

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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SedaliaDemocrat.com • \$2

Nevils named new Pettis County Health Administrator

By Chris Howell
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Melinda Nevils, BSN, RN, has been hired as the new administrator of the Pettis County Health Center and began her new position March 4, replacing JoAnn Martin, who retired in December.

She has served at the Health Center since being hired in 2000 and has fulfilled roles in clinical, emergency preparedness, communicable disease response and administrative capabilities.

"I've been in nursing 42 years, so I'm kind of on the older end of the spectrum," Nevils said. "My hope was that we would have had somebody younger, energetic, that would have plans for the future for our community and work with the community partners that we have, and then I

thought, 'Why not?' So I just threw my name in and they went ahead and selected me and we'll take it from there."

Nevils describes herself as a "behind-the-scenes" worker, unaccustomed to the public attention the job brings, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020.

"I had to do a lot of thinking because post-COVID, people are still upset about how they perceive things to be," Nevils said. "Some of it correct, some of it incorrect. People were so upset and angry and so it was a lot of thinking, plus I tend to have to research things because I need to find out."

Nevils spent hours reading and rereading statutes designed to manage public health so she could truly understand their intent.

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Intern Brianna Thomas, left, talks with Pettis County Health Administrator Malinda Nevils, BSN, RN, Friday, April 7 at the Pettis County Health Center. Honor students were building a raised garden bed as part of a larger life-skills program Nevils is offering.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Open Door Kitchen volunteer Bonnie Diefendorf prepares salad for the noon meal as head cook Carol Turner watched last week. The kitchen is celebrating its fifth anniversary and has hired Amanda Hubbard as the kitchen manager.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Open Door Kitchen celebrates five years Hubbard takes position of kitchen manager

By Faith Bemiss
fbemiss@sedaliademocrat.com

Open Door Kitchen will celebrate its fifth anniversary this year by adding a new staff position of kitchen manager.

The kitchen, which opened in 2018, offers noon meals seven days a week from its state-of-the-art industrial kitchen. The volunteer-run kitchen provides the citizens of Pettis County with free hot meals in a safe and warm environment.

Open Door Executive Director Amanda Davis said they had created a new kitchen manager position, now filled by Amanda Hubbard, in February. Hubbard noted she began as a volunteer in the kitchen.

"Then they made me a kitchen assistant position for me because I was here every day," she explained.

Davis added that Hubbard was "showing so much love" for the kitchen, so they opened the position for her.

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Open Door Kitchen Manager Amanda Hubbard, left, stands with Open Door Executive Director Amanda Davis last week at the kitchen.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Smith-Cotton preparing for new professional studies program

By Nicole Cooke
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Smith-Cotton High School is taking some of its first steps toward implementing the new Center for Advanced Professional Studies program.

Sedalia School District 200 announced last week the Board of Education hired S-C engineering teacher Michael Wright as the first director of the CAPS program; earlier this year, the board gave overall approval to start the program.

According to a news release, CAPS provides profession-based learning and skill development while also

encouraging the building of an entrepreneurial mindset. Wright will spend the 2023-24 school year creating curriculum and building community and district partnerships. The program will begin with the 2024-25 school year.

A new teacher will be hired to take over Wright's engineering classes, but he will remain head coach of Team SCREAM, the Smith-Cotton competitive robotics program.

"The CAPS model, really in a lot of ways, changes the way education's done," Wright said. "It's less classroom instruction and more partnerships with local industries and real-world

and professional environments that the students go into. A lot of it has to do with us establishing relationships with local businesses and partners and providing opportunities for our students to work alongside professionals on a day-to-day basis. Those can look like internships, mentorships, they could be client projects."

Wright said he was attracted to the new position because he's seen firsthand through his work with Team SCREAM how professional connections with mentors and sponsors can benefit students.

"We are already doing a lot of the things the CAPS model

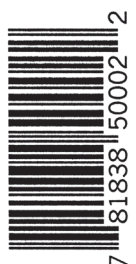
is about here in the engineering department and our different technical education departments," Wright said. "... I wanted to be part of something that provides more of that for our students. There are so many opportunities out there. ... That's the part that I'm familiar with and I'm excited to continue building relationships with the community."

It's those connections, plus his time as director of the Career & Technology Center at State Fair Community College, that makes Wright the best candidate for the job, according to S-C Principal Wade Norton.

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Michael Wright



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What's your take on today's news? Go to sedaliademocrat.com or visit us on social media to share your thoughts!

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Hearts and Heroes Date Night

register by April 15

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- Convention Hall
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- Ages 3-12 years
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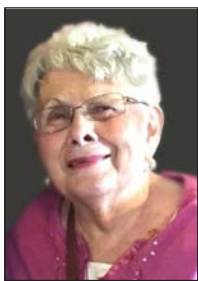
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OBITUARIES

Phyllis Jo Grace

Phyllis Jo Grace, 84, of Raymore, MO, formerly of Warsaw, passed away on Sunday, April 2, 2023, at her home in Raymore, MO. She was born on September 27, 1938, in Sedalia, MO, the daughter of Harry Herman Stout and Vivian "Sue" (Shoe) Stout, who preceded her in death.



Amy Prindle (Tim), Chris Meuschke (Tracy), Zac Grace (Lindsay), Tyler Grace (Shelby), Taylor Grace (Amy), Landon Grace (Sara), Justine Howell (Dustin), and Monica Belcke (Stuart); 10 great-grandchildren; two

brothers, Tony Stout (Julie) of Lee's Summit, MO, and Gary Stout of Marshall, MO; a sister, Donna Smith (Duane) of Galeton, PA; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Besides her parents, Phyllis is preceded in death by a sister, Debbie Norton of Sedalia, MO, and an infant brother, Harry Jr.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, Sedalia, MO.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Burial will be at Crown Hill Cemetery, Sedalia, MO.

Memorial contributions may be made to Just Like Family Comfort Care in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel, 1001 S. Limit Ave, Sedalia, MO 65301.

Phyllis was a 1956 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School. She worked as a cook at the Warsaw Elementary School for 28 years. Phyllis enjoyed traveling to Mission, TX, with her husband during the winter time. She also enjoyed playing cards and having Sunday dinners with her family. She especially loved spending time with her grand and great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband, Phyllis is survived by her three children, Cindy Wade (David) of Lake Winnebago, MO, Tim Grace (Pam) of Warsaw, MO, and Mitch Grace (Leslie) of Edwards, MO; eight grandchildren,

Anna Reba Frances Trent Starke

Anna Reba Frances Trent Starke, age 92, of Florence, MO, died Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at the Golden Age Living Center in Stover, MO.



She was born September 27, 1930, in Thornfield, MO, the daughter of Claude E. and Georgia E. (Sisemore) Trent, who preceded her in death.

On October 24, 1968, she married Bill D. Starke, who preceded her in death on September 20, 1997.

Frances was a bookkeeper before her marriage and a homemaker after she married Bill. Later she was a farmer alongside her husband. When she was 70 years old, she went to school to become a certified nurse assistant and worked at Tipton Oak Manor in the Alzheimer's Unit, which she really enjoyed.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Billy Trent; and two sisters, Betty Schick and Marie Peters.

Surviving are two daughters, Lizabeth "Iggie" Brown of Sun City, AZ, and Starla

Starke of Columbia, MO; a son, John Starke (Ginny) of Florence, MO; three granddaughters, Courtnee Fasulo (Bryan) of Phoenix, AZ, Ashley Witte (Chris) of Stover, MO, and Karen Nolting (Jacob) of Florence, MO; five great-grandchildren, C.J., Brooklyn, Darian, Elliott, and Jackson; and one great-grandson, Elias.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton, MO, with Pastor Bill Johnson, officiating. Burial will follow in the Syracuse Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023, at Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton, MO.

Pallbearers will be Staff Sgt. CJ Williams, Darrian McEwen, Chris Witte, Jacob Nolting, Tracy Peters, Mike Trent, and Joe Kutenkuler.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Hospice Compassus, Osage Beach Office.

CRASH REPORTS

Four juveniles hurt in Johnson County bus mishap

A 6-year-old male from Holden, a 6-year-old male from La Tour, a 15-year-old male from Holden and a 17-year-old female from Holden all sustained minor injuries at 7:50 a.m. Wednesday in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 2018 Freightliner B2 bus driven by Christopher M. Myers, 70, of Warrensburg, was headed south on Southwest 1601 Road when the back left tire slid into a ditch and the back left portion of the bus impacted the ground.

All passengers were exempt from wearing seat belts. The 6-year-olds were released with minor injuries, the 15-year-old is seeking his own treatment, and the 17-year-old girl was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

10 S-C artists' work picked for coloring book

Ten Smith-Cotton High School art students had their work selected to be published in the Missouri Art Education Association's "Show Me Art Coloring Book: Missouri Hometown Pride, 3rd edition." The 219-page coloring book is based on the theme of "Missouri Hometown

Pride."

The S-C artists selected, all students of teacher Rachel Ramirez, are: Natali Newkirk, Emilia Waldo, Ana Cedillo, Carmen Ventura, Arthur Sheremeta, Addisyn Hunt, Kailey Lor, Nicole Hathaway, Mark Nochka and Danielle Burkhart.

The book can be purchased through Amazon at tinyurl.com/MAEAColoringBook and the proceeds will go toward the MAEA High School Future Art Teacher Scholarship Fund.

Release courtesy of Sedalia School District 200.



Displaying their art pieces that were selected for the Missouri Art Education Association's "Show Me Art Coloring Book: Missouri Hometown Pride, 3rd edition" are Smith-Cotton High students, front, from left: Carmen Ventura, Kailey Lor and Danielle Burkhart; back from left: Natali Newkirk, Addisyn Hunt, Mark Nochka and Ana Cedillo. Not pictured: Emilia Waldo, Arthur Sheremeta, Nicole Hathaway. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

Studies

From Page A1

"He's a proven leader with students and with fellow adults, and that's a skill that this position is going to need because they'll have to connect with adults in the community and students," Norton added.

Over the next year, Wright will help determine the Sedalia program's strands – focus areas such as engineering, health care or entrepreneurship – hire teachers and establish partnerships. Wright and Norton said the program will be hosted by S-C, but students from smaller area districts will be able to participate.

Norton said Sedalia will be a hybrid CAPS model, with some classes taking place at S-C and some opportunities happening at businesses.

"It's professional opportunities, from networking to building durable skills, communication, problem-solving, teamwork, becoming aware of the great opportunities that our community has," Wright said.

CAPS was launched in 2009 in the Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, Kansas. Since then, it has expanded to become a

nonprofit organization with 96 affiliate programs across 170 school districts in 23 states, plus three international programs.

CAPS has five core values: profession-based learning, professional skills development, self-discovery and exploration, entrepreneurial mindset, and responsiveness. Corey Mohn, President and Executive Director of the CAPS Network, said the programs are meant to be tailored to each community's needs.

"There's a chance to see how others are getting there, learn what can apply in my community or what would never work here," Mohn said. "To make it sustainable, it's not everyone doing the same thing and they're not forced to do it one way. We're support and a framework, coaching, but we're interested in local action and design around our core values with local context."

Mohn said CAPS hosts an open forum on Zoom for affiliates to share information and inspire each other. Norton and Wright took part this week and heard from programs across the country. While the focus is on local partnerships, the network will also allow Wright to reach out to the nonprofit when a student expresses interest in

a particular area that may fit a national partner.

Mohn said many students have the assumption that their career path will be a straight line, but that's rarely the case. CAPS allows students to get exposed to their options, a chance to determine what they like, or don't like.

Mohn said he sees the program's overall purpose and benefit as providing students with opportunities for self-discovery and empowerment. They can learn more about themselves while working on projects that have the potential for real impact, branching outside the traditional classroom education.

"What's super exciting about Sedalia joining is students will have the option in front of them to feel that empowerment, take on responsibility, learn about themselves, deploy in the community, and go out and undoubtedly make the world a better place," Mohn said.

Wright noted S-C has numerous programs, such as the engineering department, DECA, FBLA, HOSA and JAG, that are already closely aligned with the CAPS model. Launching CAPS will help bring all of those efforts under one umbrella.

"We've got all these

individual programs and to be honest, those programs have really been school-based, and they have had small connections with the community," Norton continued. "Sometimes we reach out for donations, sometimes you reach out for mentors with robotics, have a doctor come talk to HOSA. But again, we've been bringing in the real world to the school and it's not real. Now, our job is to take all the stuff we're doing and give these kids the opportunity to grow, learn and fail in the real world with these people within their fields."

Norton said they want to talk with professionals in avenues like health care and economic development to find the missed opportunities and fill those gaps with CAPS, showing students there are viable career options close to home.

"My goal is to refill our town with Smith-Cotton graduates ... so it's not so hard for all our businesses to find people," Norton said. "I think everyone who graduates from Smith-Cotton says, 'I'm never coming back here,' like I did, but my goal is for them to come home."

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

FUNERALS

David Dean "T.D." Rowlands

noon Saturday at Tipton City Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton.

Anna Reba Frances Trent Starke

11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11 at Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home.

Phyllis Jo Grace

1 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at the First United Methodist Church Celebration Center in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Patsy Rogers

2 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at the Hadley Funeral Home in Windsor. Arrangements are under the direc-

tion of Hadley Funeral Home.

Virgil Lewis Schlobohm

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Henry Louis Vogler

11 a.m. Saturday, April 22 at First United Methodist Church in Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp

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.

Gary Charlie Brown

3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Korner Lounge in Sedalia. Arrangements are in the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

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.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The ancient sermon

Columnist's note: Long-time readers may notice that this column sounds familiar. I originally published it in 2020. It continues to be both relevant and urgent today, the most important message of our time — and of all times. Happy and Blessed Easter, from my family to yours.



Liz Schleicher
Contributing Columnist

There is an ancient sermon for the day before Easter, so old that nobody knows who wrote it. The author is one of the early Christians now known only to God. It begins,

"Something strange is happening — there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep."

The homilist reaches straight into our lives from more than a thousand years ago.

Something strange is happening.

There is a great silence.

The stores are shuttered. The parks are empty. The schools closed. There are no concerts, no parties, not even a church service where people can gather.

The whole earth keeps silence.

The nameless Christian continues:

"The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear. He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve ..."

We are all Adam and Eve now, feverish and gasping for breath in our sick and silent world.

For thousands of years, we have built an ever more constricting and suffocating hell for ourselves from the timbers of injustice, hatred, poverty, greed, arrogance, objectification, envy, and despair. The weight of these burdens has been doubled by the mysteries of evil: sickness, suffering and death.

Now we are crushed under our load, eternally captive and irreparably broken. There is no way out — or so we think.

Then:

"I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you

are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated ... I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you."

Christ reaches down from the Cross and plucks us out of our restless sleep and stupor.

He undoes the eternal consequences of the pain, the senselessness, the violence, once and for all. But he leaves us with a task.

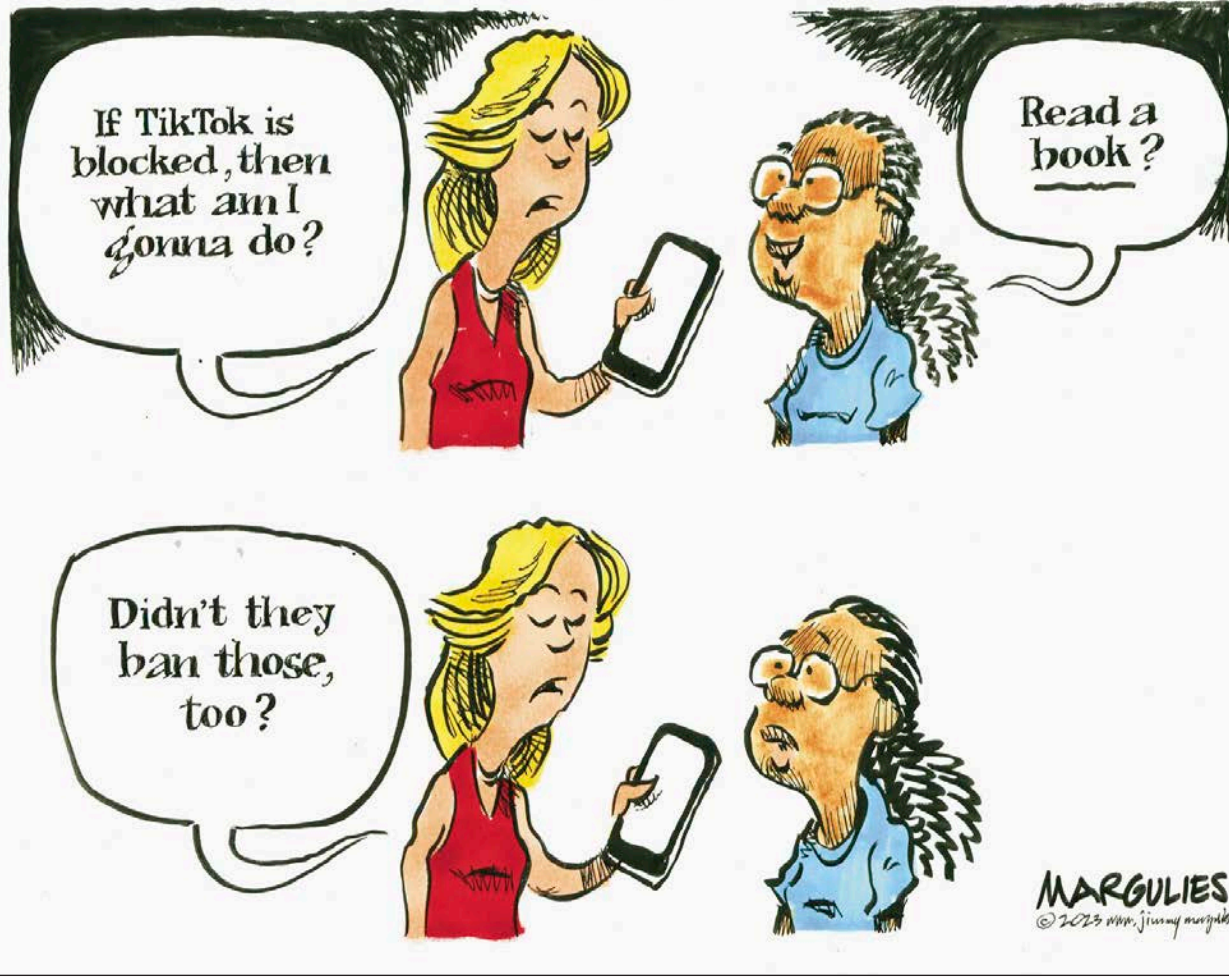
"Rise, let us leave this place."

