angeles Dodgers

chairman Mark Walter and Detroit Tigers chairman Chris Ilitch are among the committee members, the person said.

Baseball executives have said in recent weeks that the sport needs to prepare in the event that rights-fee payments are not made by Diamond Sports Group, the subsidiary of Sinclair Broadcast Group that

operates networks under the name Bally Sports. Cable networks have lost subscribers and revenue in recent years due to cord-cutting.

Diamond owns rights to the broadcasts for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Guardians, Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Angels, Miami Marlins, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins, St. Louis Cardinals, San Diego Padres, Tampa Bay Rays and Texas Rangers.

Billy Chambers, who had been Sinclair's chief financial officer, started work this week with MLB in a new position as executive vice president for local media.

The Walt Disney Company acquired the regional sports networks in its purchase of 21st Century Fox in March 2019.

In August, Sinclair said it had bought 21 regional sports networks and Fox College Sports

from Disney in a deal that valued those assets for \$10.6 billion.

At the time, Disney sold the equity it acquired from Fox in the Yankees' YES Network to a newly formed investor group that includes Yankee Global Enterprises and Sinclair, a group that held the 80% of YES not previously held by the Yankees, for a total enterprise value of \$3.47 billion.

Sinclair also holds rights to many NBA and NHL teams and has a joint venture interest in Marquee Sports Network, which broadcasts the Chicago Cubs.

This offseason, salaries have risen following last year's agreement on a five-year labor contract with the players' association. And payrolls rose 12.6% to a \$4.56 billion last year, breaking the previous record set in 2017, and are set to go even higher this year. The New York Mets, entering their third season under owner

Steve Cohen, currently project a payroll of about \$370 million — which would smash the previous high of \$291 million by the 2015 Los Angeles Dodgers.

MLB's newest study committee follows a pair in the past quarter-century. One was a joint management-union committee that began after the 1990 lockout and recommended in 1992 to eliminate salary arbitration and make players be eligible for free agency after three years instead of six while rejecting management's suggestion of a salary cap.

The other was a committee that met in 1999 and 2000, recommending higher luxury tax rates, sharing 40-50% of local revenues after ballpark expenses and unequal distribution of new national broadcasting, licensing and internet revenue to assist low-revenue clubs that met a payroll minimum.



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Coach

From Page A11

“It’s strange, but also different,” Haag said. “[Warrensburg now plays] in a whole different building. I played at what’s now an elementary school. But it’s great seeing a lot of people I’ve known over the years, seeing the community out supporting games. It’s a great group of kids and I’m having a blast. I couldn’t ask to be on a better staff working for those guys.”

Still, the bond remains strong between him and the girls he’s coached, and Haag was out at State Fair Community College at least once during this week’s Kaysinger Conference Tournament; the Lady Bulldogs play in the third-place game against Northwest Saturday night.

“I got to see them in the Conference a couple times and was fortunate to see the girls on senior night. I had five former players here [at the Smith-Cotton game]. It’s pretty cool.”

Key

From Page A11

“We have confidence,” Sirianni said. “When you go for it on fourth down, you put yourself in those scenarios all week. We have so many meetings about that, of what we’re going to do in these scenarios, calls we might call, what we would call if we’ve already called that and everything like that. You put yourself through those calls, but at the end of the day, you make the decision because you trust the people that are out there doing the job.”

Sirianni ranked No. 1 this season on the Football Outsiders’ Critical Call Index, while his Kansas City counterpart Andy Reid ranked 28th.

The analytics company has one of the best models for determining when NFL teams should go and when they should kick on fourth downs, using its win probability model that relies on historical play-by-play data adjusted for variables such as the strength and weaknesses of both teams, injuries and other factors.

The Eagles have converted a league-best 25 fourth-down tries and an impressive clip of 71.4%. While much of that success has come in short-yardage situations where quarterback Jalen Hurts has thrived on sneaks that feature teammates giving him a legal push from behind — converting 27 of 31 runs on third or fourth-and-1 — the Eagles also have had success with more traditional plays.

Hurts converted a fourth-and-3 on a deep pass to DeVonta Smith on the opening drive last week against San Francisco to set up a touchdown — even though the play might have been overturned had the 49ers challenged it.

“I’d say the biggest part about it is the trust the coaches have in the players and the players have in the coach,” tight end Dallas Goedert said. “If we get on the other side of the field, we know it’s four-down territory. If we get into third-and-manageable, fourth-and-manageable, it’s just trusting the play call. ... The faith

and the trust the coaches have in the players is pretty special.”

Later in the first half, Sirianni made a riskier call when he went for it on fourth-and-1 from his own 34 midway through the second quarter in a tie game.

While a stop there could have given San Francisco the ball in scoring position with a chance to take the lead before the half, Hurts converted the sneak. That led to another TD drive and Philadelphia never trailed the rest of the way.

“That aggressive style is what we like,” running back Boston Scott said. “That’s kind of been the mindset here for a while. It’s always been an aggressive style and trusting the players.”

The Eagles willingness to trust the numbers and be aggressive on fourth downs pre-dates Sirianni’s arrival as head coach in 2021.

Pederson helped fuel the league-wide shift in decision making with the success he had going for it on fourth downs in Philadelphia’s Super Bowl-winning 2017 season.

That proved crucial in the final game when Pederson’s famous “Philly Special” call at the end of the first half led to a trick play TD pass from Trey Burton to quarterback Nick Foles and a fourth-and-1 conversion in Eagles territory helped spark the game-winning drive in the fourth quarter.

Reid has typically had a more old-school approach on fourth downs but has shown a willingness at times to trust his offense. He attempted a league-low one fourth down from his own territory all season — a successful fourth-and-1 from his 45 late in a tie game against Tennessee in Week 9.

While the Chiefs did convert a key fourth-and-1 late in the first half last Sunday against the Bengals when Patrick Mahomes threw a 14-yard TD pass to Travis Kelce, that’s been more of the exception than the rule as Kansas City’s 12 fourth-down tries were tied for the second fewest in the NFL in the regular season.

AP Sports Writer Dan Gelston contributed to this report.

Nets

From Page A11

“I have reached out to the Nets regarding this,” was what Shetellia Irving told Bleacher Report. “We have had no significant conversations to date. The desire is to make Brooklyn home, with the right type of extension, which means the ball is in the Nets’ court to communicate now if their desire is the same.”

A tweet was posted to Irving’s account shortly before the first reports of the trade request came out; as often is the case with Irving when it comes to social-media posts, it was not certain what exactly he was referring to in that post.

“To my Peers: JUST BE YOURSelf and GROW!”

Keep people around who CELEBRATE YOU unconditionally and appreciates all of the hard work that gets put in. Distance yourself from the folks who manipulate, hate, and hurt,” read the tweet.

Brooklyn is 31-20 this season, fourth in the Eastern Conference standings entering Friday, and has gone 4-7 since fellow All-Star Kevin Durant hurt his knee in a game at Miami on Jan. 8. Durant could return during this homestand, since he’s on record saying he wants to play in the All-Star Game on Feb. 19 — so, presumably, he’ll be back with the Nets before then.

Durant also had asked the Nets for a trade this past summer, before cooler heads prevailed. And it was at this time last year that Brooklyn traded James Harden — who was part of what the Nets

thought would be a Big Three of him, Durant and Irving — to the Philadelphia 76ers in a deal that brought Ben Simmons to Brooklyn.

Whatever happens between now and Thursday, this is officially the start of yet another new saga surrounding Irving.

He was suspended by the Nets for what became eight games earlier this season after the team said it was dismayed by his repeated failure to “unequivocally say he has no antisemitic beliefs.” That came shortly after Irving refused to issue the apology that NBA Commissioner Adam Silver sought for posting a link to an antisemitic work on his Twitter feed. Irving also wound up losing his long relationship with Nike as part of the massive fallout from what he tweeted and the reactions

that followed.

“I don’t stand for anything close to hate speech or antisemitism or anything that is going against the human race,” Irving said on the day the Nets reinstated him in November.

Irving also missed much of the 2021-22 season because of his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19, which left him essentially ineligible to play in Brooklyn’s home games for much of the season because of New York City rules put in place in response to the pandemic.

He has also expressed no shortage of controversial opinions during his career — including repeatedly questioning whether the Earth was round before eventually apologizing to science teachers.

Eagles

From Page A11

Owner Jeffrey Lurie and general manager Howie Roseman were criticized for meddling and interfering with game plans and play-calling.

Nick Sirianni came to Philadelphia with no fanfare after three seasons as an offensive coordinator in Indianapolis. The perception in Philly was Lurie and Roseman wanted a young coach they could mold and compel to follow their plans.

If that was the case, it’s hard to argue with their success.

After a rough start in 2021, Sirianni led the Eagles to a playoff berth in his first season with Jalen Hurts as the starting

quarterback.

Hurts and the rest of the team took a giant leap this season and here they are at 16-3, one win away from another parade on Broad Street.

“This is not a time for reflection,” Hurts said after the Eagles dominated the 49ers in the NFC championship game. “It’s really hard for me to do that. I try to enjoy the moment, but my joy comes in winning. I know the job isn’t done. I never knew how far we would come, I never knew how far we’d go, but I never said it couldn’t be done.”

The first step for management was deciding to make tough decisions. Trading Wentz meant absorbing a \$33.8 million cap hit. Their next moves had to pay off for it to work out.

Hurts came to Philly as

a surprise second-round pick to provide insurance for the oft-injured Wentz and play a utility role somewhat similar to New Orleans’ Taysom Hill. Now, he’s a finalist for AP MVP and Offensive Player of the Year.

“He is a great young leader. He is a terrific young quarterback,” Lurie said. “When we drafted him it was the upside we were banking on. We thought he had a huge upside. It takes a couple years. And somebody so dedicated as Jalen and such a great teammate. Inevitably he is going to maximize everything he has and that’s what he’s done. And he’s got great teammates and great coaches.”

