

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Pettis County Clerk sues County Commissioners

By Chris Howell
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Allege wiretapping, invasion of privacy

A lawsuit has been filed in Pettis County Circuit Court by Pettis County Election Clerk Nick LaStrada and employees Katelynn D. Gudde and Sherry Jo Painter-Torres. They are suing Pettis County Commissioners Bill Taylor, Israel Baeza, Jim Marcum, and Pettis County IT Director Brett Denomme for illegally recording audio and video of people in the County Clerk's office.

LaStrada told the Democrat Friday his office is refusing to comment under legal counsel except for this terse comment:

"Right now due to the

pending litigation I'm not at liberty to talk about anything," LaStrada said.

The County Clerk's allegations are clearly spelled out in his Petition of Declaratory Judgement and include wiretapping and invasion of privacy of his staff and the voting public through closed-circuit cameras both inside and outside the election's office.

See CLERK | A5



The Pettis County Clerk's office is suing the Pettis County Commissioners and IT Director for wiretapping and invasion of property stemming from streaming CCTV cameras in the building picking up audio, after assurances were made no audio was to be allowed. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Skyline kids ready for Super Bowl Sunday



Third grader Jase Patrick shows his best game day cheer during Skyline Elementary's Red Friday. He is decked out in a Kansas City Chiefs shirt, Patrick Mahomes hair beanie and face paint. PHOTOS BY SKYE MELCHER | DEMOCRAT



From left stands Axle Brobst, Maria Turchin, Ellis Kerwood and Brentley Domingue all decked out in Chiefs gear on Friday. The kids are excited to see what happens during Super Bowl LVII on Sunday.



From left stands Mia Reyes, Kara Anderson, Bryce Goalder and Nevaeh Williams from Mrs. Young's fourth grade class. A large number of students at Skyline Elementary were decked out in Kansas City Chiefs gear on Red Friday. See KIDS | A6

Clay Clear Band goes to Nashville: Band to record new album

By Faith Bemiss
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

Through a series of connections and talent, the Clay Clear Band arrived in Nashville this weekend to record their second album, "High and Lonesome," with renowned producer Oran Thornton.

Oran Thornton has produced music for country music stars such as Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, and Eric Church. He is the cousin of Sedalia musician Don Thornton, who has

watched Clear, 23, mature as a musician for the last 10 years. Don arranged for Oran to listen to the band; the rest is history.

Clear has played gigs since he was 11 and was formerly in the band Dirt Road Addiction before branching out on his own in 2020. His band now consists of himself, lead vocals and lead guitar, Brent Harms on bass, Jesse Niccum on drums, and Cole Dillingham, on rhythm guitar, bass, harmonica, and drums. Since forming, the band has

played around 40 to 50 shows a year. The events are arranged by their booking agent/manager Paula Murrill.

"I've been playing guitar since I was five," Clear noted. "Playing live (shows) since I was 11, and playing professionally since I was 12 or 13."

"It's been a long ride," he continued. "It's been 11 or 12 years, but it doesn't seem it's been that long."

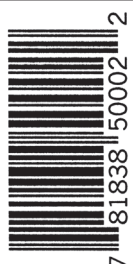
Clear writes his music and has a binder full of songs.

See BAND | A5



Clay Clear, center, and the Clay Clear Band is in Nashville this weekend recording a new seven-song album, "High and Lonesome." The band is producing the album with Oran Thornton, whose credits include working with Little Big Town, Eric Church, and Miranda Lambert.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAY CLEAR BAND



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Lifeguards

We are looking for guards for the summer, but also for guards of all ages to help cover the M-F 8:30am-1:30pm shift at HCC. If you are interested, please visit www.sedaliaparks.com or call 660-826-4930.

Youth Baseball

YOUTH BASEBALL EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSING ON FEBRUARY 24TH.

Visit www.sedaliaparks.com or call 660-826-4930 to register.

Shamrock Shuffle

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 5K REGISTRATION CLOSING ON FEBRUARY 17TH.

The event is on March 11th. There are prizes for Best Leprechaun, Most Spirited, and Most Green.

VISIT WWW.SEDALIAPARKS.COM OR CALL 660-826-4930 TO REGISTER.

OBITUARIES

David Braverman

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, David Braverman, of East Longmeadow, MA, died at the age of 63.

David was born to Elliot and Barbara Braverman in 1959 in Baltimore, MD. He graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 1978 and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in 1982, a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in student development and post-secondary education from the University of Iowa in 1990, and a Certificate of Completion from the Institution for Educational Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In 1998, David married Hsiu-Jung Mindy Chang, and together raised a son, Giun-Shian, both of whom survive David.

While at Mizzou, David led the re-chaptering of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and, in 1982, was named the fraternity's national Man of the Year. During his career in college administration, David served in several leadership roles, including Assistant Dean of the University of Richmond, Dean of Students at Culver-Stockton College, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at California State-Sacramento, Dean of Students at Texas A&M-Kingsville, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Springfield (MA) College. Most recently, David served as Vice President for Student Success at Western Illinois University.

John "Johnny" David Baker

John "Johnny" David Baker, 69, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on Friday, February 3, 2023, at E.W. Thompson in Sedalia. He was born on July 19, 1953, in Lexington, MO, the son of John W. and Freda (Shields) Baker, who preceded him in death.

On April 27, 1972, in Warrensburg, MO, he was united in marriage to Susan Kathleen (Gross) Baker, who resides in the home.

Johnny had a passion for cars. He was in the car business for 47 years. He was the owner of Johnny Baker's Car Corral. He was co-owner of the Highway 50 auto auction with his brother Jerry. He loved his pontoon boat at the lake and drag racing. He built several lake homes. He loved an occasional trip to the casino and playing scratchers. He loved traveling in the motor home and seeing God's Country. He was a good Christian man and attended The Celebration Center. He was a faithful giver. He loved to ride his Harley Davidson on trips with his buddies. He adored his family, especially his grandchildren and fur

David had a gregarious and outgoing personality and loved to engage in deep conversation. He made lasting friendships across the country and was a stranger to no one. David loved music, especially jazz and Dixieland, and when younger, enjoyed playing trombone and tuba in several bands. David loved to travel, especially the backroads of America.

David is preceded in death by his father, Elliot (1977), his mother, Barbara (1997), and his father-in-law Chung-Shen (1989).

In addition to his wife and son, David is survived by mother-in-law Shiao-Lee of Keelung, Taiwan, brother Alan (Becky) of St. Louis, brother Stuart (Kim) of Sedalia, brother Adam (Lisa) of Sedalia, sister Lynne (Joe) of Sedalia, brother Eric (Brian) of Chicago, sister-in-law Yui-Chin Chang (Guo-Cheng) of Taipei, Taiwan, sister-in-law Ling-Jen (Ching-Jia) of Taiyuan, Taiwan, brother-in-law Chi-Ching (Su-Qing) of Taipei, Taiwan, brother-in-law Chi-Jian (Su-Sha) of Taipei, Taiwan, brother-in-law, Ging-Xiang of Keelung, Taiwan, and several nieces and nephews.

A private ceremony was held, and a celebration of David's life is forthcoming. Contributions in David's memory may be made to The Marfan Foundation, 22 Manhasset Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050 or online at marfan.org/donate.

babies, Lucy, Penny, and the neighborhood cat, Freckles.

Besides his wife Susan, Johnny is survived by a daughter, Marcia J. Baker-Cowan (Matt) of Sedalia; a son, John D. Baker

II; grandchildren, Gabi N. Baker, Camden D. Baker, Isabella Cowan; step-grandson, Ezra Cowan; two great-granddaughters, Dakota and Spencer; brothers, Paul Baker (Carol), Jerry Baker (Wanda); sisters, Bonnie Meritt, Patty Weaver, and Debbie Vilmer (Charlie).

Besides his parents, Johnny is preceded in death by a son, Troy Baker; brother, Jim Baker; niece, Sandy Baker-Madden; nephews, Jeffrey Baker, David Baker, and Connor Barela; and lifelong employee and friend, Guil Flores.

A celebration of life gathering will be held from 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023, at Rea Funeral Chapel, Sedalia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Show-Me Christian Youth Home in La Monte or the Sedalia Animal Shelter in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.



David Braverman

John "Johnny" David Baker

John "Johnny" David Baker

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. 8

6:45 a.m.: Philip N. Cason, 42, of the 900 block of West Fifth Street was arrested after a traffic stop for driving with no lights near Woods west, 1400 S. Limit Ave. A check revealed he had a suspended license and Cason was transported to the Pettis County Jail where he was booked and released with a State charge of driving with a suspended license.

7:54 a.m.: Damean D. Simmons, 38, of Sedalia was arrested after an officer responded to Walmart, 3201 W. Broadway Blvd. for a subject trespassing. He was located and transported to the Pettis County

Jail where he was placed on a 24-hour hold pending state charges of first-degree trespass.

10:30 p.m.: Tiffany L. Wolfe, 43, of the 800 block of North New York Avenue was arrested after a traffic stop on a car near South Thompson Avenue and East Broadway Boulevard for moving violations. Wolfe was intoxicated, driving with a suspended driver's license, and was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 12-hour protective custody hold pending charges of driving while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license, and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Feb. 9

6:57 p.m.: Colton Miner Ditton, 32, of the 1800 block of Lamine Avenue was arrested after a traffic stop on a vehicle speeding near North Ohio Avenue and West Jefferson Street. Ditton had a revoked driving status and was charged with operat-

ing a motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license.

8:13 p.m.: David W. Medrano-Mencos, of the 1300 block of South Osage Avenue was arrested after a traffic stop near South Osage Avenue and West 10th street. The driver was found to be operating without a valid license and had two active warrants out of Cooper County. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail, booked, and released with a charge of operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Incidents Feb. 8

10:45 a.m.: Officers took a report for the violation of a protection order in the 400 block of South Ohio avenue. Officer's spoke with the reporting party who stated an individual violated the terms of the ex-parte order.

DEATH NOTICE

Curry

James "Jim" Lee Curry, 80, of Sedalia, died Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, in Sedalia.

A celebration of life service will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, at Rea Funeral. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Nicholson

Gary E. (Nick) Nicholson, of Sweet Springs, died Feb. 8, 2023, at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia.

A service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Missouri State Veteran's Cemetery Chapel with military rites to follow. Arrangements are under the direction of Campbell-Lewis Funeral Home in Sweet Springs.

FUNERALS

Mary Catherine Lehmer

11 a.m. Saturday at La Monte Cemetery in La Monte. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home & Crematory.

Barbara Curry Mosby

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

Gary E. (Nick) Nicholson

11 a.m. Wednesday at the Missouri State Veteran's Cemetery Chapel with military rites to follow. Arrangements are under the direction of Campbell-Lewis Funeral Home in Sweet Springs.

John "Johnny" David Baker

6 to 7 p.m. on Friday at Rea Funeral Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

James "Jim" Lee Curry

11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 20 at Rea Funeral. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

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

Windsor woman injured in Johnson accident

Sierra D. Blake, 21, of Windsor, sustained moderate injuries at 3:18 a.m. Friday in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Blake was driving a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox east on state Route V when she swerved to avoid a deer and traveled off the left side of the road striking an embankment. Her vehicle caught fire and became fully engulfed.

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

Georgia man hurt in Saline County accident

Stefane R. Serge, 32, of Austell, Georgia, sustained minor injuries at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in a Saline County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Serge was stopped on the right shoulder of East I-70 at mile marker 76.4 in a 2022 Freightliner Cascadia when it overturned.

Sergey was not wearing a seat belt, and was transported to Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall by Saline County ambulance District.

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

STATE BRIEFS

Missouri officials investigate transgender youth clinic

By Summer Ballentine Associated Press COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley and the state's Republican attorney general are investigating whistleblower complaints against a transgender health center for children, the officials announced Thursday.

Hawley and Attorney General Andrew Bailey publicly announced their investigations of Washington University Transgender Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital after they say the whistleblower went public with her allegations. The state Social Services Department, state licensing agency and Washington University also are investigating.

Former case manager Jamie Reed claimed in an affidavit that the center mainly provides gender-affirming care but does little to address mental health issues that patients also faced.

Reed claimed one minor received a mastectomy and months later wanted the procedure to be undone. She said one doctor prescribed a medication to enlarge breasts that also caused liver damage.

"I took the job because I support trans rights and firmly believed I would be able to provide good care for children at the Center who are appro-

priate candidates to be receiving medical transition," Reed wrote in the affidavit. "Instead, I witnessed the Center cause permanent harm to many of the patients."

Reed also alleged that the center billed some treatments to the federal Medicaid health care program.

Transgender medical treatment for children and teens is increasingly under attack in many states, labeled child abuse and subject to criminalizing bans. But it has been available in the United States for more than a decade and is endorsed by major medical associations.

Many clinics use treatment plans pioneered in Amsterdam 30 years ago, according to a recent review in the British Psych Bulletin. Since 2005, the number of youth referred to gender clinics has increased as much as tenfold in the U.S., U.K, Canada and Finland, the review said.

Several Missouri lawmakers this year filed bills to ban gender-affirming treatment for transgender youth, and Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden said that's a priority for Senate Republicans.

Bailey in a statement called the allegations against the center "disturbing."

"We take this evidence seriously and are thoroughly investigating to make sure children are not harmed by individuals who may be more concerned with a radical social agenda than the health of children," Bailey said.

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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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LINCOLN UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FALL 2022 DEAN'S LIST

Lincoln University of Missouri announced the fall 2022 dean's list honorees. The dean's list comprises full-time undergraduate students earning a minimum term GPA of 3.00, excluding grades in courses that do not carry credit toward

graduation.
Marshall: Keyanna Terrill
Mora: Shaila Zimmer
Tipton: Michael Buckner
Versailles: Joscelynn Marriott, Maris Ollison and Quinton Ryerson

Japan's earthquake recovery offers hard lessons for Turkey

By Foster Klug
 Associated Press

TOKYO — Mountains of rubble and twisted metal. Death on an unimaginable scale. Grief. Rage. Relief at having survived.

What's left behind after a natural disaster so powerful that it rends the foundations of a society? What lingers over a decade later, even as the rest of the world moves on?

Similarities between the calamity unfolding this week in Turkey and Syria and the triple disaster that hit northern Japan in 2011 may offer a glimpse of what the region could face in the years ahead. They're linked by the sheer enormity of the collective psychological trauma, of the loss of life and of the material destruction.

The combined toll of Monday's 7.8 magnitude earthquake rose past 23,000 deaths on Friday as authorities announced the discovery of new bodies. That has already eclipsed the more than 18,400 who died in the disaster in Japan.

That magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck at 2:46 p.m., March 11, 2011. Not long after, cameras along the Japanese coast captured the wall of water that hit the Tohoku region. The quake was one of the biggest on record, and the tsunami it caused washed away cars, homes, office buildings and thousands of people, and caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Huge boats were dropped miles away from the ocean in the towering jumbled debris of what had once been cities, cars toppled on their sides like playthings among the ruined streets and obliterated buildings.

Many wondered if the area would ever return to what it was before.

A big lesson from Japan is that a disaster of this size doesn't ever really have a conclusion — a lesson Turkey itself knows well from a 1999 earthquake in the country's northwest that killed some 18,000 people. Despite speeches about rebuilding, the Tohoku quake has left a deep gash in the national consciousness and the landscapes of people's lives.

Take the death toll. Deaths directly attributable to the quake in Turkey will level off in coming weeks, but it's unlikely to be the end.

Japan, for instance, has recognized thousands of other people who died later from stress-related heart attacks, or because of poor living conditions.

And despite hundreds of billions of dollars spent in Japan on reconstruction, some things won't ever come back — including a sense of place.

Before the quake, Tohoku was filled with small cities and villages, surrounded by farms, the ports filled with fleets of fishing boats. It's one of the wildest, most beautiful coastlines in Japan.

Today, while the wreckage of the quake and tsunami has largely been removed and many roads and buildings rebuilt, there are still large areas of empty space,

places where buildings haven't been erected, farms haven't been replanted. Businesses have spent years trying to reconstruct decimated customer bases.

Just as workers once did in Japan, an army of rescuers in Turkey and Syria are digging through obliterated buildings, picking through twisted metal, pulverized concrete and exposed wires for survivors.

What comes next won't be easy.

In Japan, there was initially a palpable pride in the country's ability to endure disaster. People stood calmly in long orderly lines for food and water. They posted notices on message boards in destroyed towns with descriptions of loved ones in the hopes that rescue workers would find them.

After what locals called the Great East Japan Earthquake, the dead in Tohoku were left by piles of rubble, neatly wrapped in taped-up blankets, waiting to be taken away by workers still combing through the detritus for anyone left alive.

The long haul of rebuilding has challenged this resolve. The work has been uneven and, at times, painfully slow, hampered by government incompetence, petty squabbling and bureaucratic wrangling. Nearly half a million people were displaced in Japan. Tens of thousands still haven't returned home.

The issue has seeped into politics, especially as the debate continues about how to handle the aftermath of catastrophic meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Years later, a fear of radiation permeates, and some areas of northern Japan have placed radiation counters in parks and other public areas. Officials and experts are still undecided how to remove the highly

radioactive melted fuel debris in the reactor.

There's already been criticism that the Turkish government has failed to enforce modern construction codes for years, even as it allowed a real estate boom in earthquake-prone areas, and that it has been slow to respond to the disaster.

The years since 2011 have seen another failure, one officials in Japan have acknowledged: an inability to help those traumatized by what they experienced.

Some 2,500 people are unaccounted for across Tohoku, and people are still searching for their loved ones' remains. One man got a diving license and has gone on weekly dives for years trying to find evidence of his wife.

People still occasionally unearth victims' photo albums, clothes and other belongings.

Perhaps the most telling connection, however, is the sharp empathy shared by those who have survived a cataclysmic disaster, and the gratitude at seeing strangers help ease their suffering.

A group of about 30 rescue workers from Turkey were in the hard-hit town of Shichigahama for about six months in 2011 for search and rescue operations.

Shichigahama locals have not forgotten. They have now started a donation campaign for Turkey. One man said this week that he wept as he watched the scenes in Turkey, remembering his town's ordeal 12 years ago.

"They bravely walked through the debris to help find victims and return their bodies to their families," Mayor Kaoru Terasawa told reporters of the Turkish aid workers who came to Japan. "We are still so thankful to them, and we want to do something to return the favor and show our gratitude."



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In this image provided by NBC News' TODAY, Philadelphia Eagles fan Billy Welsh and Kansas City Chiefs fan John Gladwell sit together during a broadcast of the show, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, in New York. The two former Marines bonded by a kidney donation and their love of football are now headed to the Super Bowl. Gladwell donated a kidney to Welsh two years ago after Welsh was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease.

NATHAN CONGLETON/NBC NEWS' TODAY VIA AP

Marines, bonded by kidney donation, now head to Super Bowl

PHILADELPHIA — Two former Marines bonded by a kidney donation and their love of football are now headed to the Super Bowl. John Gladwell, a Kansas City resident and Chiefs fan, donated a kidney to Philadelphia Eagles backer Billy Welsh two years ago after Welsh, who lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. The two men first met at a military base in the early 2000s and remained in touch through social media after they left the service. When Welsh made a post in 2019 asking if anyone was willing to become a donor, Gladwell responded and soon learned he was a 99% match. He eventually flew to Philadelphia, where the 10-hour surgical

procedure was performed. "It meant the world to me. I was speechless. John Gladwell is my hero," Welsh said Wednesday when the two men appeared on NBC's Today show. Gladwell said he didn't hesitate to make the donation because Welsh has a son who is a little older than his own grandson. "I wasn't going to let his son grow up without his dad being there for everything," Gladwell said. The all-expenses-paid Super Bowl trip was put together by Eagles President Don Smolenski and his Chiefs counterpart Mark Donovan. Smolenski said the story symbolizes the unifying aspects of the Marine Corps and the NFL. The team presidents spoke with the two men

during a video call last Sunday, letting them know they would be flown to Arizona on Friday, put up in hotel rooms and have side-by-side seats for the big game. "The opportunity to bring these two guys together, their two teams playing on the biggest stage in sports, it's very, very humbling and gratifying," Smolenski told The Philadelphia Inquirer. Welsh said he was "speechless" when he got the news. Gladwell, meanwhile, thought he was getting a spam call when a Super Bowl Host Committee representative contacted him Sunday morning. "They're like, 'You're going to the Super Bowl,'" Gladwell said, remembering the shock. "I'm like, 'I am?'"

Fox Corp says it's arranged Super Bowl interview with Biden

NEW YORK — After a day of mixed signals, President Joe Biden will be sitting down for a pregame interview for the Super Bowl, which is being broadcast by Fox on Sunday. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre had initially said that Biden had been "looking forward" to an interview with the little-known streaming service Fox Soul, but that Fox opted out. Fox Soul was started in 2020, and it's geared toward Black viewers. Later in the day, a Fox Corp. spokesperson said the interview was back on. "After the White House reached out to FOX Soul Thursday

evening, there was some initial confusion," the spokesperson said in a statement. "FOX Soul looks forward to interviewing the President for Super Bowl Sunday." The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A presidential interview during the Super Bowl pregame show has become something of a tradition over the past two decades, usually conducted by the news division of the network broadcasting the game. In 2021, Biden spoke to CBS News anchor Norah O'Donnell prior to the game, and last year spoke with NBC News' Lester Holt.



President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with the National Governors Association in the East Room, Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, in Washington.

AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE CENETA

DeSantis to run Disney district after 'Don't Say Gay' feud

By Anthony Izaguirre
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis will soon take control of Walt Disney World's self-governing district after Senate Republicans approved a bill Friday punishing the company over its opposition to the law critics call "Don't Say Gay."

The legislation, which now awaits the governor's signature, would require DeSantis to appoint a five-member board to oversee the government services the district provides in the company's sprawling properties in Florida. The vote on the Disney bill ended a special legislative session focused on the conservative agenda of a governor who has leveraged

national political tensions to become a national GOP star and potential White House contender. The session itself, which was hastily called and completed, also signaled DeSantis' willingness to leverage the Republican supermajority in the statehouse to accomplish his political goals, a strategy he will continue in the coming months as he builds toward his expected presidential candidacy. The Disney district takeover was initiated last year when Disney publicly opposed "Don't Say Gay," which bars instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade and lessons deemed not age-appropriate. DeSantis moved to penalize the company, directing lawmakers to dissolve the district during a special legislative session in April, beginning a closely watched restructuring process. Last week, the Republican leaders of the House and Senate, in coordination with the governor, ordered lawmakers to return for another special session to

complete the state takeover of the district. "This all seems a retaliation by the governor for Disney voicing its support for the LGBTQ community," Democratic Sen. Linda Stewart said Friday before the bill's passage. The measure also changes the district's name from the Reedy Creek Improvement District to the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District and subjects it to various layers of state oversight. Board members are currently named through entities controlled by Disney. The bill leaves the district and its financial abilities and debt obligations intact, addressing a chief concern of surrounding governments. It also prevents people who have worked with or contracted with a theme park in the past three years from serving on the district's new governing board. Having a separate government allows the district to issue bonds and provide zoning, fire protection, utilities and infrastructure services on its land. Republican critics of the district argue it gives Disney a commercial advantage unavailable to others. "This bill takes an old district and modernized it and updated it," said Republican Rep. Fred Hawkins, the bill sponsor. "It took rights away that no corporation should have in being able to construct or have an unfair competitive advantage over its competitors." The creation of the district was instrumental in the company's decision to build near Orlando in the 1960s. Disney officials had told the state they planned to build a futuristic city that would include a transit system and urban planning



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks during a news conference at MVP Appliances in Ocala, Fla. Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023 to announce family-focused tax relief for Florida residents. DeSantis also touched on Disney and how they will be no longer be self governing "because there's a new sheriff in town."

DOUG ENGLE/OCALA STAR-BANNER VIA AP

innovations, so the company needed autonomy in building and deciding how to use the land. The futuristic city never materialized and instead morphed into a second theme park that opened in 1982. Separately on Friday, Republicans in the House gave final passage to two bills that amount to technical fixes to key DeSantis initiatives on immigration and voter fraud. The proposals now move to the governor's office to be signed into law. One bill is meant to cut off a legal challenge to the governor's migrant relocation program, which began last year when DeSantis used taxpayer dollars to fly a group of South American migrants from Texas to the liberal enclave resort island of Martha's Vineyard. The trip drew legal questions because the administration paid for the flight using money intended to remove migrants who were located in Florida, not

migrants who were in any other state. The legislation creates a dedicated program in the governor's office on migrant relocation and specifies that future flights could move migrants from anywhere in the U.S. The measure increases the likelihood of additional trips as DeSantis continues his criticism of federal border policy along his path to an expected 2024 presidential bid. Republicans have repeatedly said the bill would help migrants by taking them to sanctuary cities and states, while Democrats have slammed the program as a political stunt meant to serve the governor's political ambitions. The other proposal is meant to strengthen the prosecutorial power of the governor's election police unit, clarifying in state law that the statewide prosecutor has authority to prosecute election crimes in federal and state races.