We will be done with this strange silence. Easter will come. So will a new season of good health and happiness. But we must be willing to leave the old season behind. That means throwing off the hatred and injustice, anger and despair. It means waking out of the sleep of laziness and indifference. It means participating in the hard work of both earthly and everlasting salvation. We must do it together, with care for even the most delicate among us, for when one part suffers, so does the whole body.

This great stillness is a cross, but it is also an opportunity to decide where we want to go next as a community, a nation, and a world. We could stay here, drowsy and broken in an underworld of our own making. Or we could answer the ancient call of Easter.

"Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity."

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

An evolving Easter family tradition

I've heard it said that all good things must come to an end, but I've never believed that; however, this past week made me question my belief.



Deborah Mitchell
Contributing Columnist

Over the years, I have waxed poetic about my family's Easter get-togethers, the genesis of which came from our meetings in Thayer from when Emily was about 3 years old. The problem with those get-togethers, though, was my position as accompanist for the choir. I was required to be at the Maundy Thursday evening service, meaning that we couldn't leave for Thayer — a four-hour drive away — until Friday morning, and then we had to leave on Saturday, because I had to be in church at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning. Eventually, we decided that if we celebrated in Sedalia, we would get to spend more time together. And so, the Gillespie Girls Sedalia Easter was born.

I loved those days, reveling in the excitement of planning the event, planning good food, and making sure that we had a schedule of events that gave everyone an opportunity to talk to everyone else, time for the Gillespie Girls to celebrate alone,

and time for the littlest members of the clan to get to know those whom they don't see every day.

We did girls' day at the Bothwell Hotel Spa, sat around in the big backyard, dyed eggs for the Easter bunny to hide, found those same eggs after they had been hidden, traded Easter baskets full of treats, and, of course, ate everything in sight.

Eventually, everyone went home, and Max and I were left with a beautifully messy house and leftovers enough to feed us for a week.

But those lovely days came to an end.

First, the Bothwell Hotel Spa closed. We had to find another venue to put up with our loud giggling and laughing. Then the pandemic hit, and none of us wanted to risk traveling and being in close quarters. Then we sold our house.

Finally, after we felt comfortable traveling, the second generation down didn't always have time off from school, and traveling from the Chicago area to Sedalia requires more than a two-day break.

So last year, we decided to do Easter in June. We had time in the pool, a cookout, a wedding, more time in the pool, and a lovely Saturday brunch at Lamy's. The weekend was so successful that we decided to re-calibrate the tradition, so that our Easter will now be in June.

But some of the cousins — Emily's generation — decided that they missed having Easter together. And so it came to pass that Emily has assumed the mantle of Easter hostess.

As I write this, we are waiting to see our cousins from Kansas City, who are coming to Little Rock for Easter. Though they are driving much farther than they did in years past, it was important to them to continue this tradition. I'm pleased about that because I like that our family continues to enjoy each other.

We came to help Emily prepare for the weekend only to find that she doesn't need any help

at all. She had made a minute-by-minute itinerary, had planned meals, had made a grocery list (divided into ingredients and stores where the ingredients could be most advantageously purchased), and had made a list of everything she needed to do to prepare.

We did go shopping with her yesterday and spent five hours on the way to, on the way from, and in the stores. Fortunately, we packed lightly, because Max and I found many things that we "needed," especially in a store we entered to find a boiled egg peeler. It wasn't there, but lots of other good stuff was.

Unfortunately, one thing has reverted to those old days in Thayer: We must leave on Saturday because I will be leading Betty's Miracle Choir in another Easter tradition that had fallen by the wayside — singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Though I am excited about that revival, I will miss my baby on Easter as she carries on the tradition she and her cousins love.

Maybe I was right in the first place. All good things don't come to an end. They just change.

Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.

THEIR VIEW

Missouri sees jump in youth workforce

By Jefferson City News Tribune

After-school or summer jobs can bring back fond memories to many adults who remember the life skills they learned and the pride and independence they felt with some hard-earned cash in their pocket.

That rite of passage has the ability to shape a young person's life and career choices by instilling in them the discipline and drive to succeed in the workplace.

But it can also have a more ominous side, and we're seeing it as more Missouri employers are turning to younger workers to fill employment gaps and, in turn, violating child labor laws.

Why are we seeing such a jump in hiring of youths, as well as an increase in child labor law violations?

Missouri began recording record low unemployment rates starting in June and July 2022, according to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center. After bottoming out at 2.4% in September, the state jobless rate has climbed to around 2.6-2.8% in months since.

"To get warm bodies, they (employers) are being forced to hire young kids for these initial jobs," said Todd Smith, director of the division of labor standards for the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

More than 3,100 Missouri teenagers ages 14 and 15 joined the workforce in 2022. It's a 45% increase from 2021, according to data from the state labor department. The number of youth work permits jumped from 6,997 to 10,152.

The same year-to-year comparison shows an increase of more than 250% in the number of youth employment complaints, which grew from 19 in 2021 to 67 in 2022.

Youth employment data for 2022 show more than 2,200 workers between the ages of 14 and 18 were injured seriously enough that the incident had to be reported to the state's Division of Workers' Compensation.

The types of injuries reported largely haven't changed from past years. Lacerations were the leading workplace injury reported among youths, followed by contusions (bruises), abrasions (scrapes), muscle strains and tears, burns and ligament sprains.

The retail trade industry reported the most number of minors with injuries, followed by the accommodation and food service industry and the health care and social assistance industry.

The state's 67 child labor complaints doesn't mean most employers are skirting the child labor laws; some of the increase could be due to the increase in the number of youths entering the workforce.

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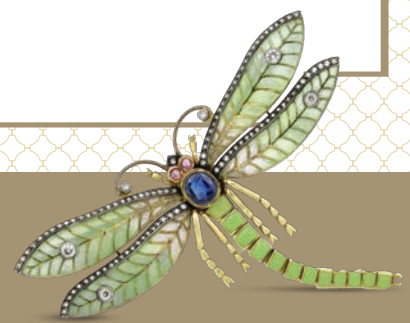
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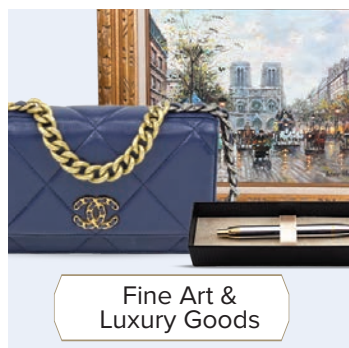
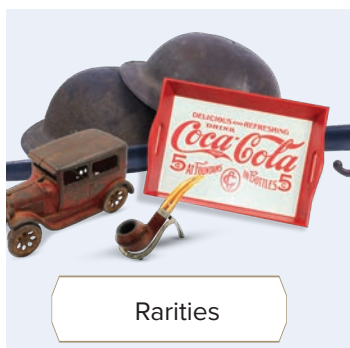
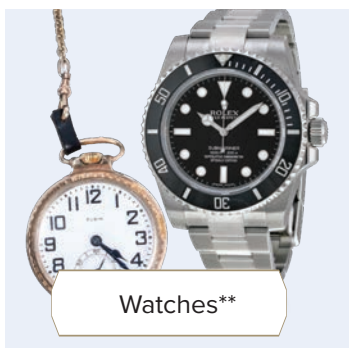
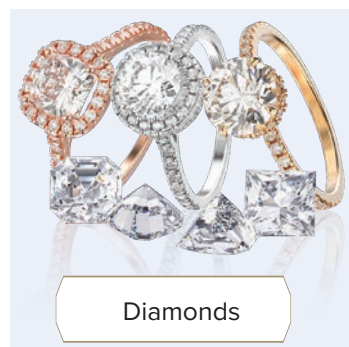
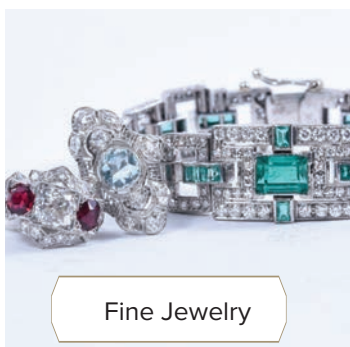
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- Gloria M. Both gentlemen were professional and friendly with great customer skills! We were treated fairly and are very pleased with the results! Thank you!

Kitchen

From Page A1

Hubbard related her backstory about how she first came to Open Door. "I fell on hard times," she noted. "I've been in recovery for two and half years now. "I started coming here to get the meals because I needed them for me, my son, and my boyfriend," she continued. "And then I met Buddy (the late William Boggs). He was the one who, during COVID, was handing the meals out at the door.

"Then he needed some help because he started having some medical problems," she added. "So, I started volunteering to fill in for him. He was really crucial during the pandemic."

She said, unfortunately, her boyfriend died, and she found herself in a bad place. But, after meeting staff at Open Door, she eventually began staying at Keeper's Promise, a recovery home in Sedalia. She is now a house mom at Keeper's Promise.

Kitchen manager duties include ordering supplies from



Last week, Donna Beykirch, a volunteer at Open Door Kitchen, wrapped pastries that Sedalia Panera Bread donated. Beykirch has volunteered at the kitchen for a year.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

the Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri. Hubbard also oversees all the kitchen's responsibilities, including making sure the kitchen is up to health standards and clean and the cooks and volunteers follow health guidelines.

Davis added Hubbard takes care of the maintenance of the whole building and helps guide the volunteers who work and the kitchen.

"She has a big role at Open Door," Davis added. "A year ago, we started talking about it, and I asked her, 'I said,

Amanda, are you ready?' And she said, 'yes, I think I am.'"

Hubbard began a year-long training process before starting her position in February. She also works closely with the Open Door Pantry and Open Door Thrift Shop.

"We're like a big family," she noted. "We help each other out."

Hubbard cited a Democrat article about the kitchen opening on March 12, 2018.

"They started out (feeding) 35 to 40 people," she noted. "And now we're averaging 100

meals per day. Our highest has been 154 in one day."

Davis noted the kitchen has proven to be a vital service to the community.

"The volunteers and donors of food, and the Open Door leadership, has made it possible for the kitchen to succeed for five years," Davis noted.

She added volunteers would repaint the dining hall during the United Way of Pettis County's Day of Action slated for June. After painting the area, she aims to reopen the kitchen for inside dining.

Currently, the needs for the kitchen are to-go containers, all types of spices, paper products, paper plates, cups and napkins, plastic wrap, and aluminum foil.

Those wishing to contribute paper products may bring items to the Open Door Kitchen from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The kitchen is located at 417 W. Pettis St. Food donations may be brought to the Open Door Pantry, 111 W. Sixth St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Health

From Page A1

"Just to make sure that what we're following are the guidelines we're supposed to follow," Nevils said.

Providing options for immunizations, women's health services, preventive health services, public health nursing, environmental health, women, infant and children (WIC) nutrition programs, and a host of other public health services keeps Nevils busy working on contracts and helping her staff provide programs to support the community.

"I oversee the workings of our internal people, our staff," Nevils said. "The contracts that we manage - we have a number of contracts with the state and some of them are very good contracts to have and to help benefit the state."

She is also taking the time to instruct newly elected board member Mike Kroeger on the list of contracts he must be familiar with at the Pettis County Health Board of Trustees.

"We have a newly elected board member, Mike," Nevils said. "He's a very nice young man, so I did this mostly because I was afraid he might not understand these are some of the newer ones that we're working on."

Nevils and her staff were working with a small group of National Honor and Junior Honor Society students building raised garden beds to raise their own vegetables to learn life

skills. "We are working on programs this summer for life skills," Nevils said, "but it's also to help promote self-esteem and help eliminate some potentially self-harming things that might come about if they get discouraged, that kind of thing. So, it's to uplift them and promote them and teach them life skills."

A Master Gardener from the MU Extension Pettis County office is there to teach the students about growing food to eat. The Health Department also recently bought 30 advanced sewing machines to help teach life skills, which are being housed at Smith-Cotton Junior High School.

"We even purchased some sewing machines because that's part of the life skills," Nevils said. "We are sharing that. The Sedalia junior high staff is wonderful. We have good school districts to work with and we're in several school districts with our programs, so we don't have a lot of storage space."

Nevils is happy with her coworkers at the Pettis County Health Center, and looks forward to administering to the community's health needs.

"We have excellent staff," Nevils said. "With our new contracts, it is a promotion of health. It's for building better resources for people with chronic illnesses and that's important. We want to continue making all the home visits that we do and provide the options."

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

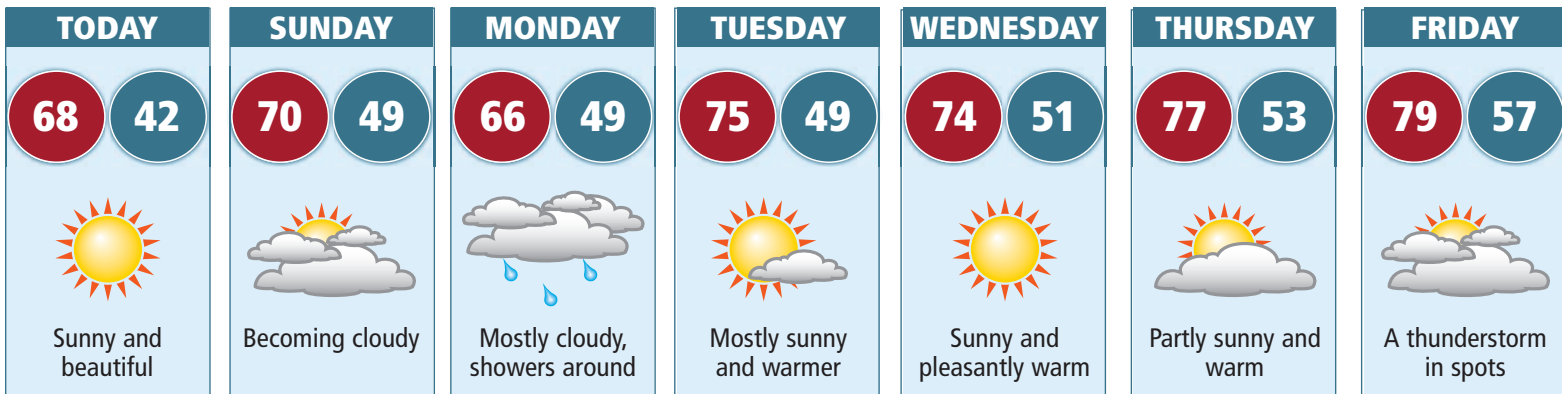


Open Door Kitchen Head Cook Carol Turner stirs a pot of gravy on Tuesday, March 28. The kitchen served meat gravy with mashed potatoes with salad and bread pudding for its noon meal.

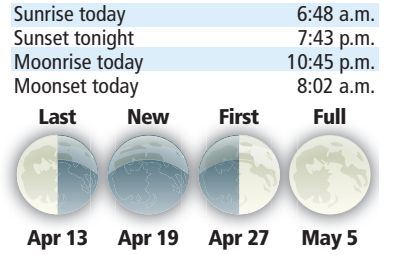
THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON



WEATHER HISTORY

In the middle of the nation on April 8, 1963, Williston, N.D., had 5 inches of snow, while Laredo, Texas, had a record high of 104 degrees.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

TEMPERATURES	
High	57
Low	33
Normal high	62
Normal low	39
Record high	87 in 1954
Record low	21 in 1982

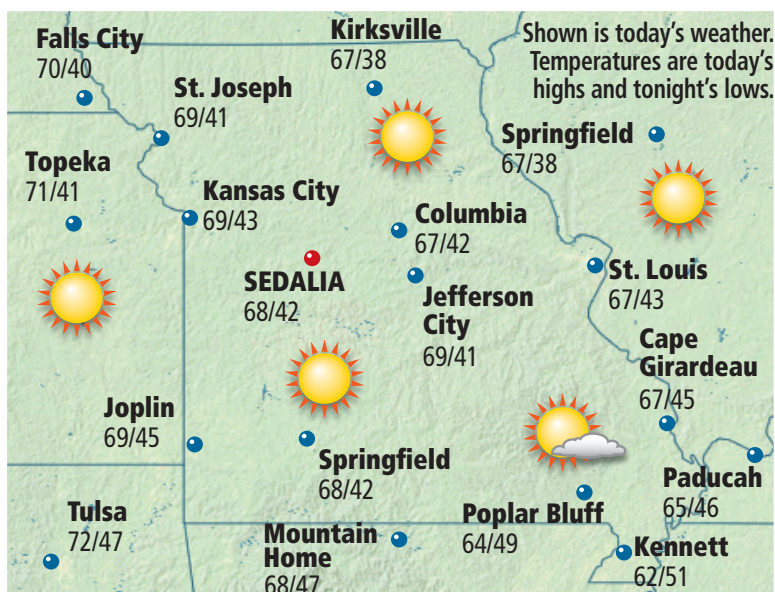
PRECIPITATION	
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.46"
Normal m-t-d	0.72"
Year to date	7.40"
Normal y-t-d	7.55"

COOLING DEGREE DAYS	
Thursday	0
Month to date	7
Year to date	10
Normal year to date	0
Last year to date	0

RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	8.18	+0.35	24
Valley City	4.40	-0.51	22

Lamine	
Otterville	1.95 -0.03 15

Missouri	
Boonville	6.75 -0.12 21



BRANSON
High: 70. Low: 45. Partly sunny and pleasant today. Partly cloudy tonight. Nice tomorrow with times of clouds and sun; great day to be outside.

KANSAS CITY
High: 69. Low: 43. Nice today with plenty of sunshine; a beautiful start to the weekend. Partly cloudy tonight. Times of clouds and sun tomorrow.