“I can’t understate it takes everybody. Talk about the owner, talk about the head coach,

talk about the quarterback, talk about the GM. We’re only as good as the staff that we have and in a way that is the secret sauce — the culture, and the staff.”

During Lurie’s 29 years as owner, the Eagles have reached the playoffs 17 times, advanced to the NFC title game seven times and are 1-1 in the Super Bowl going into next Sunday’s game against former coach Andy Reid and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Lurie once proclaimed he wanted the Eagles to be the “gold standard” for NFL teams. His hometown New England Patriots filled that role for two decades with Bill Belichick and Tom Brady.

Silver isn’t bad, though, especially in the form of a Lombardi.

The Emperor’s Last: MMA pioneer Fedor Emelianenko retiring

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fedor Emelianenko became a near-mythical martial arts figure two decades ago at the grey dawn of the social media age, so his earliest exploits had a tantalizing touch of mystery.

His vicious knockouts and submissions weren’t broadcast worldwide or posted on YouTube and Twitter for immediate viewing. They had to be excavated from the internet’s dark recesses, or watched on grainy VHS tapes and sketchy DVDs by devotees of a sketchy sport called mixed martial arts.

Bellator CEO Scott Coker was working for a kickboxing promotion in Japan when he first heard about the slightly pudgy, slightly undersized former Russian soldier who destroyed almost every man he touched.

“I’m like, ‘Hm, how good is this guy, really?’” Coker said. “So then I started watching his fights, and I was like, ‘Oh my God.’ He was the guy with the piercing eyes that could look right through you, that lived in Russia, and they called him the Sharpshooter at that time. So you started watching him, and you’re like, ‘Oh, this guy is really good. He’s amazing.’”

The unassuming heavyweight with the lupine stare became a combat sports legend while forging a unique path through the MMA jun-

gle. The fighter known as The Last Emperor famously never agreed to fight for the UFC, instead taking on seemingly everyone outside the dominant American promotion, but always on his own terms.

Now 46 and weary of the training grind, Emelianenko said he is retiring after he fights Ryan Bader on Saturday night. Their bout for the Bellator heavyweight title will be the final trip to the cage for the trail-blazing fighter who drew untold millions of fans to an upstart sport at his competitive peak.

“My family has been waiting for me way too long,” Emelianenko said through an interpreter. “My mom asked me to stop. She is always worried. But it’s mostly my age. ... I’ll be very happy to finish it. I’m not sad at all. It’s time.”

Bader, Bellator’s 39-year-old heavyweight champ, has always been impressed by his humble opponent’s virtuosity. Emelianenko’s success fed into a beloved corner of martial arts mythology, stoking the dream that anyone can be a champion if they worked hard and learned the proper skills.

“He’s a legend of the sport, and he’s a good human being,” Bader said. “He deserves it. I know people are going to be rooting for him (Saturday night), and I understand it. We all want to see legends go out on top.”

This 23-year journey that began in the pre-social media shadows will end on the brightest stage: Bellator will make its debut on CBS with Emelianenko’s final bout, which also will be shown around the world from the historic Forum in Inglewood, California.

Emelianenko insisted his final fight should be against Bader, who famously wrecked Fedor with a two-punch combination knockout only 35 seconds into their first meeting, which was four years ago last weekend at the Forum. Emelianenko admits he isn’t sure what will happen when he is tested one last time, but he wants to find out.

“The pressure that I used to be able to handle, I can’t handle that anymore,” he said. “If you want to compete at the highest level with the younger fighters, you have to be 100%.”

Emelianenko’s candid admission about pressure is remarkable, since nothing in this world has ever seemed to intimidate him.

He fought largely in Japan for the late Pride promotion during the first seven years of his MMA career, building his legend with a series of vicious wins. Emelianenko went undefeated for nearly a decade, and in the process, in Pride, defeated UFC champions in Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira and Mark Coleman as well as Kevin Randleman, also a UFC Hall of Famer like the

forementioned pair.

He has fought regularly in the U.S. for Coker in the Strikeforce and Bellator promotions since 2009, but he remained a revered, mysterious figure by training and living in his hometown, 300 miles south of Moscow — and also by retiring from 2012 to 2015.

Emelianenko insists he is done with competition with this retirement, even while acknowledging he will have other opportunities. Most notably, he has thought about joining the ranks of mixed martial artists who take up boxing for big paychecks.

“I did think about it, if I can do it as they do or not,” he said with a grin. “I had those kinds of thoughts. But I want to be done with it completely.”

Emelianenko would have loved to stage his farewell bout in Moscow — perhaps even in Red Square, as Coker once dreamed — but Russia’s invasion of Ukraine made it impossible. While his exploits will live online for decades, Emelianenko said it’s time to devote himself to his family, his MMA team and his responsibilities in the larger Russian MMA infrastructure.

“We spend so much time outside of our families because of sport,” Emelianenko said. “Sometimes you just call it quits and that’s it, especially when you have young kids and they’re waiting for you.”

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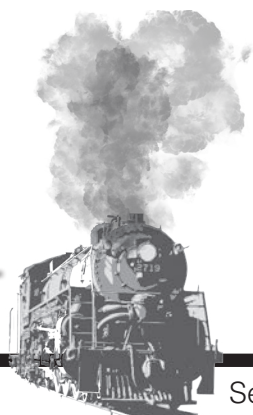
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News media literacy is more important than ever

Jan. 23-27 was designated as "National News Literacy Week." It could not be more important or timely as we continue to be bombarded with misinformation, disinformation and downright lies in all corners of the public square.



Janice Ellis
Guest Columnist

What is most alarming is the utter disregard and disrespect for facts and truth practiced and tolerated by many of the very people we look to and count on tell us like it is.

What is "National News Literacy Week," and when did it start?

The primary purpose, now in its fourth year, is to stop the proliferation of false information and teach consumers how to identify trustworthy news sources and content.

The week is dedicated to reclaiming credibility, rebuilding public trust and addressing the steps being taken to sustain those goals moving forward. The focus is on fact gathering and the reporting processes to emphasize the openness and transparency required, all of which is so critical to building a trustworthy relationship with the public.

Another primary goal is to inspire citizens, educators and students to learn how to become smart consumers of information.

How do we prepare ourselves and future generations to critically analyze and assess the information we are receiving from various sources and determine its accuracy and credibility?

That is where media literacy comes in.

Media literacy is not a new concept, and its meaning has evolved over time. In addition to developing the ability to evaluate messages and information from various sources, it is just as important to learn how to develop and use messages and dialogue effectively.

Media literacy is critical to the survival and perpetuation of a healthy democracy.

In many ways as consumers — and victims — of message bombardment, we are way behind the curve.

Even when we just had access to newspapers, radio and television, there was a lot to sort through, to understand and to absorb. You may recall early efforts to manage access and viewing, primarily of children.

But today, with 24-hour TV programming, myriad options to access all kinds of information on a plethora of media outlets and the Internet with all of its unlimited information and reach, it is easy to be overwhelmed and misled.

How can one achieve media literacy and become a smart consumer?

Consulting multiple media sources to compare the coverage or treatment of the same issues or events, in many instances, could be helpful in determining where facts and truths lie.

But media literacy involves so much more.

Since 1997, the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) has worked to empower all citizens to be able to evaluate all forms of public communication, and to become smart consumers and practitioners.

Continued on Page B4



Dr. Jon Ehlers employs a new assistant in his Tiger Family Dental office in Sedalia: the YOMI robot by Neocis. Ehlers' office is the first in Missouri outside St. Louis to use the robot. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Robot-assisted dentistry comes to Sedalia

Near painless implant drilling with precision 3D guidance

By Chris Howell

chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Robot-assisted dentistry is a reality at Tiger Dental, 991 Winchester Drive, as Dr. Jon Ehlers and his team have a new assistant, a robot that guides Ehlers through tricky dental implant procedures.

"It's called YOMI and the company is Neocis," Ehlers said. "It's cutting-edge technology that's really disrupting the way that we typically look at implant procedures."

Normally, dental implants are a complicated procedure of creating guides to properly install the implants at the correct depth and angle.

"We scan the patient, and then we have to send that information to a lab, the lab will make something that kind of sits over our patient's teeth," Ehlers said. "Sometimes the patient can't open wide enough to get the guide in the mouth; there are just a lot of issues."

The YOMI robotic assistant can handle most of that work automatically.

"The surgeon is able to plan out the case in 3D using their CBCT scanner," said Thomas Cumming, clinical business representative for the YOMI robot. "Then the robot allows the surgeon to precisely and accurately place the implant where they planned it."

It is an expensive bit of equipment that will soon be commonplace, though the YOMI in Sedalia is the only one in Missouri west of St. Louis.

"It is an investment that the dentists are making for their patients and for their practice and it allows them to be able to offer their patients a better experience throughout the process and potentially a faster healing



Tiger Family Dental now uses this robotic assistant to place dental implants requiring minimally invasive surgery and short recovery times. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

and just overall experience," Cumming said. "I'm really excited for Dr. Ehlers to be able to have this and offer this to his patients and the community."

While watching Ehlers use the robotic assistant, you realize he is in full control and any fear of the new technology fades.

"There is definitely an intimidation factor," Ehlers admitted. "What I try to tell patients is I'm still driving this thing, I've got the stop sign, the patient's in full control, I'm in full control. It's merely a tool. I think if we can approach it that way, some of that intimidation will go away."

Ehlers' training is up to the complicated machinery's proper operation as it is the surgeon's skill and judgment that are most needed.

See ROBOT | B4



The YOMI robotic dental assistant uses 3D markers to precisely align Dr. Ehler's drill for perfect dental implant placement. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

BIRTHDAYS

Pulido-Robles

Teresa Pulido-Robles will observe her 69th birthday Feb. 10. She was born Feb. 10, 1954, in California. Before retiring, she worked at Tyson Foods. Her hobbies include reading and visiting

with others.