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Clerk

From Page A1

Although employees were aware the cameras were on, LaStrada said he was assured on June 8, 2022, by IT department personnel that no audio was recorded.

Private conversations between Plaintiffs Katelynn D. Gudde and Sherry Jo Painter-Torres were allegedly streamed and an incident of partial nudity was recorded as an employee changed clothes.

After being made aware of the recordings, LaStrada immediately advised Pettis County Sheriff Brad Anders and Pettis County Prosecuting Attorney Phillip Sawyer.

LaStrada seemed agitated Friday. The eavesdropping occurred through the three cameras inside the County Clerks office that are now covered in tape.

Employees speak quietly assuming the microphones could still be listening to their private conversations. The plaintiffs claim to have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Pettis County Commissioners spent Friday morning in closed session with legal counsel but Presiding Commissioner Bill Taylor would not speak on the pending litigation but there were indications off the record that things were not as clear-cut as the lawsuit seems.

Taylor said being served with the lawsuit was a surprise.

The legal battle building between the County Clerk's Office and the Pettis County Commission promises to be a wide-ranging legal battle with issues of illegal surveillance, assumed privacy, and transmission of partially nude images drawing attention to Pettis County politics.

It should be noted the County Clerk's office is being represented by Kempton and Russell, LLC., and Pettis County will be represented by Phillip Sawyer, who recently defeated Sam Kempton in the Pettis County Prosecutor election.

Painter-Torres are asking to be awarded damages and LaStrada is demanding the cameras be removed to ensure the integrity of the voting system.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146

Band

From Page A1

"I remember starting to write when I was about 12 or 13," he noted. "I have them somewhere, but I didn't do anything with them."

"There's a few songs I wrote with Dirt Road Addiction when I was 15 or 16," he continued. "Some of the songs on our first album I wrote a long time ago. So, it's a little bit of everything — some newer ones, some older ones."

He describes his music as a mix of southern rock, red dirt country, and Texas country. The work is about playing music rather than creating genres.

"I love all kinds of music," he noted. "So, I feel like I put a little bit of everything into one song. One song might have a little bit of country influence, a little bit of rock, a little bit of blues, and bluegrass."

"We try to just play music. We don't try to say what we're doing," he added. "We always have the harder rock n' roll edge to us, but with the lyrics and the meaning of a country song. So we try to do a little bit of both."

Clear said they like well-written songs and songs that make people can dance.



The Clay Clear Band plays at a recent gig. Clear, 23, center, has been performing for audiences since age 11. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLAY CLEAR BAND

"We always say, 'your eyes are watching the star, but your hips are shaking to the bass guitar,'" he said with a laugh.

The new album will have seven songs, and Clear said they are "super excited" to be working with Oran Thornton.

"He's done so much stuff, and we're thankful to be a part of it," Clear noted. "Don has been pushing for us quite a while, and we catch some lucky breaks every once in a while."



Clay Clear plays guitar at a recent event. The Clay Clear Band consists of Clear, lead vocals and lead guitar; Brent Harms, on bass; Jesse Niccum, on drums; and Cole Dillingham, on rhythm guitar, bass, harmonica, and drums.

Don Thornton said he became involved with Clear's music because of its quality.

"When somebody's good, somebody's good in music," he said. "And it doesn't have to be country, but when somebody's good, they deserve what they're shooting for."

"Just knowing Oran, and I just like to help people," he continued. "Clay's got, as far as I'm concerned, a full package, and I think Oran can see that too."

He added he felt like he should support someone "who's worthy of it." Murrill said the band visited with Oran in December 2021.

"This has been a long process," Clear added. "We've been working on it for a while. He invited us down, and we just hung out and talked a little bit and sat around and played guitars, and sang old songs."

"About that time, we'd already recorded our first album," he continued. "So, we were thinking about the next one. Then time kept passing, and we were ready for this one, and Don got ahold of him (Oran) and set up all the connections."

The band will record on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11. Some of the original songs

include "I Just Want to Drink," "Goodbye Crazy," and "High and Lonesome."

"It's just a big opportunity for the guys because of Oran's experience," Murrill noted. "He's worked with so many and has his hands in a lot of producing."

"My favorite part of watching Clay perform is watching people watch them for the first time," she continued. "That's where we've gotten a lot of our support."

One supporter is Randy and Sherri Huffman, who owns Branded Steakhouse in Richmond. The band plays there often in the outdoor theatre. In addition, the Huffmans are sponsoring the band in its recording endeavor, Murrill said.

The band will perform at Heroes Bar Saturday, Feb. 18, in Basehor, Kansas, and on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Branded Outdoor Theatre in Richmond.

The Clay Clear Band currently has music available on all streaming platforms. For more information, visit the Clay Clear Band Facebook, Instagram or website <https://clayclearband.com/>.

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

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Kids

From Page A1



Mixed age students at Skyline Elementary gather around while working on some Super Bowl tasks. Each of the students were wearing a paper headband in class. PHOTOS BY SKYE MELCHER | DEMOCRAT



The second grade boys in Mrs. Edgars mixed age class stand together holding photo props for a picture. While four of the boys were cheering for the Kansas City Chiefs, one was wearing a Miami Dolphins jersey.



Third grade girls in a mixed age class and teacher Tonya Edgar stand together for a group photo. Most of the kids in Edgar's class were wearing Chiefs gear while she was wearing a referee uniform.



The second grade girls in Mrs. Edgars mixed age class gather together to get their photo taken. The girls were standing in front of a football banner and cheered for the Kansas City Chiefs.



The third grade boys in the mixed age class stand together for a photo. While four of them were cheering for the Chiefs, one of the kids is rooting for Philadelphia Eagles.

THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
49 / 28	57 / 32	55 / 40	55 / 42	59 / 28	33 / 18	35 / 28
Sunny and milder	Partly sunny and mild	Mild with plenty of sunshine	Winds subsiding with showers	Breezy; snow and ice at night	A bit of afternoon snow	Plenty of sunshine

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:09 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	5:46 p.m.		
Moonrise today	11:44 p.m.		
Moonsset today	10:01 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 7

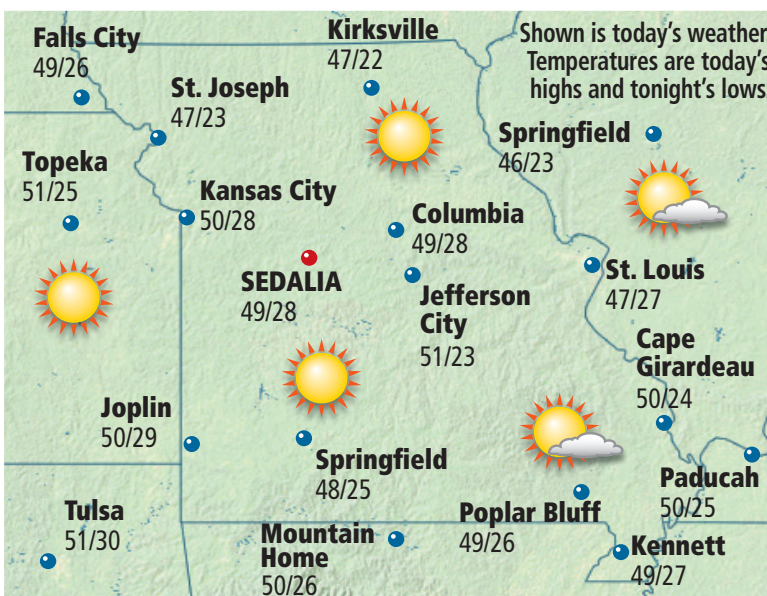
WEATHER HISTORY

The blizzard of Feb. 11, 1983, buried areas from Washington, D.C., to New York under 2 feet of snow. Philadelphia received an estimated 32 billion pounds of snow.

ALMANAC

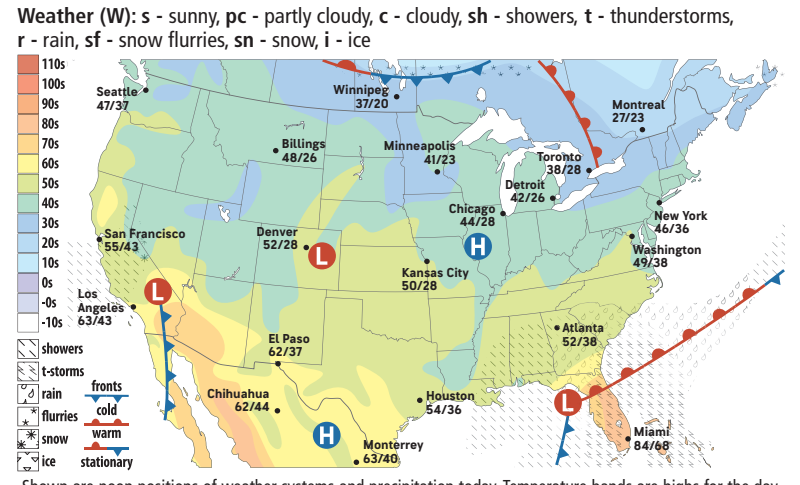
Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES			
High	48		
Low	34		
Normal high	41		
Normal low	21		
Record high	75 in 1943		
Record low	-27 in 1979		
PRECIPITATION			
Thursday	0.68"		
Month to date	0.78"		
Normal m-t-d	0.60"		
Year to date	2.33"		
Normal y-t-d	2.52"		
HEATING DEGREE DAYS			
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.			
Thursday	24		
Month to date	241		
Season to date	2918		
Normal season to date	3488		
Last season to date	2672		
RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.69	+0.51	24
Valley City	9.17	+5.94	22
Lamine	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Otterville	1.71	+0.50	15
Missouri	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Boonville	2.38	+0.31	21



NATIONAL WEATHER

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	52/38/r	46/34/c
Baltimore	49/33/pc	46/37/r
Boston	48/26/c	49/33/pc
Chicago	45/31/s	50/38/pc
Cleveland	41/27/s	49/30/s
Dallas	54/33/s	63/41/pc
Denver	52/28/s	45/26/pc
Houston	54/36/pc	63/45/c
Los Angeles	46/25/s	53/31/s
Las Vegas	61/44/pc	64/43/pc
Milwaukee	45/28/s	45/32/pc
Nashville	55/35/c	55/33/s
New Orleans	55/42/sh	63/42/r
Norfolk	47/41/c	52/41/r
Oklahoma City	52/29/s	62/33/pc
Orlando	84/60/t	69/46/pc
Phoenix	75/47/pc	76/46/pc
Pittsburgh	41/26/pc	48/25/s
Portland, ME	40/26/s	44/31/pc
Portland, OR	50/33/pc	50/39/pc
Sacramento	56/37/pc	67/36/s
St. Louis	47/27/s	58/38/s
San Francisco	55/43/pc	62/45/s
Seattle	47/37/pc	49/41/c
Washington, DC	49/38/pc	46/38/r



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Here's how to legally bet on the Super Bowl

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Sports betting is now legal in two-thirds of the country, and more Americans than ever before have an opportunity to place a legal bet on Sunday's Super Bowl.

With sports betting ads blitzing the airwaves with come-ons and promotions, things might be a bit confusing, especially for first-time bettors or those who don't fully understand how things work.

Here is a guide to betting on the big game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs. We will deal here only with legal options from sportsbooks approved and regulated by government authorities in the U.S.

WHAT IS A POINT SPREAD? OVER/UNDER WHAT?

Two of the most popular bets are on the point spread (the number of points by which a team must win the game in order for the bet to be a winner) and the total, also known as the over/under (the total number of points scored by both teams).

Contrary to popular belief, the point spread is not a consensus on how many points oddsmakers think one team will win by. Rather, it is a number designed to generate as close to an equal number of bets on both sides as possible. That way, the oddsmakers are guaranteed a profit through a cut of the action, called the vigorish, or "vig." (Many books, hoping to sound less wiseguy-ish, call it "the price.") Most sportsbooks will keep 10% or more of a winning bet before paying you the rest, but they keep 100% of all losing bets. Prices on Super Bowl bets can vary significantly, so it pays to shop around to get the lowest price you can before making a bet.

Beating the spread is known as "covering." For the Eagles to cover their spread of 1.5 points, they must win the game by 2 or more points. Conversely,

underdog Kansas City can cover by either winning the game outright, or losing by less than 2 points. (Odds and point totals are as of Friday from FanDuel, the official odds provider for The Associated Press.) The spread can change up until kickoff — and even afterward, during live betting, we'll get to that later — but the number locks in once you make a bet.

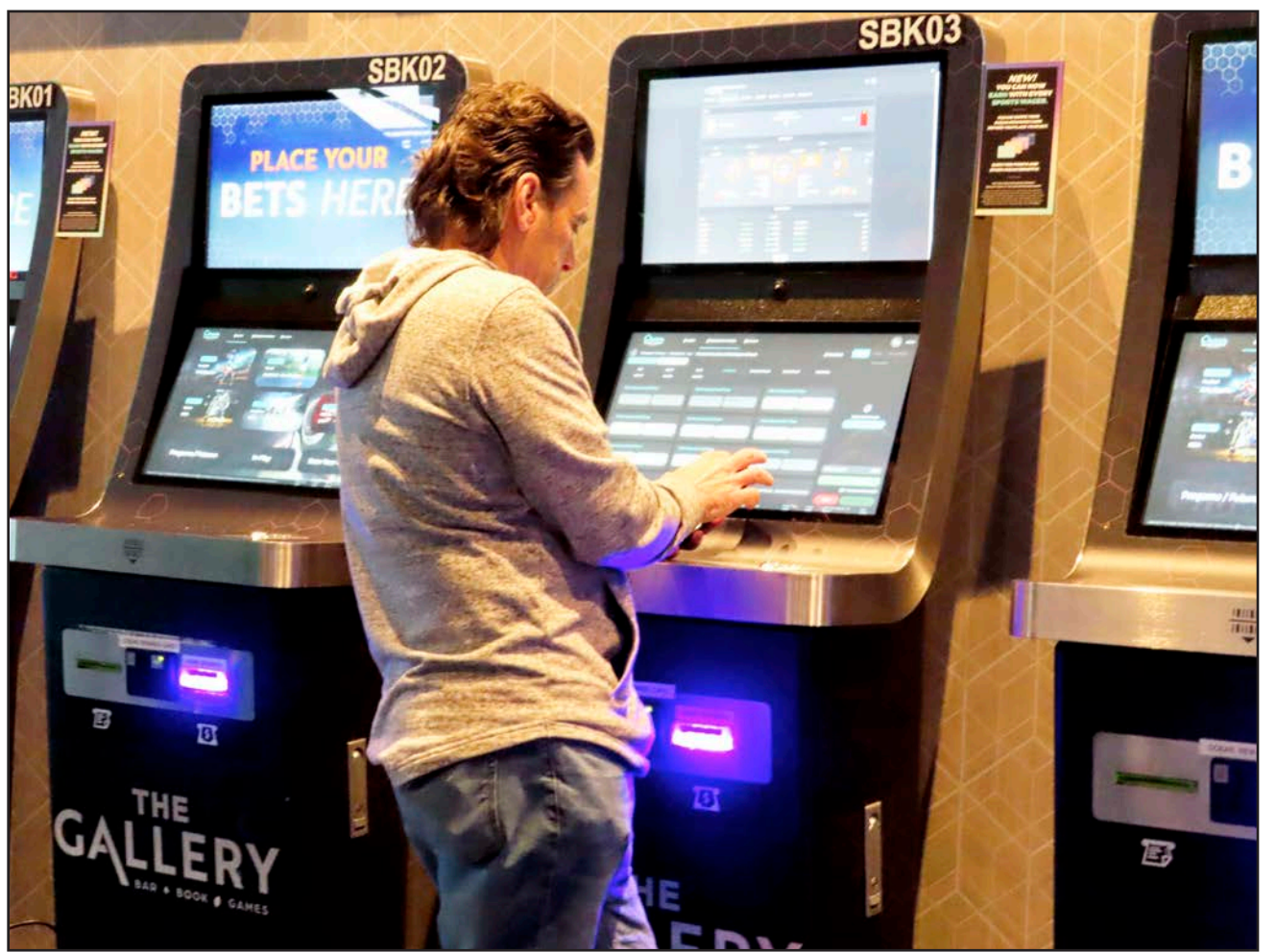
A spread with a whole number, say, 2 points, opens the opportunity for what's called a "push" if the winning margin ties. You don't win anything but you get your original bet refunded. This also applies to other bets, which is why most of them involve a fraction, like 44.5 yards or 48.5 points.

Don't want to bother with points and just pick the winner? That's called the money line. A bet on the Eagles to just win the game, regardless of the score, is somewhat less profitable than using a point spread. You will have to bet \$122 of your own money to win \$100. (Of course you get your original \$122 back as part of the \$222 payout.) A money line bet on Kansas City, however, will win \$104 on a \$100 bet, for a total payout of \$204.

If you believe the game will be a high-scoring affair, you might want to make a bet on the total, currently 50.5 points. That means if you bet the over, both teams combined must score at least 51 points for your bet to win. If it doesn't, people who bet the under will win.

CAN I MAKE MY OWN ODDS?

Yes. But that can be costly. You can pick your own spread or total — an alternate — to improve your chance of winning, but the farther your pick deviates from the sportsbook's number, the less it will pay if you win. (You also can choose a harder-to-reach number for a higher potential payout, such as betting that the Chiefs will win by 20 points, but that's a very risky strategy.) So if all you want to do is bet Kansas City with the



A man checks the odds on a sports betting terminal at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., Monday, Feb. 6, 2023. On Feb. 7, 2023, the gambling industry's national trade group, the American Gaming Association, predicted that over 50 million American adults will bet a total of \$16 billion on this year's Super Bowl, including legal bets with sports books, illegal ones with bookies, and casual bets among friends or relatives. AP PHOTO/WAYNE PARRY

point spread, but you want to get more points than the 1.5 currently being offered, you can bet on an alternate spread, such as Kansas City getting 3.5 points. That's helpful if you think the game might be decided by a 3-point field goal, and you want an extra cushion. But because you're grabbing better odds for yourself, the bet is a more costly one: You must put up \$166 of your own money to win \$100 in that case. Additional bets can be tacked on as part of so-called same-game parlays, which are combinations of bets on the same game. But the more combined outcomes you bet on, the greater the likelihood that at least one of them will lose, sending your entire parlay down in flames.

WHAT ELSE CAN I BET ON?

If this sounds like a lot to take in, there are much simpler ways to bet on the game, including some aimed at the casual fan or even someone who knows nothing at all

about football. A perennial favorite is betting on the coin flip at the start of the game to determine which team can choose to get the ball first. There are only two choices: heads or tails. You can even bet on which color of Gatorade the winning coach will be doused in at the game's conclusion. Seriously.

This is what's called a proposition or "prop" bet. It involves betting on whether a particular event will or won't happen during the game, and there is a vast array to choose from. They can be disarmingly simple, such as guessing which team will get the ball first, whether the first score of the game will be a touchdown or a field goal, and whether or not the game will go into overtime.

Prop bets based on a particular player's performance are always popular during the Super Bowl. You can bet on whether Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes will pass for over or under 294.5 yards, how many catches his favorite target, tight end

Travis Kelce, will have (over or under 7.5) or how many touchdown passes Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts will throw.

CAN I BET WHILE THE GAME IS BEING PLAYED?

People with online sportsbook accounts can bet on ever-changing outcome odds as the game is being played; live-betting is the fastest-growing segment of sports betting. For instance, the game starts with the Eagles favored by 1.5 points, but say Kansas City scores two quick touchdowns to take a 14-0 lead. The in-game odds will change to reflect the current situation, and you can now bet on whether Kansas City will win by 14 points, or whether the Eagles will lose by less than that. Or say the Chiefs' top receiving weapon Kelce is being shut down by Eagles defenders, and appears unlikely to eclipse his pregame receiving yards total of 79.5 yards. Bettors can wager on whether he will or won't

eclipse a lower number.

A word of caution, though: The number of these in-game bets and the rapidity with which odds change can be dangerous for those with a gambling problem, and many experts fear they could even tip a casual gambler toward becoming one with a problem. Some good advice: Set a budget in advance of money you can afford to lose, and stick to it. Look at betting on the game as a form of entertainment and not as a way to gain money that you need. If things head south, don't make additional bets to try to win back what you've lost. This is one of the quickest ways gamblers dig themselves a deep hole.

WHAT IF I THINK I MIGHT HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM?

Betting on the Super Bowl is supposed to be fun, and for most people, it is. But for others, compulsive gambling is a serious problem. For help, call 800-GAMBLER.

Maryland manhunt ends with arrest in woods, 2 officers shot

By JULIO CORTEZ and
LEA SKENE

Associated Press

FALLSTON, Md. — A Maryland man was taken into custody early Friday, ending a 39-hour manhunt during which he wounded two Baltimore County police officers in separate shootings and holed up in a wooded area behind a suburban shopping center, authorities said.

David Linthicum, 24, was already on the run when he shot the second officer, a detective, and stole his department-issued vehicle Thursday night, police said.

Officers eventually stopped Linthicum about 20 miles away using spike strips. From there, Linthicum fled into the woods but was surrounded by officers from multiple law enforcement agencies, with a helicopter illuminating the scene from above. Eight hours later and without further injury, they had him in handcuffs, authorities said.

The ordeal began when police responded to a call about a person in distress at Linthicum's Baltimore County home Wednesday afternoon. While officers were interacting with him, he fired multiple rounds and fled the scene, police said. One officer was hit, hospitalized for treatment and released that night.

Meanwhile, federal and state law enforcement joined the manhunt that would continue throughout the following day

and night as Linthicum evaded capture.

Around 9:20 p.m. Thursday, authorities warned residents to shelter in place in the area surrounding Linthicum's home, saying he had been spotted nearby.

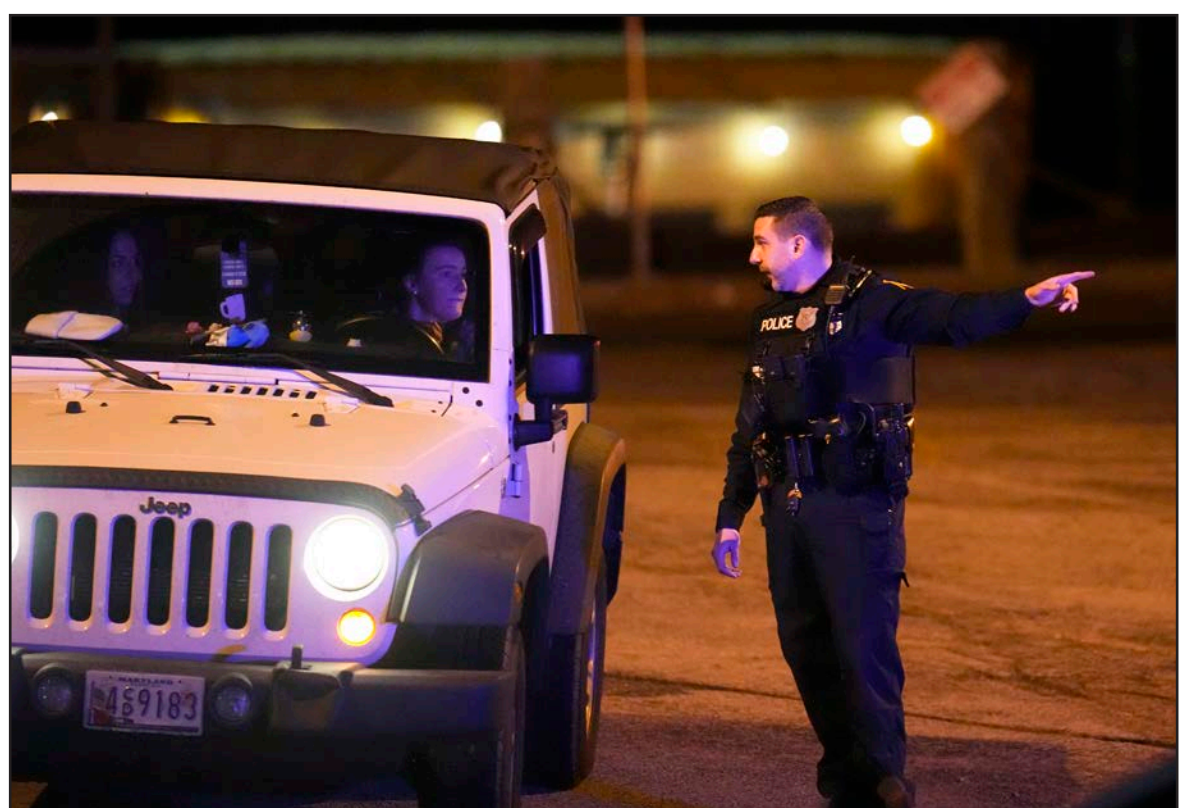
In an update Friday afternoon, officials with the Baltimore County Police Department said the detective, who was patrolling the area in connection with the manhunt, saw Linthicum walking along a road near his house.