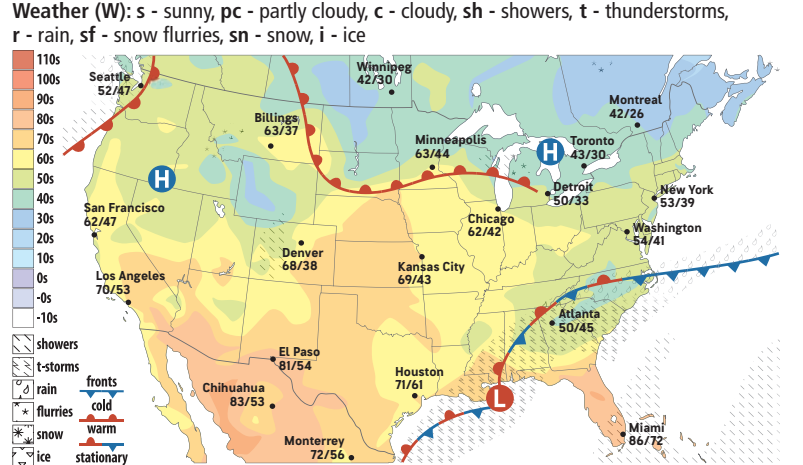
ST. LOUIS
High: 67. Low: 43. Sunshine today; a beautiful start to the weekend. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow; great day to be outside.

NEW YORK CITY
High: 53. Low: 39. Clouds and sun today. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow; best day of the weekend. Monday: plenty of sun. Tuesday: partial sunshine.

LOS ANGELES
High: 70. Low: 53. Areas of low clouds early today; otherwise, mostly sunny and comfortable. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

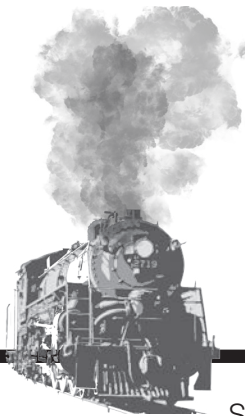
NATIONAL WEATHER

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	50/45/r	65/46/c	Milwaukee	55/38/pc	59/45/pc
Baltimore	53/37/c	61/39/s	Nashville	58/47/c	71/46/pc
Billings	63/37/c	66/46/c	New Orleans	76/61/t	70/62/c
Boston	49/35/s	50/39/s	Norfolk	54/47/r	58/45/pc
Buffalo	47/30/pc	55/34/s	Oklahoma City	71/46/pc	71/50/s
Charlotte	49/41/r	63/39/pc	Orlando	90/68/pc	77/65/t
Chicago	62/42/s	68/47/pc	Phoenix	85/59/pc	90/62/s
Cleveland	52/33/s	56/35/s	Pittsburgh	56/33/s	60/36/s
Dallas	66/54/c	70/57/pc	Portland, ME	46/26/s	50/32/s
Denver	68/38/c	67/38/pc	Portland, OR	58/48/sh	56/48/sh
Detroit	50/33/pc	57/37/s	Sacramento	67/44/pc	75/45/s
Honolulu	83/71/sh	83/72/sh	St. Louis	67/43/s	71/46/pc
Houston	71/61/c	76/61/sh	San Francisco	62/47/pc	69/50/s
Indianapolis	63/39/s	65/42/pc	Seattle	52/47/r	55/45/r
Las Vegas	78/59/s	83/62/s	Washington, DC	54/41/c	62/43/s



Summary: Heavy rain and embedded thunderstorms may cause flooding from central Alabama to eastern North Carolina today. Rain and snow showers will stretch from northern Wisconsin to northern Lower Michigan.

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Storms bring down trees at Masters, play halted in 2nd round

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Three towering pine trees fell near patrons as storms rolled through Augusta National on Friday, though nobody was hurt, and the second round of the Masters was suspended for the day as heavy wind and rain rolled through the area.

The course was cleared once for 21 minutes by an earlier band of storms. The air horns sounded again at 4:22 p.m. as another set of arrived, forcing the evacuation of patrons and sending players and officials searching for cover.

Play was suspended for the day 90 minutes later. The second round is scheduled to resume at 8 a.m. EDT Saturday before the third round begins.

“The safety and well-being of everyone attending the Masters Tournament will always be the top priority,” Augusta National said in a statement. “We

will continue to closely monitor weather today and through the Tournament.”

Just before the second horn sounded, three enormous pines slowly fell next to each other near the 17th tee, sending those below them scattering. On the nearby 16th green, Sergio Garcia stopped and stared at what seemed to be happening in slow motion, and his playing partners Kazuki Higa and Keith Mitchell watched anxiously to see if anyone was hurt.

“We were cresting the fairway on 15. We thought it was a scoreboard or a grandstand,” said Sahith Theegala, who is playing in his first Masters. “We were hoping it wasn’t something that hit anybody.”

The uprooted pines fell slowly with two of them acting as support for the third, and that provided time for the patrons below to get out of the way. But the close call was evidenced by several crushed chairs beneath the fallen trees.

See STORMS | A11



Patrons move away from two trees that blew over on the 17th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on Friday, April 7, 2023, in Augusta, Ga.

PHOTO BY MARK BAKER | AP PHOTO

NASCAR’s Larson, Briscoe don’t see edge on Bristol’s dirt

By Pete Iacobelli
Associated Press

Kyle Larson learned his racing on dirt, cherishes every dirt race he’s in and is known for his extraordinary car handling on the slippery surface.

Still, Larson’s not sure he’ll hold any edge over his competitors this weekend on Bristol’s dirt surface.

“Listen, I race a lot of dirt stuff and that is a lot of fun,” he told The Associated Press by phone this week. “The Bristol dirt stuff, that’s not really dirt racing, or at least what I’m used to.”

Bristol Motor Speedway will show off its dirt surface for the third straight season with another year’s experience to draw on. The first year, 2021, racers drove through a terra-cotta colored cloud of dust with limited visibility and wrecks galore before Joey Logano outlasted the field for the win.

Last year, the race was moved from day to night and delivered on the anticipated excitement at the when when leaders Tyler Reddick and Chase Briscoe slid on the damp dirt right before the finish line as Kyle



Kyle Larson (5) Chase Elliott (9) and Austin Cindric (2) drive out of Turn 4 during a practice session Friday, April 15, 2022, for Sunday’s NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn. You might think it would help being a NASCAR driver who grew up dirt racing when it comes to Bristol Motor Speedway’s relatively new dirt layout this Sunday night, April 9, 2023.

FILE PHOTO BY DAVID CRIGGER | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER VIA AP

Busch swept past for the victory.

“I can win on any surface here at Bristol. Bring it on, baby,” Busch said to the crowd soon after crossing victory lane.

Larson thinks it’s hard to compare racing at Friday night dirt bullrings like the famed Eldora Speedway in Ohio or Knoxville Raceway in Iowa to what NASCAR’s top drivers deal with at Bristol. Cars are heavier, he said, and the tire grip that’s the essence of winning on hard surfaces can’t always be found on dirt.

“It’s a different challenge,” he said. “It’s also so different

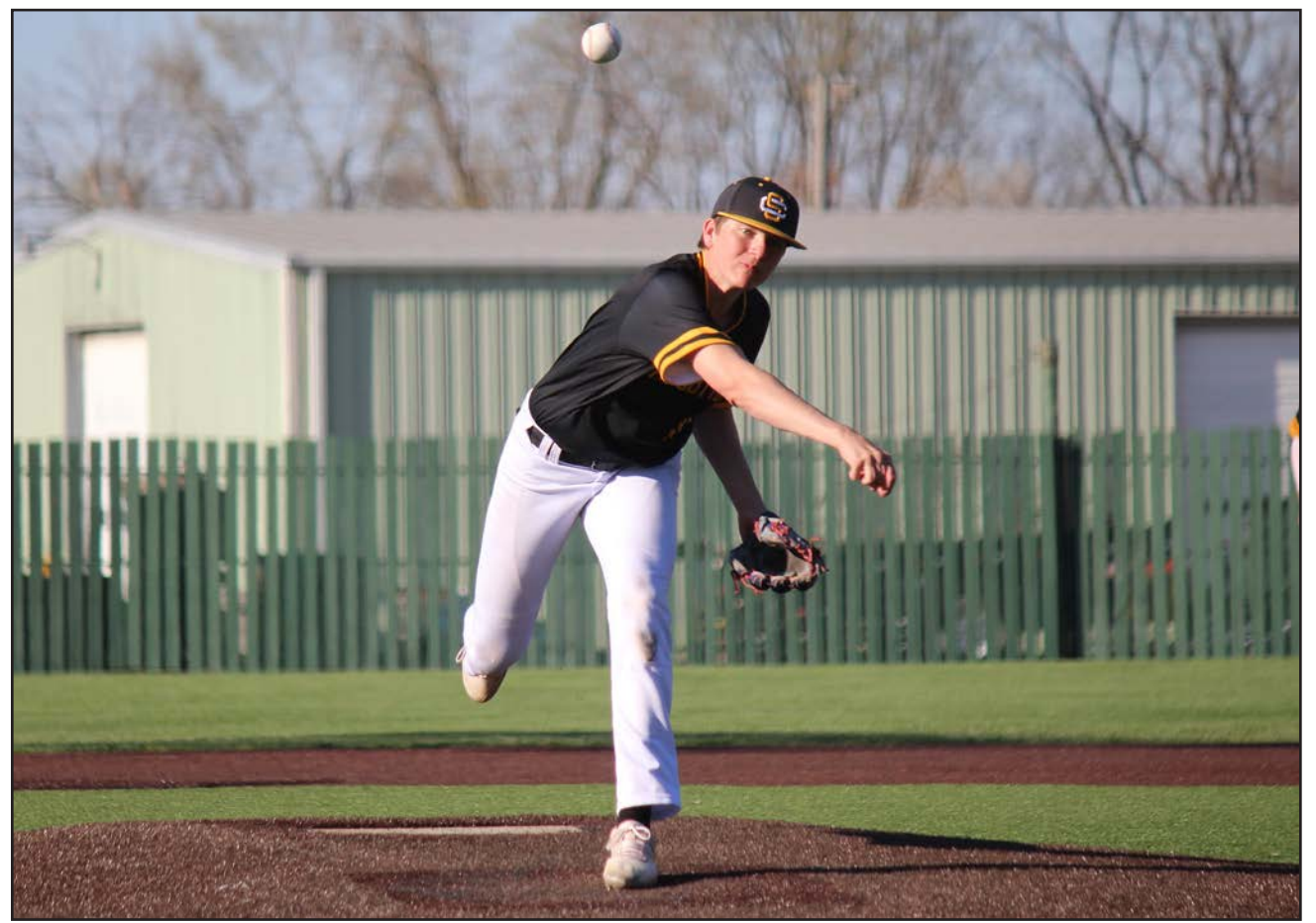
from what I do that I don’t really feel like I have that much of an advantage.”

Briscoe grew up racing dirt tracks and, like Larson, isn’t sure he’s got anyone beat because of it.

“I sometimes feel like having a dirt background can be a disadvantage at these races, you drive it so different,” he said.

Early on when the track is tacky and more muddy, that’s when those with dirt experience can shine, he said, because they understand how to get their machine through the corners on Bristol’s half-mile layout.

See EDGE | A11



Smith-Cotton junior Brayden Butts tosses a pitch to a Nevada batter as part of a relief performance Friday evening at Liberty Park Stadium. The Tigers collected their second win of the season in the West Central Missouri Baseball Tournament action that concluded with the game against Nevada.

PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

S-C baseball hosts tourney following Tennessee trip

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

Nothing says coming together like a little road trip.

Smith-Cotton baseball wheeled out of the Show-Me State last week for a visit to The Volunteer State for the Viking Classic in Unionville. The Tigers played three games there, including an 8-7 victory over Elizabethton.

“It was a fun experience,” Tigers junior Malla’Ki Morris said. “You get to go down, travel with my team and play somewhere far away like that, which we don’t get to do that often, and we got our first win of the season there.”

Sophomore Jakobe Linn and freshman Kendall Hagedorn each drove in two runs as S-C nearly

came away with another win there, but fell 8-7 to Covenant Christian Academy.

S-C head coach Kyle Zimmerman talked about the trip, the first of its kind since 2018 when the team traveled to the Chattanooga Central Invitational, what makes it so beneficial. “One, it allows us to open up their perception of what it takes to compete at the next level if that’s something they want to pursue, but also, anytime you go on an extended trip where you’re staying in a hotel or with the team all the time, there’s a lot of opportunities for team building and coming close together, and having fun while you’re at it,” he said.

Expanding on the comradery of the tourney, Mor-

ris added, “It was definitely good for bonding. We ate dinner together every night, played games in the hotel together. Everything we did together was with the team, and I felt like that definitely helped.”

On the competition that the team faced there, Zimmerman said, “Outside of Rock Bridge, it’s very similar to the kind of competition we saw this weekend in our tournament. They were teams that were good enough to take advantage of your mistakes, teams that threw strikes and put the ball in play; it wasn’t a waste of time by any means. Our main job was to wake up and go to the ball field, then get up and do it again, and [being on the road] minimizes a lot of the day-to-day distractions, for sure.”

Since then, the Tigers returned home to host a majority of the West Central Missouri Baseball Tournament.

Following a 16-1 loss to Rock Bridge to open Wednesday, senior Blake New pitched a complete game shutout over eight innings in a 1-0 victory against Harrisonville later that day. Hagedorn’s single drove in junior Brady Anderson for the winning run.

The Tigers lost to Nevada 10-8 on Thursday, and finished up taking on Nevada Friday night in the tournament’s final game.

Morris went 3-3 with three RBIs and two walks despite the defeat to Nevada, and performances like that help set the table for the Tigers’ offense.

See TRIP | A11

Pasquantino, Perez hit home runs as Royals beat Giants 3-1

By Janie McCauley
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Vinnie Pasquantino hit his first home run of the season leading off the fourth, Salvador Perez connected in the eighth for his first of 2023 and a key insurance run, and the Kansas City Royals spoiled San Francisco’s home opener Friday by beating the Giants 3-1.

Nicky Lopez added an RBI single as the Royals backed right-hander Brad Keller (1-1) in just the second win so far for Kansas City, which had lost three straight and went 1-6 at home for just the second time beginning a season. Bench coach Paul Hoover is guiding the Royals with manager Matt Quatraro out after testing positive for COVID-19.

Blake Sabol hit an RBI single for San Francisco on what began as a rainy start to the day at Oracle Park. The tarp went on overnight but came off about 10 a.m. and both teams were able to work out on the field before the game after long travel

days Thursday.

Giants right-hander Alex Cobb (0-1) struck out six over seven sharp innings but he didn’t get enough run support from a club that was leading the majors with 15 home runs to start the day.

In his first career start against San Francisco — which has yet to face a National League opponent given the new schedule format — Keller struck out three and walked three while allowing three hits over 5 2/3 innings. Aroldis Chapman pitched the eighth and Scott Barlow surrendered a leadoff

triple to Joc Pederson in the ninth before finishing for his first save after a career-best 24 last year.

Former Giants third baseman Matt Duffy received a warm ovation during pregame introductions and singled for the Royals before making a sensational catch on Thairo Estrada’s sharp line drive for the second out in the ninth to save a run.

The Giants dropped to 40-26 in home openers since moving West from New York in 1958, including 16-8 in their waterfront ballpark that opened in 2000.

See MLB | A11



Kansas City Royals’ Vinnie Pasquantino (9) is congratulated by Kyle Isbel (28) after hitting a home run against the San Francisco Giants during the fourth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Friday, April 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ERIC RISBERG | AP PHOTO

Bengals' Joe Mixon recharged with pointing gun at woman

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Bengals running back Joe Mixon is again facing a misdemeanor charge of aggravated menacing over allegations that he threatened and pointed a gun at a woman in Cincinnati earlier this year.

City police issued a statement Friday announcing that they had refiled the charge "following the discovery of new evidence during the investigative process" but did not provide further details. The statement also noted no investigatory details or evidence will be disclosed outside of official court proceedings "to preserve a fair and impartial judicial process for all parties involved."

A warrant for Mixon was issued in February. A police officer's accompanying affidavit alleged that the 26-year-old pointed a

firearm and told the victim: "You should be popped in the face. I should shoot you, the police (can't) get me."

It said the altercation happened a few blocks from the Bengals' stadium on Jan. 21 — the day before Cincinnati beat the Buffalo Bills in a divisional-round playoff game — but included no other details about the circumstances.

The warrant was dismissed in Hamilton County Municipal Court the day after it was issued. That order said only that the city prosecutor's office requested the dismissal "in the interest of justice."

A statement issued Friday by the Bengals said they were aware of the charge and were "monitoring the situation." The team said it would have no further comment.

Mixon's agent, Peter Schaffer, did not immediately respond Friday to a

message seeking comment on the refiled. When the charge was dismissed, he had said, "I really feel that police have an obligation before they file charges — because of the damage that can be done to the person's reputation — to do their work."

Mixon rushed for 814 yards and seven touchdowns this season, his sixth. He also had 60 receptions for 441 yards, both career highs, and two touchdowns.

In 2021, he had rushed for career highs of 1,205 yards and 13 touchdowns for Cincinnati, where he has spent his entire career.

Mixon was a second-round draft pick out of Oklahoma in 2017. Several teams said they passed on him because of concerns about his character after Mixon punched a female Oklahoma student in the face in 2014.



Cincinnati Bengals running back Joe Mixon (28) warms up before an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns in Cleveland, Monday, Oct. 31, 2022. Mixon is again facing a misdemeanor charge of aggravated menacing over allegations that he threatened and pointed a gun at a woman in Cincinnati earlier this year. Cincinnati police issued a statement Friday, April 7, 2023, announcing that they had refiled the charge "following the discovery of new evidence during the investigative process" but did not provide further details. FILE PHOTO BY DAVID RICHARD | AP PHOTO

SPORTS CALENDAR

Saturday ON TAP COLLEGE BASEBALL

Noon State Fair Community College at Three Rivers Community College (DH)

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

1 p.m. Indian Hills Community College at State Fair Community College (DH)

ON AIR AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

4:30 a.m. FS1 — AFL: Port Adelaide at Sydney

AUTO RACING

3:30 p.m. FS2 — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.

5 p.m. FS2 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.

7 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: The Weather Guard Truck Race on Dirt, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.

9 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn. (Taped)

BOXING

9 p.m. ESPN — Top Rank Main Card: Shakur Stevenson vs. Shuichiro Yoshino (Featherweights), Newark, N.J.