Teresa has one child, Renee Ulmer, of Sedalia. Birthday cards may be sent to Teresa at the Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center, 3333 W. 10th St., Sedalia, Mo. 65301.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Pettis County Recorder of Deeds Barbara Clevenger recently issued marriage licenses to:
Jordan Luke Nygaard, 35, and Erin Louise Larimore, 33, both of Green Ridge; Nickolas Richard Kellar, 28, and Jamie

Sue Canfield, 30, both of Cole Camp; Christopher Nicholas Steck, 32, and Natasha Rose Hicks, 29, both of Sedalia; Robert Cory Brown, 41, and Alza Bastida Basalo, 37, both of Sedalia.

BRL2GO SCHEDULE

Monday 9 a.m.: Cornerstone Baptist School. 9:10 a.m.: Lil'Sprouts Prep Academy. 9:20 a.m.: E.W. Thompson State School. 9:45 a.m.: Hughesville City Hall. 9:50 a.m. to noon: Hughesville Main Street. 1:15 to 4 p.m.: La Monte City Park.	9:45 a.m. to Noon: Lakeview, BB Bar and Restaurant. 1:15 to 3:45 p.m.: Warsaw Walmart.
Wednesday 9 a.m.: Applewood Christian School.	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's Diner.

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library Fiction

"Locust Lane," by Stephen Amidon.
"The Mitford Affair," by Marie Benedict.
"Really Good, Actually," by Monica Helsey.
"How to Sell a Haunted House," by Grady Hendrix.
"Ms. Demenor," by Elinor Lipman.
"Lost in the Moment and Found," by Seanan McGuire.
"The Nightmare Man," by J.H. Markert.
"The House of Wolves," by James Patterson and Mike Lupica.
"The Cabinet of Dr. Leng," by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child.

"The Devil You Know," by P.J. Tracy.
Nonfiction
"The Galveston Diet: The Doctor-Developed, Patient-Proven Plan to Burn Fat and Tame Your Hormonal Symptoms," by Mary Claire Haver.
"In the Garden of Righteous: The Heroes Who Risked Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust," by Richard Hurowitz.
"Love and Justice: A Story of Triumph on Two Different Courts," by Maya Moore Irons and Jonathan Irons.
"Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People," Tracy Kidder.
"The Matter of Everything," by Suzie Sheehy.

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library Fiction

"Locust Lane," by Stephen Amidon (mystery).
"The Drift," by C.J. Tudor (suspense).
"Recovery Road," by Christine Feehan (romance).
"What Lies in the Woods," by Kate Alice Marshall (suspense).
"All Hallows," by Christopher Golden (horror).

"The Night Travelers," by Armando Lucas Correa (historical fiction).
"Her Heart's Desire," by Shelley Shepard Gray (Christian fiction).
"The Hunter," by Jennifer Herrera (suspense).
Nonfiction
"Your Table is Ready," by Michael Cecchi-Azzolina (nonfiction).
"Waco," by Jeff Guinn (nonfiction).

DIVORCES

These people were recently granted divorces in Pettis County Circuit Court:
Julia A. Pflughaupt and Brock A. Pflughaupt;
Gary K. Deuel and Marcia A. Deuel;
Melissa Rivera and Alex Rivera.

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CLUB NOTES

Mid-Mo Toastmasters Club

At the Jan. 17 Mid-Mo Toastmaster Club meeting, Laramy Johnson conducted the topics session by calling on four members to give two-minute extemporaneous speeches. Each speaker had 30 seconds of prep time. The topics Johnson assigned were the following:
"If you were President for a day, what would be your first action to the country?"
"Do you think impromptu speaking should be taught in school?"
"Do you think shaming serves a role in culture?"
"What are some of the ways adults can be funnier?"
Guests at the meeting

were Pollianna Ryzhak and her mother, Liudmyla Ryzhak, recent immigrants from Ukraine. At the Feb. 17 meeting, Jacob Smother will give his icebreaker speech, which will be evaluated by Johnson. A.J. Piliro will conduct the topics session and P.C. Thomas will serve as grammarian. Andrey Gritishin will be the timekeeper and general evaluator.

Toastmaster meetings are open to men and women interested in improving their thinking, listening and speaking skills. The club meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month. Those interested in attending are asked to call 660-826-9988.
Beta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa

The Beta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, international honorary sorority for women educators, met Monday, Jan. 23 at Christ & Trinity Church and via Zoom. President Mary Beatty called the meeting to order. The guest speakers were Amanda Iracheta and Girl Scout Troop 30199. A \$50 check was presented to the troop. Dr. Kristee Lorenz, Chaplain, shared a devotion by Angela Meyers titled "The You Matter Manifesto." Minutes from the November meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was given by Andrea Eppenauer. She reported all dues have been paid, both state and national. The Ways and Means

Committee reported the annual rummage sale will be June 9 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. The next Community Café serving date is Jan. 27. It was announced the Community Café is accepting donations of coats. The chapter will participate in the Relay for Life activities on June 3. "Fraternity Education" for the evening was a "pop quiz" from Jennifer Walker asking where ADK's headquarters is located, what the group's colors are, and if the members were glad they joined ADK. Door prizes were won by Karen Twenter, Hannah Yonce, and Sharon Atkinson.

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 Our Savior Lutheran Church.
Monday: Chicken

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.

STROUSE-PRICE ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Thomas and Kay Strouse, of Sedalia, announce the engagement of their daughter Erin Kay Strouse, of Sedalia, to Caleb Paul Price, of Independence. He is the son of Gilbert and Amy Price, of Aurora. The future bride is a 2015 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School. In 2019, she graduated from Missouri State University in Springfield with a bachelor's degree in computer information systems. She's employed as a technical solution analyst at

Cerner Oracle Corporation in Kansas City. The future groom is a 2013 graduate of Aurora High School. He was in the Army National Guard for six years where he received training as a 15U Chinook mechanic, and was in the Army National Guard Reserve for two years. He works as a product design engineer at Air Fixture LLC in Kansas City. A wedding is planned for April 29 at Bethany Baptist Church in Sedalia.



ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

NBC is closing down 'The Blacklist' after decade on the air

NEW YORK — The NBC series "The Blacklist" is closing down. NBC said Wednesday that the James Spader drama will end after its upcoming season, its 10th on the air. It will return for its final run of episodes on Feb. 26. Spader has played the character Raymond Reddington, an FBI informant on old criminal colleagues. This last season, Reddington confronts "unparalleled danger" as some of those he's identified seek revenge, NBC said. The show's 200th episode, a milestone in the often fleeting world of television, will air on March 19. Diego Klattenhoff, Hisham Tawfiq, Anya Banerjee and Harry Lennix are other regulars on "The Blacklist." The final episode will air sometime this year. An NBC spokesperson said it's not immediately clear when that will be.

Beyoncé announces much anticipated 'Renaissance' world tour

Beyoncé is taking her "Renaissance" global — the superstar will start a world tour in Sweden in May with stops throughout Europe and the United States. The highly anticipated tour announcement she made on Instagram and her website Wednesday comes days before the Grammy

Awards on Sunday, where the global superstar is the most nominated artist and could make Recording Academy history. Beyoncé, the most decorated woman in Grammy history with 28 wins, could break the late Hungarian-British conductor Georg Solti's record for most awards won if she wins four awards. Her 2022 album "Renaissance" is a celebration of dance music and is nominated for album of the year. Her tour will make stops in London, Paris, Barcelona and Toronto before ending Sept. 27 in New Orleans. There were hints that she might tour again after she performed an invite-only show in January in Dubai at the Atlantis The Royal Resort, her first show in four years. Her last solo tour was in 2016, but she went on tour with her husband Jay Z in 2018. Ticketmaster said in a release that sales will begin Feb. 6 and fans will need to register through their Verified Fan system. Sale times will vary based on city. **Michael Jackson's nephew to star in King of Pop biopic**
NEW YORK — Michael Jackson's 26-year-old nephew, Jaafar Jackson, will play the King of Pop in the planned biopic "Michael" to be directed by Antoine Fuqua. Lionsgate announced Jackson's casting Monday for the film being produced by Oscar-winning "Bohe-

mian Rhapsody" producer Graham King. Jackson is the second-youngest son of Jermaine Jackson, Michael's brother. He's put out music of his own; in 2019, he released his debut single, "Got Me Singing." "Michael" will be Jackson's acting debut. "I met Jaafar over two years ago and was blown away by the way he organically personifies the spirit and personality of Michael," said King in a statement. "It was something so powerful that even after conducting a worldwide search, it was clear that he is the only person to take on this role." On Instagram, Fuqua shared a black-and-white photograph of Jackson in character. Fuqua added in a statement that Jackson "has a natural ability to emulate Michael and such a great chemistry with the camera." On Twitter, Jackson said he's "humbled and honored to bring my Uncle Michael's story to life." "Michael" will be an authorized portrait of the pop star, who died in 2009. The film, scripted by "Gladiator" and "The Aviator" screenwriter John Logan, is being produced with the cooperation of the singer's estate. "Jaafar embodies my son," Katherine Jackson said in a statement. "It's so wonderful to see him carry on the Jackson legacy of entertainers and performers." "Michael" is to begin shooting this year. **Grammys to honor**

Loretta Lynn, Takeoff, McVie
LOS ANGELES — The Grammys will pay homage to lives of Loretta Lynn, Migos rapper Takeoff and Christine McVie with star-studded performances during Sunday's ceremony. The Recording Academy announced Wednesday that the ceremony will honor the three musicians who died last year with special performances during its in memoriam segment. Kacey Musgraves will perform "Coal Miner's Daughter" in tribute to Lynn. Quavo and the Maverick City Music will hit the stage to honor his nephew Takeoff with the song "Without You." Sheryl Crow, Mick Fleetwood and Bonnie Raitt will collaborate to perform "Songbird" to remember McVie. The academy also announced Wednesday that presenters will include first lady Jill Biden, Viola Davis, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Billy Crystal, James Corden, Olivia Rodrigo and Cardi B. Trevor Noah will return for a third time to host the ceremony, which will air live from Crypto.com Arena on Sunday on CBS and Paramount+ beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern. The ceremony will include performances by Harry Styles, Bad Bunny, Mary J. Blige, Sam Smith, Lizzo, Brandi Carlile, Luke Combs and Steve Lacy

Community Calendar FEBRUARY

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 E. Pettis St.