When the detective tried to engage, Linthicum allegedly raised a rifle and pulled the trigger, striking the officer multiple times, before driving away in the unmarked black pickup truck.

Interim Baltimore County Police Chief Dennis Delp said early Friday that the detective, who had been wearing a ballistic vest, was in stable condition.

"He's going to need a significant amount of reconstruction," said Dr. Thomas Scalea, physician in chief at the University of Maryland Medical System's Shock Trauma Center, who told reporters outside the hospital Thursday night that the detective was on life-support with multiple gunshot wounds to the torso. "He'll be with us for a while."

Once Linthicum was surrounded in the woods, officers used several "less lethal" tactics to encourage him to surrender, including flash bangs. He tried to hide in a rocky area, but officers used a helicopter and



Police officers give evacuation directs to patrons leaving a bar in the area of the search for a gunman Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, in Fallston, Md. A police officer in Maryland was seriously injured in gunfire Thursday night amid a manhunt for a suspect who had wounded a different officer after firing at police the previous afternoon, officials said. AP PHOTO/JULIO CORTEZ

drones to locate him before he was finally captured at around 5:45 a.m. Friday, Harford County Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler said.

"Eventually it culminated in our personnel going hands-on with him and physically, after some resistance, being able to place him into custody," Gahler said.

Linthicum "sustained no injuries as a result of his arrest," but he was sent for a medical review "out of an abundance of caution," the sheriff said.

He was later transferred into

Baltimore County Police custody, officials announced Friday afternoon.

"Our community is safer with this individual in custody where he belongs," Gahler added at a news conference.

Gahler said police found a firearm in the recovered vehicle and Linthicum had ammunition on him when he was arrested. The area was being searched in case he dropped another firearm in the woods.

Harford County schools in the Fallston area were closed

Friday. Some Baltimore County schools were also closed Thursday while the manhunt was underway.

Court records show Linthicum pleaded guilty to drug possession with intent to distribute in 2019 and received probation before judgment. Officials said there was no immediate indication drugs were involved in these latest crimes.

When reached by phone Friday morning, a family member of Linthicum declined to comment and quickly hung up.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Grow something!

It's not quite time for gardening, but it's getting close. I've been kicking around at the piles of leaves in the yard, peering at the tiny shoots of crocus and poppy and daffodil living green underneath.

So close, but yet so far.

I am practically itching to get my hands in the dirt. I'm only a few weeks away from planting pansies and pulling up pink radishes and sowing spinach in my raised beds. And it's killing me. I've been pacing around in my damp, gray yard like a weirdo. Standing at my front window staring outside like some forlorn storybook widow whose husband will never come home from sea. I've read all the seed catalogs. I've watched all the YouTube videos. It's time to get going. Chop, chop.

However ...

It's taken me a few years of experimentation to figure out how to jump-start the growing season without ending up in tears because I set my plants out too early and lost them to a killing frost. That has happened more times than I'd care to admit. Have you ever lost your ever-lovin' mind and cried over some hot pepper sprouts? Hmm, nope. Me neither. Moving on.

Even though it's still winter, there are things you can do to make the green of spring come early at your house. Here are some of my favorites:

Sprouts: You can buy alfalfa or bean sprout seed at garden stores, many Amish and Mennonite markets, some grocery stores, and online. All you need to succeed is a sterilized glass jar to grow them in, some water and a screen or cheesecloth to fit over the top. (If you've never grown sprouts before there are tons of internet tutorials.) In less than a week you'll have a jar full of sweet greens that you can put on your sandwiches and salads. Sprouts are hard to keep safe from bacteria when grown and shipped at an industrial level, so these are a delicious but disappearing ingredient.

Wheatgrass: This is another ridiculously easy one. Just scatter a handful of wheat seed onto any container of dirt. I use a disposable aluminum pan. Water, leave on a warm windowsill, and you have green grass in a week! A lot of people put this in their smoothies as a superfood. I don't eat it,



Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

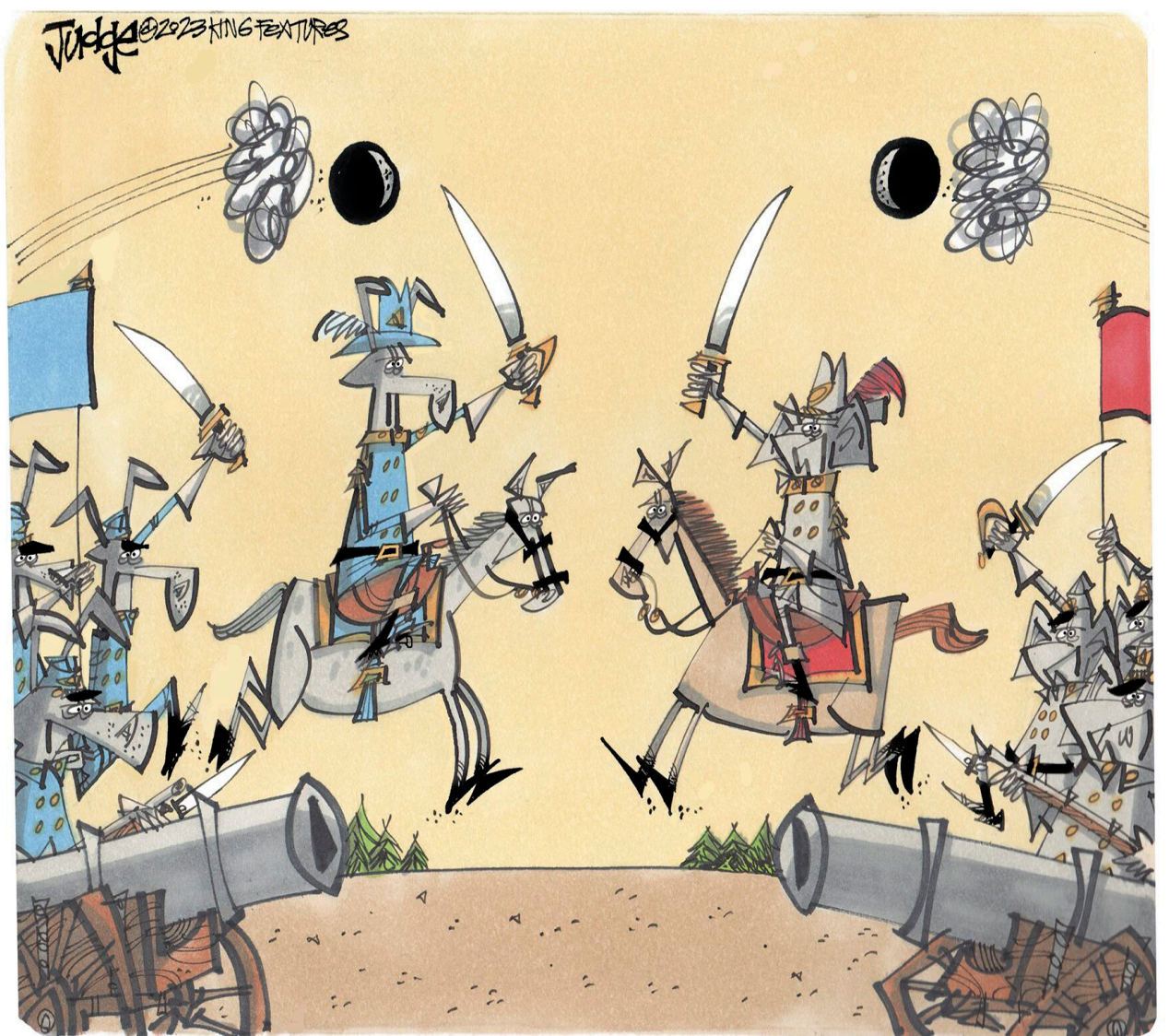
but my chickens love it.

Houseplants: It is the perfect time of year to get one. They can be a bit cranky if your home is really dry or if you put them in the wrong location, but there's nothing like 'em for some instant green and gratification. I recommend shopping at Sedalia's own By-gone Botanicals or the Funky Pot.

Grocery store regrows: Contrary to all those viral Facebook videos, you can't actually regrow a whole carrot indoors from the top you cut off while making soup. Or an entire bunch of celery or a head of romaine. All you'll get are a few pretty leaves. But you can regrow a ginger plant from a little bud, garlic chives from the stuff that's sprouted in your pantry, and onions. So many leeks and green onions. Big Grocery doesn't want you to know this, but the green onions are infinite. Knock yourself out.

Seed starts: This one took some leveling up for me, and I'm still getting it right. You'll need a seed starting mix, containers, a grow light or an extremely sunny window, and your best transplantable garden seeds. Be ready to fail a few times before you get it right. But so far I've had success with pansies, peppers and tomatoes. This year I've already started some Brussels sprouts, chard and early spring flowers. It's deeply satisfying to see your tiny garden plants pop up in the dead of winter, and there's nothing like the sense of accomplishment you get taking the first bite of a tomato that you grew yourself from a seed.

Giving yourself a few weeks' jump on spring can make all the difference in your mood and mental health as we drag through the last few muddy, slushy weeks of February and March. You don't even have to be an expert gardener. Just grow something. Grow any small, good and green thing and you'll see that I'm right.



STATE OF THE UNION

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Enough of second guessing; time for the Super Bowl

Apparently, cooler heads prevailed in the Missouri Senate. The bill regarding education in Missouri as it pertains to teaching about "race," has been amended, and omits some of the previous version's restrictions. Although the original draft included a ban on teaching CRT, which was not defined in the bill, the new version omits that ban. The bill now "also includes a provision stating that the bill does not ban teachers from teaching lessons on sexism, slavery, racial oppression, segregation or racial discrimination" (<http://bit.ly/40JtQwm>). This is helpful, because the classes I've taught in business law often contain these topics, as we talk about workplace discrimination and hostile work environments, among other kinds of cases. At least I won't have to worry about violating the law when I teach the history of and encourage discussion about those issues.

The bill also contains the opportunity for teachers to be eligible for a \$3000 bonus – if they attend a training class on teaching civics and patriotism. I'm all for teaching civics – my dad taught that class –



Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

and wish everyone would be required to take classes on Continuing Civics Education, but I wonder how one teaches patriotism. I suppose we will find out, because I expect that provision will be in the final bill. The Senate's current bill will now be voted on again before it is sent to the House. And they will probably have their own version. After that, who knows?

Enough of trying to second guess the Legislature.

It's time for the Super Bowl! This is the third time in four years that the Chiefs have played in the Super Bowl. It's hard to imagine that a "disappointing" season is one where we don't make it to the Super Bowl. And yet, that's where we are.

I will be too nervous to watch much of the

game, but I will dart in and out of the room when Max yells or claps. When he does either of those things, I know I need to see something. We will be at a Super Bowl gathering, so I will spend my time hiding in the kitchen, pretending to be unconcerned about the outcome. But, of course, I am.

I have a good feeling about the game, but I don't want to jinx them. So I will just try valiantly to keep my premonitions to myself and hope for the best.

I'm sure you've heard all about this historic game: two brothers will be playing against each other, and Coach Andy Reid spent several years coaching the Philadelphia Eagles, so this will be the first time that a coach has taken his current team to meet his previous team in the Super Bowl. Donna Kelce, Travis and Jason Kelce's mother, has a two-colored sweatshirt. One side is red and the other green, representing the colors of each son's team. I cannot imagine how conflicted she must feel, but I feel her pain. I remember the butterflies in my stomach when Emily dived off the starting blocks, or hit her first

drive, or sang at music contest. But this is the Super Bowl!

I continue to think that Patrick Mahomes is a remarkable leader for this team. He is not only a spectacular player and now a two-time MVP, but he also seems to have some kind of "spidey sense" that lets him know where everyone is on the field at any given time. This seems to be a superpower for elite athletes; I imagine it would be like seeing everything in slow motion, giving a person the opportunity to think, see, and move, all at the same time. Whatever it is, he's got it. Go, Chiefs!

Author's note: Thanks to Stephanie Lefevers, who pointed out that I made an error in my January 27 column. I try to be extremely careful when I source my columns, but I went back and looked, and I had inadvertently omitted the words "out of committee" when I wrote that an extremely restrictive education bill had been passed. The committee screens bills and either sends them to the floor for debate and vote/no vote, or doesn't refer them to the floor. The bill had been passed out of committee.

GUEST COLUMN

My storyboard of inspiration, history

A lot of writers have storyboards to help jog their memories and lead them into a story. My storyboard is just a wall behind my computer, but it has given me a lot of inspiration through the years.

I have two of my favorite poems on the wall for when I want to write poetry, which are "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer. The poems work in two ways. First, they inspire me, of course, but they also remind me that I cannot be sloppy in my poetry if I ever want to write something someone might put on their wall someday.

The wall has some of



Jack Miller
Guest Columnist

my Navy memorabilia and pictures hung on it, that brings me fond memories of my time at sea, and the ships and my shipmates I served with, whom I will never forget.

There is a plaque that tells me what a grandpa really is sup-

posed to be. That one I know by heart.

There is an old picture of crowded South Ohio Avenue in downtown Sedalia, with cars of the 1950s filling the street and people spilling over the sidewalks, that I look at a lot when I am trying to remember something from my childhood and that era.

There are pictures of my family, some who are no longer here, and it helps me to look at their smiling faces peering out at me from the wall and to think of those happy times as I write. There are memories I can relive as I look at my wall each day of my mother and father, my grandparents, my young

wife and I during our courting days, and our children at various stages of their growing up.

When I think about it now, the wall is more than just a storyboard; it is my history board.

P.S. There are times when I find myself without an idea to write about, which I believe is because I have talked so much about myself over the years that I may eventually run out of ideas. Hopefully, when that happens, I can look up at my wall and come up with one.

Jack Miller is a long-time Sedalia resident, former radio news reporter and former Democrat contributing columnist.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

Rescuers push to find survivors of 'disaster of the century'

By Justin Spike,
Ghaith Alsayed and
Zeynep Bilginsoy

Associated Press

KAHRAMANMARAS, Turkey — Rescue workers made a final push Thursday to find survivors of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria that rendered many communities unrecognizable to their inhabitants and led the Turkish president to declare it “the disaster of the century.” The death toll topped 20,000.

The earthquake affected an area that is home to 13.5 million people in Turkey and an unknown number in Syria and stretches farther than the distance from London to Paris or Boston to Philadelphia. Even with an army of people taking part in the rescue effort, crews had to pick and choose where to help.

The scene from the air showed the scope of devastation, with entire neighborhoods of high-rises reduced to twisted metal, pulverized concrete and exposed wires.

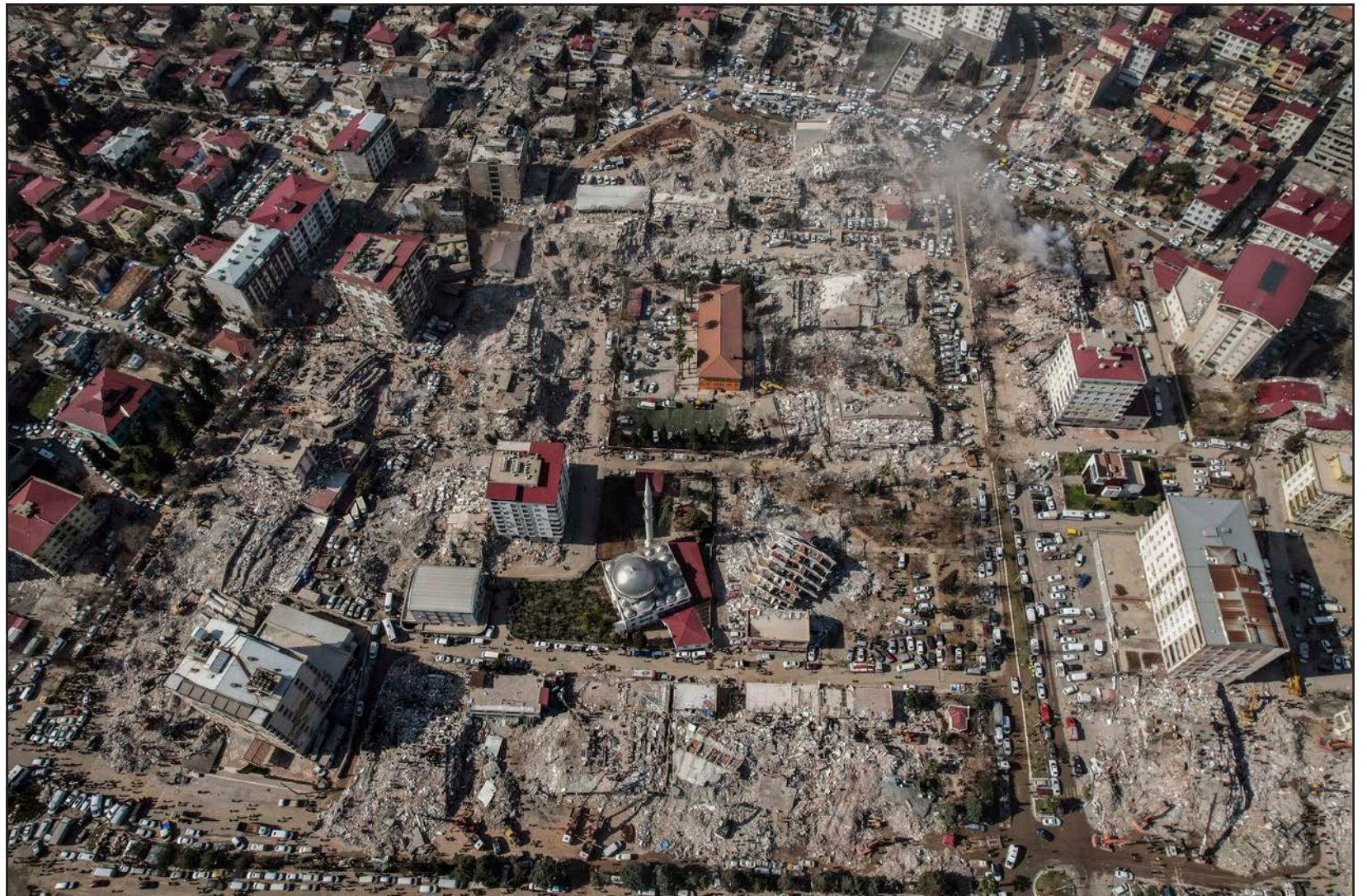
In Adiyaman, Associated Press journalists saw someone plead with rescuers to look through the rubble of a building where relatives were trapped. They refused, saying no one was alive there and that they had to prioritize areas with possible survivors.

A man who gave his name only as Ahmet out of fear of government retribution later asked the AP: “How can I go home and sleep? My brother is there. He may still be alive.”

The death toll from Monday's 7.8 magnitude catastrophe rose to nearly 21,000, eclipsing the more than 18,400 who died in the 2011 earthquake off Fukushima, Japan, that triggered a tsunami and the estimated 18,000 people who died in a temblor near the Turkish capital, Istanbul, in 1999.

The new figure, which is certain to rise, included over 17,600 people in Turkey and more than 3,300 in civil war-torn Syria. Tens of thousands were also injured.

Even though experts say people could survive for a week or more, the chances of finding survivors in the freezing temperatures were dimming. As emergency crews and panicked



Aerial photo showing the destruction in Kahramanmaraş city center, southern Turkey, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. Thousands who lost their homes in a catastrophic earthquake huddled around campfires and clamored for food and water in the bitter cold, three days after the temblor and series of aftershocks hit Turkey and Syria.

PHOTO BY IHA VIA AP

relatives dug through the rubble — and occasionally found people alive — the focus began to shift to demolishing dangerously unstable structures.

The DHA news agency broadcast the rescue of a 10-year-old in Antakya. The agency said medics had to amputate an arm to free her and that her parents and three siblings had died. A 17-year-old girl emerged alive in Adiyaman, and a 20-year-old was found in Kahramanmaraş by rescuers who shouted “God is great.”

In Nurdagi, a city of around 40,000 nestled between snowy mountains some 35 miles (56 kilometers) from the quake's epicenter, vast swaths of the city were leveled, with scarcely a building unaffected. Even those that did not collapse were heavily damaged, making them unsafe.

Throng of onlookers, mostly family members of people trapped inside, watched as heavy machines ripped at one building that had collapsed, its floors pancaked together with little more than a few inches in between.

Mehmet Yilmaz, 67, watched from a distance as bulldozers and other demolition equipment began to bring down

what remained of the building where six of his family members had been trapped, including four children.

He estimated that about 80 people were still beneath the rubble and doubted that anyone would be found alive.

“There's no hope. We can't give up our hope in God, but they entered the building with listening devices and dogs, and there was nothing,” Yilmaz said.

Mehmet Nasir Dusan, 67, sat watching as the remnants of the nine-story building were brought down in billowing clouds of dust. He said he held no hope of reuniting with his five family members trapped under the debris.

Still, he said, recovering their bodies would bring some small comfort.

“We're not leaving this site until we can recover their bodies, even if it takes 10 days,” Dusan said. “My family is destroyed now.”

In Kahramanmaraş, the city closest to the epicenter, a sports hall the size of a basketball court served as a makeshift morgue to accommodate and identify bodies.

On the floor lay dozens of bodies wrapped in blankets or black shrouds. At least one appeared to be

that of a 5- or 6-year-old.

At the entrance, a man wept over a black body bag that lay next to another in the bed of a small truck. “I'm 70 years old. God should have taken me, not my son,” he cried.

Workers continued to conduct rescue operations in Kahramanmaraş, but it was clear that many who were trapped in collapsed buildings had already died. One rescue worker was heard saying that his psychological state was declining and that the smell of death was becoming too much to bear.

In northwestern Syria, the first U.N. aid trucks since the quake to enter the rebel-controlled area from Turkey arrived, underscoring the difficulty of getting help to people there. In the Turkish city of Antakya, dozens scrambled for aid in front of a truck distributing children's coats and other supplies.

One survivor, Ahmet Tokgoz, called for the government to evacuate people from the region. Many of those who have lost their homes found shelter in tents, stadiums and other temporary accommodation, but others have slept outdoors.

“Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live

here,” he said. “If people haven't died from being stuck under the rubble, they'll die from the cold.”

The winter weather and damage to roads and airports have hampered the response. Some in Turkey have complained that the government was slow to respond — a perception that could hurt Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a time when he faces a tough battle for reelection in May.

“As you know, the earthquake hit an area of 500-kilometer (311-mile) diameter where 13.5 million of our people live, and that made our job difficult,” Erdogan said Thursday.

In the Turkish town of Elbistan, rescuers stood atop the rubble from a collapsed home and pulled out an elderly woman.

Rescue teams urged quiet in the hopes of hearing stifled pleas for help, and the Syrian paramedic group known as the White Helmets noted that “every second could mean saving a life.”

But more and more often, the teams pulled out dead bodies. In Antakya, more than 100 bodies were awaiting identification in a makeshift morgue outside a hospital.

With the chances

of finding people alive dwindling, crews in some places began demolishing buildings. Authorities called off search-and-rescue operations in the cities of Kilis and Sanliurfa, where destruction was not as severe as in other areas. Vice President Fuat Oktay said rescue work was mostly complete in Diyarbakir, Adana and Osmaniye.

Across the border in Syria, assistance trickled in. The U.N. is authorized to deliver aid through only one border crossing, and road damage has prevented that thus far. U.N. officials pleaded for humanitarian concerns to take precedence over wartime politics.

It wasn't clear how many people were still unaccounted for in both countries.

Turkey's disaster-management agency said more than 110,000 rescue personnel were now taking part in the effort and more than 5,500 vehicles, including tractors, cranes, bulldozers and excavators had been shipped. The Foreign Ministry said 95 countries have offered help.

Joyous parades and parties kick off New Orleans' Mardi Gras

By Kevin McGill

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The lead-up to New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras celebration is intensifying with events big and small. Three parades are set for Friday night along historic St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans. They are the first of more than two dozen such processions set in the city and suburbs between now and Mardi Gras, which falls this year on Feb. 21. And there was a smaller scale celebration Friday morning at Galatoire's Restaurant in the French Quarter, where the king and queen of the Mystic Krewe of Barkus — a pair of rescue dogs in crowns and capes — chowed down on lamb chops.

NEW ORLEANS — A venerable fine-dining fixture on Bourbon Street helped kick off the final frantic days of New Orleans Mardi Gras season Friday — relaxing its

jackets-required dress code and briefly ditching its no-pets policy for a pair of crown- and cape-wearing rescue dogs.

The tennis-ball-loving silver Labrador retrievers — named for Pete Sampras and Billie Jean King — chowed down on lamb chops at Galatoire's as they were declared king and queen of the Mystic Krewe of Barkus. The animal welfare organization founded 30 years ago took its name as a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the major Carnival krewe Bacchus. The annual Galatoire's gathering aids fund-raising efforts.