SHO — Showtime Championship Main Card: Sebastian Fundora vs. Brian Mendoza (Super-Welterweights), Carson, Calif.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

11 a.m. BTN — Iowa at Indiana

SECN — LSU at South Carolina

1 p.m. ESPN2 — Florida at Tennessee

2 p.m. BTN — Rutgers at Maryland

SECN — Arkansas at Mississippi

3 p.m. ACCN — NC State at Wake Forest

5 p.m. ESPN — Mississippi St. at Alabama

PAC-12N — Oregon St. at Oregon

6 p.m. ACCN — Virginia Tech at Duke

8 p.m. ESPN — Oklahoma St. at TCU

PAC-12N — Stanford at California

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

7 p.m. ESPN — Frozen Four Tournament: Quinnipiac vs. Minnesota, Championship, Tampa, Fla.

COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN'S)

3 p.m. ESPN — Duke at Notre Dame

6 p.m. BTN — Johns Hopkins at Penn St.

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)

11 a.m. ACCN — Louisville at Virginia Tech

ESPN — Boston College at Notre Dame

1 p.m. ESPN — Duke at Virginia

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

1 p.m. ACCN — Notre Dame at Louisville

3 p.m. PAC-12N — Oregon St. at UCLA

5 p.m. SECN — Georgia at Arkansas

7 p.m. SECN — Mississippi St. at Texas A&M

GOLF

2 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The Masters, Third Round, Augusta National Golf

Course, Augusta, Ga.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)

11 a.m. ESPN2 — State Champions Invitational: TBD, Championship, Washington

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (GIRLS)

9 a.m. ESPN — State Champions Invitational: TBD, Championship, Washington

HORSE RACING

11 a.m. FS1 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

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

3 p.m. NBC — 1/ST Racing Tour: The Santa Anita Derby and Blue Grass Stakes, Santa Anita Park, Arcadia, Calif. and Keeneland Race Course, Lexington, Ky.

5 p.m. FOX — The Wood Memorial Stakes: From Aqueduct Racetrack, Queens, N.Y.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

7 p.m. ESPN — UFC 287 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Miami

MLB BASEBALL

3 p.m. FS1 — Texas at Chicago Cubs

6 p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: San Diego at Atlanta OR St. Louis at Milwaukee

9:30 p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: Toronto at LA Angels OR Washington at Colorado (Joined in Progress)

NHL HOCKEY

11:55 a.m. ABC — Pittsburgh at Detroit

2:30 p.m. ABC — Vegas at Dallas

7 p.m. ABC — New Jersey at Boston

RUGBY (MEN'S)

1 p.m. FS1 — MLR: Chicago at New England

SOCCER (MEN'S)

6:25 a.m. CBSSN — SPFL: Rangers at Celtic

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

9 a.m. USA — Premier League: Chelsea at Wolverhampton

11:30 a.m. NBC — Premier League: Manchester City at Southampton

1:45 p.m. CBSSN — Serie A: Juventus at Lazio

6:30 p.m. FOX — MLS: Austin FC at LAFC

6:45 p.m. FS2 — CONMEBOL U-17 Championship Group Stage: Argentina vs. Paraguay, Group B, Guayaquil, Ecuador

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)

1:30 p.m. TNT — International Friendly: U.S. vs. Ireland, Austin, Texas

TENNIS

Noon TENNIS — Charleston-WTA Semifinals

XFL FOOTBALL

Noon ESPN — Vegas at St. Louis

3 p.m. ESPN — Arlington at Orlando

Sunday ON AIR

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

Midnight (Monday)

FS2 — AFL: Hawthorn at Geelong

AUTO RACING

6 p.m. FOX — NASCAR Cup Series: The Food City Dirt Race, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.

Midnight (Monday)

CNBC — AMA Monster Energy Supercross: Round 14, Glendale, Ariz. (Taped)

COLLEGE

BASEBALL

11 a.m. ESPN — Rutgers at Maryland

SECN — Kentucky at Georgia

2 p.m. ESPN — Kansas at West Virginia

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)

2 p.m. PAC-12N — Stanford at Southern Cal

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

11 a.m. ACCN — Boston College at Georgia Tech

BTN — Nebraska at Maryland

1 p.m. ACCN — Pittsburgh at North Carolina

BTN — Illinois at Michigan

2 p.m. SECN — Mississippi St. at Texas A&M

3 p.m. ESPN2 — Kentucky at Mississippi

CYCLING

8 a.m. CNBC — UCI: The Paris to Roubaix, 159.6 miles (Taped)

GOLF

1 p.m. CBS — PGA Tour: The Masters, Final Round, Augusta National Golf Course, Augusta, Ga.

IIHF HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

2 p.m. NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: U.S. vs. Czechia, Group A, Brampton, Ontario

MLB BASEBALL

12:30 p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: NY Yankees at Baltimore OR Boston at Detroit (1 p.m.)

3:30 p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: Toronto at LA Angels OR Kansas City at San Francisco (Joined in Progress)

6 p.m. ESPN — San Diego at Atlanta

NBA BASKETBALL

12:15 p.m. ESPN — Atlanta at Boston

2:35 p.m. ESPN — Utah at LA Lakers

NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m. ESPN — NBA G-League Final: Rio Grande Valley at Delaware, Game 3 (If Necessary)

NHL HOCKEY

5 p.m. TNT — Boston at Philadelphia

7:30 p.m. TNT — Colorado at Anaheim

RODEO

4 p.m. CBSSN — PBR: The Gem State Bucking Battle, Championship Round, Nampa, Idaho

RUGBY

1 p.m. CNBC — HSBC: World Rugby Sevens Series, Final Day, Singapore (Taped)

SOCCER (MEN'S)

8 a.m. USA — Premier League: Crystal Palace at Leeds United

7 p.m. FS1 — Liga MX: Pachuca at Santos Laguna

9 p.m. FS1 — Liga MX: Atlas at Juárez

TENNIS

6 a.m. TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Early Rounds

10 a.m. TENNIS — Charleston-WTA Doubles Final

12:30 p.m. TENNIS — Charleston-WTA Singles Final

4 a.m. (Monday)

TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Early Rounds

5 a.m. (Monday)

TENNIS — Monte Carlo-ATP Early Rounds

XFL FOOTBALL


2 p.m. ABC — Houston at San Antonio

6 p.m. ESPN2 — D.C. at Seattle


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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Scorpio.

Happy Birthday for Saturday, April 8, 2023:

You have a strong sense of justice. You focus strongly on improving yourself. You are independent and courageous. This year is the first year of a new nine-year cycle. Stay flexible. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. You're prepared to be a leader.

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)

★★★ Check banking details and anything related to shared property, inheritances and insurance matters. Something unexpected could impact these areas for you today. Likewise, if you are responsible for someone or to someone, the game might change. Be in the know. Tonight: Generosity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ A partner or close friend will throw you a curveball today. They will say or do something you least expect. Or possibly you will meet someone who's a real character. Someone close to you might want to change the rules or do things differently. (Whaaat?) Tonight: Warm feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Your work routine might suffer from unexpected glitches and delays today. Expect power outages, computer problems, staff shortages, delayed deliveries — could be anything. Possibly, a co-worker will surprise you. For some, this surprise could be a health-related situation or something to do with a pet. Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Parents should be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Be aware of where they are and what they're doing. Likewise, social plans might suddenly change today. They might be canceled, or you might get a surprise invitation. Who knows? Tonight: Romance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Your home routine will change today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Perhaps a visitor will knock on your door. (Get dressed so you're ready for anything.) This might indicate a dispute with an authority figure in the family. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accident-prone day for you. This includes verbal gaffes as well as physical accidents. Naturally, nothing has to happen if you are mindful of what you're doing. Therefore, slow down and be aware. Tonight: Daydreams.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Something unexpected might impact your assets, your possessions or your wealth today. You might find money; you might lose money. Be smart and protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Make friends with your bank account. Tonight: Possible extravagance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ Today the Moon is in your sign sitting opposite unpredictable Uranus. This can make you obsessed with something unusual or unconventional. Because you are obsessed about it, you might become unreasonable. Check what you're doing. Today you also feel independent! Don't be surprised if you're restless, irritable or stubborn. Be cool. Tonight: You're mellow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ This is a vaguely restless day for you, and you might not know why. Don't worry. You don't have to know why; just be aware that it's fine if you feel a bit on edge. This is a fleeting dark cloud on your horizon that will be gone by tomorrow. Relax. Tonight: Solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Relations with friends or a member of a group might be tested today. You have a strong difference of opinion, or you don't agree with the mandate of a group. Perhaps someone is acting out or doing something unusual. Be aware this might happen, and you will have to use skillful means to cope. Tonight: Help a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Relations with parents and bosses are unpredictable today, which is why you need to stay mellow and focused. Avoid a knee-jerk reaction if someone says something you don't like. If you let this go by, everything might be fine by tomorrow, and you'll be glad you said nothing. Tonight: Lookin' good!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Travel plans will be interrupted, delayed or canceled today. Or perhaps you suddenly have to travel when you didn't expect to do so. Likewise, school schedules might change or be tricky. Steer clear of people who want to push their political or religious agenda on you. That's their thing. It's not necessarily yours. Tonight: Cocoon.

BORN TODAY

Actress Robin Wright (1966), actress Patricia Arquette (1968), actor Taylor Kitsch (1981)



AFC defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons, of the Tennessee Titans, stands for the national anthem before the flag football event at the NFL Pro Bowl, Feb. 5, 2023, in Las Vegas. A person familiar with the deal says the Titans agreed Friday, April 7, 2023, to a four-year contract extension with Simmons. The person confirmed the extension on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the Titans had not announced the deal.

FILE PHOTO BY DAVID BECKER | AP PHOTO

AP source: Titans reach 4-year deal with Pro Bowler Simmons

By Teresa M. Walker
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — New Titans general manager Ran Carthon has made his biggest move yet by agreeing Friday to a four-year contract extension with two-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The Titans picked up the two-time defensive captain's fifth-year option for 2023 for \$10.76 million last April. The person confirmed the extension on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the Titans had not announced the deal.

ESPN.com first reported the deal was worth up to \$94 million with \$66 million guaranteed, including a \$24 million signing bonus. Agent Paul DeRousselle

did not return messages from the AP. He shared a photo of himself and Simmons on social media along with Simmons' own social media post that he wasn't done in Tennessee. "We have so much work to do," Simmons wrote.

The four-year extension gives some much-needed space under the salary cap for Tennessee, ranked 23rd in the NFL with \$7.4 million according to Spotrac.com.

The extension includes Simmons' fifth-year option, keeping him under contract through 2027 for an annual average of \$23.5 million per year. Among NFL defensive tackles, that trails only the \$31.6 million per year averaged by three-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald of the Los Angeles Rams.

Simmons was the 19th pick overall in the 2019

draft, dropping to Tennessee after tearing his left ACL in February preparing for the draft.

The 6-foot-4, 305-pound lineman wound up starting seven of nine games played as a rookie in 2019, and he has started 54 of 56 games played. Simmons missed two games last season with an injured ankle and said at the end of the season he needed shots in his ankle to finish the season.

Simmons has been a Pro Bowl pick each of the past two seasons. He set a career-high with 8 1/2 sacks in 2021, and he finished second last season with 7 1/2 sacks, leading the Titans in sacks in five games. He also had nine tackles for loss with 43 quarterback pressures with 53 tackles.

Carthon, hired in January, replaced Jon Robinson who was fired Dec. 6 after

the Titans used more players in each of the past two seasons than any other team in the NFL. Tennessee lost its final seven games to finish 7-10 and just missed a third straight AFC South title.

This extension means the new general manager has taken care of the Titans' biggest issue in keeping a top player happy. Robinson traded wide receiver A.J. Brown to Philadelphia during the first round of the draft last year after being unable to agree on a new contract.

Carthon still has to decide what to do about quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who has a cap hit of \$36.6 million, and three-time Pro Bowl running back Derrick Henry, with his own \$16.3 million salary cap hit. Both are in the final year of their current contracts.

Chiefs' Kelce throws wild first pitch before Guards' opener

By Tom Withers
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Travis Kelce showed why he's best known for catching passes from Patrick Mahomes.

Kansas City's star tight end threw a wild ceremonial first pitch Friday before the Guardians' season opener against the Seattle Mariners.

After unbuttoning his jersey to unveil an "I'm From Cleveland" T-shirt, Kelce wound up and then bounced his pitch way in front of the plate. Guardians pitcher Shane Bieber jumped out of the way to avoid injury as the ball rolled to the backstop.

Kelce ran down from the mound and hugged Bieber to make sure he was OK.

Kelce was joined on the field by his mother, Donna, who became a celebrity during Super Bowl week when her sons,

Travis and Jason, squared off for the NFL title. Jason is a starting guard for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Kelce spent part of the pregame meeting some Cleveland players in the dugout. He posed for several photos and was especially excited to see former Gold Glove center fielder Kenny Lofton, one of the players he grew up cheering for as a kid.

"I just remember taking the Rapid (transit train) down here from Shaker Heights," Kelce said. "That was the closest stop to where I lived. Just coming down, grabbing \$5 tickets and just roaming the park like it was literally an amusement park."

"Watching the Tribe in the '90s was the best, and I just had so many countless memories of screaming out my back door during those playoff runs and all the big-time home run moments."



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce throws out the ceremonial first pitch before a baseball game between the Cleveland Guardians and the Seattle Mariners, Friday, April 7, 2023, in Cleveland.

PHOTO BY RON SCHWANE | AP PHOTO

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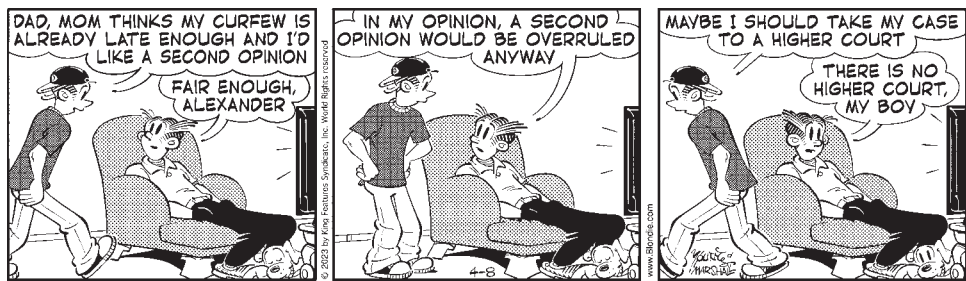
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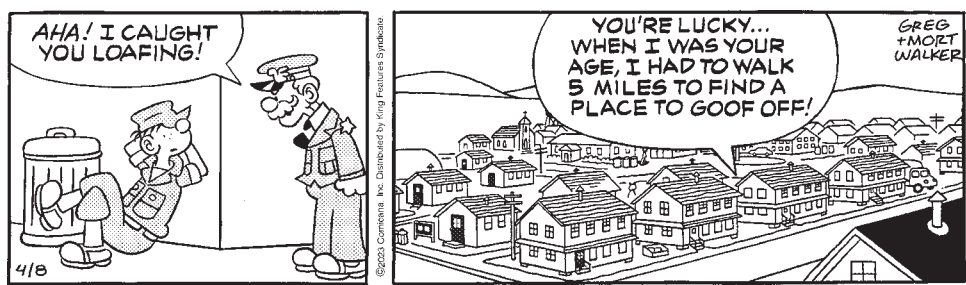
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



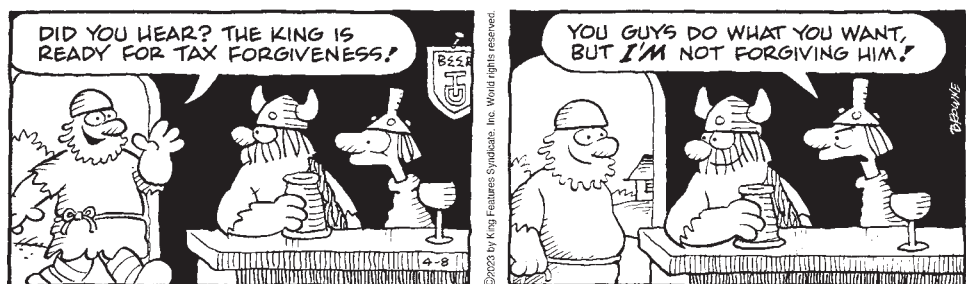
BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

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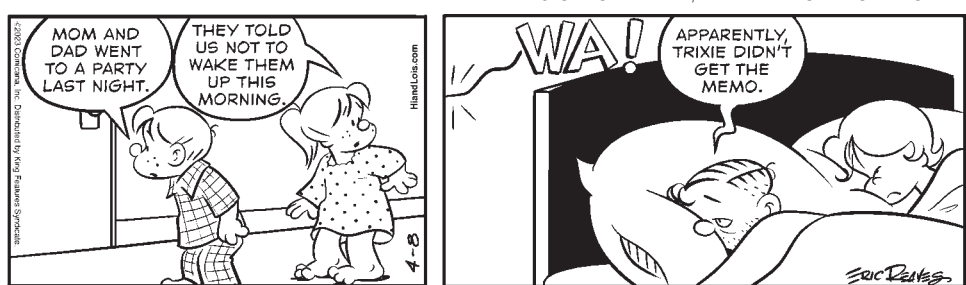
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



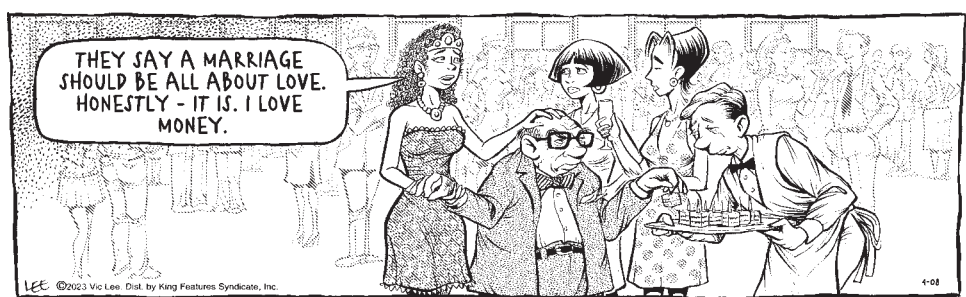
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