8 a.m.: Courthouse Prayer Group meets on the lawn of the Pettis County Courthouse, Monday through Friday. During the winter months, the group meets at Panera.

10 a.m.: Show-Me Mad Tatters, University Extension Office Conference Room, 1012A Thompson Blvd.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

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

1:45 p.m.: TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Chapter 0102 Sedalia meets at the Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., in the lower level meeting room. All are welcome to attend. The first meeting is always free. Call 660-525-4142.

6 p.m.: Cornerstone Celebrate Recovery. A Bible-based 12-step program for Hurts, Habits and Hangups; large group meeting at 7 p.m.; small groups at 8 p.m. Meal and child care provided; Cornerstone Baptist Church, 660-827-4833.

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

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

6:30 p.m.: Show-Me Crafters, Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

6:30 p.m.: Show Me Sound, Sweet Adelines International, are meeting in-person rehearsals at Wesley United Methodist Church basement, 1322 W. Broadway Blvd. All women who like to sing are welcome. For more information, call 660-851-2205.

6:45 p.m.: Knights of Columbus Council 831, Knights Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

7 p.m.: Al Anon, at 417 W. Pettis. For more information, call 660-473-0855

7 p.m.: American Legion Post 642, 2016 W. Main St. (executive meeting at 6 p.m.)

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

TUESDAY

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

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

11 a.m.: Compass Club, Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Never Too Old Gang, New Hope Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 664 E. 16th St.

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

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Birthright Pregnancy Center, 1810 W. 11th St., Tuesday through Friday; and other hours by appointment. The office number is 660-826-9060.

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

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

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

7 p.m.: Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, Lincoln.

7 p.m.: Loyal Order of Moose Sedalia Lodge

1494 at the lodge, 119 Winchester Dr.

7 p.m.: MidMo Toastmasters Club, Boonslick Library, 219 W. Third St. Toastmasters International offers training in communication and leadership skills. Contact P.C.Thomas@charter.net or 660-826-9988.

7 p.m.: OIC Studios will present the SpoFest Open Mic Poetry and Prose event streaming live via Zoom, Facebook and OIC Radio. Signup and event guidelines at www.oicstudios.com/spofest-online.

8 p.m.: Cole Camp Steam and Antique Tractor Club, Showgrounds Clubhouse in Cole Camp.

WEDNESDAY

Each day: AA meets at 417 E. 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. to 12:30 p.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 E. 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. to 12:30 p.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 E. Pettis St.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

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 E. 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. to 12:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Q&A: Shania Twain talks rebuilding confidence with new album

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shania Twain felt the need on her new album to empower herself the same way she has uplifted listeners with hits like “Man! I Feel Like a Woman” and “She’s Not Just a Pretty Face.”

So she set aside all feelings of self consciousness — appearing braless for the album’s artwork and letting listeners unabashedly hear her surgically repaired voice — on “Queen of Me.” Throughout the album’s 12-tracks, the 57-year-old country pop superstar confronts her physical vulnerabilities with authority in ways meant to uplift fans, and herself.

Twain’s sixth studio album is her first since having open-throat surgery in 2018 to strengthen her vocal muscles after a long battle with Lyme disease. During the pandemic, the singer said she went into her “writing cave” at home to hone her songwriting skills and penned three albums worth of music with a clear understanding that her powerful vocals might not last forever.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Twain spoke candidly about the album, which is out Friday, regaining her confidence, singing during throat surgery and preparing for her global upcoming tour, which kicks off April 28.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How do you define your new album,

“Queen of Me”?

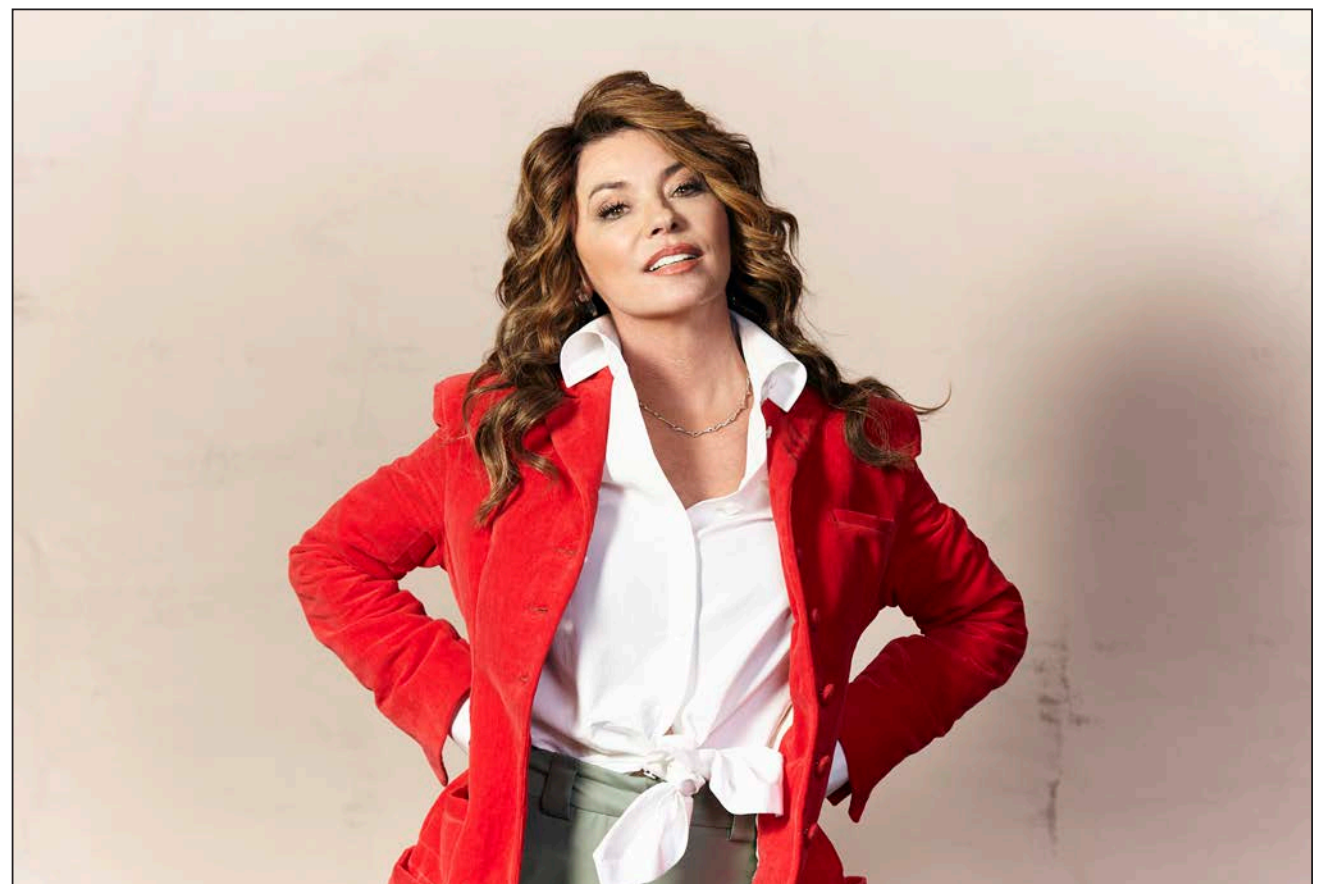
TWAIN: Self empowerment is about managing your mindset. Controlling your own mood. Your frame of mind. It just turned into “Queen of Me.” I’m my own boss. I’m the boss of me. I have to tell myself how to think. What to think. It became the theme of the whole album. It ended up representing that uplifting mode of myself.

AP: Before I listened to your album, I was expecting ballads. But it’s a more upbeat experience. What made you choose that route?

TWAIN: It was all happening in a mode of lifting my own spirit up. I wanted music that was going to make me want to dance. Even some of the songs that are a little more, for example, “Brand New Me” or “Pretty Liar.” Those are songs that would have maybe stayed more in the melancholy vibe more ballady. But because I was really relying on my songwriting during that time to make me feel a positive energy, everything pretty much turned into this more poppy, dancey, beat-driven, upbeat-driven sounding album.”

AP: You seem liberated on your album cover. Was that your intent?

TWAIN: That was the entire intention. You know, throw away the bra. I did a lot of nude photography in that session. That’s obviously a partial nude. I wanted to be on a horse. One of the places I feel most liberated is riding a horse. You can fly. It’s very empowering. It’s like you take this unbridled posture to bridle your freedom. It’s like facing a fear, facing



Shania Twain poses for a portrait at Ticketmaster in West Hollywood, Calif., on Jan 18, 2023, to promote her new album “Queen of Me.”

PHOTO BY REBECCA CABAGE | INVISION/AP

something that’s uncomfortable, getting myself out of my comfort zone — especially on a horse. That’s freedom.

AP: I heard you sang during surgery. Is that true?

TWAIN: Yes, I had to be awake, so that I could sing and speak. It was horrible. I’m not going to lie. But there was no way around it. It was the only way. The decision to do the surgery was quick for me, but the recovery was quite long and very very painful. They literally had to stretch the larynx, move everything over and put these crutches in there. You’re singing and you speak, so they understand that you have symmetrical closure — which I didn’t have before.