“The impact this has on other homeless dogs, it just goes on and on,” Billie Jean's owner, Katherine Gelderman.

Outside, music was already blaring from some Bourbon Street bars as the city prepared for three major parades Friday evening on historic St. Charles Avenue. Other Friday night parades were scheduled in

neighboring Metairie, and there will be more than two dozen other such processions almost nightly until Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, which this year falls on Feb. 21.

“If you think about the complex logistics, over multiple neighborhoods, multiple krewes, multiple law enforcement agencies — this is like Times Square on New Year's Eve for two weeks,” Kelly Schulz of New Orleans & Company, the city tourism industry's trade association, said during a city news conference Thursday.

Complicating that effort has been a rise in crime and a shortage of police officers, which somewhat muted the celebration's comeback last year. Since parades in 2021 were canceled because of security concerns and the pandemic, some of the routes for the 2022 parades were trimmed.

This year, the original routes have been restored

and the local police department is bolstered by a contingent of 125 state troopers and another 170 law enforcement personnel from other state and local police agencies to help keep order. By various estimates, the local police force has dwindled to about 900 members, which is hundreds fewer than what local experts say is needed.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell and other city officials said they are confident safety can be maintained.

Joe Bikulege — co-owner of Le Bon Temps Roule, a neighborhood bar and music club on Magazine Street — said that businesses and residents welcome the restored routes. “People get traditions and routines based around seeing certain parades,” he said in a recent interview.

“That's been taken away for three years,” he said.

And, Schulz said, it appears tourists are planning to return in strong numbers.



Emma Ferrebus, 5, of New Orleans, reaches for treats from the Krewe of Zulu parade during Mardi Gras on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in New Orleans. The lead-up to New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras celebration is intensifying with events big and small. Three parades are set for Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 along historic St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans.

AP PHOTO BY GERALD HERBERT

“We are seeing strong hotel bookings so far,” Schulz said. “We are seeing a lot of pent-up demand for travelers to come back to New Orleans. For many this will be their first time, since before COVID, experiencing Mardi Gras.”

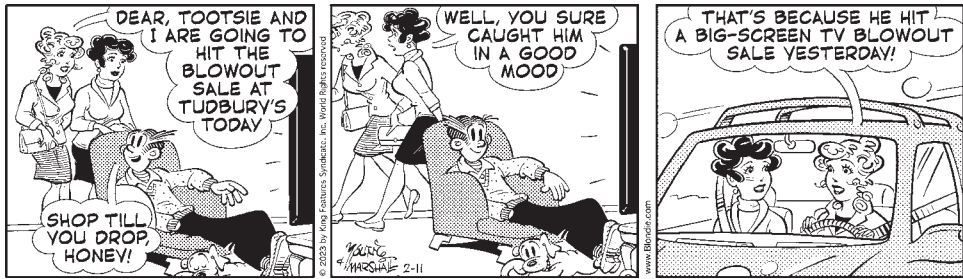
Mardi Gras is the culmination of Carnival season — which officially begins each year on Jan. 6, the 12th day after Christ-

mas, known as King's Day, in New Orleans and closes with the arrival of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

New Orleans' raucous celebration is the nation's most well-known, but the holiday is also celebrated throughout much of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Mobile, Alabama, lays claim to the oldest Mardi Gras celebration in the country.

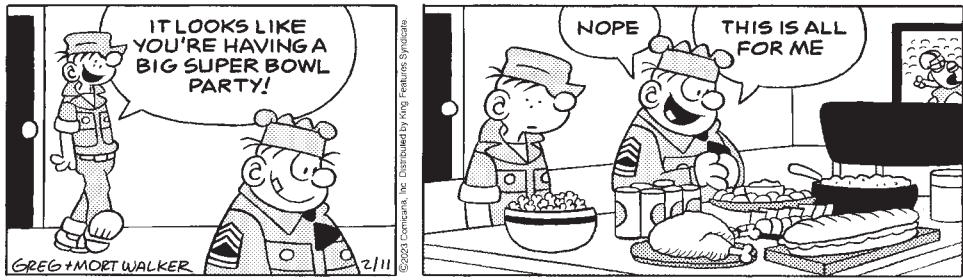
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



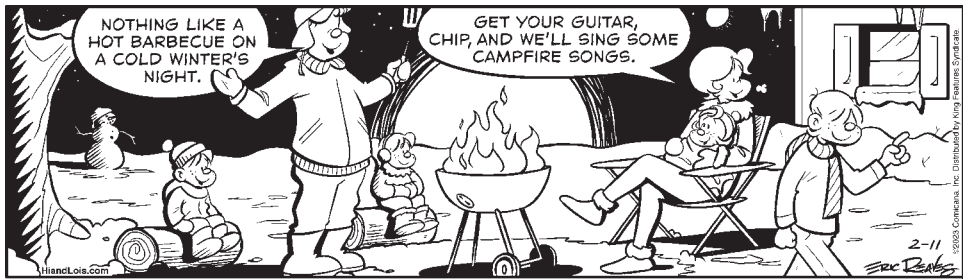
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



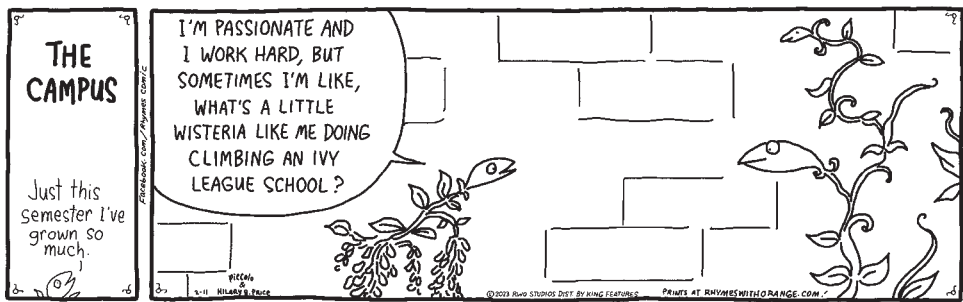
PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



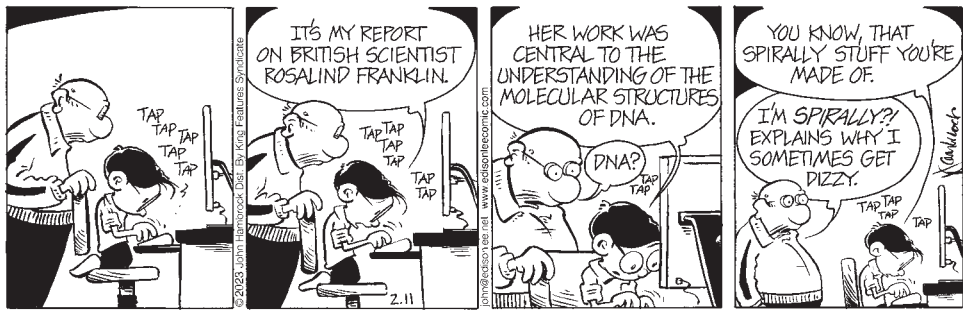
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



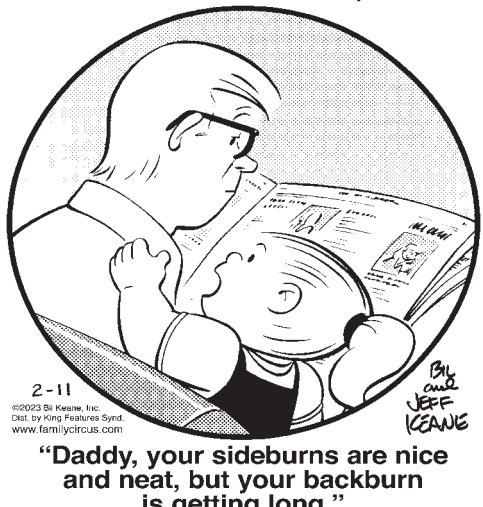
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Hot spot
 - 1 Homer's son
 - 5 More polite
 - 10 Dubai rulers
 - 12 Bowl
 - 13 Muscular power
 - 14 Fixes
 - 15 Easter find
 - 16 Broad st.
 - 18 Soak up
 - 19 Fencer's cry
 - 21 Gift toppers
 - 22 Wood slivers
 - 24 Worship site
 - 25 Track athletes
 - 29 Bill
 - 30 Parliament Hill setting
 - 32 Writer Beattie
 - 33 Vein yield
 - 34 Salon stuff
 - 35 "The Kiss" creator
 - 37 So out, it's in
 - 39 Effortless charm
- DOWN**
- 1 Trouble
 - 2 Pedro's pals
 - 3 Total at the register
 - 4 Due follower
 - 5 Newborn's need
 - 6 Fury
 - 7 Curse bleeper
 - 8 Funds
 - 9 Coarse files
 - 11 African tongue
 - 17 Avenue in Monopoly
 - 20 Lewis's partner
 - 21 Floppy top
 - 23 Rags
 - 25 Madrid Mrs.
 - 26 Bamboo eaters
 - 27 Con-vertible
 - 28 Veer suddenly
 - 29 River boat
 - 31 African lilies
 - 33 Addition column
 - 36 Bar cubes
 - 38 Greek vowel

P	A	B	L	O		R	E	B	A	R
A	T	E	I	N		A	D	E	L	E
T	H	R	E	E		T	I	R	E	S
T	O	M		A	T	T	E	M	P	T
E	M	U		L	I	L		U	P	S
R	E	D	S		N	E	W	D	O	
		A	P	P		D	O	A		
	S	O	A	R	S		O	S	L	O
T	E	N		A	K	A		H	A	G
I	N	I	T	I	A	L		O	U	R
M	O	O	R	S		T	O	R	R	E
E	R	N	I	E		A	N	T	I	S
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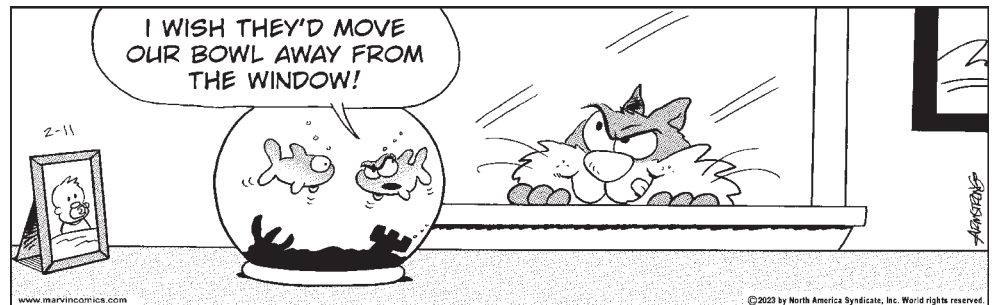
Yesterday's answer

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

2-11

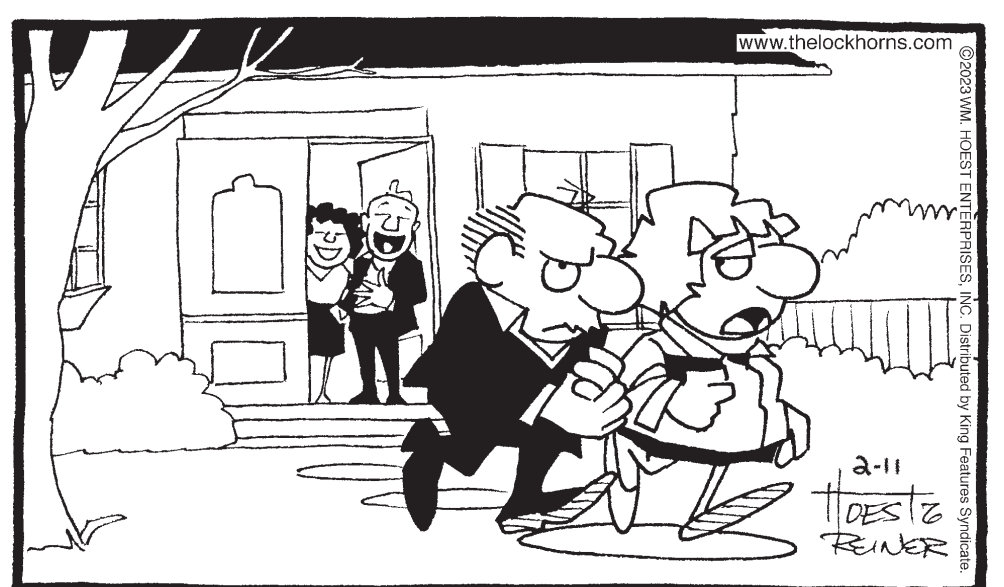
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



"BY TOMORROW, THEY'LL HAVE TOLD EVERYBODY HOW YOU GOT YOUR HAND STUCK IN THEIR SOFA LOOKING FOR CHANGE."

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

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

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Difficulty: ★★ ★

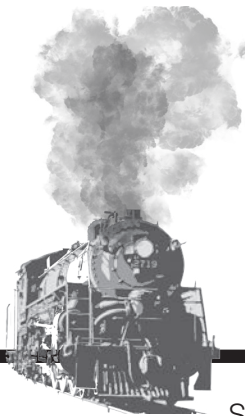
2-11

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ ★

2-10



AREA ROUNDUP

ROADRUNNERS' BASEBALL SEASON UNDERWAY

By Democrat staff

Fans will have to wait until Feb. 25 to see State Fair Community College baseball at home, but the team will have a good amount of game experience under its belt by that time.

The Roadrunners finished up the first leg of their three-state road trip to begin the year, one which also includes games in Tennessee, then the Dallas area before returning to play East Central College in a doubleheader two days before their home opener.

In the first of three defeats, State Fair went up by three runs at one point before falling to Coastal Alabama, 6-5. Power was the catalyst for the offense despite the defeat as Logan Miller, John Greenwood and Benit Thacker all hit one out of the park, while Chase Carson allowed only one earned run in three innings and Jacob House pitched two scoreless innings of relief.

Things were tougher for the Roadrunners in their other two contests. Coastal Alabama also won the other game in Wednesday's doubleheader, 17-2, although SFCC outfielder Sam Russo had hits in all three of his plate appearances.

On Thursday, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College topped the Roadrunners, 10-2. First baseman Calen Kruger drove in both of State Fair's runs on a two-run shot in the fourth inning, while third baseman Conlan Downey and center fielder Logan Miller each collected a pair of hits in the loss. **SFCC hoops falls again on road**



Smith-Cotton's 200-yard medley relay team of Mollie Miner, Camden Youngblood, Lauren Chancellor, Madison Lane pose with their medals from the ILCS held earlier this week at KC Central High School. PHOTO COURTESY OF SMITH-COTTON SWIM & DIVE TEAM

State Fair Community College men's basketball dropped its eighth contest in a row with Wednesday's 83-80 defeat at Metropolitan Community College.

The Roadrunners, who shot above 54% in both halves, allowed the Wolves to shoot just 12 of 32 (37.5%) from the field after halftime but allowed the hosts to go to the free-throw line 29 times total, including 18 in the second half.

Tazir Smith and Devon Ellis went a combined 12 of 15 from the field and each went for 17 points in the loss. Jules Bikoy finished with 14, Dalton Gayman added a dozen and Elijah Bernstein scored 11. MCC also had five scorers in double figures, includ-

ing Christian Bradford and Jacques Thomas with 19 and 18 points, respectively.

SFCC plays a doubleheader with the Lady Roadrunners at Three Rivers Community College on Saturday before returning home to take on MSU-West Plains on Feb. 15.

S-C competes at ILCS

The Smith-Cotton girls swim team competed earlier this week at the Independent League Championships, the program's final event before this postseason competition begins this weekend.

Overall, S-C finished eighth out of the 13 teams in attendance with 107 points, behind Warrensburg with 107. Notre Dame De Sion edged out

St. Teresa's Academy for first place, 449.5 to 404.

The best finish from the Lady Tigers came out of the 100-yard fly event, where Mollie Miner took fourth place. Also, Camden Youngblood finished sixth in the 500 free. Top-eight finishers earned medals at the competition.

S-C's 200 free and medley relay teams each took sixth place. Additionally, Youngblood ended ninth in the 200 IM, and Madison Lane finished there in 11 dives. Lauren Chancellor was an 11th-place finisher in the 200 free and ended 15th in the 100 free, while Lane was 15th in the 200 IM. Those who made it into the top-16 were welcomed back for the finals on the second day of the event Tuesday.

Why Chiefs will win Super Bowl: experience and talent

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Kansas City Chiefs are on the Super Bowl stage for the third time in four years, the first time triumphantly marching off with the Lombardi Trophy and the second time slinking away home after a lopsided loss in the big game.

Patrick Mahomes and Co. know better than anyone winning the Super Bowl is a whole lot better than losing it.

Experience alone gives the Chiefs a major advantage as they prepare to face the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday. But then you throw in Mahomes, the league's newly minted two-time MVP, along with transcendent tight end Travis Kelce, Chris Jones and the rest of the stars of their rebuilt defense, and coach Andy Reid pulling all the right strings and, well, there are plenty of reasons why the Chiefs will be celebrating another championship by the end of the weekend.

"I think you have a better understanding of

the whole process," Mahomes said of the Super Bowl buildup, "so you can kind of find those little windows where you can get a little extra film study and a little extra rest."

"Especially the first one, when I was in Miami, it was kind of, 'You got to go here. You got to go here.' And you were just trying to figure out a way to get it all done. Whereas now I have a better understanding of the process."

Mahomes has a pretty good understanding of just about everything.

He set career bests for yards passing with 5,250 this season, led the league with 41 touchdown passes and helped the Chiefs win a seventh consecutive AFC West title, all while juggling plenty of off-the-field life: the birth of his son, ownership in several Kansas City sports franchises and a myriad other business opportunities and investments.

It's why he earned 48 of 50 first-place votes for MVP at NFL Honors on Thursday night.

See WIN | A15



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce smiles as he listens to a question during an NFL football media availability in Scottsdale, Ariz., Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. The Chiefs will play against the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl 57 on Sunday.

PHOTO BY ROSS D. FRANKLIN | AP PHOTO

Patrick Mahomes wins 2nd MVP award ahead of Super Bowl

By Rob Maaddi
AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX — Patrick Mahomes dominated the voting for the AP NFL Most Valuable Player award. Now, he'll try to break the MVP curse.

Mahomes, who also won in 2018, easily outdistanced Jalen Hurts, receiving 48 of 50 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of media members who regularly cover the league. He earned 490 points to 193 for Hurts, who got one first-place vote, 26 seconds, 11 thirds and 10 fourths.

Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs (16-3) face Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles (16-3) in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Mahomes thanked the Chiefs organization and his teammates in a video at NFL Honors on Thursday night.

"I would never be standing here without y'all," Mahomes said. "Every day we've given everything we have together to win the ultimate goal, the Super Bowl. Let's continue to go for that dream this week-



AP Most Valuable Player Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes except his award on tape during the NFL Honors award show ahead of the Super Bowl 57 football game, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, in Phoenix.

PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILLIP | AP PHOTO

end."

The last nine MVPs to play in the Super Bowl that season are 0-9. Kurt Warner was the last to win both the MVP award and Super Bowl following the 1999 season.

Bills quarterback Josh Allen received the other first-place vote, finishing third with 151 points. Bengals QB Joe Burrow placed fourth and Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson came in fifth.

The 27-year-old Mahomes is the third player to win his second MVP before

turning 28, joining Brett Favre (27) and Jim Brown (22).

Mahomes was the 2018 NFL MVP in his first full season as a starter.

The Chiefs lost the AFC championship game that season but Mahomes led them to a Super Bowl victory over San Francisco the following season.

In the second-closest race Thursday, Brian Daboll won AP Coach of the Year after leading the New York Giants to their first playoff appearance in six years.

See MVP | A15

Super Bowl's grass turf required nearly 2-year process

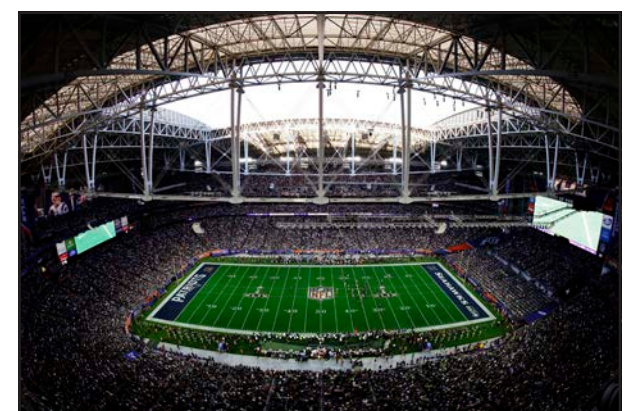
By David Brandt
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Nick Pappas said tending to natural grass in the middle of the Sonoran Desert requires a little art, a little science and a little intuition.

It also requires a whole lot of modern machinery.

The NFL's players have made it no secret they prefer playing on natural grass as opposed to synthetic turf. They'll get their wish in Super Bowl 57 — thanks to Pappas and his small group of field specialists who are getting the surface ready at State Farm Stadium for Sunday's game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles.

"For this one, obviously, we're giving it a little extra care," said Pappas, who is one of the NFL's field surface directors. "We've got a lot of groundskeepers here for about a month, putting eyes on it, putting hands on it, working on it all



The New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks compete during the first half of NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz. The NFL's players have made it no secret they prefer playing on natural grass as opposed to synthetic turf. They'll get their wish in Super Bowl 57.

FILE PHOTO BY MORRY GASH | AP PHOTO

day, every day, getting it ready for game day."

The home field of the Arizona Cardinals is unique in that the grass is on a giant, rolling track. Every day, the entire field is rolled outside of the retractable roof stadium, where it can get unobstructed access to Arizona's abundant sunshine. Then it can be rolled back inside for the chilly winter nights.

It's quite a process: The stadium's website says the grass is on a

"single 40-inch deep tray measuring 234 feet wide and 403 feet long. Rolling on 546 steel wheels which rest on 13 railroad-like tracks, the field travels the 740 feet inside or out of the stadium in approximately 70 minutes at the push of a button."

Only one of the NFL's other venues has a similar setup — Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas which is the site of Super Bowl 58 next year.

See TURF | A15

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday ON TAP
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
 7 p.m. State Fair Community College at Three Rivers Community College
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 5 p.m. State Fair Community College at Three Rivers Community College
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
 1 p.m. Smith-Cotton at Boonville
 Tipton vs St. Charles (at Father Tolton)
 Sacred Heart vs Steelville (at Columbia)
 3:30 p.m. Russellville at Cole Camp
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
 11:30 a.m. Tipton vs East Buchanan (at Father Tolton)
 2 p.m. Russellville at Cole Camp
ON AIR
AUTO RACING
 3 a.m. CBSSN — ABB FIA Formula E: Round 4, Hyderabad, India (Taped)
BOXING
 8 p.m. SHO — Showtime Championship: Rey Vargas vs. O'Shaquie Foster (Super-Featherweights), San Antonio
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
 11 a.m. BTN — Penn St. at Maryland
 ESPN — Kentucky at Georgia
 ESPN2 — West Virginia at Texas
 ESPNU — Pittsburgh at Florida St.
 FOX — Providence at St. John's
 FS1 — Marquette at Georgetown
 11:30 a.m. USA — St. Bonaventure at Duquesne
 Noon CBS — Kansas at

Oklahoma
 SECN — South Carolina at Mississippi
 12:30 p.m. CBSSN — Army at Navy
 1 p.m. ESPN — Alabama at Auburn
 ESPN2 — Clemson at North Carolina
 ESPNU — S. Illinois at Drake
 FOX — UConn at Creighton
 FS1 — Rutgers at Illinois
 1:30 p.m. USA — Fordham at Davidson
 2:30 p.m. CBSSN — Mercer at Chattanooga
 SECN — Vanderbilt at Florida
 3 p.m. BTN — Wisconsin at Nebraska
 ESPN — Duke at Virginia
 ESPN2 — Baylor at TCU
 ESPNU — Loyola of Chicago at Richmond
 FOX — UNLV at San Diego St.
 4 p.m. ACCN — Georgia Tech at Wake Forest
 5 p.m. CBSSN — Saint Mary's (Cal) at Portland
 ESPN — Indiana at Michigan
 ESPN2 — Oklahoma St. at Iowa St.
 ESPNU — Mississippi St. at Arkansas
 PAC-12N — Southern Cal at Oregon St.
 SECN — Missouri at Tennessee
 6 p.m. ACCN — Louisville at Miami
 7 p.m. CBSSN — Wyoming at Boise St.
 ESPN2 — Arizona at Stanford
 FS1 — Seton Hall at Villanova
 PAC-12N — Arizona St. at California
 7:30 p.m. SECN — Texas A&M at LSU
 9 p.m. CBSSN — Utah St. at San Jose St.