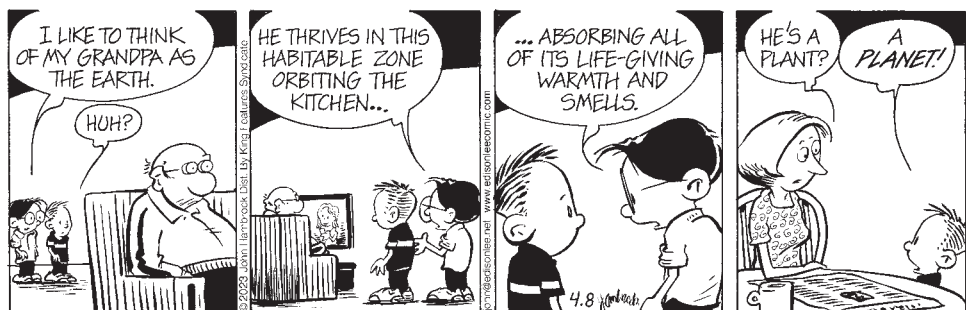
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



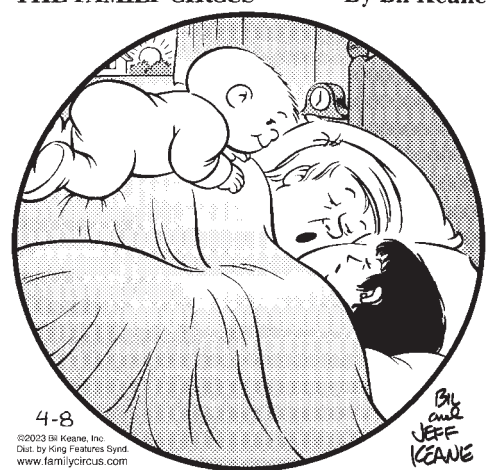
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 College head
 - 5 Rating units
 - 10 Loosen, as laces
 - 12 Wine grape
 - 13 With 24-Across, New England patriot
 - 14 Blown away
 - 15 Uno plus due
 - 16 Stroller user
 - 18 Gloss target
 - 19 Submitted, as an entry
 - 21 A lot
 - 22 Software surprise
 - 24 See 13-Across
 - 25 New England storm
 - 29 Swindles
 - 30 Like some boxes
 - 32 Museum focus
 - 33 Toe count
 - 34 That lady
 - 35 Mona Lisa feature
 - 37 Refrain bit
- DOWN**
- 39 Breaks, perhaps
 - 40 Muscular power
 - 41 Cold shower?
 - 42 Garden areas

C	A	N	A	L	S	O	N	A	R
A	R	U	B	A	A	M	U	S	E
D	A	M	E	S	T	A	M	P	A
E	B	B	T	W	I	N	B	E	D
T	I	E	S	I	R	E	N	S	
S	A	R	A	T	I	E	R	S	
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		A	N	D	E	S	S	W	A
S	U	E	A	G	O		O	R	E
A	S	S	E	N	T	S		S	O
S	T	O	N	E		A	T	E	U
H	I	N	D	S		G	E	E	S
A	N	G	S	T		E	L	D	E

Yesterday's answer

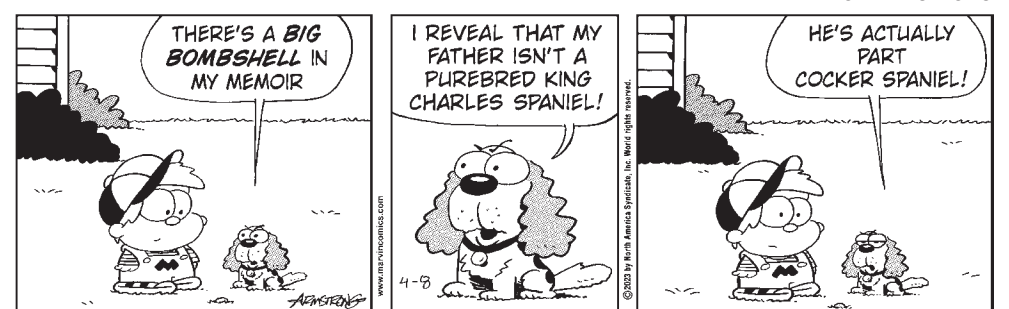
- 1 Some love songs
- 2 Main dish
- 3 Wise goddess
- 4 Long of "Soul Food"
- 5 Narrow point of land
- 6 Light metal
- 7 Counterpart
- 8 Crew activity
- 9 Flight makeup
- 11 Sanction
- 17 Like some rural bridges
- 20 Russian rulers
- 21 Circus sights
- 23 Bristles at
- 25 Ordinary
- 26 Prompt
- 27 Fuel gas
- 28 Staggered
- 29 Play groups
- 31 Entices
- 33 Final, for one
- 36 "Life of Pi" director
- 38 Umbrella part

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	

4-8

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST & JOHN REINER



SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

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Difficulty: ★★

4-8

Trip

From Page A7

“Malla’Ki has been swinging it well this week at the top of the lineup, which has allowed us to get things moving and the middle of the order to do damage like it’s designed to,” Zimmerman said. “And [Thursday], the back half of our lineup really stepped up and that allowed us to put up some runs, something we had struggled with at times this year.”

Despite a 2-11 record going into Friday, six of the defeats have come by three runs or less. Zimmerman elaborated on the growing process and about urging the players to keep doing things the right way so that the results will eventually follow as a young team continues to develop.

“They’re just learning how to handle those situations and stay focused from the first to the last pitch and things along those lines,” Zimmerman said. “I feel like we’ve done a good job of competing and playing hard even in the games where scores have been lopsided but

the other team has had to work for every out they’ve gotten. That’s all we can ask of them.

“Absolutely, there’s frustration [about losing], and it’s different depending on the day. Sometimes it’s because we’re doing well and hit a ball right at somebody, or the other team just flares a fly ball to right that just happens to be where none of our guys can get to it. But I think our guys have done a good job so far of trying to move onto the next pitch. Some days are easier than others, but they’re willing to try and move on, and part of that maturity process is being able to say, ‘OK, next play.’ We still have to continue doing what we do.”

Doubling down on that and not allowing the losses to become a deterrent, Morris said, “Our focus right now is the brotherhood, picking each other up and not pointing fingers and stuff like that, that’s where it all starts.”

After the action at Liberty Park Stadium, S-C plays in the Columbia Tournament on April 14, facing Hickman, Christian Brothers College (CBC) and Blair Oaks.

Storms

From Page A7

“I was talking to friends next to me and all of sudden we heard a crack,” said Katie Waites, who was attending the second round from Charleston, South Carolina. “And there were three trees across the pond, and all of a sudden we saw them falling and everybody — it was just like ants. They were like, scattering just like ants from beneath. All three fell at the same time. And then I just grabbed my friends’ hands we were like, ‘Is everyone OK?’ And it was silent.”

Waites said she saw one woman standing between two of the fallen trees, and she heard that a man had crawled out from beneath some of the limbs. She added that it was “absolutely a miracle” that nobody was hurt.

“Then the alarms went off and they evacuated again because of weather,” Waites said. “I called my dad. He’s a judge. And he said this time they are not going to open it back up. Get out of there now.”

Workers quickly arrived with chainsaws to begin clearing the trees away.

The storms had been expected throughout the day, and tournament officials moved all starting times up 30 minutes in the hopes of getting the second round in as scheduled. The morning dawned hot and humid, with plenty of sun, but it gave way to ominous clouds churning through from the east shortly after the lunch hour.

Brooks Koepka was the leader at 12 under when play stopped, taking advantage of fortuitous tee times that left him in the clubhouse long before the storms arrived. Jon Rahm was three shots back in second but had nine holes still to play, while U.S. Amateur champion Sam Bennett had finished his second round and was 8 under for the championship.

Among those still on the course is Tiger Woods, who was at 2 over and tied for 50th with seven holes to play. The low 50 and ties make the cut, and the five-time champion has never failed to do that at the Masters as a professional.

AP Sports Writers Steve Reed, Doug Ferguson and Paul Newberry contributed to this report.

Edge

From Page A7

Once things get going, Briscoe believes it’s anybody’s race — much as it is on the Cup Series week-to-week.

Ross Chastain has a modest goal when he arrives for the Bristol dirt: Just finish the race.

“I’m used to asphalt and concrete, but the two years we ran it, we got in a wreck with two of the best dirt racers in this sport,” he said.

An accident ended his day in 2021 while a failed engine — “we actually sucked dirt into the intake and it actually collapsed the air cleaner into the motor and blew it up,” he explained — took him out of contention last spring.

Michael McDowell, like Chastain, is edgy about

his chances on dirt. He’s a hard-surface racer and, coming off a top-10 finish last week, sometimes wonders if he’ll lose some momentum trying to navigate around the Bristol dirt.

“There’s a part of me that wants to get through the weekend, not do anything stupid and get as many points as I can,” said McDowell, who’s finished a respectable ninth and 12th at Bristol the past two seasons. “But there’s also the other part that says, ‘Man, anything can happen in this race. You can steal a win.’ So you’ve just got to approach it with an open mind.”

Larson, coming off his first win of the season last week at Richmond, ended fourth behind Kyle Busch last April. He’s confident those setting up the track better understand what makes a strong dirt race.

MLB

From Page A7

WHAT A PITCH

Longtime Giants equipment manager Mike Murphy, who just retired, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Brandon Crawford, while newly re-

tired reliever Sergio Romo announced “Play Ball!” to wild applause.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Giants: Roberto Pérez left the game with a right shoulder strain. ... SS Crawford, who dealt with discomfort in his left knee during spring training, was better and in the lineup but manager Gabe Kapler said

he’s “not sure Craw will ever be 100%.” ... Kapler said OFs Mitch Haniger (left oblique strain) and Austin Slater (strained left hamstring) won’t play this homestand.

UP NEXT

LHP Sean Manaea (0-0, 13.50 ERA) makes his first start for the Giants after pitching two innings of

relief against the White Sox on Monday at Chicago and giving up three earned runs on two hits with a homer.

RHP Brady Singer (1-0, 1.80) takes the mound for the Royals after pitching Kansas City to its first win Monday against the Blue Jays.



Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem stands and watches his team play against the Brooklyn Nets during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Miami. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAUGHLIN | AP PHOTO

Udonis Haslem, Heat reflect on rare 20-year NBA career

By Tim Reynolds

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — This story would never have been told if Udonis Haslem’s mother hadn’t moved from Miami to Jacksonville. Or if his stepbrother hadn’t been so smart about an airball. Or if Atlanta signed him in 2002. Or if San Antonio did in 2003.

Any of those things happen differently, it all changes. He probably wouldn’t be with the Miami Heat right now. Maybe never.

Haslem, the NBA’s oldest active player at 42 and a three-time champion, is in the final days with his hometown team. He’s the third player to spend a two-decade career with one franchise, joining Dallas’ Dirk Nowitzki and the Los Angeles Lakers’ Kobe Bryant.

“All I’ve ever tried to do is take care of my people, take care of my city,” Haslem said. “I think that’s why I can sit down with the mayor and commissioners, or I can sit down with people in the ‘hood, and be comfortable either way. It’s because of the sacrifices that I’ve made for this city.”

Heat President Pat Riley is more succinct.

“Udonis is Miami,” Riley said.

Haslem was on the NBA’s All-Rookie team in 2003-04. He never was an All-Star, never All-NBA, never even a player of the week out of 438 possible chances. The last time he averaged double figures for a season was 2009.

But ask anyone with the Heat, and they insist Haslem — the team captain who’ll have his No. 40 jersey retired next season — has been vital for two decades.

“He’s the poster child of a guy who was average, supposedly, and yet he became great,” said Chet Kammerer, who has spent 27 years in Miami’s player personnel department. “And how did he do that? Hard work. Great spirit. Great attitude. Never ‘can’t do this,’ never ‘can’t do that.’ And the success that we’ve had, he’s had more of a major contribution over the

whole 20 years than people know.”

Take the night Miami won its first NBA title in Dallas in 2006. Haslem played with a separated shoulder. He had to guard Nowitzki, the Mavericks’ best player. Nowitzki didn’t have a field goal in the fourth quarter; Miami won 95-92, Haslem had 17 points, 10 rebounds and a good cry afterward.

“The champagne got me,” he said. Everyone knows otherwise; they were tears.

Other players got headlines that night; Dwyane Wade was Finals MVP, Shaquille O’Neal won his fourth ring. But without Haslem, there would be no title.

“He’s always had tremendous courage,” Riley said. “Whatever endeavor, he rises to another level. And you need that. He was for real. He was that kind of man, someone who has tremendous pride being from Miami.”

Many Miami kids grow up with football dreams. Haslem was one of them. But when his mother took a job in Jacksonville when he was 9, focus began shifting to basketball. (“Football isn’t

as big there,” Haslem said.) When he was around 12, Haslem was on the court with his older stepbrother, Sam Wooten. Haslem shot an airball. Wooten caught the ball and scored.

“Nice pass,” Wooten said, genuinely. He, and that moment, had tremendous impact on Haslem; Wooten died in 1999 from cancer and Haslem has a “R.I.P. Sam” tattoo on his neck to pay tribute to his mentor.

Haslem had backboard-breaking dunks as a high school freshman, starred at Miami High, then starred at Florida but struggled with weight and NBA teams passed on drafting him in 2002. Atlanta brought him in for a camp that summer, but signed Ira Newble to its last roster spot instead.

So Haslem played in France, dropping the extra weight by eating only turkey sandwiches. The next summer, he was offered a one-year contract by the Spurs.

“We couldn’t lose him,” Kammerer said. The Heat offered two years. Haslem signed. He never left. He had multiple chances, often for more money. But he stayed and

will remain with the organization in a to-be-determined role; Haslem wants a chance to join the ownership group.

“He’s monumentally important for our organization and our locker room,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “He embodies everything that we believe in. And he has a way, because of the respect level, that he’s able to influence and mentor literally every player in the locker room.”

There are many stories of Haslem’s toughness. He’d dislocate fingers in practice and pop them back in like nothing happened. People still talk about his hard foul on Indiana’s Tyler Hansbrough in the 2012 playoffs, after the Pacers caused him to get eight stitches the game before and Hansbrough had just sent Wade flying. He often is the one giving impassioned locker-room speeches at halftime, even before Spoelstra gets a chance. The wall outside Miami’s locker room is now a tribute to Haslem moments.

He’s not Miami’s best player. It could be argued nobody has meant more.

“There’s nobody else like him,” Spoelstra said.



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The world needs more kindness

WROCLAW, Poland — On April 3, I left for Wroclaw, Poland, on a humanitarian trip with my friend Kathleen Boswell. We planned to spend time at a help point for Ukrainian Refugees in Wroclaw. But, before arriving, it took us 25 hours to get through airports and layovers and five hours traveling by train to reach our destination.

Traveling seven hours toward the sun, then into the future, gave me a chance to experience the strength of women along the way — it's something that will stay with me forever.

I observed the tiniest girl from a Muslim country dressed in pink playing at the airport and wearing an adhesive sheriff's badge, to the woman traveling to Kyrgyzstan to work at the American Embassy.

I saw the beauty of faces hidden from view by scarves, the sleek blonde buns of Finnish flight attendants, and the faces of Ukrainian mothers who have left all to save their children.

There's also the beauty and strength of the women who reach out to help them, such as the Polish minister's wife who opened the help point, Hubska 88, and the Warsaw, Poland, Rotary President who signed a collaboration with French Rotarians Saint-Germaine-en-Laye to help refugees.

They all have stories; some shared, some I may never know.

Flying over the Labrador Sea at 41,000 feet in the middle of the night, the world opens up; space becomes time, time becomes people with needs, and people become humanity with loss.

Jill Goodson, an Air Force veteran formerly stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, was traveling from St. Louis to Chicago, then through Dubai, and finally to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to work at the U.S. Embassy.

Throughout her conversation, she noted her Army veteran husband returned to the States after being "blown up" in a missile attack in Iraq. He was able to rescue two fellow soldiers but was also injured physically



Faith Bemiss
Democrat Reporter

and mentally. Eventually, he committed suicide. His death was a connection of loss Kathleen and I share with Goodson. I lost a husband and son to suicide and Kathleen, a younger brother. We shared our grief, the three of us, as if we'd known each other for years.

Agnieszka Kowalewska, a Baptist minister's wife, began Hubska 88 in Poland to help Ukrainian women and children refugees. Wroclaw has 750,000 people and 300,000 refugees.

On Wednesday, she and her husband, Wojtek Kowalewski, received a Diploma of Recognition from the Wroclaw President (Mayor) Jacek Sutryk, and the Institute Rozwoju, Zlote Jabko, for their humanitarian efforts. Agnieszka told me since last year, they have handed out 90,000 packages to Ukrainian families.

She also noted they were given notice that the building they are renting will be renovated, so she will have to find a new home for the help point. As she drove through the city streets on Wednesday, she said she'd been so stressed her hair began falling out. But observing her each step of the way, she walks confidently, caring for strangers, her family, and the church.

Rotary Club Warsawa Konstancin President Katarzyna Strzelecka became a Rotarian four years ago. She said she began to cry when Russian President Putin invaded Ukrainian last year. She added that she was cooking for her young son, and the tears flowed. She said Warsaw is only 50 kilometers from Ukraine. So what would stop Putin from marching into her homeland?

Continued on B4



Agnieszka Kowalewska, a Baptist minister's wife in Wroclaw, Poland, talks with volunteers on Wednesday at Hubska 88. The help point was started by Agnieszka to help Ukrainian mothers and children refugees. Since last year, Hugska 88 has passed out 90,000 packages. On Wednesday, she and her husband were presented an award for their service to the community. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



This image released by HBO shows James Marsden and Evan Rachel Wood in a scene from "Westworld."

PHOTO BY JOHN JOHNSON | HBO VIA AP

As streamers cut costs, TV shows — and residuals — vanish

By **R.J. Rico**
Associated Press

Actor Diana-Maria Riva is all too familiar with one of her shows being canceled. For a performer, it's a painful, unfortunate part of show business. But this was different.

In December, Riva was floored when she found out that "Gordita Chronicles," her recently canceled family comedy, would be removed from HBO Max's vast streaming library — one of dozens of shows that HBO last year effectively wiped from existence for U.S. viewers. Among others: "Westworld," "The Time Traveler's Wife," "Minx," "Mrs. Fletcher" and numerous animated and reality series.