AP: What’s been your thoughts after the surgery?

TWAIN: I may not have it forever. Just with age, the effect of it just might not stand up. So I’ve got to take advantage of it now, enjoy it, get out on the stage, make more records, because I’m not sure I would go through it again.

AP: I’m sure that’s tough to hear. Do you think about when your voice might go again?

TWAIN: I don’t think about it. I don’t worry about it. I focus on how to manage my voice the way it is now. For example, before the surgery, it was like a two-hour warmup and so much physical therapy. I just couldn’t sustain it. That’s why I decided to have the surgery. The surgery has reduced all of that to about 20 minutes, which is very normal. That’s

ideal. But if I’m not singing for even a week or maybe two weeks, it takes me two to three days to get that voice going again. It’s more work than I had to do before, but it’s worth it.

AP: What was the first sign of your singing confidence?

TWAIN: The true confidence was three weeks after the surgery. I made a sound and there was resonance. Instant resonance. I’m like, “Oh, my God. I feel it. I feel it working.” It was a small window, but that kind of put the fire under my butt, too, and I said, “All right, no more excuses.” You’ve got this and you’ve got the best technology available. Top notch surgeon. All the physiotherapy education you need. Get out there and

do it. **AP: With your retooled vocals, how are you mentally getting ready for your tour?**

TWAIN: When I now go out on that stage, I am not afraid of the criticism. I’m not going to be perfect. My voice is not what it used to be. I sing differently. There’ll be holes in it. I’m not the same body I used to be. All these things. But I go out there with the confidence that I’m the best I can be and that I’ve worked hard to be my best. I just am not afraid of the criticism. I’m there for the people that are embracing me for who I am. I will get out there and do my best to make everybody happy, as I always do.

How to make a mummy: Ancient Egyptian workshop has new clues

By Maddie Burakoff
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — For thousands of years, ancient Egyptians mummified their dead in the search for eternal life. Now, researchers have used chemistry and an unusual collection of jars to figure out how they did it.

Their study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, is based on a rare archaeological find: An embalming workshop with a trove of pottery around 2,500 years old. Many jars from the site were still inscribed with instructions like “to wash” or “to put on his head.”

By matching the writing on the outside of the vessels with the chemical traces inside, researchers uncovered new details about the “recipes” that helped preserve bodies for thousands of years.

“It’s like a time machine, really,” said Joann Fletcher, an archaeologist at University of York who was not involved with the study. “It’s allowed us to not quite see over the shoulders of the ancient embalmers, but probably as close as we’ll ever get.”

Those recipes showed that embalmers had

deep knowledge about what substances would help preserve their dead, said Fletcher, whose partner was a co-author on the study. And they included materials from far-flung parts of the world — meaning Egyptians went to great lengths to make their mummies “as perfect as they could possibly be.”

The workshop — uncovered in 2016 by study author Ramadan Hussein, who passed away last year — is located in the famous burial grounds of Saqqara. Parts of it sit above the surface, but a shaft stretches down to an embalming room and burial chamber underground, where the jars were discovered.

It was in rooms like these where the last phase of the process took place, said Salima Ikram, an Egyptologist at The American University in Cairo who was not involved with the study. After drying out the the body with salts, which probably took place above ground, embalmers would then take the bodies below.

“This was the last phase of your transformation where the secret rites, the religious rites, were being performed,” Ikram said. “People would be chanting spells

and hymns while you were being wrapped and resin was being anointed all over your body.”

Experts already had some clues about what substances were used in those final steps, mainly from testing individual mummies and looking at written texts. But a lot of gaps remained, said senior author Philipp Stockhammer, an archaeologist at Ludwig Maximilian University in Germany.

The new finds helped crack the case.

Take the word “antiu,” which shows up in a lot of Egyptian texts but didn’t have a direct translation, Stockhammer said. In the new study, scientists found that several jars labeled as “antiu” contained a mixture of different substances — including animal fat, cedar oil and juniper resin.

These substances, along with others found in the jars, have key properties that would help preserve the mummies, said lead author Maxime Rageot, an archaeologist at Germany’s University of Tubingen.

Plant oils — which were used to protect the liver and treat the bandages — could ward off bacteria and fungi, while also improving the smell. Hard mate-

rials like beeswax, used on the stomach and skin, could help keep out water and seal the pores.

Some of the substances came from very far away — like dammar and elemi, types of resin that come from the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia. These results show that ancient Egyptians would trade far and wide to get the most effective materials, the authors said.

“It’s interesting to see the complexity,” Stockhammer said. “Having this global network on the one hand, having all this chemical knowledge on the other side.”

Ikram said an important next step for the research will be to test different parts of actual mummies to see if the same substances show up. And these recipes probably weren’t universal — they changed over time and varied between workshops.

Still, the study gives a basis for understanding the past, and can bring us closer to people who lived long ago, she said.

“The ancient Egyptians have been separated from us through time and space, yet we still have this connection,” Ikram said. “Human beings all throughout history have been scared of death.”

Spreading the joy: Longer parade routes OKd for Mardi Gras

By Kevin McGill
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — COVID-19 precautions wiped out most New Orleans’ Mardi Gras festivities in 2021, and a shortage of police officers forced the city to shorten routes for some of its lavish seasonal parades in 2022.

Now, city officials, and business owners are celebrating plans to let the good times roll on longer routes — and in front of businesses that welcome the crowds — with security bolstered by neighboring police agencies.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell’s official announcement Monday that parade routes were being lengthened was welcome news to Staci Rosenberg, a founder of the Krewe of Muses. It means the all-female organization and its signature floats — including a giant stiletto-heeled pump swathed in color-changing lights — will be able to roll again on Magazine Street. The thoroughfare lined with small shops, century-old cottages, bars and restaurants runs through neighborhoods that gave the parade what Rosenberg described as a more intimate, family-friendly atmosphere.

“It was important to send a sign, I think, to the world that we’re back,” Rosenberg said of plans to restore the longer route. “We’ve recovered from all kinds of things — the pandemic, the labor shortage, the police shortage.”

It also means bolstered business at Le Bon Temps Roule, a well known around-the-clock neighborhood bar on Magazine Street. Co-Owner Joe Bikulege said it was closed for 17 months because of the pandemic. Mardi Gras business, he said, usually enables him to put aside money to pay for taxes, insurance, building improvements and other emergencies.

“There’s a lot of people that make their living off Mardi Gras,” he noted.

Cantrell made the announcement, heralded by a brass band, at Gallier Hall, a 19th-century Greek Revival building that once was the seat of city government. She was joined by interim Police Superintendent Michelle Woodfork and, via video hookup, Sheriff Susan Hutson — who worked to broker agreements with other Louisiana law enforcement agencies to beef up manpower.

It marked a chance for Hutson and Cantrell,

both of whom are elected officials, to bolster their political fortunes at a time when both have been under pressure. Cantrell, in her second term, is facing a recall effort amid rising crime, unhappiness over delays in street projects and trash pick-up, and questions about her use of a city-owned French Quarter apartment. Hutson, who took office last year, inherited a long-troubled city jail and is embroiled in political and legal battles over construction plans and security issues.

Manpower shortages have affected police departments around the country since the beginning of the pandemic and the nationwide protests over the murder of George Floyd. Various estimates put the number of New Orleans police officers at around 900 to 950, about 400 short of the ideal at any time of year.

Exactly how many police officers and sheriff’s deputies from other jurisdictions will help with the parades wasn’t immediately clear. A spokesperson for Hutson’s office said in an email that agreements with other agencies were still being finalized ahead of the major parades.

Carnival season begins each year on Jan. 6 and picks up steam with a growing list of balls and parades. It reaches a climax in the final two weeks before Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and Lent. Mardi Gras falls on Feb. 21 this year.

Last year, major parades were limited to a route that took floats, marching bands and walking clubs down historic St. Charles Avenue to the downtown area. The restoration of longer routes means the Krewe of Thoth can again roll by New Orleans’ Children’s Hospital after a nearly three-year absence.

It will be a return welcome by Dr. Scott Macicek. “It’s scary when your a child and you’re in the hospital,” Macicek said. “Having as many joyful experiences as we can create is important.”

Joe Bikulege, co-owner of Le Bon Temps Roule. The bar is open around the clock on Magazine Street — a busy thoroughfare left off last year’s route. Bikulege said money made during Mardi Gras bolsters income and helps pay for insurance, taxes and maintenance on his building.

Ellis Column

Continued From Page B1

NAMLA advocates offering media literacy education as early as grade school and throughout high school, and encourages setting aside a “Media Literacy Week.” Age-appropriate resources and tools are provided to assist students, educators, librarians, community organizations and parents.

Congress and many state legislatures have gotten involved to improve media literacy.

Congressional Bill H.R. 4668, the “Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Act,” was introduced in 2019.

The bill instructs the Department of Education to provide grants to state and local educational agencies to promote media literacy and digital citizenship.

The specific purpose of the bill is to show citizens how to access, analyze, evaluate the accuracy of media content and information, and make educated decisions about “products and services, education, health, and wellness based on information obtained from media and digital sources.”

The bill is still in committee, awaiting passage by the House of Representatives.

In June 2022, the U.S. Senate introduced a similar bill, Senate Bill S.4490. But it focuses specifically on providing media literacy education to elementary and secondary school students.

It directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide grants to state and local educational agencies, public libraries, and qualified nonprofit organizations to “develop and promote media literacy and digital citizenship education for elementary and secondary school students.” Passage is pending.

In 2017, 11 states introduced bills to address media literacy education to improve students’ skills. Various states emphasize and support different aspects of media literacy.

In Missouri, House Bill 492, the “Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act,” would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a pilot program for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years in five to seven schools.

The pilot, in addition to addressing media

literacy, must develop strategies for student learning in classroom curricula, and demonstrate various literacy strategies used. The bill requires that a report be compiled and submitted to the legislature when the pilot ends in June 2026.