ESPN — UCLA at Oregon
 ESPN2 — BYU at Gonzaga
 FS1 — Colorado at Utah
 9:30 p.m. ESPNU — UC Riverside at UC Irvine
 PAC-12N — Washington at Washington St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 10 a.m. CBSSN — Army at Navy
COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)
 5 p.m. BTN — Minnesota at Wisconsin
 7 p.m. ESPNU — Michigan at Michigan St.
COLLEGE HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)
 7:30 p.m. BTN — Wisconsin at Minnesota
COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN'S)
 11 a.m. ACCN — Michigan at Virginia
COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)
 1:30 p.m. ACCN — Wofford at Clemson
COLLEGE WRESTLING
 1 p.m. BTN — Minnesota at Wisconsin
FIBA BASKETBALL
 7 a.m. NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup: Rio Grande Valley vs. São Paulo, Semifinal, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain (Taped)
 9:30 a.m. NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup: Lenovo Tenerife vs. US Monastir, Semifinal, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain (Taped)
FIGURE SKATING
 11 a.m. E! — ISU: The Four Continents Championships, Women's Free, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Taped)
GOLF
 7 a.m. GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Trophy Hassan II, Final Round, Royal Golf Dar Es Salam, Rabat,

Morocco
 Noon GOLF — PGA Tour: The WM Phoenix Open, Third Round, TPC Scottsdale — Stadium Course, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 2 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The WM Phoenix Open, Third Round, TPC Scottsdale — Stadium Course, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 11 p.m. GOLF — DP World Tour: The Singapore Classic, Final Round, Laguna National Golf Resort Club, Singapore
HORSE RACING
 11:30 a.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
 3 p.m. FS1 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS
 7 p.m. ESPN — UFC 284 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Perth, Australia
NBA BASKETBALL
 5 p.m. NBATV — Philadelphia at Brooklyn
 7:30 p.m. ABC — LA Lakers at Golden State
NHL HOCKEY
 11:55 a.m. ABC — Tampa Bay at Dallas
 2:30 p.m. ABC — Washington at Boston
 6 p.m. NHLN — NY Rangers at Carolina
RUGBY (MEN'S)
 Noon CNBC — Six Nations: France at Ireland, Round 2 (Taped)
 2 p.m. CNBC — Six Nations: Wales at Scotland, Round 2 (Taped)
SKIING
 1:30 p.m. NBC — FIS: World Alpine Skiing Championships, Meribel, France (Taped)
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 6:30 a.m. USA — Premier League: Chelsea at West Ham United
 9 a.m. USA — Premier League: Wolverhampton at Southampton
 9:20 a.m. FS2 — FIFA Club World Cup: Al Ahly vs. Flamengo, Third-Place Match, Rabat, Morocco
 11:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: Newcastle United at Bournemouth
 12:50 p.m. FS2 — FIFA Club World Cup: Real Madrid vs. Al-Hilal, Final, Rabat, Morocco
 3:50 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF U-17 Championship Group Stage: Canada vs. Trinidad and Tobago, Group B, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala
 6:50 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF U-17 Championship Group Stage: U.S. vs. Barbados, Group B, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala
SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
 6 a.m. CBSSN — Bundesliga: Eintracht at Bayern

Munich
TENNIS
 7 a.m. TENNIS — Dallas-ATP, Montpellier-ATP, Cordoba-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA, Linz-WTA Semifinals
 4 p.m. TENNIS — Dallas-ATP Semifinal
TRACK AND FIELD
 3 p.m. NBC — USATF: The Millrose Games, New York
Sunday ON AIR
AUTO RACING
 5 a.m. CBSSN — ABB FIA Formula E: Round 4, Hyderabad, India (Taped)
AUTO RACING
 3 p.m. NBC — Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship: Round 6, Tampa, Fla.
 Midnight (Monday)
 CNBC — Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship: Round 6, Tampa, Fla. (Taped)
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
 11 a.m. ESPN2 — Temple at Memphis
 Noon CBS — Michigan St. at Ohio St.
 FS1 — Iowa at Minnesota
 1 p.m. BTN — Purdue at Northwestern
 3 p.m. ESPN — SMU at Wichita St.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 11 a.m. ACCN — Boston College at North Carolina
 ESPNU — Rhode Island at VCU
 Noon SECN — Florida at Georgia
 1 p.m. ACCN — Florida St. at Virginia Tech
 ESPN — LSU at South Carolina
 ESPN2 — Houston at South Florida
 ESPNU — Oklahoma at Kansas St.
 PAC-12N — Stanford at Arizona St.
 2 p.m. FS1 — Rutgers at Iowa
 SECN — Texas A&M at Mississippi St.
 3 p.m. ACCN — Syracuse at Notre Dame
 PAC-12N — Oregon at UCLA (Joined in Progress)
 4 p.m. SECN — Auburn at Alabama
COLLEGE WRESTLING
 11 a.m. BTN — Northwestern at Purdue
FIBA BASKETBALL
 6 p.m. NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup: TBD, Third-Place Game, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain (Taped)
 7:30 p.m. NBATV — FIBA Intercontinental Cup: TBD, Final, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain (Taped)

FIGURE SKATING
 10:30 a.m. E! — ISU: The Four Continents Championships, Men's Free, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Taped)
GOLF
 Noon GOLF — PGA Tour: The WM Phoenix Open, Final Round, TPC Scottsdale — Stadium Course, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 2 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The WM Phoenix Open, Final Round, TPC Scottsdale — Stadium Course, Scottsdale, Ariz.
HORSE RACING
 1 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races
NBA BASKETBALL
 1 p.m. ABC — Memphis at Boston
NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL
 11 a.m. NBATV — South Bay at Fort Wayne
NFL FOOTBALL
 5:30 p.m. FOX — Super Bowl LVII: Kansas City vs. Philadelphia, Glendale, Ariz.
NHL HOCKEY
 12:30 p.m. NHLN — San Jose at Washington
RODEO
 11 a.m. CBS — PBR: The Express Ranches Classic, Championship Round, Tulsa, Okla. (Taped)
 1 p.m. CBSSN — PBR: The Express Ranches Classic, Round 2 and Championship Round, Tulsa, Okla. (Taped)
 6:30 p.m. CBSSN — The American Rodeo: The American Contender, East Regional Final, Lexington, Ky. (Taped)
RUGBY (MEN'S)
 2 p.m. CNBC — Six Nations: Italy at England, Round 2 (Taped)
SKIING
 Noon CNBC — FIS: Ski Jumping World Cup, Lake Placid, N.Y. (Taped)
 1 p.m. NBC — FIS: Free-style Skiing World Cup, Park City, Utah (Taped)
 2 p.m. NBC — FIS: World Alpine Skiing Championships, Courchevel, France (Taped)
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 8 a.m. USA — Premier League: Manchester United at Leeds United
 10:30 a.m. USA — Premier League: Aston Villa at Manchester City
 11 a.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Fiorentina at Juventus
 6:50 p.m. FS2 — CONCACAF U-17 Championship Group Stage: Costa Rica vs. Guadeloupe, Group C, Guatemala City
TENNIS
 7 a.m. TENNIS — Montpellier-ATP, Abu Dhabi-WTA Finals
 1 p.m. TENNIS — Dallas-ATP Final
 4 p.m. TENNIS — Cordoba-ATP Final

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. EST today (8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Libra into Scorpio.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023:

You are bright, intelligent and enthusiastic. You like to help people improve their lives because you often see better ways of doing things. This is a quieter, slower-paced year. Don't hesitate to ask for help from others. Take time to rejuvenate yourself and focus on what brings you happiness.

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)

★★★ Tread carefully today, because many people are argumentative. And as we both know, you have a short fuse. Your challenge will be not to take the bait. Why turn someone against you? Why make your day miserable? Go with what works. Tonight: Intense!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ If you become entrenched in your point of view today — especially at work or about a health issue or something related to your pet — you will probably be hung out to dry. People will bark back. Knowing this ahead of time, keep your head down and your powder dry. Tonight: Cooperate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ This is a tricky day. On one hand, people are argumentative. On the other hand, you have different fingers. Seriously, despite possible disagreements, you are in a creative headspace. Write down your clever ideas! If you have a chance, act on them. Tonight: Work hard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Family discussions will be challenging today. Knowing this ahead of time, why bother? Keep things light. Keep smiling. Keep the peace. Likewise, this is a tough day talking to your kids. (Tougher than usual.) Therefore, postpone heavy-duty discussions if you can. Tonight: Strong passions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Today you're full of inventive, creative, wild and crazy ideas, which means you have to be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert. Feel free to act on these ideas after the Moon Alert is over. (Although they might no longer appeal to you.) Avoid family squabbles. Family is gold. Keep the peace. Tonight: Home repairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Financial arguments might arise this morning during the Moon Alert, which means this is a very poor time to make financial decisions or spend money. Therefore, don't get your belly in a rash. Wait until the Moon Alert is over. Admittedly, it's still an argumentative day. Tonight: You're convincing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ People are forceful in their opinions today, and they won't hesitate to speak up, you included. However, there is no point to arguing during the Moon Alert. After the Moon Alert, you still might argue, but about something else — probably about money or possessions. You don't need this. Tonight: Fix something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ After the Moon Alert today, the Moon will move into your sign, which gives you a little edge over all the other signs. In other words, it makes you a bit luckier! However, it also heightens your emotions. Avoid family squabbles. Tonight: You win.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Discussions with friends and groups might be a bit wild today. Everyone's got an idea to run up the flagpole. However, wait until the Moon Alert is over before you agree to anything. Actually, try to sit this one out, because someone is looking for a fight. Tonight: Investigate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Don't try to convince bosses, parents or authority figures to agree with you this morning. Don't volunteer for anything. Wait until the Moon Alert is over. After that, be patient with friends and members of clubs if you want to get anything done. Tonight: Friendly talk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Steer clear of discussions about religion or controversial politics this morning. These arguments will go nowhere. After the Moon Alert is over, the wheels are back on the track. However, your dealings with bosses, parents, teachers or the police will be challenging. Tonight: Keep the peace.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Avoid important decisions about inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt or insurance issues this morning during the Moon Alert. It's a bad time to agree to anything, especially financial matters. Afterward, be patient with opinionated people. Tonight: Avoid controversial subjects.

BORN TODAY

Actress Jennifer Aniston (1969), actress Natalie Dormer (1982), actor, comedian Leslie Nielsen (1926)



FOX Sports play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt, left, with game analyst Greg Olsen, right, pose before an NFL Football game in Arlington, Texas, on Nov. 7, 2021. Burkhardt and Olsen will call their first Super Bowl for Fox on Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL AINSWORTH | AP PHOTO

Fox's Burkhardt, Olsen prepared to call their 1st Super Bowl

By Joe Reedy

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Greg Olsen and his teammates at Wayne Hills High School in New Jersey knew it was a big game when Kevin Burkhardt showed up for interviews to prepare to call their game on local radio over the weekend.

More than two decades later, Burkhardt and Olsen will be together in the booth for the biggest football game of the season.

They will call their first Super Bowl for Fox on Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I mean, it's crazy, the full circle nature of Kevin and I's relationship from where it started as a 16-year-old kid in high school who was just happy the local radio station guy wants to cover his game," Olsen said. "He's been by my side the entire time, and I'm very grateful for that comfort and friendship. We all know everything is about relationships and being around people you enjoy. I think that's what makes this job a lot of fun."

Burkhardt's career began in North Jersey as the sports director of a tiny AM station. He called some of Olsen's games when he was a standout at Wayne Hills.

As Olsen was winding down a 15-year NFL career, he expressed interest in becoming an analyst once his playing days were over. His audition with Fox ended up being with

Burkhardt.

In 2017, while playing for the Carolina Panthers, Olsen was part of a three-person booth with Burkhardt and Charles Davis for a game when the Panthers were on their bye week.

In 2020, Burkhardt and Olsen worked five XFL games. After Olsen's retirement in 2021, he joined Burkhardt again as Fox's No. 2 crew on NFL games.

When Joe Buck and Troy Aikman moved to ESPN's "Monday Night Football" for the 2022 season, they moved up to Fox's top team.

Fox Sports CEO and Executive Producer Eric Shanks has been pleased with Burkhardt and Olsen's work this season. "The amazing thing about people like Greg is kind of that essence of John Madden in that you're a teacher and an analyst. If you have that gear of seeing things that other people don't and explaining it, that's the perfect combination," Shanks said.

While there have been 35 Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks, the number of announcers who have called the game is smaller. Burkhardt becomes only the 12th to handle play-by-play duties for what is the most-watched television program every year. Al Michaels and Pat Summerall have the most with 11.

Burkhardt joins a group that includes Dick Enberg, Curt Gowdy, and Jim Nantz.

"I know how rare it is

and how much of an honor it is," Burkhardt said. "I looked up to those guys throughout my childhood and adulthood even. I feel very lucky to be in that group and be mentioned in the same breath."

Burkhardt, who has been with Fox since 2013, said he and Olsen maintained the same approach during the week they had even when they were the second crew. The only changes have been more viewers and cameras.

"It's been seamless, not just on the game but the whole week," Burkhardt said. "We're talking through things, and I'm picking his brain on certain ideas, and it just feels so easy."

Erin Andrews said the switch from Buck and Aikman to Burkhardt and Olsen has provided new energy to the crew.

"You can feel the excitement they have. We're doing Cowboys-Packers at Lambeau Field, and they start playing 'Jump Around' in the fourth quarter, and Greg's like, 'This is awesome.' It's been a cool jolt for all of us," Andrews said.

Olsen, who becomes the 24th analyst to call a Super Bowl, has emerged as one of the top analysts despite working under pressure this season.

Fox announced last May that Tom Brady would become the network's No. 1 analyst and team up with Burkhardt after he retired.

Brady said last Monday that he won't begin with Fox until the 2024 season

after he announced on Feb. 1 that he was wrapping up his playing career for good.

That announcement was a relief to Olsen and the rest of the crew that they would be in place for another season.

"To know now that we're going to be able to go past this Sunday and move into next season is a big relief for me and something I'm excited about," Olsen said. "I'll approach this game the same way I did the entire year. You don't know how many of these moments you're going to get. As a player, you never know how many Super Bowls you will get to. We've had so many cool moments this year, but it can be fleeting and go fast."

"I'll try to continue to improve and just keep doing what we're doing."

Olsen said the biggest key to Sunday's game will be Kansas City trying to prevent Philadelphia from jumping to a big lead early. The Eagles have scored on their opening drives 12 times, including both play-off games.

"The opening possession is going to tell us a lot. If I'm Kansas City, I have the best player in the world (Patrick Mahomes), but Philadelphia is such an aggressive team early that you've got to match or exceed that," he said. "If the Chiefs fall behind, the Eagles will run at you, and those pass rushers will come at you. They're built to play with the lead."

Tiger Woods returns to Riviera to play 1st event of the year

By Doug Ferguson

AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods is returning to competition for the first time without the use of a cart since July, announcing Friday he will play at the Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles.

Woods was hopeful of playing next week's tournament at Riviera, where he is the host of an event that typically had the strongest field of the West Coast swing even before it became elevated with a \$20 million purse.

The uncertainty came from a bout with plantar fasciitis as he was preparing to play in December. That kept him from playing in his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas. He played

a made-for-TV exhibition over 12 holes and the PNC Championship with his son. Both times he was allowed to ride in a cart.

Carts are not allowed on the PGA Tour — Casey Martin used one under the Americans with Disabilities Act — and Woods has said he was not interested in using one to play at the highest level.

"I'm ready to play an ACTUAL PGA Tour event next week," Woods said on Twitter, a reference to playing only three majors last year.

It will be his first regular PGA Tour event since Oct. 25, 2020, when he tied for 72nd against a 78-man field in his title defense of the Zozo Champion-

ship. The tournament had moved that year from Japan to Sherwood Country Club in California because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Woods has said he can hit all the shots, "I just can't get from Point A to Point B."

That he can play next week is an encouraging sign that he will return to the Masters in April, although missing the Bahamas was an indication Woods doesn't entirely control when his legs and feet will act up.

Woods was recovering from a fifth back surgery in February 2021 when he crashed his SUV on a coastal road in Los Angeles two days after the Genesis Invitational, suffering multiple fractures of his right leg and

ankle.

Woods missed 14 months, and it was remarkable that he returned to the Masters last April and made the cut. He also made the cut in the PGA Championship, only to withdraw after the third round of Southern Hills with a severe limp. He skipped the U.S. Open to make sure he was ready for St. Andrews, but missed the cut in the British Open.

Riviera is where Woods made his PGA Tour debut as a 16-year-old amateur in 1992, and remains the one course he has never quite mastered. He played 11 times at Riviera as a pro, the most of any course without winning.

Mexico turns to new national team soccer coach Diego Cocca

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Diego Cocca will have his work cut out as Mexico's new national soccer team coach, after Mexico failed to make it out of the group stage at the 2022 World Cup.

It was the first time Mexico hadn't advanced to the round of 16 since 1978.

But the Argentine coach has a reputation for breaking losing streaks. Cocca, 50, was presented Friday as the new national coach, replacing Gerardo "Tata" Martino.

Some had been pulling for Miguel Herrera or Uruguayan Guillermo Almada to take over the helm. But Cocca was the coach who helped Mexico's first-division Atlas team win its first domestic championship in 70 years.

"I believe a lot in Mexican soccer players and their talent," Cocca said. "But talent is not enough, you have to give them a whole lot of tools so they can take off, and that is my goal, I want to make them take off."

"I want it to be a

winning team and to be able to face whatever is thrown at it," he said of the national team. "They sky is the limit."

Cocca has something that Martino may have lacked: a deep connection and experience with Mexican soccer.

Cocca played for Atlas, Veracruz and Querétaro in the Mexican league and has coached Atlas, Santos, Tijuana and, during a brief stint, the Tigres of Nuevo Leon.

Cocca has his sights set firmly on doing better in the 2026 World Cup, which is to be held jointly in North America. Mexico hopes to have something of a home field advantage.

"It is beautiful to dream of going to a World Cup and having happy people and filling stadiums, and even more so because it is going to be held here," he said.

The director of Mexico's national teams, Jaime Ordiales, said the choice was the right one.

"The analysis that we came to was that it isn't enough to debut players, rather you have to consolidate them to win," Ordiales said.



Diego Cocca is presented as the new coach for Mexico's national soccer team at a news conference in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. PHOTO BY MARCO UGARTE | AP PHOTO

Favre seeks dismissal from Mississippi welfare funds lawsuit

By Emily Wagster Pettus

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Brett Favre's lawyers filed papers Friday again asking a Mississippi judge to dismiss the retired NFL quarterback from a lawsuit that demands repayment of millions of dollars of welfare money intend-

ed to help some of the poorest people in the U.S.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services last year sued Favre and more than three dozen other people or businesses. The suit says money from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program was improperly spent,

including on projects Favre supported: \$5 million for a volleyball arena at the university where Favre's daughter played the sport and \$1.7 million toward development of a concussion treatment drug.

"It is apparent that MDHS has sued Favre, a Mississippi and national celebrity, to try to deflect

responsibility for its own egregious wrongdoing in allowing tens of millions of dollars of its public funds to be misspent — funds for which MDHS itself admits it was 'exclusively responsible,'" said the filing Friday by Favre's lawyers, including Eric D. Herschmann of Austin, Texas.

Favre, who lives in Mississippi, sought to be dismissed from the state lawsuit in November, then the state revised its demand against him in December. The filing Friday responds to the state's December demand.

The latest attempt to get out of the state lawsuit came a day after Favre filed three defamation lawsuits against Mississippi Auditor Shad White and two former NFL players who have sharply criticized Favre in their roles as national sportscasters — Pat McAfee and Shannon Sharpe.

On his podcast Friday, McAfee scoffed at the defamation suit. He said he received a "warning shot" from Favre's lawyers before it was filed, in a letter that demanded he erase every video he had recorded that included mentions of Favre and the alleged misspending of welfare money.

"I looked at that. I said, 'That is hilarious.' Of course we're not doing that," McAfee said on "The Pat McAfee Show." McAfee said Favre's

lawyers also demanded that he publicly apologize to Favre by Wednesday evening. Talking to others in his studio, McAfee said: "I'm one of the worst apologizers in the word."

In the lawsuit against McAfee, Favre said McAfee had used "outrageous falsehoods" that included calling Favre a "thief" who was "stealing from poor people in Mississippi." McAfee said Friday that the lawsuit used quotes from him that were "certainly accurate." He said he also frequently said "allegedly" when discussing Favre.

The lawsuit against White said the Republican state auditor "has carried out an outrageous media campaign of malicious and false accusations" against Favre to try to boost his own political career. Fletcher Freeman, a spokesperson for White, responded that White has spoken truthfully about the case with statements that are backed by years of work by professionals in the auditor's office.

In the suit against Sharpe, Favre said Sharpe made "egregiously false" statements about him on the Fox Sports talk show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed," including that Favre "stole money from people that really needed money."

The Associated Press left phone messages for Sharpe on Thursday, seeking comment about

the defamation lawsuits. He did not immediately respond to those messages and had not publicly responded by Friday.

John Davis, who was Mississippi Department of Human Services director from 2016 to mid-2019, pleaded guilty to state and federal charges last year in the Mississippi welfare scandal, and he agreed to testify against others in the state's largest public corruption case. His sentencing has been delayed.

No criminal charges have been brought against Favre. He has repaid \$1.1 million he received for speaking fees from a nonprofit group that spent TANF money with approval from the Mississippi Department of Human Services. White said Favre never showed up to give the speeches.

Favre's daughter started playing volleyball at his alma mater, the University of Southern Mississippi, in 2017. The volleyball arena was a pet project of the NFL Hall of Fame quarterback and he pledged to lead fundraising efforts for it. Previous filings in the state's civil lawsuit show text message exchanges between Favre and others about directing money to the volleyball facility from a nonprofit organization that had Department of Human Services contracts.

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MVP

From Page A11

Daboll received 16 first-place votes and 123 total points to outpace 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, who got 12 votes for first and 100 points.

Jaguars coach Doug Pederson finished third with 75 points, including five first-place votes.

"It's a tremendous honor," Daboll said. "You don't think about that when you take a job. You think about leading a team and building the culture."

Other awards announced Thursday:

DeMeco Ryans, who spent the past two seasons as the defensive coordinator of the 49ers, was named AP Assistant Coach of the Year. He is now the head

coach of the Texans.

Nick Bosa made it a landslide for the AP Defensive Player of the Year award. San Francisco's All-Pro defensive end received 46 first-place votes after leading the NFL with 18 1/2 sacks in the regular season.

Bosa and the 49ers lost to the Eagles 31-7 in the NFC title game. He joked that he's ready to start the season now.

"One weekend in Las Vegas is enough for me," Bosa said.

Jets cornerback Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner won the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award. Gardner, the No. 4 overall pick in the draft, started every game for the Jets. He had two interceptions and allowed just 33 catches on 73 targets.

Jets receiver Garrett Wilson edged out Seattle Seahawks running back

Kenneth Walker for the AP Offensive Rookie of the year award.

"This means everything," Wilson said. "You put in a lot of work to end up in this point and to see it come to fruition, it's awesome."

Wilson and Gardner are the third teammates to win the offensive and defensive rookie awards in the same season. Alvin Kamara and Marshon Lattimore did it with the Saints in 2017 and Detroit's Mel Farr and Lem Barney did it in 1967.

"I was more happy for Garrett," Gardner said.

Justin Jefferson ran away with the AP Offensive Player of the Year award. Minnesota's All-Pro wide receiver got 35 first-place votes and earned 192 points, outdistancing runner-up Mahomes by a significant margin.

"It means a lot, especially where I come from, this doesn't happen," Jefferson said. "I was always doubted, wasn't highly recruited. Having this award is amazing."

Geno Smith, who earned his first Pro Bowl berth after becoming a full-time starter for the first time since 2014, is the AP Comeback Player of the Year. The Seattle Seahawks quarterback threw for 4,282 yards, 30 TDs and led Seattle to an NFC wild-card berth.

Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott was the Walter Payton Man of the Year. The prestigious award recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service activities off the field, as well as excellence on the field.

Turf

From Page A11

The Super Bowl's field looked immaculate on Tuesday morning, with thick, lush grass, the NFL logo painted in the center and team logos in each of the end zones. This particular batch of turf — which has a Bermuda grass base that includes rye grass overseed — started growing at a local sod farm in May 2021.

"It's a long process to get it as heavy, thick and dense as we've been talking about," Pappas said. "We've got to make sure it takes its time, cures and gets ready."

Some of the NFL's play-

ers — including Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers — have said that they would like for the league to switch to natural grass in all of its venues.

Fourteen of the league's 30 stadiums still use a version of synthetic turf. The Hellas Matrix Turf used in Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles is widely considered the best. It's created using a textured and twisted monofilament fiber.

But there's nothing quite like grass.

"I prefer natural grass," Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid said in November. "I've listened to all the studies, density studies, I've seen all the different compounds

they've put in there. I still like grass."