For Riva, the developments were crushing. Over 10 episodes, the critically lauded series followed a plus-sized 12-year-old named Cucu as she and her Dominican family adapt to life in 1980s Miami.

"It was as if somebody had broken up with you and then came back to remind you a couple of weeks later that we've broken up," says Riva, who played Cucu's mother. "It was already heartbreaking. But then it's an added punch to just say, 'Now we're going to wipe the evidence of you ever having been here.'"

As streamers face mounting pressure to save money, several have followed HBO's lead. Erasing original shows from their libraries can help streamers get tax write-downs and, to a smaller extent, save on residual payments. But it brings criticism that they are sidelining already marginalized voices and shortchanging creatives out of already slimmer



This image released by HBO Max shows Olivia Goncalves, left, and Diana Maria Riva in a scene from the canceled series "Gordita Chronicles."

PHOTO BY LAURA MAGRUDER | HBO MAX VIA AP

residual paychecks. These issues have increased tension between executives and writers amid union contract negotiations that started late last month and could lead to a significant work stoppage this spring.

Streaming companies offer this defense: They never promised that shows would live forever. In a hyper-competitive, changing market, they say, each streamer is trying to balance ample offerings with sheer survival. **STREAMERS TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS**

Amid the downturn in the tech and media industries, streamers are being pushed to cut spending and turn a profit rather than "chasing growth at all costs," media analyst Dan Rayburn says.

"These companies have had to change the way they're spending on content because Wall Street says you've got to get to profitability much faster," Rayburn says. He cites how Disney's stock nosedived in November after the

company revealed that its direct-to-consumer unit, which includes Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+, lost nearly \$1.5 billion in one quarter.

HBO's 2022 purges — which occurred as its parent company, Warner Bros., merged with Discovery, enabling a slew of tax write-off possibilities — were the most notable example. But its rivals quickly followed suit. In January, Starz erased a handful of shows including "Dangerous Liaisons," a costume drama that disappeared from its streaming app days after the finale aired. Some fans said they missed the last episode.

Then, a few weeks later, Showtime underwent its own culling. It eliminated the Jeff Daniels-led drama "American Rust," among others. Paramount+, with Showtime integrating into the service, did the same with some of its offerings, including Jordan Peele's revival of "The Twilight Zone."

Some of those shows have found new homes. For those that haven't, including

"Gordita Chronicles," the effects of their disappearance are widespread. Potential viewers might never have a chance to discover it. Actors and writers no longer know whether their work will be seen again. And the original streamer no longer has to pay residuals.

How much money streamers save through these erasures is unclear. But Rayburn says the companies clearly concluded that the excised shows weren't bringing in enough new customers or significantly aiding retention efforts. Instead, streamers have been shopping the programming to rivals, including free, ad-supported streaming TV channels like Tubi, which recently began hosting some HBO shows, including "Westworld."

Streamers, Rayburn says, are under no obligation to host shows for years. What's more, customers have gotten used to hopping among apps to hunt down titles that bounce between them.

Casey Bloys, chair and CEO of HBO and HBO Max, said on a recent episode of "The Watch" podcast that streamers are taking a closer look at their libraries and seeing how best to profit.

"The idea that everything a company produces will be in one spot forever and ever, for \$15 a month, for eternity, is a relatively new concept," Bloys said. "\$15 a month is going to cover everything for the rest of time? It's a nice idea, but it's not viable."

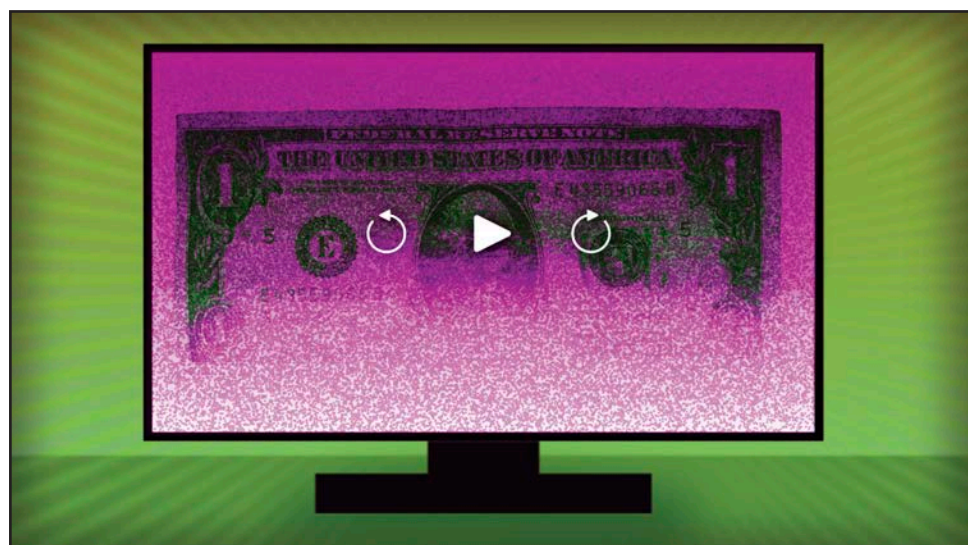


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HAMLIN | AP

NEW BOOKS

Sedalia Public Library Fiction

"Smolder," Laurell K. Hamilton (Science Fiction)

"Those Empty Eyes," Charlie Donlea (Suspense)

"All That is Hidden," Rhys Bowen (Mystery)

"Community Board," Tara Conklin (Fiction)

"Hiss and Tell," Rita Mae Brown (Mystery)

"Marvelous," Molly Greeley (Historical Fiction)

"The Promise of Easter," Marta Perry (Christian Fiction)

"The Farewell Tour," Stephanie Clifford (Fiction)

Non-Fiction

"Poverty, By America," Matthew Desmond (Non-Fiction)

"Hitler's Aristocrats," Susan Ronald (Non-Fiction)

POPULAR BOOKS

Boonslick Regional Library Fiction

"Old Babes in the Wood: Stories," Margaret Eleanor Atwood

"Playhouse," Richard Bausch

"You Never Know," Connie Briscoe

"The Last Beekeeper," Julie Carrick Dalton

"Now You See Us," Balli Kaur Jaswal

"What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez," Claire Jimenez

"So Shall You Reap," Donna Leon

"Once We Were Home," Jennifer Rosner

"Two Wars and a Wedding," Lauren Willig

Willig

"The White Lady," Jacqueline Winspear

Non-Fiction

"Gut Feelings: Healing the Shame-Fueled Relationship Between What You Eat and How You Feel," Will Cole

"The Things We Make: The Unknown History of Invention from Cathedrals to Soda Cans," Bill Hammack

"Luck of the Draw: My Story of the Air War in Europe," Frank Murphy

"The People's Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine," Ricardo Nuila

"It's OK to be Angry About Capitalism," Bernie Sanders

BRL2GO SCHEDULE

Boonslick Regional Library Monday

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Fristoe – The Place Café

1 to 3:45 p.m.: Warsaw – Drake Harbor

Wednesday

9:45 a.m. to noon:

Lakeview – BB Bar & Restaurant

1:15 to 3:45 p.m.: Warsaw – Walmart

Friday

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.: Bunceon

1:40 to 3:45 p.m.: Prairie Home – Duncan Diner

MARRIAGE LICENSES APRIL 8

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

Charles Burton Ward and Debra Sue Kettle;

Michael James Smith and Araceli Quetzecua;

Charles Kristopher Schroeder and Michelle Lee Loesche;

Matthew Scott Hous-

ton and Karrie Lynn Wright;

Levi Grant Bell and Rachael Glover;

Aaron James Edgington and Brittney Niccole Stephenson;

Eric Lawson Hague and Natalie Ann Hammers;

Paul Michael Rogers and Tashia Adela Martin.

DIVORCES

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

Katie V. Croswhite and Nathanel Davis;

Jack C. Hanes and

Kimberly A. Hanes;

Wesley P. O'Neill and Robbi N. O'Neill;

Raina D. Jackson and Brodrick C. Jackson;

Lisa N. Wilson and Daniel J. Wilson.

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 First United Methodist

Church.

Monday: Cheeseburger, baked beans, macaroni salad, peaches, milk.

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

Wednesday: Pizza, salad, tropical fruit, milk.

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

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

CLUB NOTES FOR APRIL 8



Board members pictured, from left, Judy Woolery, Sheri Matz, Pat Palmer, Bruce Palmer (Trustee) Sheryl Heisterberg, Jeff Wimann (Trustee) Susan Rouchka, Rhonda Chalfant, and President Marty Graves. Back row, Sara Lyles, Becky Wimann, Cindy Decker and Stacey Beard.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEARD MEMORIAL CLUB HOUSE

Alpha Delta Kappa

The Beta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, international honorary sorority for women educators, met Monday, March 27 at Christ & Trinity Church and via Zoom.

President Mary Beatty called the meeting to order. Thirty-two members were present.

Dr. Kristee Lorenz, Chaplain, shared a poem titled "Teacher."

Minutes from the February meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was given by Andrea Eppenauer. The donation this month went to Community Cafe.

Cathy Roesch reported for the Ways and Means Committee that sign-ups for the annual rummage sale (June 9) will begin next month.

Amy Woolery, Altruistic Chair, reported she turned in 504 volunteer hours for members in the past year.

Tara Akin reminded the group the next Community Café service day is July 28.

Louise Rouchka, Pat Jennings, and Julie Bales, Relay for Life Committee, gave results of the bake sale at Heber Hunt Elementary

recently and explained a fundraiser activity at the Heckart Community Center in April called "Spring into Healthy Living."

The state convention is in April. Members were asked to save coins for the state president's altruistic project, "Feeding Missouri."

The international convention is in Kansas City from July 13-16. Andrea Eppenauer and Mary Beatty will attend. Other members were encouraged to register.

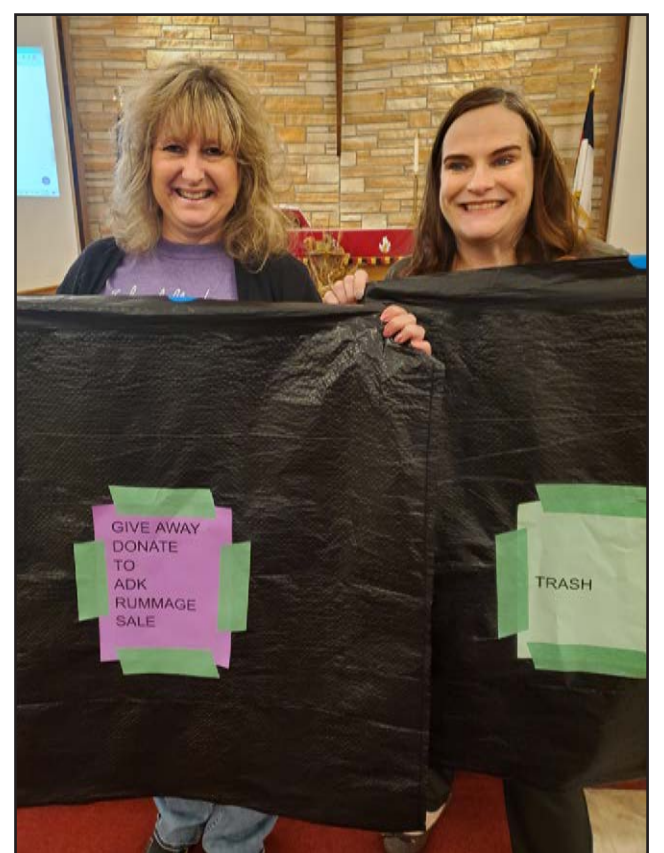
The door prize was won by Louise Rouchka.

The program, "Decluttering 101," was given by Robin Blackburn. She shared many tips on decluttering and organizing.

Heard Memorial Club House

March 26, the Heard Memorial Club House was host to the "Appreciation Reception" held by the Board.

Board President Marty Graves provided details on the improvements made over the past couple of years and recognized the trustees, board members, club members, donors, volunteers, contractors, service providers and neighbors for their tireless dedication



Alpha Delta Kappa members Robin Blackburn, left, and "assistant" Kristee Lorenz show where stuff can go when decluttering.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA DELTA KAPPA

to the ongoing preservation efforts to the home and the property. Special recognition was given to Butts' family, who donated the property north of the Heard House, which has become the building's parking lot.

Special thanks to Mayor Andrew Dawson for his help removing the old house from the property and helping with the gravel for the lot.

Board member and Treasurer Stacey Beard received an award for "Outstanding Volunteer" for her tireless dedication in all areas of the home. She also shared a slide presentation of the before and after of all the renovations and repairs of the home. Refreshments provided by the Board Members were served and a viewing of the home with tours was enjoyed.

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[EXPERTS IN SELLING LAND]

Information was obtained from sources deemed reliable, but broker makes no guarantees as to accuracy. All prospective buyers urged to fully inspect property and rely on their own conclusions. Copyright 2022 BigIron Realty. All rights reserved.

Community Calendar

APRIL

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 W. Pettis St.

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Second Sunday Breakfast at Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church, 2101 W. 32nd St.

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

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

7 p.m.: Sunday Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave. For more information, call 660-221-2221.

Monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 p.m.: Pettis County Democratic Central Committee at Lincoln-Hubbard Apartments, 711 N. Osage Ave. The meeting is a potluck, all interested are invited.

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

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

6:10 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, is meeting in-person rehearsals at Wesley United Methodist Church basement, 1322 West Broadway Blvd. All women who like to sing are welcome. For more information, call 660-851-2205.

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

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

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

7 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery and Outreach 12-step Christ-centered Bible-based program for hurts, habits or hang-ups. Cornerstone Baptist Church, 19856 state Route Y.

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. to 12:30 p.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.: Sedville Crazy Quilters Guild at Central Bank Annex Building, in the basement, 403 W. Broadway Blvd.

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

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

6:30 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery and Outreach 12-step Christ-centered Bible-based program for hurts, habits or hang-ups.,

River Church, 28863 Commercial Ave. in Warsaw.

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.

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

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

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

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

7 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery 12-step faith-based recovery for hurts, habits and hang-ups. Crossroads Family Worship Church of God, corner of Ninth Street and Madison Avenue.

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

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

1 p.m.: Helen G. Steele Music Club meets with a program, second and fourth Wednesdays at

the Heard Memorial Club House, 200 W. Broadway Blvd. Visitors are always welcome. Sorosis.The-HeardHouse@gmail.com.

4 to 7 p.m.: Knights of Columbus Council No. 831, Family Night Buffet. Located at U.S. Highway 65 and Elm Hills Boulevard. The public is invited. Cost for adults is \$8, \$4 for children 6 to 12 years.

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

6:30 p.m.: West Central Beekeepers Association meeting at the Pettis County Extension Office, 1012-A Thompson Blvd.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Lodge 236, Sedalia Masonic Center, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

Thursday

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

10 a.m.: Retired Masons, card playing, followed by contributive luncheon, Masonic Lodge, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

10:30 a.m.: Fair City Garden Club, in the downstairs meeting room at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St. New members welcome.

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

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

12:30 p.m.: Friends of Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

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

6 p.m.: Women in Crisis Group, call 660-827-5555 for location.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Civil Air Patrol building, U.S. Highway 50.

7 p.m.: Fraternal Order of Eagles 4286, Lincoln.

7 p.m.: Blind of Central Missouri, First United Methodist Church Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St. Info 660-826-1690.

7 p.m.: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2591 Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post, 121 S. Ohio Ave.

7 p.m.: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2591, VFW Post, 121 S. Ohio Ave.

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.

Friday

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

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

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

6 p.m.: Warsaw Marine Corps League Leathernecks, 607 E. Jefferson St. in Warsaw.

Saturday

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

7 a.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Group Run every Saturday at Clarendon and Katy Trail.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.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.

The Pink Ladies get their origin story in Paramount+ series

By Alicia Rancilio
Associated Press

Four years before Frenchy, Rizzo and Sandy ever donned their own pink jackets, a group of friends at Rydell High leaned into their image of “bad girls,” called themselves the Pink Ladies and created a girl gang. Their formation is chronicled in the new 10-episode musical series “Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies” streaming now on Paramount+.

Set in 1954, new student Jane Facciano (Marisa Davila) gets labeled as “easy” by the Rydell High quarterback and she’s suddenly an outcast. Jane ends up bonding with a few other teen girls, (played by Cheyenne Isabel Wells, Ari Notartomaso, and Tricia Fukuhara) who are struggling in their own way to fit in.

That theme of finding your people looms large throughout “Grease” as a whole, says creator Annabel Oakes.

“When you say Pink Ladies and T-Birds, you’re like, ‘Oh, those are the cool kids in school.’ But when you watch the movie, Rizzo is cool, Kenickie is cool. John Travolta’s Danny Zuko is cool. Jan’s not cool. Frenchie’s not cool. Sonny (and) Doody, are not cool. They are these lovely weirdos who banded together to kind of get through high school together. And I love telling

stories about friendship like that.”

“Rise of the Pink Ladies” goes big with 30 original songs and a cover of “Grease,” the beloved song sung by Frankie Valli (lyrics by Barry Gibb) for the 1978 film.

The “Pink Ladies” songs are from hitmaker Justin Tranter, who has worked with a who’s who list of recording artists. Tranter has helped write songs such as “Sorry” by Justin Bieber, “Believer” by Imagine Dragons and “Cake by the Ocean” by DNCE.

“The reason I got into music in the first place was movie musicals, whether it was ‘Grease’ or ‘Annie’ or ‘The Little Mermaid,’ said Tranter. “When I read the script I fought really hard for this job.”

Oakes and the writers — with Tranter’s input — decide where to insert musical numbers in the episodes.

“There’s always the rule that when the feelings are too big to speak, you sing them,” said Oakes. “It really is pretty natural to find out the point in a script where somebody needs to sing.”

There were moments though where Tranter felt a musical opportunity was missing. When the cast was filming the 10th episode, Tranter was still thinking that the second one could benefit from one more song.

“The song ‘I Want More’

(second episode) is the last song that we wrote (for season one),” they explained. “The episode was shot, it was done. . . I had already seen a rough cut. Jane (played by Davila) is so defeated and learns she might not be able to apply for colleges. It’s a devastating moment. Then I got the call that we could add a song to episode two, I was like, ‘She is singing right there.’ The collaboration just never ends in a musical.”