What happens in Missouri schools when it comes to media literacy learning long-term will likely be determined after the pilot is completed.

On Jan. 4 of this year, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to require media literacy be taught in K-12. The law passed with bipartisan support.

With the growing emphasis on news media literacy, it shows the fragile state of trust in the sources and dissemination of accurate information in our public discourse, not only in terms of politics and public policy, but in many aspects of our lives — whether we are grappling with how to best deal with a pandemic, or addressing educational, economic, social and other issues.

How do we separate fact from fiction and truth from lies in trying to find meaning solutions and paths forward? How will we teach and help ourselves and future generations know the difference?

Deliberate and concerted efforts from our leaders, institutions, and from all of us will be required.

This column first appeared on The Missouri Independent website. Janice Ellis has lived and worked in Missouri for more than three decades, analyzing educational, political, social and economic issues across race, ethnicity, age and socio-economic status. Her commentary has appeared in The Kansas City Star, community newspapers, on radio and now online. She is the author of two award-winning books: “From Liberty to Magnolia: In Search of the American Dream” (2018) and “Shaping Public Opinion: How Real Advocacy Journalism™ Should be Practiced” (2021). Ellis holds a Ph.D. in communication arts, and two Master of Arts degrees, one in communications arts and a second in political science, all from the University of Wisconsin.

Robot

From Page B1

“We want to have dentists that they have the surgical skills to do these procedures,” Ehlers said. “That’s obviously most important, but how nice is it to have a dentist that has the confidence to rely on technology to assist them in getting that implant exactly where it wants to go? You want someone that can do the implant procedure confidently, but now

using technology to have the precision to place this implant within two-tenths of a millimeter accuracy, I think it’s just a game changer.”

Having a robotic assistant is a tool soon to be seen in more dental practices, Ehlers predicts.

“This is the beauty of science and technology,” Ehlers said. “Where in 2023, it’s making our outcomes better, it’s making our procedures more efficient, and better results for the patients.”

Chris Howell may be reached at 660-520-0146.

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Nostalgia sells; nostalgia with a twist can be a smash

By Michelle Chapman

Associated Press

Nostalgia sells and marketers know it, having used the brands of yesteryear fully aware that consumers will open their wallets to scratch that sentimental itch.

Those oldies but goodies keep popping up today, but increasingly with a twist. Companies continue to re-release snacks, entertainment and technology that millions of people grew up with, but tweaking them to create hybrids that possess the same heartfelt recognition, with a modern flavor.

Companies have recognized that they can win over consumers nostalgic for the past and, at the same time, win new generations of consumers with a new spin.

“Younger consumers, like those in Gen Z or younger Millennials, had no direct exposure to many of the fads and trends the first time around so they have a different relationship to them, filtered through more current perspectives,” said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData. “That necessitates a modern spin in order for products to resonate. The younger consumer is often more concerned with curiosity and experience-seeking rather than with simple nostalgia.”

The fintech company Klarna said ‘vintage

tech’ sales have rocketed in recent years, some unchanged and some with significant updates. Sales for wired headphones increased by more than 300% in February 2022 compared with the previous year. Flip phones sales were up by more than 80% in August, it said.

Here are a few successful reboots.

HAPPY MEALS ... FOR EVERYONE

Remember when that Happy Meal landed at the table and you didn't know whether to grab for a chicken McNugget or a toy first? For a brief period last year, you could relive that bounty of riches. This week, McDonald's reported that strong quarterly profits were partially driven by sales of Happy Meals, these ones for adults with toys made by the streetwear brand Cactus Plant Flea Market. The meals came in a totally redesigned box in Cactus Plant Flea Market's signature style alongside McD's iconic Golden Arches. It included either a Big Mac or 10-piece chicken McNuggets, along with fries, a drink and one of four collectible figurines — Grimace, the Hamburglar, Birdie or Cactus Buddy. Half of the toys included in meals were gone in the first four days of the promotion.

PEAK PEEP

Celebrating 70 years in business in 2024, the maker of Peeps brought something new to the Easter basket this year by partnering with other classic



This image provided by McDonald's shows McDonald's Happy Meal that features the Cactus Plant Flea Market toys. Nostalgia sells and marketers know it, having used the brands of yesteryear fully aware that consumers will willingly open their wallets to scratch that sentimental itch. That winning formula is being tweaked increasingly to create hybrids, however, products that possess the same heartfelt recognition, with a twist. PHOTO BY MCDONALD'S VIA AP

brands and doubling down on the nostalgia. Just Born Quality Confections has continually updated the classic Easter treat, but this year teamed up with two brands that have been around for decades to create Dr. Pepper Peeps and Mike and Ike Peeps. “Inspiration from earlier ages is nothing new but the nostalgic imprint on this year's trends is remarkable,” said Agus Panzoni, a trend researcher, speaking about sales in 2022. “Against the backdrop of a changing world, it seems people have been escaping to more comfortable territories as the antidote to everyday life.”

FLIP THE CALENDAR, FLIP YOUR PHONE

After vanishing for a decade flip phones are back. Believe it or not, there are teenagers opting out of some technology circles, tired of the glow from their cell phones. A quick search of Amazon or manufacturers websites show numerous models available, but the technology has also been updated in a big way, like Samsung's Galaxy Z flip phone. The company shipped nearly 10 million foldable smartphones worldwide in 2021, an industry increase of more than 300% from 2020, according to blog post from Dr. TM Roh, head of

Samsung's MX business. Of all the phones sold that year by Samsung, 70% were flip phones.

CLASSIC CHARACTERS, WITH A TWIST

Nostalgia is not a new phenomenon in entertainment and numerous classics have been dusted off for new generations. But movies like “Top Gun: Maverick” and shows such as “Cobra Kai,” based off of “The Karate Kid” movie franchise and “Wednesday,” based on “The Addams Family” television show and films, have begun to resonate heavily. “Top Gun: Maverick” was surprise nominee for best adapted screenplay

for the 95th Academy Awards. “Wednesday,” which debuted on Netflix in November and centers around a teenage Wednesday Addams making her way at a new school and solving mysteries, broke Nielsen streaming records and was renewed for a second season. Netflix announced in January that it gained 7.7 million subscribers during the October-December period. “Even those who remember products from the past often want their slice of nostalgia alongside something new and innovative, so that means reinterpreting and reinventing slightly,” Saunders said.

Connecticut may exonerate accused witches centuries later

By Susan Haigh

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Decades before the infamous Salem witch trials in Massachusetts, Else Young was killed at the gallows in Connecticut, becoming the first person on record to be executed in the American colonies for witchcraft.

The Windsor town clerk registered the death on May 26, 1647, in a diary entry that read: “Else Young was hanged.” Young was the first of nine women and two men executed by the colony of Connecticut for witchcraft over 15 years, a period during which more than 40 people faced trial for having ties to Satan.

Now, more than 375 years later, amateur historians, researchers and descendants of the accused witches and their accusers hope Connecticut lawmakers will finally offer posthumous exonerations.

While such requests aren't new, they have become louder as many genealogy buffs discover they have distant relatives involved in the lesser-known Connecticut witch trials.

“They're talking about how

this has followed their families from generation to generation and that they would love for someone just to say, ‘Hey, this was wrong,’” said Connecticut state Rep. Jane Garibay, who proposed an exoneration resolution after receiving letters from eighth- and ninth-generation relatives of accused witches. “And to me, that's an easy thing to do if it gives people peace.”

Other states and countries have attempted to atone for a history of persecuting people as witches. Last year, Scotland's prime minister issued a formal apology to the estimated 4,000 Scots, mostly women, who were accused of witchcraft up until 1736. Of the 4,000, about 2,500 were killed. A Scottish member of parliament last year called for posthumously pardoning them.

In 2022, Massachusetts lawmakers formally exonerated Elizabeth Johnson Jr., who was convicted of witchcraft in 1693 and sentenced to death at the height of the Salem Witch Trials. Johnson is believed to be the last accused Salem witch to have her conviction set aside by legislators.

In 2006, former Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine gave an informal pardon to Grace Sherwood, a widowed midwife who was blamed by neighbors for ruining crops, killing livestock and creating storms and subsequently accused of being a witch. With her hands bound, Sherwood was thrown into a river to see if she floated, which was purported to indicate guilt. She managed to set herself free and spent seven years in prison.

Connecticut's witch trials were held in the mid-to-late 1600s. In each of the New England colonies, witchcraft was considered a capital offense. According to the earliest laws in the colony of Connecticut, “any man or women (to) bee a Witch, that is, hath or consulteth with a familiar spirit, they shall bee put to death.”

Many historians believe fear and anxiety among the religiously strict English settlers led to the witch trials, noting how life was very difficult, given epidemics, floods, cold winters and starvation. Often, accusations started as a quarrel, or the death of a child or a cow, or even but-

ter that couldn't be churned.

Many of the people executed as witches were poor, single mothers.

Such was the case of Mary Johnson, a servant in Wethersfield, Connecticut, who was accused of “familiarity with the Devil.”

For years, she was tortured by a local minister who whipped her until she finally confessed to being a witch and admitted to “uncleaness with men,” according to Bridgeport author Andy Piascik, who wrote an article for Connecticut Humanities, an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Johnson is believed to have been hanged after giving birth to the child of a man she was not married to.

“It's important to right the wrongs of the past so we learn from them and move on and not repeat those mistakes,” said Joshua Hutchinson, of Prescott Valley, Arizona, who traced his ancestry to accused witches in Salem and is the host of the “Thou Shalt Not Suffer: The Witch Trial Podcast.”

He noted that even in recent

decades people have been killed in multiple countries because they were suspected of being witches or sorcerers.