So does Pappas, though he's worked with all kinds of surfaces during his time in turf management. This will be his fourth Super Bowl and he also helped the NFL manage its fields for international games this season played in London, Munich and Mexico City.

The Super Bowl presents some unique challenges, particularly with the extravagant halftime show. This year, nine-time Grammy Award winner Rihanna will take center stage. The yearly mid-game performance is essentially a minor miracle, with operations crews setting up and taking down a made-for-TV concert in

about 30 minutes.

That's a lot of moving parts that could potentially tear up Pappas' field.

But the field surface director said it's just part of the NFL's biggest event, and there are rehearsals so everyone knows what to expect.

"I sleep pretty well, all in all, because of the fact that we're disciplined," Pappas said. "We have a large team here. We're doing everything we can every day."

"We're doing a lot of testing, getting a lot of data and making data-based decisions on how we're managing the field."

AP Pro Football Writer Mark Long contributed to this report.

Ukrainian boys team embracing respite from horrors back home

By John Wawrow

AP Hockey Writer

QUEBEC CITY — The travel, the diplomatic paperwork and out-of-pocket cost of \$20,000 Sean Berube estimated spending crisscrossing Europe to gather a group of 21 Ukrainian refugees to form a hockey team of 11- and 12-year-old boys is a mere pittance compared to the payoff.

The Quebec City businessman would do it all over again in a heartbeat based on the transformation in the children's demeanor — from worrying to wowed — Berube has witnessed over the past two weeks.

"When I met them first in Romania, I could see that some of them were reserved, quiet to themselves. Some of them, I didn't see them smile," Berube told The Associated Press on Friday. "And now, I mean they're totally embracing the moment."

That moment will come Saturday, when the Ukrainian Selects make their debut facing the Boston Junior Bruins in the Class AA division of the International Peeewe Tournament before what is expected to be a capacity crowd of 18,000 — the first sellout in the tournament's 63-year history — at Quebec City's Videotron Centre.

Whatever the outcome, the boys have already won as far as Berube is concerned for the two-week respite they will have enjoyed from the daily horrors of the Russian invasion of Ukraine back home.

And that includes getting a good night's sleep.

"In Ukraine, usually there's sirens at 4 in the morning, so they always have to wake up and rush to the most fortified area of their building," Berube said, referring to what one player told him of experiencing

near daily rocket warnings. "Now, he can sleep the whole night."

The game in the two-loss elimination tournament is the culmination of a process Berube and tournament organizers first launched in August, when the possibility of the team being assembled was first broached by Evgheny Pysarenko.

A former tournament participant and friend of Berube, Pysarenko was inspired after watching many refugee children fleeing Ukraine and crossing into Romania with hockey equipment in tow. He started holding practices as a way to keep the boys occupied before realizing they were talented enough to compete.

The idea, coupled with the team's arrival in Quebec City some 10 days ago, has resulted in an outpouring of support from across Canada, and generated international attention at a time the strife in Ukraine is intensifying a little less than a year since the war began.

Fans attending the game have been asked to wear white as a statement of peace. A contingent of Quebec City's small Ukrainian community will be on hand waving yellow and blue in cheering on a team considered to be a symbol of hope for their country's future.



Ukrainian peewee hockey players check out the arena as they arrive, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 at the Videotron Centre in Quebec City. The Ukraine team will compete at the Quebec international peewee hockey tournament.

FILE PHOTO BY JACQUES BOISSINOT | THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Olga Grayvoronska Sharpe never cared much for hockey during the 11 years she has lived in Canada after leaving behind her family in Kharkiv, Ukraine. She's now eagerly excited to be attending her first game on Saturday.

"I'm sure I won't be able to hold my tears back out of joy for those young men," she said. "It's for the future, the future of life, that life no matter what — no matter (Russian President) Vladimir Putin's plan — will prevail and young people would win."

What hit home for Grayvoronska Sharpe is the memory of crossing into Ukraine by foot last summer and seeing her bombed-out hometown

devastated, while visiting her 82-year-old parents, who refused her pleas to leave Karkhiv by saying, "If we leave, who would stay?"

She then turned her attention to Berube by saying, "this wouldn't be possible without Sean. I view him as a hero."

Berube deflected the attention.

Win

From Page A11

"I think we've just seen him grow as a quarterback. His talent level goes far beyond his ability," Kelce said. "He's a step ahead. He's playing chess out there, like he has three or four moves in his pocket depending on what a defense does. That's why he's going to be the greatest to ever go down."

That's an apt title for Kelce among NFL tight ends: the greatest.

He's had another historic season, setting both franchise and league records, and only Jerry Rice now has more postseason touchdowns than Kelce does. When the Chiefs lost three wide receivers to injuries in the AFC title game, and Mahomes was hobbling along on his ailing right ankle, he still had his dependable tight end — who had been racked by back spasms early that week — when he was under pressure and needed somewhere to go with the ball.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Chiefs defense rarely gets the credit it deserves.

Jones had 15 1/2 sacks in the regular season, two more in the AFC title game and was a finalist for AP Defensive Player of the Year.

Frank Clark is quickly climbing the list of career playoff sacks. And a secondary that often throws four rookies onto the field at once shut down Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow and his flotilla of receiving threats two weeks ago.

"I think we're peaking at the right time, especially after the past three to four weeks," Jones said. "Everyone is ready. We're excited about the game. But we know what we're here for and we're going to keep at it."

Reid wouldn't let them do anything else. This will actually

be his fourth time as a head coach in the Super Bowl — he lost his only try with Philadelphia — and for the past two weeks, he's been guiding the Chiefs through their preparations to his typical exacting standard.

Every meeting and walk-through and practice has been laid out to the minute, the product of all those years of experience.

"This all can take you out of your normal routine," Reid explained. "You try to keep it as close as possible, but you've got the media obligations and a couple other things that they throw in there. But for the most part, we try to keep the practices the same, and we're on the same schedule."

There's an argument to be made that the Eagles have the most complete roster in the NFL, and a side-by-side comparison with the Chiefs might leave the impression that they are the heavy favorites to walk away winners Sunday night.

But the Eagles don't have Mahomes or Kelce. They don't have Jones or "Big Red" on the sideline.

They also haven't experienced the thrill of a Super Bowl victory or the crushing disappointment of a defeat.

"I don't want to have any regrets," Mahomes said. "When I step off this football field, I understand how lucky I am to be in this organization. I understand how lucky I am to play with guys that are going to be Hall of Famers. And so when I look back at the end of my career, I don't want to look back and be like, 'Man, I didn't give everything I have to win to win Super Bowls,' because of the great people I have around me. When I get done with my career, I want to make sure that I know that I gave everything I had on that football field."

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Analysis: After trade deadline, NBA title road got tougher

By Tim Reynolds

AP Basketball Writer

Phoenix now has NBA champion and perennial All-Star Kevin Durant. Dallas now has NBA champion and perennial All-Star Kyrie Irving. In Los Angeles, the Lakers and Clippers have more depth. Memphis and New Orleans just acquired more shooters. Denver got a backup for its two-time MVP. Golden State brought back a key from last season's championship run.

All eight of those teams, right now, have to be feeling good about what they pulled off at trade-deadline time.

Now, remember this: At least four of those teams — and maybe more of the clubs in that group — won't even make the second round of the playoffs.

Trade Deadline Day has come and gone, and above all else, it reaffirmed that getting out of the Western Conference and making the NBA Finals is going to be incredibly daunting this season. There was no shortage of contenders out West before Thursday, and there might be even more teams thinking that they're contenders now after finding ways to add talent.

"Chaos," was the word Cleveland president of basketball operations Coby Altman used to describe the barrage of moves being made around the league Thursday.

He wasn't wrong.

There were the blockbusters — Irving earlier in the week going to the Mavericks, then the middle-of-the-night deal late Wednesday or early Thursday, depending on where you were sleeping,



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving smiles as he warms up prior to an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL | AP PHOTO

that sent Durant to the Suns.

Irving and Durant were Brooklyn teammates when this week started. Now, they're rivals in the West, Irving joining Luka Doncic, Durant being added to Devin Booker and the still-chasing-a-ring Chris Paul, who figures to have another chance at grabbing that elusive piece of jewelry.

Nets general manager Sean Marks said the team traded Durant "after thorough evaluation of the best path forward." With that, what Brooklyn envisioned as a Big Three era — Durant and Irving with James Harden — is now completely over. Harden was traded last season, Durant and Irving this

week, and the Nets begin anew once again, now 20 years removed from the franchise's last trip to the East finals.

The bad news: Brooklyn's title window, for now, is closed. The good news: The Nets loaded up on draft picks, which were in short supply after other deals in recent years.

Not all the moves made in the last few days, most of them Thursday, had to be blockbusters to be winners.

The Lakers changed much of the supporting cast that'll play with LeBron James and Anthony Davis for the stretch run. Denver was on the other side of one of the Lakers' moves, getting Thomas Bryant to play backup to

two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic. Memphis added Luke Kennard, the Clippers added Eric Gordon. Golden State brought back Gary Payton II and trimmed a ton of money off its still-enormous tax bill. Milwaukee landed Jae Crowder, who was a big part of Miami's run to the NBA Finals in 2020, and Phoenix's trip there in 2021. Philadelphia got out of the luxury tax entirely, a move that doesn't mean anything for the 76ers in the standings right now but could certainly matter down the road.

There were some teams that held firm and didn't overpay for what the market presented them with. Miami looked into moves; nothing really material-

ized except for one earlier in the week in which the Heat moved Dewayne Dedmon to San Antonio to clear a roster spot and save a little money. Toronto was expected to be a seller; the Raptors wound up holding on to Fred VanVleet, O.G. Anunoby and others, then brought back Jakob Poeltl from the Spurs after trading him to San Antonio as part of the Kawhi Leonard deal.

And then there were the teams thinking solely about down the road. San Antonio — now fully into a rebuild — added almost 10 draft picks in the last few days, almost all of them second-round selections.

More than 30 second-round picks from

the next few years were traded this year at the deadline, as many as five of them being attached to some trades. It spoke to where the NBA is right now: some teams are willing to shoot their shot and not worry about future draft capital, other teams are willing to stockpile assets and see what the drafts can bring.

There's never been a season, at least not in recent memory, where this many teams seem like actual contenders to win a championship. Trade Deadline Day didn't change that. Some teams got better, sure, but now it's absolutely certain that winning a title this year won't be a cakewalk for anybody.

Thomas, Revis headline new Pro Football Hall of Fame class

By Josh Dubow

AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX — Joe Thomas gave fans of the new version of the Cleveland Browns something they could finally celebrate.

The six-time All-Pro offensive lineman will join lockdown cornerback Darrelle Revis as inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on their first try, becoming the first Browns Hall of Famer from the team's inglorious expansion era.

"It's really special for me because the franchise has endured some really tough times," Thomas said. "But those fans are so loyal and passionate, and they still show up and it still is their identity that they're Browns fans. It's great for all of Browns Nation."

Since returning to the NFL in 1999, the Browns have had two playoff berths, one playoff win and the worst record in the league — including an 0-16 season in Thomas' last year in the NFL.

Thomas and Revis join a new class of Hall of Famers announced Thursday that also includes return finalists DeMarcus Ware, Zach Thomas and Ronde Barber. Senior candidates Joe Klecko, Chuck Howley and Ken Riley, along with coaching candidate Don Coryell also got voted into the Hall and will be inducted in Canton, Ohio, this summer.

"I didn't set out to be a Hall of Famer," Barber said. "I was trying to make the team. I was trying to get on the field. All you can do is take your opportunity and run with it. And we all took our opportunities and ran with it."

The headliners of the class are Joe Thomas and Revis — the two first-round picks from the 2007 draft who took far different journeys to this ultimate honor.

Revis bounced around teams seeking his best opportunities to win and thrive financially, while Thomas never moved.

Picked third in the draft by Cleveland, Thomas

stepped in as an immediate starter and never moved until a torn triceps ended his final season in 2017.

Thomas played 10,363 consecutive snaps before that injury as one of the only dependable parts on one of the NFL's sorriest franchises.

Thomas was a Pro Bowler in all 10 healthy seasons, a first-team All-Pro six times and a second-team selection two other years. But he never even made it to the playoffs a single time with the Browns.

Revis was always moving, whether it was following top receivers from one side of the field to the other as the game's top lockdown cornerback of his era.

Revis' best stretch came in New York with the Jets, where he was a first-team All-Pro from 2009-11 and finished second in Defensive Player of the Year voting in 2009 when he repeatedly shut down top receivers by sending them to "Revis Island."

"I was probably the most nervous of anybody on the field," Revis said. "You look at yourself in the mirror and say to yourself: 'It's either me or him.' I had to stand up to the challenge. I took that responsibility to take on that assignment and shut them down."

Revis spent one year in New England, helping the Patriots win the Super Bowl in the 2014 season, and also played for Tampa Bay and Kansas City, along with a second stint with the Jets.

Ware, Barber and Zach Thomas all had longer waits before getting voted into the Hall. Ware was also a finalist



New York Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis walks on the field after an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in East Rutherford, N.J., Jan. 1, 2017. Six-time All-Pro offensive lineman Joe Thomas and lockdown cornerback Revis got voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on their first try. Thomas and Revis join a new class of Hall of Famers announced Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. FILE PHOTO BY SETH WENIG | AP PHOTO

last year, while Barber got in on his third time at this stage and Thomas on his fourth try.

Ware was a four-time All-Pro in Dallas and then helped Denver win a Super Bowl in the 2015 season. He led the NFL in sacks twice and finished with 138 1/2 sacks in his career.

Barber was a key cog to the Tampa-2 defensive scheme as a cornerback for the Buccaneers. He was a three-time All-Pro, led the NFL with 10 interceptions in 2001 and won a Super Bowl the next season.

Zach Thomas was a five-time All-Pro who spent 12 of his 13 seasons with Miami before finishing with one year in Dallas. He won Defensive Rookie of the Year in 1996, had at least 100 tackles in his first 11 seasons.

Coryell didn't have the team success comparable to other coaches to get voted into the Hall, winning 111 regular-season games for the Cardinals and Chargers and never reaching a Super Bowl.

But his impact on the game with his famous "Air Coryell" offense in San Diego was transcendent as he took advantage of rule changes that opened up the passing game in the late 1970s and put together an offense that still influences the game today.

Howley was a five-time All-Pro in 15 seasons with Chicago and Dallas with his biggest claim being the only player from a losing team ever picked as Super Bowl MVP. Howley won MVP after intercepting two passes in Super Bowl V when Dal-

las lost to Baltimore 16-13. He ended up on the winning side the following season when he two takeaways in a 24-3 win over Miami.

Klecko was a mainstay on the Jets famed "New York Sack Exchange," earning Pro Bowl honors at nose tackle, defensive tackle and defensive end in a 12-year career that ended with one season on the Indianapolis Colts.

Klecko was an All-Pro twice, including in 1981 when he unofficially led the NFL with 20 1/2 sacks and finished second to Lawrence Taylor in the Defensive Player of the Year voting.

Riley's 65 career interceptions in 15 seasons with Cincinnati rank fifth highest in NFL history and second to Dick "Night Train" Lane's 68 for players who were exclusively cornerbacks.

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Bringing out the stories, superstitions for another Chiefs Super Bowl

Well, Chiefs Kingdom, here we are again: somehow, heading to the Super Bowl has become familiar territory for our beloved football team.



Nicole Cooke
Democrat Editor

From a journalist's perspective, this year's Super Bowl is full of stories that just write themselves.

For starters, we have brothers Travis Kelce, tight end for the Chiefs, and Jason Kelce, center for the Eagles, facing each other in what has been dubbed the Kelce Bowl. I think we can all agree that their mom, fondly known by fans as Mama Kelce, is a national treasure. She became famous in recent years for making the crazy trek from one son's playoff game to another on the same day. And in true mom fashion, she brought homemade cookies for the brothers during the lead-up to the big game this week in Arizona.

Two other opposing players also have a connection that predates their time in the NFL. Chiefs linebacker Willie Gay Jr. and Eagles wide receiver A.J. Brown were high school teammates in Mississippi and won a state championship together.

Then there is coach Andy Reid. He's leading his team to their third Super Bowl appearance in four years after a decades-long drought, and this time he's facing the team that let him go, making him available for the Chiefs to snap up 10 years ago. Several members of the coaching staff have Eagles connections too, and Philadelphia head coach Nick Sirianni had several coaching roles with the Chiefs.

Now let's look a little outside the stadium. There are stories everywhere, such as KC Potato Girl getting tickets to the big game courtesy of Lay's. (If you don't already know, she went viral because she was caught by an opposing fan eating a potato during a playoff game. She fired off her own tweet, reminding the other fan that she got to enjoy both a potato and a win. Now she's semi-famous. The internet is a weird place.) Businesses are capitalizing on the opportunity with special Chiefs gear, red-and-gold-themed baked goods, and anything else that can involve football.

I took to Facebook to ask my friends about their Super Bowl stories, quirky superstitions, and game-watching must-haves.

My friend and former Democrat columnist Jennifer Langdon told me that she's making not one but two football-shaped cheeseballs, one savory and one sweet, in honor of the game. Another friend and former Democrat reporter, Emily Schmidt, was on the same page as Jenn and said the Super Bowl is all about the snacks; I can't help but agree. Emily said she's being "ambitious this year with brisket tacos, but I don't think you can watch football without Buffalo chicken dip." I have firsthand experience that she's an excellent Buffalo chicken dip maker.

Yet another former Democrat employee, Roger Hooker, shared his quirky superstition with me: "I stopped wearing my Chiefs gear on Fridays. Early in this season, I wore it and the Chiefs lost, so I stopped. Only lost one more time after that."

Superstitions run deep in sports, even more so in football. My mom and her siblings are no exception. You better be careful about the clothing you wear each game – unlucky garments are not allowed. And if you were in the kitchen while a touchdown was scored, you better get comfy because you're probably not leaving that room for a while. This year at work, she and her coworkers, some of whom are family, are trying to recreate everything they did for the Chiefs' Super Bowl appearance in 2020 in hopes of reigniting the special spark in 2023.

Continued on Page B4

Super Bowl Sunday straight ahead



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN WALKER

Sedalians show their support for THE KC CHIEFS

By Democrat Staff

The Kansas City Chiefs are headed to Super Bowl LVII in Glendale, Arizona on Sunday. Here are how some local Sedalians show their Chiefs pride.

Sedalian Walker enjoys photographing the Chiefs

Sedalia Photographer Kevin Walker is all about those "Chiefs." Walker said this week he tries to attend a game at least once a year and enjoys sitting up close and personal so he can get the perfect shot.

This year in anticipation of the Super Bowl, Walker has decorated his home with outdoor lights that change each night. He has "pulsing red" lights and "chasing strobing red." Thursday night, one side lit all red, one side lit yellow, and the lights rotated.

Walker noted he and his nephew Ty Walker, 17, are Chiefs fans because it's a Missouri team, and he's always supported Missouri sports teams. But of course, his support runs more profound than that.

"But you know ... it's become more enjoyable when you get to go with a bunch of friends," he said. "I try to go at least once a year, and Ty got to go to his first game this past season."

Instead of collecting Chiefs memorabilia, Walker said his photos are his mementos.

"We get some good seats, and there's really no bad seats at Arrowhead," he said. "I've had (seats) up in the nose-bleeds and down on the ground."

"As a photographer, I like being down on the ground," he continued. "Because



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN WALKER

you can get some great shots."

Walker has up-close photos of Mahomes and Kelsey making plays and has pictures of Christopher David Stone, who has become famous for his Chiefs face painting and outfits.

"They've got his face plastered all over the stadium," Walker noted. "When we met him a few years ago, when I went with Kim Cline when we were trying to beat (Tom) Brady for the championship that year ... so, that's when I met him. But he's a pretty cool kid."

Walker and his nephew believe the Chiefs will win the Super Bowl on Sunday. And they already made reservations

at Crown Center in Kansas City to spend the night Tuesday evening so they can be up bright and early for the celebratory KC Chiefs victory parade.

"Because last time we went, we left Sedalia at 4:30 in the morning," he noted. "That wasn't early enough to get in front of Union Station. They had already jam-packed that area full of people."

"We got there around six in the morning, and it was already full," he continued. "So, we're spending the night. There will probably be no sleeping because I'll be looking out the window to see when people start showing up at Union Station."

See FANS | B4



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN WALKER

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Pettis County Recorder of Deeds Barbara Clevenger recently issued marriage licenses to:

Chase Michael Nutt, 32, and Ivy Sierra Riley, 30, both of Sedalia;

David Morgunenko, 21, and Svetlana Ilnitsky, 20, both of Sedalia;

Drake Tristan Allen, 23, and Heaven Opal Jewels Goodman, 20, both of Sedalia.

DIVORCES

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

Kelly R. Higgins and Shane B. Higgins;

Elliott D. Riedl and Jacqueline K. Riedl.

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library Fiction

“Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun,” by Elle Cosimano.

“The Shards,” by Bret Easton Ellis.

“All Hallows,” by Christopher Golden.

“Sam,” by Allegra Goodman.

“Exiles,” by Jane Harper.

“The Villa,” by Rachel Hawkins.

“The Bullet Garden,” by Stephen Hunter.

“The House at the End of the World,” by Dean Koontz.

“What Lies in the Woods,” by Kate Alice Marshall.

“The Terraformers,” by Annalee Newitz.

“The Devils’ Ransom,” by Brad Taylor.

“Small World,” by Laura Zigman.

Nonfiction

“A Few Days Full of Trouble: Revelations of the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend, Emmett Till,” by Wheeler Parker and Christopher Benson.

“8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It, and Let It Go,” by Jay Shetty.

“How Medicine Works and When It Doesn’t: Learning Who to Trust to Get and Stay Healthy,” by Perry F. Wilson.

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library Fiction

“Unnatural History,” by Jonathan Kellerman (mystery).

“Encore in Death,” by J.D. Robb (mystery).

“Don’t Fear the Reaper,” by Stephen Graham Jones (horror).

“The House of Eve,” by Sadeqa Johnson (historical fiction).

“Someone Else’s Shoes,” by Jojo Moyes

(fiction).

“More Than Meets the Eye,” by Iris Johansen (suspense).

“The Cradle of Ice,” by James Rollins (science fiction)

“Sam,” by Allegra Goodman (suspense).

Nonfiction

“Love, Pamela,” by Pamela Anderson (biography).

“Walk the Blue Line,” by James Patterson (nonfiction).

BRL2GO SCHEDULE

Boonslick Regional Library

Monday

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Fris-toe, The Place Cafe.

1 to 3:45 p.m.: Warsaw, Drake Harbor.

Wednesday

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Cole Camp City Park.

1:15 p.m.: Lincoln City Hall.

1:30 to 3:45 p.m.: Lincoln City Hall.

Friday

9:15 a.m.: Boonville, Lakeview Health Care.

9:20 a.m.: Bristol Manor.

9:25 a.m.: Boonville, YMCA Early Childhood Learning Center.

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Boonville Walmart.

1 p.m.: Blackwater Post Office.

1:15 to 3:30 p.m.: Blackwater Main Street.

4 to 4:15 p.m.: Stoney Ridge Village Residential Care.

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CHRISTIAN BIRTHDAY

Rhoda M. Christian, of Sedalia, will celebrate her 73rd birthday Feb. 17.

She was born Feb. 17, 1930. The highlight of her birthday this year will be going to see the movie “80 for Brady.”

Before retiring, Rhoda worked as a floor lady at Lamy’s Mfg. Co., for 30 years. She attends the First United Methodist Church. Her hobbies include playing cards, going to garage sales,

participating in the Silver Sneakers program and “just going.”

She has five children, Jerry Christian, Annette Christian and Marsha Emo, all of Sedalia, and Wayne Christian and Gail Christian, both of Oregon; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Birthday cards may be sent to Rhoda at 1620 S. Sneed Ave., Sedalia, Mo. 65301.



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 friends of the program.

Monday: Cheeseburger, baked beans, macaroni

salad, peaches and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti, corn, breadsticks, brownie and milk.

Wednesday: Pizza, salad, tropical fruit and milk.

Thursday: Beef and noodles, green beans, pudding and milk.

Friday: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, cookie and milk.

Super Bowl ads keep it light by using nostalgia and stars

By Mae Anderson

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Super Bowl ads are more than just breaks between game-play during the biggest sporting event of the year: they offer a glimpse of the country’s zeitgeist, along with how major industries are faring.

This year, crypto ads and automakers are advertising less since those industries are facing problems. Major food brands like M&Ms, tech companies like Google, streaming services including Peacock and more alcohol brands have jumped in to take their place.

When Super Bowl LVII kicks off Sunday night with the Kansas City Chiefs taking on the Philadelphia Eagles in Glendale, Arizona, big marketers will be battling it out during the Fox broadcast as well.

Their prize? The chance to capture the attention of more than 100 million viewers expected to tune in for the big game. This price of entry is steep: some advertisers are paying more than \$7 million for a 30-second spot, and that doesn’t include the cost of making the ad itself.