Jamal Sims devised the choreography for the series. Sims created the dance moves for “Encanto,” 2019’s live action “Aladdin” and the first three “Step Up” movies. As dialogue and scenes changed during the writing process, so would the music, and thus the movement. Tranter and Sims mastered their own dance of communicating directly to get the job done.

“There was a lot of stops and starts,” recalled Sims about finding their rhythm. “Then all of a sudden, Justin and I jumped on a call. We were like, ‘Let’s talk to each other.’”

Once they talked directly and “got on the same page, everything opened up,” Sims said. “That’s how we made it work.”

Beyond “Pink Ladies,” Oakes hopes to create a “Grease” cinematic universe much like the MCU, but centered around Rydell High.

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This image released by Starz shows Alice Englert and Colette Dalal Tchantcho in a scene from "Dangerous Liaisons." PHOTO BY DUSAN MARTINEK | STARZ VIA AP

Stream

From Page B1 THE DECLINE OF RESIDUALS

The shifting landscape has alarmed creatives who have already seen their residuals dwindle over the years.

Residuals were once a cornerstone of an actor's or writer's livelihood, with large checks consistently rolling in as series were syndicated and appeared as reruns. Now, creatives say, their residual income has plummeted as streamers have grown. As part of union-negotiated contracts, streamers still pay residuals, but those back-end payments are hardly the size that casts and crews receive from TV channels.

Per the Writers Guild of America West's contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, a single rerun of an hourlong prime-time broadcast show on ABC would currently net its writer \$24,558. But if that show were on Netflix, the writer would earn — at most — \$20,018 in domestic residuals for the episode. And if the show were on a smaller streamer like HBO Max, that annual payment would max out at \$13,346. Each additional year a show is on a streamer, the residuals decrease. That, of course, assumes the show remains part of the library.

The decline of residuals is an issue that industry insiders say could come to a head as the WGA's contract expires in May, followed shortly by the expiration of the directors' and actors' guild contracts, which

are both due to lapse June 30. In addition to seeking better residual rates, writers want higher minimum pay rates and better financial security in an industry that is far more likely to order a 10-episode season than the 22-episode season that was standard when broadcasters dominated the medium. The last writers' strike, a 100-day work stoppage that ended in 2008, cost the California economy an estimated \$2 billion.

"In case y'all are wondering why a WGA strike may be impending, my first residual check for the broadcast show I wrote on was \$12,000. I just got my first residual check for my streaming show... \$4," screenwriter Kyra Jones tweeted.

Even though residuals have fallen, Riva says they play a crucial role in ensuring that an actor makes enough money over a given year — currently \$26,470 — to retain insurance eligibility via the actors' guild, SAG-AFTRA.

"If you didn't get much work recently, but at least had enough residuals to get you over that minimum threshold — that means you can insure your family," Riva says.

MARGINALIZED VOICES SHELVED

In a February news release, the Writer's Guild of America West decried HBO's removal of its shows, saying it "illustrates how consolidation increases the power of gatekeepers at the expense of marginalized voices."

The guild cited HBO's decisions to pull "Gordita Chronicles" and "Tuca & Bertie," an animated series

whose two leads were voiced by women of color. It also highlighted the studio's highly unusual move to ax "Batgirl" — a nearly completed movie starring Leslie Grace, an Afro-Latina actor — that HBO shelved for a tax write-off instead of releasing. In January, Warner Bros. Discovery CFO Gunnar Wiedenfels said the company is "done" pursuing those content-related write-offs.

"We can't just let shows disappear, especially shows that depict immigration and Latinx families in a positive light," said "Gordita Chronicles" showrunner Brigitte Muñoz-Liebowitz. "Our communities are humanized through comedy. And to not have the show be there as part of our media lexicon, it shows a regression to me."

In a statement, HBO Max said cancelling "Gordita Chronicles" was a "very difficult decision" it made as part of a shift away from family entertainment. The streamer also confirmed it has returned the show's rights to Sony.

While other affected shows have found new homes through licensing deals, "Gordita Chronicles" remains in limbo, all but impossible to find. For a while, some episodes were still streaming on American Airlines flights, but they, too, recently vanished from in-flight viewing options.

Both Muñoz-Liebowitz and Juan Javier Cardenas, who played Cucu's father on the show, hope Sony finds a new home for it. Cardenas says that when other shows of his were canceled, he took solace in knowing "the work would survive." That's not the case with "Gordita Chronicles" — at least, not now.

"To know that in the end," Cardenas says, "despite all the heart and soul we put into the show, that it won't be available for people in the future to watch and enjoy — that's a very sad thing."

BEMISS COLUMN

Continued From B4

Through all of this, on Tuesday, she signed a collaboration with a Rotary Club near Paris, France, which is partnering with her club to provide funds for a Ukrainian Support and Education Center. The center plans to provide Polish language classes, child care, teen services, and counselors for adults and children. In total, the club has received 40,000 Euros from France and others.

Katarzyna told us she was happy to hear Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy would be in Warsaw on Wednesday to meet with Poland President Andrzej Duda.

Also, on Wednesday, Kathleen and I rode the train to Wroclaw. Our seatmate was a young Ukrainian woman who showed us a photo of her "friend," a young man clad in army fatigues with a backpack. She said she lived in Warsaw but pulled up another picture of her brothers, who remain in Ukraine with her mother. The language barrier prevented us from talking at length, but she indicated she was thankful for people who cared about her country's survival.

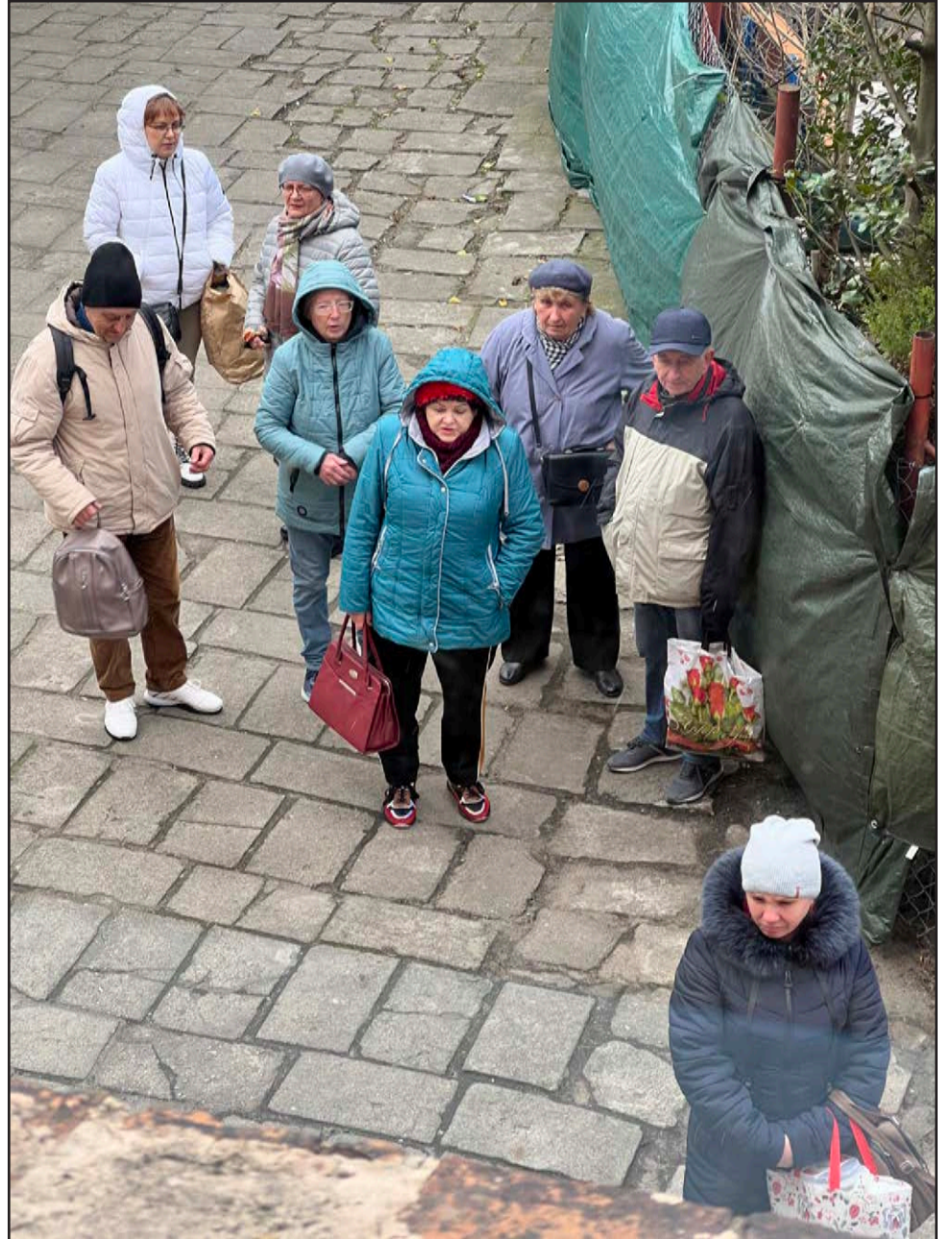
This young woman mirrors the many women and children fleeing to Poland and other countries, many of whom lined up at Hubska 88 on Wednesday. They were bundled in coats, scarves, and hats as snow fell softly. They had arrived to receive clothing, food, and other supplies to survive, all from a woman and a small congregation with a big heart.

Lastly, I stand in awe of Kathleen, who never sees a stranger, a woman full of energy and spunk — which makes it happen no matter what. I'm thankful Hubska 88 has a friend like her. She filled her suitcase with clothing, toys, Easter eggs, and love on the trip to Poland.

She told me she would leave her bags behind and donate her clothes to the help point when we leave on April 15.

The world needs more kindness. It requires hope and bravery, tenacity in the face of adversity. These women showed me I could be more than who I am now. However brief or long I know them, I want to be just like them.

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



Ukrainian women line up on Wednesday at Hubska 88 in Wroclaw, Poland, to receive clothing, food, and supplies to survive during Russian President Putin's war.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT



On Tuesday, Rotary Club Warszawa Konstancin President Katarzyna Strzelecka, center, of Warsaw, Poland, shares a glass of Champagne with Rotary members. She had just signed a collaboration with a French Rotary Club to help Ukrainian refugees in Poland.



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A duo once more, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon come up for 'Air'

By Jake Coyle

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — While Ben Affleck and Matt Damon were writing “The Last Duel,” their first screenplay together since their 1997 breakthrough, “Good Will Hunting,” they noticed that something in their winding and usually separate careers had been missing.

“I remember my wife said to me one day: ‘I haven’t heard you laugh like that in 15 years,’” says Damon. “We came out of that experience going: Why aren’t we doing this more often? And getting into your 50s you just go: If we don’t make it a priority, it’s just not going to happen.”

Now, more than 25 years after they set out to make it in Hollywood — so entwined that they once shared a bank account — Affleck and Damon are once again a team. Affleck directs and Damon stars in “Air,” the new film about Nike’s courting of Michael Jordan that opens in theaters Wednesday.

That film, Amazon Studios’ first theatrical release in nearly four years, is only part of their new collaboration. It’s the first release from their new production company, Artists Equity. Affleck is the chief executive, Damon is head of content. Part of its mission is to give prominent crew and cast members a piece of profits.

To Affleck, “Air” — in which the then-upstart Nike pursues a sneaker deal with Jordan while his mother (played by Viola Davis) advocates for his worth — represents what they hope to do with their new company.

“We believe there are a lot of really meaningful artists on the crew who are underappreciated and undervalued and make a huge difference in the quality of the experience in a film,” Affleck said in an interview alongside Damon. “We want to sort of take the approach taken towards

Michael Jordan, which is to recognize the artists and say: You’re the ones who deserve to be compensated for this. You’re generating the art, the beauty, the majesty.”

And with “Air,” they may have already generated a hit. The film, which co-stars Jason Bateman, Chris Tucker, Chris Messina and Julius Tennon, has drawn rave reviews since its premiere at SXSW. Amazon was so pleased with it that the streamer decided to give it a nationwide release in theaters.

All of which accounts for some of the reasons why Affleck — despite the “Sad Ben Affleck” memes and viral videos of him looking morose at the Grammys — is genuinely happy. There have certainly been ups and downs; Affleck has previously been candid about past battles with alcoholism. But Affleck now finds himself, as he says, “famously unhappy” despite feeling the opposite.

Those memes? Affleck blames them on out-of-context moments and the result of always having a dozen cameras pointed at him.

“The photograph in isolation looks like: Look at this unhappy fellow,” Affleck says. “But actually, I’m pretty happy. I have a good life. I’m very lucky. Despite the memes. Maybe my resting face leaves something to be desired.”

“You have resting b--- face,” chimes Damon, laughing.

But after a tumultuous run as Batman and another turbulent run in the tabloids, Affleck is back to making the kinds of movies that won him best picture a decade ago, with “Argo.”

The Los Angeles-based Artists Equity is a kind of bookend to the duo’s fabled beginning. They launched it to help set the course for their next chapter (Damon is 52, Affleck 50) and make spending time together more of a requisite. It also allows Affleck to be regularly



Ben Affleck, left, and Matt Damon pose for a portrait to promote the film “Air” on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY ASHLEY LANDIS | AP PHOTO

with his kids from his previous marriage to Jennifer Garner. Last year, he wed Jennifer Lopez.

One person they’ve convinced in their new endeavor is Viola Davis. Though Jordan’s mother was originally a very small role, the NBA legend stressed her importance to the story when meeting with Affleck. Jordan said Davis was the only actor for the part.

Davis recognized what Affleck and Damon were trying to foster. She has her own progressive production company, Juvve Productions, that she runs with her husband, Tennon. (It was behind last year’s “The Woman King.”) Davis calls working on “Air” one of the best experiences of her career.

“What they’re doing is bringing filmmaking back to the artists, which is where it should be,” says Davis. “There are so many obstacles in your path as an artist and the biggest obstacle in your path is the business itself. It sometimes looms in front of you.”

“What they’re doing is what our fantasy is as actors, especially once we’ve reached a certain level,” adds Davis. “We want autonomy and agency.”

Upcoming films for Artists Equity include “The Instigators,” a heist film starring Damon and Casey Affleck, and “Unstoppable,” with Lopez and Jharrel Jerome. Though Lopez’s range has been on display in recent films like “Hustlers,” Hollywood has often seemed unsure of how to utilize her talent.

“I agree with that observation,” says Affleck. “By having a set of expectations thrust upon her, it was inherently limiting. You saw with ‘Hustlers’ she was really able to show what she can do.”

In “Unstoppable,” Affleck says, she plays a part not unlike Davis’ in “Air,” as the mother of a college wrestling champion born with one leg.

“I think she’s in her prime,” says Affleck. “She’s doing extraordinary work in large measure because she’s taking that step to take

responsibility for what she’s doing rather than say, ‘This is what I’m being offered.’”

The notion of personal branding is at the center of “Air.” Nike at the time was a distant third to Converse and Adidas, but its executives hit on a concept that would presage much of what’s since followed in marketing: The shoe wouldn’t just worn by Jordan but epitomize him. Now, Affleck notes, people take for granted that they’re brands.

“I’ve always found that idea confusing and kind of anathema. People are very complicated and contrary and nuanced, and brands are simple,” says Affleck. “So the idea that a person can be a brand is a hard thing for me to reconcile. I’ve never been good at it or had interest in it. Obviously, Michael’s brand — excellence, greatness, majesty — if you’re going to have a brand, that’s one to have.”

But the Damon-Affleck brand — if that is a thing — is doing alright. There have been plenty of hiccups along the way for both stars.

But the notion of them as a creative duo and two of Hollywood’s fastest friends has endured. Who hasn’t dreamed of making it in the movies with their best pal? There’s affection for them because they have affection for one another.

“Air” did present one new twist in their persisting partnership, though: For the first time, Affleck was directing Damon. It recently dawned on Affleck that the whole tenor of the project was due partly to Damon’s support of him as the director.

“It was a very gracious and kind gesture that’s characteristic of how Matt’s treated me, and this friendship, his whole life,” says Affleck. “It’s like why you have good friends. When things like this happen, you almost don’t even notice that they’ve made the right choice and been gracious. It’s a testament to why we are still friends. I know it’s not me.”

Damon, not missing a beat, smiles. “I only undermined you behind your back.”

Gardening help in the palm of your hand: 5 apps, phone tips

By Jessica Damiano

Associated Press

You’re in your garden and notice a beautiful, new-to-you flower that has popped up somewhere unexpected — pull it or leave it?

Or perhaps an unfamiliar garden pest has ravaged your tomato plants.

Or you experienced the deflating discovery of a gray-white crust on the soil in your seed-starting tray.

Where do you turn for help when you’re on the go? Technology, of course.

The latest crop of gardening apps and cellphone features may surprise you with their expert garden-planning and planting advice, pest and disease troubleshooting, instant plant and insect identification, and even integrated artificial intelligence and augmented reality.

Free, reliable apps like the ones below will place an abundant harvest of valuable information at your (green) fingertips.

Seek by iNaturalist

Created by a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, this crowd-sourced, image-recognition app is as straightforward as can be. Snap a photo of a plant, insect, animal or mushroom — or even just point your camera at it — and get its taxonomic classification

(from kingdom to species), common name, seasonality, a count of how many observations of it have been recorded on the app, and a short description, typically pulled in from Wikipedia.

Results are based on visually similar images provided by users from around the world, and if the app can’t identify your photo, it solicits IDs from other users.

You can also find lists of plants, insects and animals in your area, add your observations and connect with experts.

And if you’re up for a game, you can earn badges for observing different types of species and participating in challenges. Find it in the Apple App Store and on Google Play. Free.

From Seed to Spoon Scroll through the illustrated menu of fruits and vegetables, and add what you’d like to plant to your virtual “Grow Box.” Then get seed-starting, transplanting and harvesting dates for those plants, customized for your location as assessed via GPS.

The free version of the app also provides information on each crop’s frost tolerance and sun, water and fertilizer requirements, plus seed-saving instructions, companion planting advice, common pests (including organic treatment suggestions), recipes and links to video tips.