Beth Caruso, an author, co-founded the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project in 2005 to clear the names of the accused. The group is encouraging people who discovered through genealogy research that they are descendants of victims to contact Connecticut state legislators and urge them to support exoneration legislation.

Connecticut state Sen. Saud Anwar, who also proposed an exoneration bill, said he expects some people might laugh or scoff at the idea of the Legislature taking time to clear the records of accused witches. But he said the descendants are feeling some “serious stuff,” including a constituent who requested the resolution.

“His wish was that if there was a way to give some kind of a closure to the families,” Anwar said, “that would be one way for him to be able to say that he has done his share, even though his ancestors may have not done the right thing.”

Trevor Noah returns as Grammy host with comfort, nervousness

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Trevor Noah feels more comfortable hosting the Grammy Awards for a third-straight year, but the former “The Daily Show” host still has some nervousness about leading the ceremony with big-time acts like Beyoncé, Adele and Harry Styles looking on.

“The nerves come in because you're standing in front of not just some of the best, but some of the biggest performers in the world,” said the Emmy winner. Noah expects his

diligent preparation to get him through Sunday's show.

“Nerves are part of what I do,” the comedian said.

Noah returns for his third hosting stint at the Grammys, which airs live from Crypto.com Arena on Sunday on CBS and Paramount+. The ceremony returns to Los Angeles after relocating to Las Vegas for the first-time ever because of rising COVID-19 cases and omicron variant.

“I was relieved Trevor came back because it makes my job more enjoyable and easier,” said Ben Winston, the show's executive producer. He

called Noah an “absolute pro” who he said can pivot gracefully at any moment on a night celebrating music's best.

“He reassures me on a stressful night when a set hasn't been built in time and I say to his ear ‘Sorry about that. I need you to go an extra 90 seconds because Lady Gaga's orchestra isn't in.’ He'll just naturally flow, make a joke, get up and sit at somebody's table and chat with them,” Winston said. “That's a very difficult task which very few people could do — and definitely can't do with his comedy and charm that Trevor has.”

Noah said each year of hosting the Grammys has offered a different experience because of the logistical challenges stemmed from the pandemic. But he said the intimate but socially-distanced in-person award show in 2021 helped him build a rapport with music stars — especially when telling his jokes.

Last year's ceremony in Las Vegas was a hybrid model that included fans.

“Every year, I notice that I develop a different rapport with the people in the room,” he said. “That opens you up to a few more jokes and a few more conversations in a way where people understand

the context of who you are in relation to them. It means you get to have a little bit of fun without anybody feeling like you're dunking on them.”

As a music fan, Noah is looking forward to checking out the popular performers who will hit the stage including Bad Bunny, Mary J. Blige, Sam Smith, Lizzo, Steve Lacy and Brandi Carlile.

Beyoncé heads into the ceremony with a leading nine nominations, including record and song of the year nods for her song “Break My Soul.” Kendrick Lamar has the second-most nominations with eight, while Adele and

Carlile enter the show with seven nods.

Styles, Blige, Future, DJ Khaled, The-Dream and mastering engineer Randy Merrill each received six nominations.

“We love having Trevor because he's so darn good at it,” said Harvey Mason jr, the CEO of the Recording Academy. “He is so personable, he's so funny. I don't know how he does what he does. He never stumbles, he never hesitates. He's always so earnest and heartfelt. He's also a music guy. You see him when he's not on camera. He's singing, he's dancing, he's rapping. I feel like he's one of us now.”

'Laverne & Shirley' actor Cindy Williams dies at 75

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Cindy Williams, who was among the most recognizable stars in America in the 1970s and 1980s for her role as Shirley opposite Penny Marshall's Laverne on the beloved sitcom "Laverne & Shirley," has died. She was 75.

Williams died in Los Angeles on Wednesday after a brief illness, her children, Zak and Emily Hudson, said in a statement released on Monday through family spokeswoman Liza Cranis.

"The passing of our kind, hilarious mother, Cindy Williams, has brought us insurmountable sadness that could never truly be expressed," the statement said. "Knowing and loving her has been our joy and privilege. She was one of a kind, beautiful, generous and possessed a brilliant sense of humor and a glittering spirit that everyone loved."

Williams worked with some of Hollywood's most elite directors in a film career that preceded her full-time move to television, appearing in George Cukor's 1972 "Travels With My Aunt," George Lucas' 1973 "American Graffiti" and Francis Ford Coppola's "The Conversation" from 1974.

But she was by far best known for "Laverne & Shirley," the "Happy Days" spinoff that ran on ABC from 1976 to 1983 that in its prime was among the most popular shows on TV.

Williams played the straitlaced Shirley Feeney to Marshall's more libertine Laverne DeFazio on the show about a pair of blue-collar roommates who toiled on the assembly line of a Milwaukee brewery in the 1950s and 1960s.

"They were beloved characters," Williams told The Associated Press in 2002.

DeFazio was quick-tempered and defensive;



Cindy Williams arrives to the TV Land Awards 10th Anniversary in New York on April 14, 2012. Williams, who played Shirley opposite Penny Marshall's Laverne on the popular sitcom "Laverne & Shirley," died Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, in Los Angeles at age 75, her family said Monday, Jan. 30. FILE PHOTO BY CHARLES SYKES | AP PHOTO

Feeney was naive and trusting. The actors drew upon their own lives for plot inspiration.

"We'd make up a list at the start of each season of what talents we had," Marshall told the AP in 2002. "Cindy could touch her tongue to her nose and we used it in the show. I did tap dance."

Williams told The Associated Press in 2013 that she and Marshall had "very different personalities" but tales of the two clashing during the making of the show were "a bit overblown."

The series was the rare network hit about working-class characters, with its self-empowering opening song: "Give us any chance, we'll take it, read us any rule, we'll break it."

That opening would become as popular as the show itself. Williams' and Marshall's chant of "schlemiel, schlimazel" as they

skipped along together became a cultural phenomenon and oft-invoked piece of nostalgia.

Marshall, whose brother, Garry Marshall, co-created the series, died in 2018.

Actor Rosario Dawson shared a video of the opening theme on Twitter on Tuesday.

"Singing this song with so much gratitude for both of you ladies," Dawson tweeted. "Absolute gems. United again... Rest in Paradise Cindy Williams."

The show also starred Michael McKean and David Lander as Laverne and Shirley's oddball hangers-on Lenny and Squiggy. Lander died in 2020.

McKean paid tribute to Williams on Twitter with a memory from the production.

"Backstage, Season 1: I'm offstage waiting for a cue. The script's been a tough one, so we're giving

it 110% and the audience is having a great time," McKean tweeted. "Cindy scoots by me to make her entrance and with a glorious grin, says: 'Show's cookin'! Amen. Thank you, Cindy.'"

As ratings dropped in the sixth season, the characters moved from Milwaukee to Burbank, California, trading their brewery jobs for work at a department store.

In 1982, Williams became pregnant and wanted her working hours curtailed. When her demands weren't met, she walked off the set, and filed a lawsuit against its production company. She appeared infrequently during the final season.

Williams was born one of two sisters in the Van Nuys area of Los Angeles in 1947. Her family moved to Dallas soon after she was born, but returned to Los Angeles, where she

would take up acting while attending Birmingham High School and a major in theater arts at LA City College.

Her acting career began with small roles in television starting in 1969, with appearances on "Room 222," "Nanny and the Professor" and "Love, American Style."

Her part in Lucas' "American Graffiti" would become a defining role. The film was a forerunner to a nostalgia boom for the 1950s and early 1960s that would follow. "Happy Days," starring her "American Graffiti" co-star Ron Howard, would premiere the following year. The characters of Laverne and Shirley made their first TV appearance as dates of Henry Winkler's Fonzie before they got their own show.

Lucas also considered her for the role of Princess Leia in "Star Wars," a role

that went to Carrie Fisher.

In the past three decades, Williams made guest appearances on dozens of TV series including "7th Heaven," "8 Simple Rules" and "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit." In 2013, she and Marshall appeared in a "Laverne & Shirley" tribute episode of the Nickelodeon series "Sam and Cat."

Last year, Williams appeared in a one-woman stage show full of stories from her career, "Me, Myself and Shirley," at a theater in Palm Springs, California, near her home in Desert Hot Springs.

Williams was married to singer Bill Hudson of musical group the Hudson Brothers from 1982 until 2000. Hudson was father to her two children. He was previously married to Goldie Hawn and is also the father of actor Kate Hudson.

Bring back dodo? Ambitious plan draws investors, critics

By Christina Larson
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The dodo bird isn't coming back anytime soon. Nor is the woolly mammoth. But a company working on technologies to bring back extinct species has attracted more investors, while other scientists are skeptical such feats are possible or a good idea.

Colossal Biosciences first announced its ambitious plan to revive the woolly mammoth two years ago, and on Tuesday said it wanted to bring back the dodo bird, too.

"The dodo is a symbol of man-made extinction," said Ben Lamm, a serial entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Colossal. The company has formed a division to focus on bird-related genetic technologies.

The last dodo, a flightless bird about the size of a turkey, was killed in 1681 on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

The Dallas company, which launched in 2021, also announced Tuesday it had raised an additional \$150 million in funding. To date, it has raised \$225 million from wide-ranging investors that include United States Innovative Technology Fund, Breyer Capital and In-Q-Tel, the CIA's venture capital firm which invests in technology.

The prospect of bringing the dodo back isn't expected to directly make money, said Lamm. But the genetic tools and equipment that the company

develops to try to do it may have other uses, including for human health care, he said.

For example, Colossal is now testing tools to tweak several parts of the genome simultaneously. It's also working on technologies for what is sometimes called an "artificial womb," he said.

The dodo's closest living relative is the Nicobar pigeon, said Beth Shapiro, a molecular biologist on Colossal's scientific advisory board, who has been studying the dodo for two decades. Shapiro is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports The Associated Press' Health and Science Department.