This year, viewers can expect stars galore, light humor and catchy songs. For the most part, advertisers are steering away from somber messages or outrageous humor that might have worked to capture attention in decades past, but not now, when the country is still emerging from the pandemic, facing economic uncertainty, and the war continues in Ukraine.

“This year is a ‘don’t worry be happy’ year,” said Kelly O’Keefe, CEO of Brand Federation. “You name it, we’ve had it all and its put us in almost depressed situation. This year people are over it and advertisers are responding really well — there are traditional brands, traditional humor and its going to feel like just a big old group hug.”

WHO’S STARRING?

Stars are commonplace in Super Bowl ads, but over the past few years ads have been more and more stuffed with celebrities. This year is no exception.



This photo provided by Frito-Lay shows Aaron Paul, Bryan Cranston and Raymond Cruz in scene from PopCorners 2023 Super Bowl NFL football spot. Big name advertisers are paying as much as \$7 million for a 30-second spot during the big game on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. In order to get as much as a return on investment for those million, most advertisers release their ads in the days ahead of the big game to get the most publicity for their spots.

PHOTO BY FRITO-LAYS

Popular celebrities offer goodwill to a brand and help it stand out from the 50-plus or so advertisers during the big game. But with so many stars in ads, it can be harder stand out in a crowded field.

“If you use celebrity in a smart way, it’s huge,” said Rich Weinstein, a professor at VCU Brandcenter. “But with all of these celebrities, are people going to remember who each celebrity is attached to?”

Big names making a splash this year: Melissa McCarthy sings a jingle for Booking.com, Miles Teller dances to hold music for Bud Light and Adam Driver makes multiples of himself for Squarespace. Avocados From Mexico enlists Anna Faris for one of the few slightly risqué ads this year, that envisions a present where everyone is naked — including the Statue of Liberty. And tennis star Serena Williams stars in two ads: one for Michelob Ultra and one for Remy Martin. It’s the second year in a row she has had a presence in more than one ad: last year in addition to a Michelob Ultra ad, she starred in an ad for smart home-gym maker Tonal. Even hip hop mogul P. Diddy appears in an ad, in which he tries to make a hit for Uber One.

One unusual star this year: Jesus. A group of Christian donors is paying top dollar for two ads that promote the “He Gets Us” religious message.

WHICH ADS ARE THROWBACKS?

Another tactic that

advertisers use to win over viewers is recreating beloved movies and TV shows. This year, online shopping site Rakuten is making a splash by enlisting Alicia Silverstone and Elisa Donovan to recreate a scene from 90s rom-com “Clueless.” Popcorners, a snack brand from Frito-Lay, brought back “Breaking Bad,” which first aired in 2008, with stars Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul.

Other advertisers trying to capitalize on favorite content from years past: T-Mobile’s ad shows John Travolta singing a T-Mobile home internet-themed version of “Summer Nights” from “Grease” with “Scrubs” stars Donald Faison and Zach Braff. And finally, Michelob Ultra evoked “Caddyshack” by setting its ad at the Bushwood Country Club that’s in the movie.

The nostalgia fits the mood of the times, Weinstein said.

“Consumers are looking for a good laugh and to feel comfortable,” Weinstein said. “It’s less about living in the problems the world faces today and more about leaning into nostalgia and having fun.”

DO STUNTS WORK?

Some first-time advertisers have decided to lean into stunts and gimmicks to make their first foray into the big game stand out. The most notable is Fan Duel, which hired four-time All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski to try to make a field goal live during an ad in the third quarter. If he makes it,

anyone who places a Super Bowl bet of \$5 or more on FanDuel will win a share of \$10 million in free bets.

A blockchain-based gaming company, Limit Break, plans to run a QR code during the first commercial break of the game and will give away non-fungible tokens to people who scan it. And for its first national Super Bowl ad, Molson Coors asked people to bet on aspects of its commercial, like whether it will feature Miller Lite or Coors Light.

Kim Whitler, a professor at the Darden School of business, said stunts don’t always translate to positive sales results or brand recognition for brands.

“People want to do stunts because stunts get attention,” she said. “But at the end of the day, the ad has to communicate something that’s unique or better about the brand.”

WHICH ADS WILL BE GAME-TIME SURPRISES?

While many advertisers have released ads ahead of the game, there are always some surprises. Dunkin’ Donuts is running an ad that reportedly will star Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, although the brand hasn’t confirmed that. Stellantis, which owns car brands Jeep and Ram, will run two undisclosed ads. And M&Ms has kept its advertising under wraps after declaring that its candy spokescharacters were on pause — they’re likely to make an appearance during the game, however.

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.

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.

Noon and 7 p.m.: Alcoholics Anonymous 12x12 Non-smoking group, Sunday through Saturday; at 417 W. Pettis St., sedalia12x12aa@gmail.com.

1:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

MONDAY

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

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

10:30 a.m.: Be Forever Young, Parkview Christian Church, 1405 E. 16th St.

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

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

1:45 p.m.: TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 0102 Sedalia

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

5 p.m.: Sedalia Public Library Board of Trustees at Public Library, 311 W. Third St.

6 p.m.: Cornerstone Celebrate Recovery. A Bible-based 12-step program for Hurts, Habits and Hangups; Cornerstone Baptist Church, 660-827-4833.

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

6:10 p.m.: Daughters of Isabella for Rosary; meeting at 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

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

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

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

7 p.m.: Cole Camp Area Historical Society, Cole Camp Jung Memorial Library in Cole Camp.

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

7:30 p.m.: Windsor School Board, High

School Library, 210 North St.

TUESDAY

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

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

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

Noon: Sedalia Business Network meets at Colton's Steak House, 4101 W. Broadway Blvd.

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

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

2 p.m.: Book Club at Sedalia Public Library, 311 W. Third St.

5:30 p.m.: Diversified Community Outreach, True Vine Church of God in Christ, 600 N. Moniteau Ave.

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

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

6 p.m.: Sedville Crazy Quilter Guild at Central Bank Annex Building, in the basement, 403 W. Broadway Blvd.

6:30 p.m.: Pettis County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Shrine Fun Kor, Sedalia Shrine Club, 1615 Elm Hills Blvd.

6:30 p.m.: Sedville Petal Pushers, University of Missouri Pettis County Extension Office, 1012 A

Thompson Blvd.

6:30 p.m.: Women's Democrat Club, Deer Brook Villas, 960 Mitchell Rd.

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

7 p.m.: Women of the Moose, Moose Lodge, 119 Winchester Ave.

7:30 p.m.: Sedalia Chapter No. 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Temple, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

WEDNESDAY

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

10 a.m.: TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 958, First Baptist Church, 200 E. Sixth St. First visit is free; 816-916-6237.

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

Noon: Sedalia Lions Club, Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

3:15 p.m.: Sedalia Photo Club at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Sedalia.

5:30 p.m.: Amigos de Cristo, Teen Mom Classes at 3003 W. 11th St., 660-826-2788.

6:30 p.m.: Friends of the Cole Camp Library meeting at Cole Camp Boonslick Library.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia-Pettis County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for executive committee; 7 p.m., meeting, Anthony Buckner Community Center, 500 Welch Ct.

7 p.m.: Elks Lodge 125, Elks Lodge, 320 S. Kentucky Ave.

THURSDAY

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

7:45 a.m.: 40 & 8 Voiture 333, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

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

Noon: Kiwanis of Sedalia, at Lamy's, 108 Pacific St.

1 p.m.: Sedalia Duplicate Bridge Club at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

1 p.m.: The Whiteman Area Piecemakers in the meeting room of the Knob Noster Branch of the Trails Regional Library, 202 N. Adams. For more information, call 660-647-3367 or 660-563-5247.

4:15 p.m.: Birthright, volunteer meeting at offices, 1810 W. 11th St.

6 p.m.: Pettis County Democrat Club at Lincoln Hubbard Apartments, 711 N. Osage Ave. The meeting is a potluck; all interested are invited.

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.: Central Missouri Coin Club, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

7 p.m.: Gamma Epsilon Master Chapter. For location information, call 660-827-2299.

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.

7:30 p.m.: Central Missouri Harley Owners

Group Sedalia Chapter, Yeager's Cycle Sales, 3001 S. Limit Ave.

FRIDAY

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

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

Noon: Pettis County Pachyderms, Room C at the Heckart Community Center.

6 p.m.: Bingo, Sedalia Moose Lodge, 119 Winchester Dr., doors open at 4 p.m.; Kitchen opens at 5 p.m.; early-bird bingo at 6 p.m.; regular bingo at 6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.: Bunceton Senior Dance Melody Makers Band will perform. Bring finger food. Dance at Bunceton Lions Club. Cost is \$4 per person.

7 p.m.: Dirt Road Comedy, stand-up comedy with Bryce Stanely and Jerad Langley at Sedalia Moose Lodge, 119 Winchester Dr. Tickets are \$10 each. The event is open to the public. Sandwiches and chips served from 5 to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

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

1 p.m.: Missouri State Fair Bikers Against Child Abuse, American Paramedical Service classroom, 400B Industrial Road.

5 to 8 p.m.: Family Night at the Cole Camp Library. Tabletop Gaming, VR games and experiences, family escape room games and full access to the library after hours. Light refreshments will be provided. Call 660-668-3887 for reservations.

Bacharach leaves behind lush trove of romantic songs

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Music played softly, almost imperceptibly, in the background of a hotel lounge where Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello talked about their songwriting collaboration, “Painted From Memory.”

Bacharach noticed, however, that it was the instrumental version of “The Look of Love,” his song popularized by Dusty Springfield. He mischievously asked, during their 1998 interview with The Associated Press, if Costello had arranged to play it. Nope. It wasn't the first time he'd been interrupted by Bacharach's work.

“It happens all the time,” Costello said.

That will surely happen again, too. The composer, who died at age 94 Wednesday in Los Angeles, left behind an indelible songbook that will long outlive him.

At its heart were the collaborations with songwriting partner Hal David and singer Dionne Warwick, 19 of them Top 40 hits.

“Anyone Who Had a Heart.” “Walk on By.” “I Say a Little Prayer.” “Do You Know the Way to San Jose.” “I'll Never Fall in Love Again.” “Alfie.”

The work extended far

beyond that, every title a memory and invitation to break out into song — even if you can't carry a tune.

“Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head.” “That's What Friends Are For.” “What the World Needs Now.” “Always Something There to Remind Me.” “This Guy's in Love With You.” “One Less Bell to Answer.” “I Just Don't Know What to Do With Myself.”

“I've always been inclined to write romantic music, hopefully from the heart,” Bacharach said in that 1998 interview. “There are not a lot of up-tempo songs in my catalog.”

If you hear a flugelhorn, chances are you're listening to a Burt Bacharach composition.

The work with Costello was a milestone long after the Top 40 charts had moved on, and is being celebrated in a box set being released March 3.

“I'm so sad to hear we've lost Burt Bacharach,” the English singer Badly Drawn Boy said on Twitter on Thursday. “Growing up in the '70s, his music somehow penetrated my soul and has remained every since. When it comes to melodic songwriting, there's never been any-

one better.”

Bacharach's songs were often categorized, even minimized, as “easy listening,” perhaps because so many flowed freely during a tumultuous time in the nation's history. While the “Austin Powers” movies may have brought Bacharach's music to the ears of younger listeners, the cheesy context did him no favors.

What may have been easy listening was usually quite complex, said Nathaniel Sloan, musicologist at the University of Southern California and co-host of the “Switched on Pop” podcast.

Bacharach would frequently stretch beyond pop conventions into odd time signatures, which would challenge musicians but usually go unnoticed by regular listeners. Sloan cited the way the beat changes in “I Say a Little Prayer,” later copped by OutKast for their hit “Hey Ya.”

Similarly, “Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head” is constructed to convey both the ominousness of life's storms and the narrator's confidence (“nothin's worryin' me”), he said.

Bacharach drew from classical and jazz music to enrich his harmonies,

giving the music a memorable lushness. Think “This Guy's in Love With You.”

“He told me he just didn't want to do anything that was milque-toast,” said songwriter Daniel Tashian, one of the last musicians to work with Bacharach extensively. “He wanted to do something that got him excited, got him fired up.”

A debonair celebrity who married — and later divorced — actor Angie Dickinson, Bacharach seemed at ease with his musical talents compared to another 1960s genius, Brian Wilson, who often seemed tortured by them, Tashian said.

The Beach Boys songwriter was one of the first musicians to tweet a tribute to Bacharach after his death was announced on Thursday.

“Burt was a hero of mine and very influential on my work,” Wilson wrote.

Tashian released the collaboration “Blue Umbrella” with Bacharach in 2020 and is finishing up two new songs they wrote together. The Nashville-based composer, writer of the Kacey Musgraves hit “Slow Burn,” got to know Bacharach through a

demo he recorded with another singer who sent it to him.

He believed Bacharach appreciated his talents and also took pity on him because Tashian couldn't read music.

At one point in their collaboration, Tashian recorded a vocal that he

knew wasn't quite right, yet hoped the authenticity of the performance outweighed a few technical flaws.

Bacharach wasn't buying it.

“There's nothing wrong,” the veteran composer told him, “with a little bit of perfection.”

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Rihanna promises a 'jam-packed' Super Bowl halftime show

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Rihanna is putting in the work ahead of her Super Bowl halftime show, focusing so hard on what she promises will be “a jam-packed show” that her upcoming birthday and Valentine’s Day almost slipped her mind.

“The setlist was the biggest challenge. That was the hardest, hardest part. Deciding how to maximize 13 minutes but also celebrate — that’s what this show is going to be. It’s going to be a celebration of my catalog in the best way that we could have put it together,” Rihanna said.

At a media preview Thursday ahead of Sunday’s matchup between the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs, the music superstar and new mom said her appearance — her first live event in seven years — feels “like it could have only been now.”

The singer said she was initially unsure about taking on the challenge of performing during a time when she was three months postpartum and wondered “should I be making major decisions like this right now? I might regret this.”

“But when you become a mom, there’s something that just happens where you feel like you can take on the world, you can do anything,” Rihanna said. “The Super Bowl is one of the biggest stages of the world. As scary as that was, because I hadn’t been on stage in seven years, there’s something exhilarating about the challenge of it all.”

A nine-time Grammy Award-winner, Rihanna has 14 No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits, including “We Found Love,” “Work,” “Umbrella” and “Disturbia.” She and rapper ASAP Rocky recently welcomed her first child.

“At the end of the day, if it flops or it flies, my name has to stand by that. And so I really get involved with every aspect of anything I do,” she said.

Halftime performance sponsor Apple Music held a moderated event Thursday, but moderator Nadeska Alexis was the only journalist allowed to ask Rihanna questions.

Rihanna joins a list of celebrated entertainers who have played during Super Bowl halftime shows, including Beyoncé, Madonna, Coldplay, Katy Perry, U2, Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Shakira and The Weeknd. Last year, hip-hop was celebrated with Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar all performing.

The singer had previously declined to perform in the 2019 halftime show

out of solidarity with Colin Kaepernick. But she has said that the timing and circumstances this time around were right for her.

Country music star Chris Stapleton will sing the national anthem, while R&B legend Babyface will perform “America the Beautiful.” Actor-singer Sheryl Lee Ralph will also perform “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” When asked who they were cheering for on Sunday, Ralph said she was rooting for the Eagles while Stapleton and Babyface said they were backing Rihanna.

Ralph applauded the NFL for making an effort toward being inclusive and “represent all people” through the three songs.

“On a day, Super Bowl Sunday, 200 million people coming together to sit and experience it here, what a time and what a way to bring us all together,” she said. “I’m very pleased and very happy to be able to be on the 40-yard line.”

Babyface said he first started singing “America the Beautiful” as a sophomore for a play in high school.

“It’s hard to believe that so many years ago, which is a lot of years ago, that I’m here to sing ‘America the Beautiful,’” he said. “Back then, my mom was in the audience and she couldn’t believe I was up there on the stage singing. Like the shy kid who actually got up there singing. To think of her looking at this now and see me at this moment singing ‘America the Beautiful,’ it’s full circle.”

Oscar winner Troy Kotsur will perform the national anthem in American sign language. Colin Denny will sign “America the Beautiful” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing” will be signed by Justina Miles.

Through an interpreter, Kotsur said performing makes him feel prouder to be an American. Miles said “Lift Every Voice and Sing” represents resilience.

“The national anthem never really resonated with me personally, but the Black national anthem is really inspiring and empowering,” Miles said. “This song is so positive and so beautiful. You don’t really hear or see it very often. There’s many folks who don’t even know the Black national anthem even exist. It’s not only for me to share this experience with the whole world, but to really bring that empowerment to millions of Black, deaf people all over the country who’ve never seen that before.”

Apple Music this year replaced Pepsi, which sponsored the show for the past 10 years. Terms were not announced, but analysts had expected the league to get at least \$50 million per year for the rights.



Kansas City Chiefs fan Tim Keele will spend his Super Bowl Sunday watching the game with friends and family in his Chiefs man cave. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM KEELE

Keele to spend Super Bowl Sunday in Chief’s man cave

Kansas City Chiefs Fan and owner of Two-Bit Barber Tim Keele has been supporting the team for more than 20 years now.

After falling in love with the Chiefs and spending years watching the games, Keele — along with his wife Angie’s support — started working on a Chiefs man cave in their detached garage.

He started building the area during the pandemic and wanted somewhere besides his living room to watch the games. With the help of his friend Chad North, the bar in the man cave was built.

“We had a few Chiefs things on the wall and I just kind of thought ‘Okay, what’s next?’ Keele said. “I bought a red refrigerator and thought ‘Okay, this is it. We got to go full board now.’”

The bar expanded to having a man cave with a lot of pieces of Chiefs gear in there. There is an autographed Tyreek Hill helmet, Travis Kelce mini-helmets, a signed cleat from a former kicker, an autographed Clyde Edwards-Helaire jersey and so much more.

“We often have watch parties at



During the pandemic, Chiefs fan Tim Keele built a Chiefs man cave in his detached garage. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM KEELE

our house, we have game day food where everybody brings the potluck,” Keele said. “For the Super Bowl, we have about 20 people coming to the man cave. We’re all just going to be hanging out, play some games, and eat some good food.”

Keele is calling that the Chiefs win

by 10 points on Sunday.

“Chiefs win by 10 and I’m going to call it 31-21,” Keele added. “We got cigars for the victory that match the Super Bowl colors and have footballs on the rings, we got all the Super Bowl XLVII plates and cups. There is no way we can’t win this.”

Hibbett Sports gears up for Chiefs merchandise demands

Hibbett Sports was busy Friday with sports fans grabbing up the available merchandise. Conference Champs gear is flying off the shelves after a weather delay just held up conference champion gear.

“A lot of people have come in, but it was kind of on back order because Texas had an ice storm,” Katelyn Hawkins said. “People are really excited after Sunday that they won their division conference playoff game.”

Now people are looking forward to a Super Bowl win for the Chiefs and the prized Mahomes jerseys. Unfortunately, rumors of boxes of the jerseys in sealed boxes in the back room of Hibbett Sports are only rumors.

“No unfortunately it’s not true, we wish though!” Hawkins said. “We’ll get them later.”

Luckily, there is Chiefs gear to be purchased.

“We have the Super Bowl stocking hats and then we also have the conference champions fitted hats.”

Hawkins said they are due deliveries of Mahomes jerseys and Chiefs gear as soon as the Chiefs clinch the Super Bowl.

Section one was written by Faith Bemiss, section two was written by Skye Melcher and section three was written by Chris Howell.



Katelyn Hawkins of Hibbett Sports, 3115 W. Broadway Blvd., proudly displays Chiefs gear. Hibbett expects to receive Super Bowl gear soon after the Chiefs are determined to be victorious. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

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Classic JEWELRY

Cooke Column

Continued From Page 1B

My superstitions have never been too strong, but I inherited the lucky clothing idea; some years, it works out better than others. But, as Emily reminded me, one of my favorite superstition stories is from the watch party she and her husband, Dustin, hosted in 2020. My boyfriend and I, several friends, and one of Dustin’s coworkers were there to watch the Chiefs’ first run at the Super Bowl in years.

We were excited but also anxious, and we soon discovered that things were going in our favor when Dustin and his coworker were standing

outside on the patio. In the fourth quarter, when it seemed we needed a little extra luck, he took one for the team and headed back out, watching the final minutes through the glass storm door.

It all worked out in the end, so apparently, we have them to thank for that 2020 Super Bowl title. In the years since, Dustin has told us that he’ll occasionally hear from that out-of-state coworker who asks if he needs to head back outside during a game. Now that’s what you call a team player.

My mom told me this week that she’s also superstitious about guessing the game’s final score for fear of jinxing the Chiefs’ chances of winning, so I won’t offer any predictions. Just make sure you have your favorite game snacks, lucky Chiefs gear, and all your superstitions in place on Sunday night.

Slain cinematographer's Ukrainian relatives sue Alec Baldwin

By Morgan Lee

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Ukrainian relatives of a slain cinematographer are seeking damages in her death from actor Alec Baldwin in connection with a fatal shooting on the set of a Western movie, under a civil lawsuit filed Thursday in Los Angeles.

The new lawsuit against Baldwin was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court on behalf of Hutchins' parents and younger sister, who works as a nurse on the outskirts of the Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv and is mar-

ried to a Ukrainian man fighting in the war against Russia.

Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins died shortly after being wounded during a rehearsal in the movie "Rust" in October 2021 at a film-set ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe. Baldwin was pointing a pistol at Hutchins when it discharged, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

The new lawsuit alleges negligence and the deprivation of benefits, based on the emotional or financial support that Hutchins previously provided to younger sister Svetlana

Zemko and parents Olga Solovey and Anatolii Androsovyh. The lawsuit also names as defendants a long list of "Rust" crew members, an ammunition supplier, producers of the film and affiliated businesses.

Separately, Baldwin and weapons supervisor Hannah Gutierrez-Reed are confronting felony criminal charges of involuntary manslaughter in New Mexico District Court, with a remote first appearance scheduled later this month in which pleas may be entered. Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed have vowed to

dispute the charges, while an assistant director has agreed to plead guilty to lesser charges.

Los Angeles-based attorney Gloria Allred described Zemko as a working emergency operating-room nurse who is raising an infant and 4-year-old child while her husband fights in the war.

At a news conference, Allred said that Zemko "had a very close and loving relationship with her big sister, Halyna, and she feels strongly that anyone who is responsible for her loss must be held accountable."

Contacted Thursday,

an attorney for Baldwin in New Mexico had no immediate comment.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages as well as legal costs. Allred declined to quantify possible demands.

Matthew Hutchins, widower to Halyna Hutchins, reached an undisclosed settlement with Baldwin and other producers of Rust late last year. Part of the settlement calls for Matthew to be a producer on "Rust" as it potentially resumes filming.

Baldwin has sought to clear his name by suing

people involved in handling and supplying the loaded gun. Baldwin, also a co-producer on "Rust," said he was told the gun was safe.

In his lawsuit, Baldwin said that while working on camera angles with Hutchins, he pointed the gun in her direction and pulled back and released the hammer of the weapon, which discharged.

The new lawsuit against Baldwin, though filed in California, relies on provisions of New Mexico state law regarding the deprivation of benefits, also known as "loss of consortium."

Celebs tout ice baths, but science on benefits is lukewarm

By Lindsey Tanner

Associated Press

The coolest thing on social media these days may be celebrities and regular folks plunging into frigid water or taking ice baths.

The touted benefits include improved mood, more energy, weight loss and reduced inflammation, but the science supporting some of those claims is lukewarm.

Kim Kardashian posted her foray on Instagram. Harry Styles has tweeted about his dips. Kristen Bell says her plunges are "brutal" but mentally uplifting. And Lizzo claims ice plunges reduce inflammation and make her body feel better.

Here's what medical evidence, experts and fans say about the practice, which dates back centuries.

THE MIND

You might call Dan O'Connor an amateur authority on cold water immersion. Since June 2020, the 55-year-old Chicago man has plunged into Lake Michigan almost daily, including on frigid winter mornings when he has to shovel through the ice.

"The endorphin rush ... is an incredible way to wake up and just kind of shock the body and get the engine going," O'Connor said on a recent morning when the air temperature was a frosty 23 degrees (minus-5 Celsius). Endorphins are "feel good" hormones released in response to pain, stress, exercise and other activities.

With the lake temperature 34 degrees (1 Celsius), the bare-chested O'Connor did a running jump from the snow-covered shore to launch a forward flip into the icy gray water.

His first plunge came early in the pandemic, when he went on a bourbon bender and his annoyed wife told him to "go jump in the lake." The water felt good that June day. The world was in a coronavirus funk, O'Connor says, and that made him want to continue. As the water grew colder with the seasons, the psychological effect was even greater, he said.

"My mental health is a lot stronger, a lot brighter. I found some Zen down here coming down and jumping into the lake and shocking that body,"

O'Connor said.

Dr. Will Cronenwett, chief of psychiatry at Northwestern University's Feinberg medical school, tried cold-water immersion once, years ago while visiting Scandinavian friends on a Baltic island. After a sauna, he jumped into the ice-cold water for a few minutes and had what he called an intense and invigorating experience.

"It felt like I was being stabbed with hundreds of millions of really small electrical needles," he said. "I felt like I was strong and powerful and could do anything."

But Cronenwett says studying cold water immersion with a gold-standard randomized controlled trial is challenging because devising a placebo for cold plunges could be difficult.

There are a few theories on how it affects the psyche.

Cronenwett says cold water immersion stimulates the part of the nervous system that controls the resting or relaxation state. That may enhance feelings of well-being.

It also stimulates the part of the nervous system that regulates fight-or-flight stress response. Doing it on a regular basis may dampen that response, which could in turn help people feel better able to handle other stresses in their lives, although that is not proven, he said.

"You have to conquer your own trepidation. You have to muster the courage to do it," he said. "And when you finally do it, you feel like you've accomplished something meaningful. You've achieved a goal."

Czech researchers found that cold water plunging can increase blood concentrations of dopamine — another so-called happy hormone made in the brain — by 250%. High amounts have been linked with paranoia and aggression, noted physiologist James Mercer, a professor emeritus at the Arctic University of Norway who co-authored a recent scientific review of cold water immersion studies.

THE HEART

Cold water immersion raises blood pressure and increases stress on the heart. Studies have shown this is safe for healthy peo-

ple and the effects are only temporary.

But it can be dangerous for people with heart trouble, sometimes leading to life-threatening irregular heartbeats, Cronenwett said. People with heart conditions or a family history of early heart disease should consult a physician before plunging, he said.

METABOLISM

Repeated cold-water immersions during winter months have been shown to improve how the body responds to insulin, a hormone that controls blood sugar levels, Mercer noted. This might help reduce risks for diabetes or keep the disease under better control in people already affected, although more studies are needed to prove that.

Cold water immersion also activates brown fat — tissue that helps keep the body warm and helps it control blood sugar and insulin levels. It also helps the body burn calories, which has prompted research into whether cold water immersion is an effective way to lose weight. The evidence so far is inconclusive.

IMMUNE SYSTEM

Anecdotal research suggests that people who routinely swim in chilly water get fewer colds, and there's evidence that it can increase levels of certain white blood cells and other infection-fighting substances. Whether an occasional dunk in ice water can produce the same effect is unclear.

Among the biggest unanswered questions: How cold does water have to be to achieve any health benefits? And will a quick dunk have the same effect as a long swim?

"There is no answer to 'the colder the better,'" Mercer said. "Also, it depends on the type of response you are looking at. For example, some occur very quickly, like changes in blood pressure. ... Others, such as the formation of brown fat, take much longer."

O'Connor plunges year-round, but he says winter dunks are the best for "mental clarity," even if they sometimes last only 30 seconds.

On those icy mornings, he is "blocking everything else out and knowing that I got to get in the water, and then more importantly, get out of the water."

U2's Bono, family of Tyre Nichols' among Jill Biden's guests

By The Associated Press

U2's Bono, family of Tyre Nichols' among Jill Biden's guests

The Associated Press undefined

Rock star Bono, the family of Tyre Nichols and the 26-year-old who disarmed a gunman in last month's Monterey Park, California, shooting were among the featured guests sitting with first lady Jill Biden at Tuesday's State of the Union address. The White House says the guests were invited because they personify issues or themes President Joe Biden addressed in the speech, or they embody policies that are working for the American people. The Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S., Oksana Markarova, was a guest, as she was last year. The husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, Doug Emhoff, invited a 92-year-old Holocaust survivor, Ruth Cohen.

Rock star Bono, the family of Tyre Nichols and the 26-year-old who disarmed a gunman in last month's Monterey Park, California, shooting were among the featured guests sitting alongside first lady Jill Biden at Tuesday's State of the Union address.

The guests were invited "because they personify issues or themes" Biden addressed in the speech or they embody administration policies that are working for the American people, the White House said. President Joe Biden referred to several of the invitees by name.

Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, sat with the first lady and invited Ruth Cohen, a 92-year-old Holocaust survivor from the Washington area, to be his guest, his office said. Emhoff, who is Jewish, has taken a lead role in administration efforts to combat antisemitism.

The guests:

— Maurice and Kandice Barron of New York, the parents of a 3-year-old who has survived a rare pediatric cancer, meant to highlight Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

— Lynette Bonar of Tuba City, Arizona, a nurse and medical executive involved in bringing the first cancer center to a Native

American reservation.

— Bono, the Irish lead singer of U2, for his advocacy and philanthropic support for global health and AIDS relief initiatives.

— Deanna Branch of Milwaukee, whose son was diagnosed with lead poisoning from unsafe drinking water in their home, as Biden aims to replace all lead drinking water pipes in the coming decade.

— Kristin Christensen and Avarie Kollmar of Seattle, a mother-daughter pair who are sharing their story about caring for their injured Navy veteran husband and father.

— Ruth Cohen of Rockville, Maryland, a Holocaust survivor and volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum who has warned against rising antisemitism.

— Mitzi Colin Lopez of West Chester, Pennsylvania, an advocate for people brought to the U.S. illegally as children who have received protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

— Maurice "Dion" Dykes of Knoxville, Tennessee, who is training to be a teacher after a 25-year graphic design career as part of a program funded by the 2020 COVID-19 relief law.

— Kate Foley of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, a 10th grade student looking to use the skills from her school engineering classes to pursue a career as a biomedical engineer.

— Darlene Gaffney of North Charleston, South Carolina, a breast cancer survivor who has promoted the importance of early detection and timely cancer screenings.

— Doug Griffin of Newton, New Hampshire, who lost his daughter, Courtney, in 2014 to a fentanyl overdose, as the Biden administration works to strengthen federal efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

— Saria Gwin-Maye of Cincinnati, an ironworker who will work on the federally supported revitalization of the Brent Spence Bridge.

— Jacki Liszak of Fort Myers, Florida, who met with the president and first lady in the wake of Hurricane Ian and whose business

stands to benefit from federal climate resiliency funding.

— Oksana Markarova, the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. was a guest last year when Biden spoke days after the Russian invasion of her country. She returned to the first lady's box as Biden seeks to sustain U.S. and allied support for Ukraine.

— Harry Miller of Upper-Arlington, Ohio, a mechanical engineering student and a former football player for Ohio State University, who left football to prioritize his mental health.

— Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith of Northampton, Massachusetts, the plaintiffs in Goodridge vs. MA Dept. of Public Health, which cleared the way for their state legalizing same-sex marriage.

— Paul Pelosi, the husband of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was severely injured days before the midterm elections by a man with a hammer who allegedly sought to harm the California lawmaker.

— Paul Sarzoza of Phoenix, the owner of a cleaning and facilities services company that is benefitting from servicing companies investing in high-tech manufacturing in his area.

— Brandon Tsay of San Marino, California, who disarmed the shooter responsible for killing 11 people in Monterey Park, California, last month during celebrations of the Lunar New Year, preventing further deaths.

— RowVaughn and Rodney Wells of Memphis, Tennessee, the mother and stepfather of Tyre Nichols who died last month after being severely beaten by police in Memphis, sparking a renewed call for police reform legislation.

— Amanda and Josh Zurawski of Austin, Texas, who found doctors unable to intervene after her water prematurely broke at 18 weeks pregnant due to the Texas abortion ban. Amanda Zurawski developed sepsis and nearly died because of the delay in receiving treatment, as the Biden administration looks to highlight the consequences of the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade last year.

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SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

Disney to cut 7,000 jobs in Iger's company 'transformation'

By Alex Veiga

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Walt Disney Co. will cut about 7,000 jobs as part of an ambitious company-wide cost-savings plan and "strategic reorganization" announced Wednesday by CEO Bob Iger.

The job cuts amount to about 3% of the entertainment giant's global workforce and were unveiled after Disney reported quarterly results that topped Wall Street's forecasts.

Iger returned as CEO in November following a challenging two-year tenure by his handpicked successor, Bob Chapek. The company said the job reductions are part of a targeted \$5.5 billion cost savings across the company. As of Oct. 1, Disney employed 220,000 people, of which about 166,000 worked in the U.S. and 54,000 internationally.

In a statement, Iger said Disney is embarking on a "significant transformation" that management believes will lead to improved profitability at the company's streaming business.

The company, which owns Star Wars, Marvel and Pixar, will focus more on its core brands and franchises, Iger said.

The executive also announced changes to how executives will operate Disney's various divisions. Specifically, creative executives will now be responsible for determining what movies, TV series or other content to produce, as well as the marketing and distribution.

"Our new structure is aimed at returning greater authority to our creative leaders and making them accountable for how their content performs financially," Iger said during a call with Wall Street

analysts.

In its latest results, solid growth at Disney's theme parks helped offset tepid performance in its video streaming and movie business.

Disney said Wednesday that it earned \$1.28 billion, or 70 cents per share, in the three months through Dec. 31. That compares with net income of \$1.1 billion, or 60 cents per share, a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items, Disney earned 99 cents per share. Analysts, on average, were expecting adjusted earnings of 78 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Revenue grew 8% to \$23.51 billion from \$21.82 billion a year earlier. Analysts were expecting revenue of \$23.44 billion.

Disney said sales at its parks, experiences and products segment grew 21% to \$8.74 billion, from \$7.23 billion a year

earlier. While revenue for the segment that includes Disney's movie business edged up 1% to \$14.78 billion from \$14.59 billion a year earlier.

The company's direct-to-consumer business, which includes its streaming services, posted a \$1.1 billion operating loss amid higher programming and production costs at Disney+ and Hulu.

Disney+ ended the quarter with 161.8 million subscribers, down 1% from since Oct. 1. Hulu and ESPN+ each posted a 2% increase in paid subscribers during the quarter.

The company rolled out new price tiers for its U.S. Disney+ service in December that raised the monthly price for ad-free viewing from \$7.99 to \$10.99 and created a new basic Disney+ service with ads that costs \$7.99 a month.

Management said Wednesday that Disney+ plus will achieve profitability by the end of its next fiscal year in September 2024.

The latest results marked the first quarterly snapshot since Iger's return as CEO.

The move to revamp the company and slash costs comes as Disney is under pressure to turn its business around.

Activist investor Nelson Peltz, CEO of Trian Fund Management, is vying for a seat on Disney's board of directors, arguing that the company's recent operating performance has been disappointing and the result of self-inflicted problems stemming from failed succession planning efforts, a flawed direct-to-consumer strategy and "over-the-top" compensation practices, among other concerns.

Disney has urged share-

holders to vote against Peltz and last month named board member Mark Parker as its chairman. Parker, who also serves as executive chairman at Nike Inc., has been tapped to head Disney's newly created succession planning committee, which will advise the board on CEO succession planning.

Iger also announced Wednesday that he intends to ask the board to approve the reinstatement of a "modest" dividend by the end of this year. The company suspended its dividend in the spring of 2020, in the early days of the pandemic.

Shares in Disney, which is based in Burbank, California, rose almost 6% in after-hours trading.

This story has been updated to show that Disney earned \$1.28 billion in the quarter, not \$1.28 million.



Andy Thibault, Editor and Publisher of The Winsted Citizen, carries the first bundle of papers off a pallet as Advertising and Circulation Director Rosemary Scanlon holds the first print press plate while a group of musicians play behind them after the arrival of the first delivery of the paper on, Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, in Winsted, Conn. At a time that local newspapers are dying at an alarming rate, longtime activist Ralph Nader is helping give birth to one. Nader put up \$15,000 to help launch The Winsted Citizen and hired a veteran Connecticut journalist, Andy Thibault, to put it together.

PHOTO BY JESSICA HILL | AP

Newspapers dying? Ralph Nader's giving birth to one

By David Bauder

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK — At age 88, Ralph Nader believes his neighbors in northwest Connecticut are tired of electronics and miss the feel of holding a newspaper to read about their town.

So at a time that local newspapers are dying at an alarming rate, the longtime activist is helping give birth to one.

Copies of the first edition of the Winsted Citizen are circulating around this old New England mill town, with stories about a newly-opened food co-op, a Methodist church closing after attendance lagged at services and the repair of a century-old bridge.

"If it works, it will be a good model for the rest of the country," said Nader, who as a youngster delivered a long-gone Winsted daily paper in his hometown. He splits time now between Winsted and Washington, D.C.

The last locally-based weekly paper, the Winsted Journal, began in 1996 before being shut down in 2017, unable to make enough money to support itself.

A town of about 8,000, Winsted has seen better days. Locals still talk about the 1955 hurricane that wiped out much of Main Street and killed a big employer, the Gilbert Clock Co. Winsted is surrounded by several better-off smaller communities, with

Litchfield County a popular second-home destination for city dwellers, and the Winsted Citizen will cover those, too.

Since the Journal shut down, people are losing touch with what's going on in local government and the news that knits a community — who's getting engaged, who's given birth — Nader said.

"After awhile it all congeals and you start losing history," he said. "Every year you don't have a newspaper, you lose that connection."

Nader invested \$15,000 and hired a veteran Connecticut journalist, Andy Thibault, to get the Citizen started. The masthead lists 17 reporters. They get paid, Thibault said, "when they write a story."

The motto: "It's your paper. We work for you."

The Citizen plans to publish monthly until next January, when it will become a weekly, Thibault said. He plans to sustain the newspaper through advertising, donations and subscriptions — \$25 for the rest of 2023, and \$95 a year after that.

Nader is full of suggestions but not intrusive, Thibault said. The consumer activist and four-time presidential candidate doesn't dictate a political stance, he said.

Thibault has used his connections to build a solid bench of contributors, including longtime Hartford Courant editorial cartoonist Bob Englehart. The first issue includes a lengthy profile

of a successful local basketball coach and a story about a project to paint a five-story mural in two abandoned mill buildings.

The depiction of Winsted as a news desert has grated on some. Bruno Matarazzo Jr., a reporter for the nearby Republican-American in Waterbury, taunts Nader with tweeted reminders that the daily newspaper covers Winsted regularly. Waterbury is about 28 miles (45 km) from Winsted.

"It's different coverage when a town has its own newspaper than when you have a daily coming in to cover it," said Janet Manko, publisher and editor in chief of another Connecticut weekly, the Lakeville Journal, which also published the Winsted Journal before it closed. The failure wasn't because Winsted didn't deserve a paper, she said.

The Journal is among an estimated 2,500 newspapers that have closed in the United States since 2005, all but about 100 non-dailies, according to a report issued last year by the Northwestern/Medill Local News Initiative.

So Nader is clearly bucking a trend and is to be commended, said Penelope Muse Abernathy, who wrote "The State of Local News" report.

"It will turn heads because it's Ralph Nader," she said.

But maybe he won't be as lonely as it seems. Abernathy said she's been getting more frequent calls lately for advice from people who

want to open newspapers. The cautious approach used by the Citizen — monthly issues before turning weekly — has been used by others, she said. There's a greater recognition of the need for a smart business plan, instead of just a passion project.

Given Nader's romance with print, it's somewhat odd that the lead story in the Citizen's inaugural edition talks to young Winsted residents about how they get much of their news from social media. Thibault said he plans to build an online presence.

"I like print," said Terry Cowgill, a columnist for the CTNewsJunkie.com website. "I still like holding a print newspaper in my hand. I'm 65 years old. Most people under 50, certainly under 40, have scarcely ever held a newspaper in their hands."

He's rooting for the Citizen, though. Cowgill said he suspects the Citizen's best chance for long-term success is whether Nader can trade on his celebrity for foundation grants.

Volunteers fanned out on a frigid day last week to deliver copies of the first 12-page issue. One woman, Ruthie Ursone Napoleone, stopped a delivery car to ask for more copies. Her father's obituary was in the first issue, her nephew was quoted in another story and a third featured her workplace.

She hugged the person who gave her the extra papers.

"I wish my dad could read this," Napoleone said.

Visitors can see famed Florence baptistry's mosaics up close

By Francesco Sportelli

Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy — Visitors to one of Florence's most iconic monuments — the Baptistery of San Giovanni, opposite the city's Duomo — are getting a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see its ceiling mosaics up close thanks to an innovative approach to a planned restoration effort.

Rather than limit the public's access during the six-year cleaning of the vault, officials built a scaffolding platform for the art restorers that will also allow small numbers of visitors to see the ceiling mosaics at eye level.

"We had to turn this occasion into an opportunity to make it even more accessible and usable by the public through special routes that would bring visitors into direct contact with the mosaics," Samuele Caciagli, the architect in charge of the restoration site, said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Caciagli called the new scaffolding tour of the baptistry vault "a unique opportunity that is unlikely to be repeated in the coming decades."

The scaffolding platform sprouts like a mushroom from the floor of the baptistry and reaches a height of 32 meters (105 feet) from the ground. Visits are set to start Feb. 24 and must be reserved in advance.

The octagonal-shaped baptistry is one of the most visible monuments of Florence. Its exterior features an alternating geometric pattern of white Carrara and green Prato marble and three great bronze doors depicting biblical scenes.

Inside, however, are spectacular mosaic scenes of The Last Judgment and John the Baptist dating from the 13th century and created

using some 10 million pieces of stone and glass over 1,000 square meters of dome and wall.

The six-year restoration project is the first in over a century. It initially involves conducting studies on the current state of the mosaics to determine what needs to be done. The expected work includes addressing any water damage to the mortar, removing decades of grime and reaffixing the stones to prevent them from detaching.

"(This first phase) is a bit like the diagnosis of a patient: a whole series of diagnostic investigations are carried out to understand what pathologies of degradation are present on the mosaic material but also on the whole attachment package that holds this mosaic material to the structure behind it," Beatrice Agostini, who is in charge of the restoration work, said.

The Baptistery of San Giovanni and its mosaics have undergone previous restorations over the centuries, many of them inefficient or even damaging to the structure. During one botched effort in 1819, an entire section of mosaics detached. Persistent water damage from roof leaks did not get resolved until 2014-2015.

Roberto Nardi, director of the Archaeological Conservation Center, the private company managing the restoration, said the planned work wouldn't introduce any material that is foreign to the original types of stone and mortar used centuries ago.

"It is a mix of science, technology, experience and tradition," he said.

The origins of the baptistry are something of a mystery. Some believe it was once a pagan temple, though the current structure dates from the 4th or 5th centuries.

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The City of Knob Noster is currently accepting applications for a full time **COURT CLERK**.
Regular hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with a scheduled one hour lunch break each day. Court days, which are generally once per month, will require additional hours based on the docket for the night. Attendance at court proceedings is required. The Court Clerk will also be expected to attend Board of Aldermen meetings two nights a month. Job duties include, but are not limited to, processing communications and correspondence for the Municipal Judge, sending court notices to defendants, answering phones and taking payment at the customer service desk of City Hall. The Court Clerk will also work closely with the Police Department, City Prosecutor, defense attorneys, and the general public. Good verbal and interpersonal skills and attention to detail are a must. The successful candidate must be a self-motivated person with a positive attitude. Prior experience in the municipal court field is highly desired.
The City of Knob Noster offers a competitive benefits package that includes fully paid health insurance for the employee and offers for family coverage as well. Other benefits include vision and dental coverage, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave benefits, City contribution to the LAGERS retirement benefit, and optional term life insurance, cancer, and accident coverage. The starting salary range for this position is \$18.00-\$20.00, depending on qualifications and experience. Apply at Knob Noster City Hall, 201 N. State, Knob Noster, MO, 65336, or email City Clerk Amy Schouten at aschouten@cityofkn.net.
First review of applications will be Friday, February 17, 2023.
Position is open until filled.
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YARD SALES

Pettis County

Estate Sale
1916 E 15th St
Sat 11th 9-12
Household items, furniture, kitchenware, hand tools, pictures, lots more.

Garage Sale
8040 Hawthorne Drive
Saturday 8-5
Household items, small kitchen appliances, ladies shoes size 10-11, ladies clothes, some yard tools, hospital equipment, books, primitive cabinets, file cabinet & misc.

Legal Notice

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)
Defendants.

Case No.: 22PT-CC00149
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The State of Missouri to John Doe and Jane Doe, such names representing the any 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, PET-

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Legal Notice

TIS 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 Lake-wood 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

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2 nd Sat.: Cattle Sale 11:00 a.m.	2 nd Tues.: Special Feeder Sale 11:00 a.m.
3 rd Sat.: Special Feeder Sale 11:00 a.m.	3 rd Tues.: Cow Sale 6:00 p.m.
4 th Sat.: Cattle Sale Every Sat. 11:00 a.m.	4 th Tues.: Special Feeder Sale 11:00 a.m.

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PUBLIC AUCTION
American Legion post 217
32739 Hwy MM, Warsaw Mo. 65355
we will sell the following at public Auction on:
Saturday February 18th 10:00am 2023

Directions: From Warsaw go South on 65 Hwy. to White Branch Exit to Wildcat Dr. follow Wildcat Dr./MM to Auction on Right, Watch for signs on sale day.

Household & Misc.: CITIA stairway lift chair, "Golden" lift chair (like new, still has tags on it) Kenmore cross bottom refrigerator w/ice maker, Kenmore "Elite" glass top oven/range, 5pc. King size bedroom set, small wardrobe, grandmothers' clock, Octagonal Dinette set w/4 roll around upholstered chairs, 2 - 30" Samsung TVs, drop leaf dinette set w/4 chairs extra leaves & pads, Early American colonial china hutch, chest of drawers, Lay-Z-Boy Faux leather "big man" rocker recliner, oak pantry, knotty pine storage cabinet, 2 - four drawer file cabinets, GE microwave, 3 - wooden bookshelves, lot assorted end tables, lot misc. occ tables, four drawer filing cabinet, vintage metal office desk, all mesh fully adjustable office chair, 10' oak kitchen cabinet, lot floor & table lamps, lot bar stools, lot misc. office supplies & organizers, oil lamps, Mickey & Mini mouse cookie jar, lot enamel ware, lot plastic storage units with drawers, mid-century modern paintings on felt, massage table, vintage brass & glass hurricane lamp, 2 - touch lamps, lot small heaters, lot floor fans, Aro-bed queen size air bed w/pump, 3 - alum. cots, Oreck XL21 Hepa-Celoc hypo-Allergenic upright sweeper, Kirby sweeper w/attachments, Hoover "ultra" wind-tunnel sweeper, Hoover upright carpet cleaner, 3 - small carpet vacs, Model Santa-Maria flag ship in case, commercial mandolin slicer, lot baskets, set copper chef cook ware, ZEN living 3500 professional UV & HEPA air purifier, 2 - food savers, King size comforter set, Bravetti pressure cooker, lot spices, ANALON pots & pans 8pc set, lot wall art, Royal Hager vase, Crate & Barrel leaded glass vases, 6 - 8 atomic clocks,

Sewing & craft Items: Bernina 1130 top stitch sewing machine with walking foot, Juki TL98E Professional quilting machine w/accessories, Bernina 1300DC Serger, Bernette by Bernina 334D serger, lot quilt tops, 3 - sewing/quilting cabinets extra nice, 3 - twin-fit dress forms, lot free standing sewing/craft lamps, lot Sewing notions, lg lot fabric, lot assorted buttons, lg lot thread various colors, lg lot quilting & sewing books, mat cutters, Brother laminating machine, lg lot cutting boards mats & measurers, lot crafting supplies & patterns,

Miscellaneous: Nustep T4r cross trainer recumbent bike, Pro-Form treadmill, Nordic-Trac ski machine, gazing ball, 30" cast iron pot, bird bath, lot misc. long handled tools, Sprinkle cans, lot fishing poles & tackle,

Many More Items Too Numerous to Mention
*Statements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.
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LAND AUCTION
TOTALING 320 ACRES

We will sell at public auction the following real estate , Location of auction will be held at the Johnson County Fair Grounds building located at 386 NW 145 Rd Warrensburg Mo.64093



Thursday, February 16th, 2023 at 12:00 Noon
Owner: Estate of Charles & Josephine Prill



JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS 386 NW 145 ROAD WARRENSBURG MO. 64093 Selling in 4 tracts totaling 320 acres M/I

- Tract 1.** Approx. 87 acres of pasture and timber located off of 101 road (West of Iron Horse)
- Tract 2.** Approx. 127 acres of tillable farm land located off of 100 road west of 101 road approx. 1/2 mile North side of road
- Tract 3.** Approx. 106 acres tillable farm land and timber (Property located north of 50 hwy at West side intersection of Bus 50 and 50 Hwy.(City of Warrensburg City Sewer plant is on North side of property)
- Tract 4.** Vacant lot Approx. 1/2 acre-81 W Pine Street Warrensburg Mo. 64093

Terms: 20,000.00 down day of auction per tract, balance due at closing on or before 30 days title insurance and warranty deed provided taxes prorated, Property sells in As Is Condition.

Tract 4. Will have exception of 1000.00 down day of auction balance due at closing.

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