Her team plans to study DNA differences between the Nicobar pigeon and the dodo to understand "what are the genes that really make a dodo a dodo," she said.

The team may then attempt to edit Nicobar pigeon cells to make them resemble dodo cells. It may be possible to put the tweaked cells into developing eggs of other birds, such as pigeons or chickens, to create offspring that may in turn naturally produce dodo eggs, said Shapiro. The concept is still in an early theoretical stage for dodos.

Because animals are a product of both their genetics and their environment — which has changed dramatically since the 1600s — Shapiro said that "it's not possible to recreate a 100% identical copy of something



A rare fragment of a Dodo femur bone is displayed for photographs next to an image of a member of the extinct bird species at Christie's auction house's premises in London, March 27, 2013. Colossal Biosciences has raised an additional \$150 million from investors to develop genetic technologies that the company claims will help to bring back some extinct species, including the dodo and the woolly mammoth. Other scientists are skeptical that such feats are really possible, or even advisable for conservation. FILE PHOTO BY MATT DUNHAM | AP PHOTO

that's gone."

Other scientists wonder if it's even advisable to try, and question whether "de-extinction" diverts attention and money away from efforts to save species still on Earth.

"There's a real hazard in saying that if we destroy nature, we can just put it back together again — because we can't," said Duke University ecologist Stuart

Pimm, who has no connection to Colossal.

"And where on Earth would you put a woolly mammoth, other than in a cage?" asked Pimm, who noted that the ecosystems where mammoths lived disappeared long ago.

On a practical level, conservation biologists familiar with captive breeding programs say that it can be tricky for zoo-bred animals to ever adapt to the wild.

It helps if they can learn from other wild animals of their kind — an advantage that potential dodos and mammoths won't have, said Boris Worm, a biologist at the University of Dalhousie in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who has no connection to Colossal.

"Preventing species from going extinct in the first place should be our priority, and in most cases, it's a lot cheaper," said Worm.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sedalia School District #200 is accepting Requests for Proposals for audit services, including Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, for the years ending June 30, 2023, 2024, & 2025. RFPs due Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office, 2806 Mathew Drive, Sedalia, Missouri 65301. RFP packet available February 9, 2023 by contacting Melinda Strange at strangem@sedalia200.org. For further information contact Dr. Fraley, Superintendent at 660-829-6450. Sedalia School District reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any and all bids.
2x-2/4, 8, 2023

IN THE 18th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI Plaintiff, vs. WILLIAM TODD, DAVID TODD, SHERYL GILPIN, JOHN DOE(S), & JANE DOE(S)

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Defendants.
Case No.: 22PT-CC00149
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Sedalia Public Library Job Opening: Children's Librarian
(Full Time, 30-40 hours per week)

Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Overall knowledge of children and youth ages 0-18. A desire to offer innovative and engaging experiences for children in the community. The knowledge or desire to learn current library theories and literacy practices. The ability to establish rapport with children, young adults and parents; to communicate clearly, and a desire to build life long learners. The desired candidate is dependable, organized, a learner, motivated, energetic, has a positive attitude, loves working with kids ages 0-18 and is an advocate for the library. Must be knowledgeable of various forms of technology available and a willingness to learn & grow as community needs change. Experience with grant writing is helpful.

Desired Education and Experience: A bachelors degree in the areas of education, library science or related field is desired; comparable experience will be considered. Experience working with children, youth and caregivers is necessary.

Benefit Package: Basic Health and Life Insurance, MO LAGERS Retirement Plan provided to employees at no cost; Dental and Vision Insurance available to purchase. Salary is dependent on education and experience.

To Apply: Please submit a Cover Letter, Resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: 311 W. Third St. EOE or jsparks@sedalialibrary.com

Deadline for application: February 15, 2023 at 5pm.

THE FAMILY OF **JACK L. BLACKWELL** IS GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY IN THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONE. SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO REV. DR. CHAD McMULLIN, DARRIN HARTMAN AND GWENDOLYN KAPPELMAN FOR THE COMFORTING MEMORIAL SERVICE AND TO JEFF PAGE, CHRIS DADY, AND DONNA PLUMMER, HECKART FUNERAL HOME, FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE FAMILY. AT TIMES SUCH AS THIS WE TRULY REALIZE HOW BLESSED WE ARE BY OUR CHURCH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY.

BETTY BLACKWELL
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3 rd Sat.: Special Feeder Sale 11:00 a.m.	3 rd Tues.: Cow Sale 6:00 p.m.
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Doe and Jane Doe, such names representing the any

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Legal Notice

and all unknown residents, aside from William Todd and David Todd, of the property commonly known as 501 East Havey Street, Sedalia, Missouri 65301, and any other unknown residents of the this property described in the Plaintiff's First Amended Petition to Remove Defendants from Dangerous Building and Enjoin Occupancy of the Same (Case No. 22PT-CC00149).

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced in the Circuit Court for the County of Pettis, Missouri, at Sedalia, the object and nature of which is to remove residents from dangerous building located on 501 East Harvey Street, Sedalia, Missouri 65301, and to enjoin occupancy of the same, such having the legal description of:

ALL LOTS NUMBERED NINE (9), TEN (10), ELEVEN (11) AND TWELVE (12) IN BLOCK NUMBER SEVEN (7) OF HEARD'S ADDITION TO EAST SEDALIA, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEDALIA, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, EXCEPT THE EASTERLY TWENTY-FIVE FEET, AS MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES AND PARALLEL TO THE RIGHT OF WAY OF THE MISSOURI-KANSAS AND TEXAS RAILROAD, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In addition to the parties listed above, the names of all other parties to said action, are: the City of Sedalia, Missouri, Plaintiff; William Todd, Defendant; David Todd, Defendant; and Sheryl Gilpin, Defendant. The name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Anthony Hernandez, 4031 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64064.

You are further notified that, unless you file an Answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid First Amended Petition to Remove Defendants from Dangerous Building and Enjoin Occupancy of the Same within forty-five (45) days of the date of first publication, on or about February 4, 2023, or such longer time as the Court may fix by Order, Judgment by Default shall be rendered against you. Witness my hand and seal of the Circuit Court on this 2nd day of February, 2023.

Susan Sadler, Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Rebecca Cambell, Deputy Circuit Clerk
4x-2/4, 11, 18, 25, 2023

Legal Notice

Fire Protection District No. One of Pettis County, Missouri. Said real property was under the protection of the Houstonia Rural Fire Association and is legally described as:

THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 24, 25 AND 36 OF TOWNSHIP 48 NORTH, RANGE 23 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 AND 36 OF TOWNSHIP 48 NORTH, RANGE 22 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 1 AND 12 OF TOWNSHIP 47 NORTH, RANGE 23 WEST, AND THOSE PARTS OF SECTIONS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20 AND 21 OF TOWNSHIP 47 NORTH, RANGE 22 WEST, ALL FORMERLY PART OF THE HOUSTONIA FIRE DISTRICT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.

The Fire Protection District No. One of Pettis County, Missouri received an Initiative Petition signed by ninety-one (91) certified voters representing more than twenty-five percent (25.0%) of the persons who voted in the last gubernatorial election and who reside in the area to be annexed.

The Fire Protection District No. One of Pettis County, Missouri has subsequently adopted a Resolution approving the annexation of said real property and has filed a Petition herein seeking to approve the annexation of said real property, subject to the election provided in section 321.301 RSMo. Petitioner's attorney is:

James P. Buckley
BUCKLEY & BUCKLEY
121 E. 4th Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
T: 660.826.7373

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested to appear before the Honorable Robert L. Koffman, at the Pettis County Courthouse, 415 S. Ohio, Sedalia, MO, on the 14th day of February, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the cause may be heard, to show cause, if any, why the Petition should not be granted.

IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to the law in the Sedalia Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation published in Pettis County, Missouri. A true copy from the record. Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri, this 11th day of January, 2023.

/s/Susan Sadler,
Pettis County Circuit Clerk
First Publication:
January 14, 2023
4x-1/14, 21, 28, 2/4, 2023

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION ESTATE OF RONALD DEAN PLUMLEE, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 23PT-PR00004

NOTICE OF HEARING
To all persons who claim any interest in the property of Ronald Dean Plumlee, deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Cindy Lou Carrier-Plumlee, for the determination of the heirs of Ronald Dean Plumlee, deceased, and of their respective interests as such heirs in and with respect to the following described property owned by said decedent at the time of death or thereafter, to-wit:

- Central Bank of Sedalia MaxMoney Account 000687944 \$945.97
- Central Bank of Sedalia Savings Account 001359320 \$3,231.60
- 1993 Ford Pickup 1FTEF14N7PLA09335 \$200
- 1971 High Boat Trailer VIN37237 \$100.00
- Tract of land in Pettis County, Missouri totaling value of \$116,830.00

The West 849.5 feet of the South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 46 North, Range 23 West of the 5th Principal Meridian in Pettis County, Missouri. Petitioner's attorney is R. Scott Gardner whose business address is 416 South Ohio Avenue, Sedalia, Missouri 65301-4432.

You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on February 14, 2023, at 3:00 o'clock p.m. in the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri, 415 S. Ohio, Division Five at Sedalia, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

Susan Sadler, Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling, Deputy Clerk
4x-1/14, 21, 28, 2/4, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given that a public hearing will be held by the city council of the City of Sedalia, at 6:30 p.m. on February 22, 2023, at City Hall in Sedalia, Missouri, 200 South Osage Ave., Sedalia, MO 65301 concerning three proposed ordinances. 1) amending the zoning code to allow for inclusion of boutique hotels in C-2 zoning, 2) regarding home occupations in residential districts as a result of Missouri House Bill 1662, and 3) amending the zoning code regarding marijuana.

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide citizens an opportunity to be heard regarding these revisions. Jason Myers, City Clerk City of Sedalia 1x-2/4, 2023

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