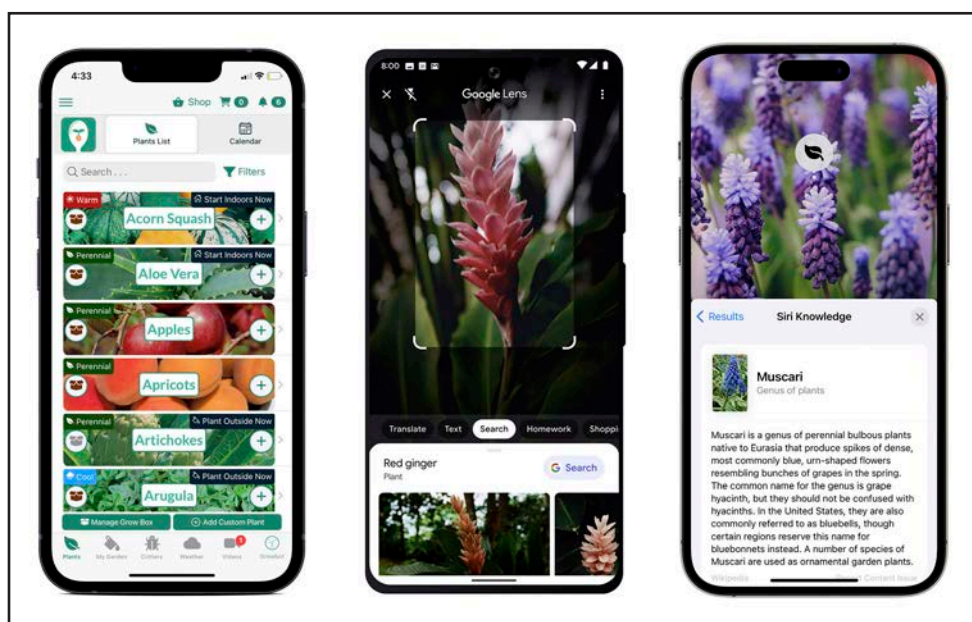
Each plant-profile

screen also includes links to recommended products sold by Park Seed, which owns the app. The premium upgrade (\$4.99/month or \$46.99/year) provides real-time answers to your questions from an AI “Growbot,” a personalized planting calendar and more. Find it in the Apple App Store, on Google Play and at app.seedstospoon.net. Free, with an optional paid premium upgrade.

PictureThis

Snap a photo, and the app will ID your plant and provide a plethora of information about it. You’ll instantly see its health assessment, scientific classification, worldwide distribution, common uses, harvesting time (if applicable), propagation methods, and sunlight, soil, water and fertilizer requirements. You’ll also get answers to frequently asked questions about the plant, and can seamlessly share your photo and plant description with friends via text.

After exhausting an initial allotment of free IDs, you’ll be prompted to watch ads or share the app to earn more unless you upgrade to the premium version (\$29.99/year). Concerned about an ailing plant? Take a picture, and the free version will tell you what’s wrong. You’ll need premium to see recommended treatments. The upgrade also provides comprehensive plant-care



This combination of images show gardening apps, from left, the Seed to Spoon mobile gardening app by Park Seed, from left, the Google Lens app that has image-recognition technology to identify plants, and Apple’s AI-powered Visual Look Up feature to identify flowers. PHOTO BY PARK SEED’S FROM SEED TO SPOON | GOOGLE/APPLE VIA AP

guides, 24/7 access to a team of botanists and unlimited plant IDs. Find it in the Apple App Store and on Google Play. Free, with an optional paid premium upgrade.

Google Lens

This tool uses image recognition technology to quickly and seamlessly identify plants, trees, shrubs, animals and insects on the go. It also pulls up Google search results about the subject.

Access it directly from the Google app or via the Google Search bar in your mobile browser on Android and Apple devices. Then tap the camera icon to the right of the search field, take a photo with

your phone’s camera or select an image from your photo library. Lens can also be used to identify other objects, places, and even products for online comparison shopping. Free.

Apple Visual Look Up

This AI-powered feature for iPhone and iPad will ID plants, flowers, weeds, insects, birds and other animals depicted in any photo. Using an Apple device running iOS16 or iPadOS16, you can access the feature by tapping an image in your Photos library, then tapping the “info” button beneath it (the letter “i” in a circle with stars above it).

The tool also works directly from the Mail, Messages and Notes apps (lightly tap an image to ex-

pand it, then tap the starred “i”) and in the Safari browser (tap and hold any photo). The app will display details about the image, including a “Look Up” option alongside a leaf, paw print or bug icon, depending on what the tool has detected (other categories include art, landmarks and books).

Tap the icon for Siri Knowledge details about the subject and similar images found online (if there isn’t a star above the info button, Visual Look Up isn’t available for that photo.) Free.

Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for The Associated Press. She publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.

Are robot waiters the future? Some restaurants think so

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

MADISON HEIGHTS, Mich. — You may have already seen them in restaurants: waist-high machines that can greet guests, lead them to their tables, deliver food and drinks and ferry dirty dishes to the kitchen. Some have cat-like faces and even purr when you scratch their heads.

But are robot waiters the future? It's a question the restaurant industry is increasingly trying to answer.

Many think robot waiters are the solution to the industry's labor shortages. Sales of them have been growing rapidly in recent years, with tens of thousands now gliding through dining rooms worldwide.

"There's no doubt in my mind that this is where the world is going," said Dennis Reynolds, dean of the Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership at the University of Houston. The school's restaurant began using a robot in December, and Reynolds says it has eased the workload for human staff and made service more efficient.

But others say robot waiters aren't much more than a gimmick that have a long way to go before they can replace humans. They can't take orders, and many restaurants have steps, outdoor patios and other physical challenges they can't adapt to.

"Restaurants are pretty chaotic places, so it's very hard to insert automation in a way that is really productive," said Craig Le Clair, a vice president with the consulting company Forrester who studies automation.

Still, the robots are proliferating. Redwood City, California-based Bear Robotics introduced its Servi robot in 2021 and expects to have 10,000 deployed by the end of this year in 44 U.S. states and overseas.

Shenzen, China-based Pudu Robotics, which was founded in 2016, has deployed more than 56,000 robots worldwide.

"Every restaurant chain is looking toward as much automation as possible," said Phil Zheng of Richtech Robotics, an Austin-based maker of robot servers. "People are going to see these everywhere in the next year or two."

Li Zhai was having trouble finding staff for Noodle Topia, his Madison Heights, Michigan, restaurant, in the summer of 2021, so he bought a BellaBot from Pudu Robotics. The robot was so successful he added two more; now, one robot leads diners to their seats while another delivers bowls of steaming noodles to tables. Employees pile dirty dishes onto a third robot to shuttle back to the kitchen.

Now, Zhai only needs three people to do the same volume of business that five or six people used to handle. And they save him money. A robot costs around \$15,000, he said, but a person costs \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month.

Zhai said the robots give human servers more time to mingle with customers, which increases tips. And customers often post videos of the robots on social media that entice others to visit.

"Besides saving labor, the robots generate business," he said.

Interactions with human servers can vary. Betzy Giron Reynosa, who works with a BellaBot at The Sushi Factory in West Melbourne, Florida, said the robot can be a pain.

"You can't really tell it to move or anything," she said. She has also had customers who don't want to interact with it.

But overall the robot is a plus, she said. It saves her trips back and forth to the kitchen and gives her



A customer receives a meal delivered by a BellaBot robot at the Noodle Topia restaurant on Monday, March 20, 2023, in Madison Heights, Mich. Many think robot waiters are the solution to the industry's labor shortages and sales have been growing rapidly in recent years, with tens of thousands now gliding through dining rooms worldwide. PHOTO BY CARLOS OSORIO | AP PHOTO

more time with customers.

Labor shortages accelerated the adoption of robots globally, Le Clair said. In the U.S., the restaurant industry employed 15 million people at the end of last year, but that was still 400,000 fewer than before the pandemic, according to the National Restaurant Association.

In a recent survey, 62% of restaurant operators told the association they don't have enough employees to meet customer demand.

Pandemic-era concerns about hygiene and adoption of new technology like QR code menus also laid the ground for robots, said Karthik Namasivayam, director of The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University's Broad College of Business.

"Once an operator begins to understand and work with one technology, other technologies become less daunting and will be much more readily accepted as we go forward," he said.

Namasivayam notes that public acceptance of robot servers is already high in Asia. Pizza Hut has robot servers in 1,000 restaurants in China, for example.

The U.S. was slower to adopt robots, but some chains are now testing them. Chick-fil-A is trying them at multiple U.S. locations, and says it's found that the robots give human employees more time to refresh drinks, clear tables and greet guests.

Marcus Merritt was surprised to see a robot server at a Chick-fil-A in Atlanta recently. The robot didn't seem to be replacing staff, he said; he counted 13 employees in the store, and workers told him the robot helps service move a little faster. He was delighted that the robot told him to have a great day, and expects he'll see more robots when he goes out to eat.

"I think technology is part of our normal everyday now. Everybody has a cell phone, everybody uses

some form of computer," said Merritt, who owns a marketing business. "It's a natural progression."

But not all chains have had success with robots.

Chili's introduced a robot server named Rita in 2020 and expanded the test to 61 U.S. restaurants before abruptly halting it last August. The chain found that Rita moved too slowly and got in the way of human servers. And 58% of guests surveyed said Rita didn't improve their overall experience.

Haidilao, a hot pot chain in China, began using robots a year ago to deliver food to diners' tables. But managers at several outlets said the robots haven't proved as reliable or cost-effective as human servers.

Wang Long, the manager of a Beijing outlet, said his two robots have both broken down.

"We only used them now and then," Wang said. "It is a sort of concept thing and the machine can never replace humans."

Eventually, Namasivayam expects that a certain percentage of restaurants — maybe 30% — will continue to have human servers and be considered more luxurious, while the rest will lean more heavily on robots in the kitchen and in dining rooms. Economics are on the side of robots, he said; the cost of human labor will continue to rise, but technology costs will fall.

But that's not a future everyone wants to see. Saru Jayaraman, who advocates for higher pay for restaurant workers as president of One Fair Wage, said restaurants could easily solve their labor shortages if they just paid workers more.

"Humans don't go to a full-service restaurant to be served by technology," she said. "They go for the experience of themselves and the people they care about being served by a human."

AP researcher Yu Bing contributed from Beijing.

Save the date: One year until total solar eclipse sweeps US

By Maddie Burakoff
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — Dust off your eclipse glasses: It's only a year until a total solar eclipse sweeps across North America.

On April 8, 2024, the moon will cast its shadow across a stretch of the U.S., Mexico and Canada, plunging millions of people into midday darkness.

It's been less than six years since a total solar eclipse cut across the U.S., from coast to coast. That was on Aug. 21, 2017.

If you miss next year's spectacle, you'll have to wait 20 years until the next one hits the U.S. But that total eclipse will only be visible in Montana and the Dakotas.

Here's what to know to get ready for the 2024 show:

WHERE CAN I SEE IT?

Next year's eclipse will slice a diagonal line across North America on April 8, which falls on a Monday.

It will start in the Pacific and first reach land over Mexico around 11:07 a.m. local time, NASA predicts. Then, it'll cross over into Texas and move across parts of the Midwest and Northeast in the afternoon.

All in all, it will hit parts of 13 U.S. states: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Cities in its path include Dallas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Indianapolis; Cleveland and Buffalo, New York.

Parts of Canada — including Quebec and Newfoundland — will also get a glimpse before the eclipse heads out to sea in the early evening.

A total eclipse will be visible within a 115-mile wide swath — the path of totality. Outside that path, you can still see a partial solar eclipse, where the moon takes a bite out of the sun and turns it into a crescent shape.

Total eclipses happen about every 18 months, but a lot of times they cross over

remote areas where few people see them.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN ECLIPSE?

Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes in between the Earth and the sun, blocking the sun's light from reaching us.

Even though the moon is about 400 times smaller than the sun, it's also about 400 times closer to Earth, explained University of Colorado astronomer Doug Duncan. So when the orbits line up just right, the little moon can block out the whole sun. Those who are standing in the right spots will experience totality: when the moon casts its shadow over the landscape.

"In just seconds, you go from bright, bright daylight to like the middle of the night," said Dr. Debby Brown, who saw her first total eclipse in 2017 with Duncan in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

"The stars are out. All of a sudden, all the animals are quiet," recalled Brown, of Arlington, Virginia.

During the 2024 eclipse, totality will stretch to around four and a half minutes — almost twice as long as in 2017.

WHAT'S THE BEST SPOT?

To catch the full eclipse experience, planning ahead is key, Duncan said. Weather could be a big factor since the eclipse is coming in the spring, when conditions are unpredictable. That's why Duncan selected Texas for his eclipse tour next year, where there are better odds of clear skies.

Your choice also depends on what kind of experience you're looking for, said Bob Baer, who's coordinating eclipse plans at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Carbondale — in the crossroads of both the 2017 and 2024 eclipse paths — will hold a viewing event at the school's stadium arena. It's a big group experience, Baer said: "The last 20 minutes before totality, the stadium gets as loud as a football game."

But you can find eclipse events of all different flavors planned along the eclipse path: luxury cruises in Mexico, music festivals in Texas, farm camping in Arkansas, planetarium visits in upstate New York.

"The goal, at the end of the day, is to get as many people outside as possible, looking up during totality," said Dan Schneiderman, who is helping the Rochester Museum and Science Center plan events. "Hopefully with their close friends and loved ones."

You'll want to grab eclipse glasses to see the partial phases before and after totality, Schneiderman added. Looking at the partially covered sun without protection can cause serious eye damage.

Brown and her husband are planning to join Duncan's eclipse tour in Austin. Her first eclipse experience flew by.

"I'm looking forward to being able to enjoy this even longer," Brown said. "To be able to just lean into the moment."

WHAT OTHER ECLIPSES ARE COMING UP?

The U.S. will get some eclipse action ahead of the big event in 2024. There will be an annular eclipse — when the sun isn't completely covered, but appears like a ring of fire in the sky — later this year, on Oct. 14.

The path of that eclipse will cross from Oregon down through California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Later this month, there will be a rare hybrid eclipse, which switches between a total and an annular eclipse at different points along its path. But few people will see it. The April 20 eclipse is mostly over the Indian Ocean, and only crosses over a few slivers of Australia and Southeast Asia.

With a 20-year gap until the next total solar eclipse in the U.S., Duncan says it will be worth it to be in the path of totality next year. He's witnessed 12 total eclipses so far.

Seeing a partial eclipse — even if it's 90% covered — means "you missed all the good stuff," he said.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Kaley Cuoco has 1st child, a daughter, with Tom Pelphrey

LOS ANGELES — Kaley Cuoco is flying high after giving birth to her first child.

The star of "The Flight Attendant" and "The Big Bang Theory" said on Instagram Saturday that she and fellow actor Tom Pelphrey now have a daughter named Matilda Carmine Richie Pelphrey.

"The new light of our lives!" Cuoco posted, along with a series of pictures of the baby, who was born Thursday. "We are overjoyed and grateful for this little miracle"

Cuoco has been married twice before, most recently to equestrian Karl Cook. The two split in 2021. Last year she began dating Pelphrey, and in October they announced they were expecting a child together.

Cuoco, 37, appeared for 12 seasons on the CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory." She has played the title role in "The Flight Attendant" on HBO Max for two seasons, and was nominated for an Emmy for each.

It's also the first child for Pelphrey, 40, who has acted primarily in soaps, including "Guiding Light" and "As The World Turns."

Disney developing live-action 'Moana' with Dwayne Johnson

NEW YORK — "Moana" will be the latest Walt Disney Co. animation to get the live-action treatment, and at least one star is coming back.

Disney chief executive Bob Iger announced a live-action "Moana" remake is in development Monday in a call with investors. The production is in the early stages — no director has been announced — but Dwayne Johnson is set to return as the demigod Maui.

"This story is my culture, and this story is emblematic of our people's grace and warrior strength," said Johnson. "I wear this culture proudly on my skin and in my soul, and this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reunite with Maui, inspired by the mana and spirit of my late grandfather, High Chief Peter Maivia, is one that runs very deep for me."

Drawn from Polynesian myths and buoyed by songs from Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Moana" was a massive hit for Disney in 2016, grossing \$643.3 million worldwide. Auli'i Cravalho, who voiced Moana in the original, is to be an executive producer on the live-action version.

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Pettis County

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YARD SALE 3425 W 32ND FRI & SAT 7AM-5PM

Baking supplies, clothing-toddler girl, adult men and women to 3X. Hair bows and supplies, fishing lures, jewelry, rugs, toddler bed & toys, bar stools, chipper (as is), crafts, Baby Einstein activity toy, reptile supplies, bedding, bookshelf.

Legal Notice

TRUSTEE'S SALE In Re: Cody Allen Crump, A Single Person
TRUSTEE'S SALE - Under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Cody Allen Crump, A Single Person dated 08/05/2016, and recorded on 08/05/2016 Document 2016-3799 RE-RECORDED ON 02/06/2017 in Document 2017-0586 in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Pettis County, MISSOURI, the undersigned Successor Trustee, will on 04/10/2023 at 11:00 AM at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, 415 S Ohio St. Sedalia, MO 65301, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash subject to the terms announced at the sale, the realty described in said deed of trust, to wit: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION THIRTY ONE (31), IN TOWNSHIP FORTY FOUR (44) NORTH, OF RANGE TWENTY THREE (23) WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 46 SEC-

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ONDS EAST FIVE HUNDRED ONE AND NINETY THREE HUNDREDTHS (501.93) FEET, THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT AND SIXTY TWO HUNDREDTHS (408.62) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 01 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 42 SECONDS WEST NINE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO AND SIXTY HUNDREDTHS (922.60) FEET; THENCE NORTH 85 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND NINETY SEVEN HUNDREDTHS (256.97) FEET; THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX AND ELEVEN HUNDREDTHS (156.11) FEET; THENCE FOUR HUNDRED NINETY FOUR AND FORTY HUNDREDTHS (494.40) FEET ALONG A THREE HUNDRED FIFTY (350) FOOT RADIUS CURVE, CONCAVE NORTHWESTERLY; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 03 SEC-

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THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION In The Estate of JOHN RUDD VAN DYNE, Deceased Estate No. 23PT-PR00053 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Vivia Van Dyne Robertson 7805 Valburn Drive Austin, TX 78731 Tara Lavon Van Dyne 23888 Georgetown Rd. Sedalia, MO 65301

AND TO ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY OF John Rudd Van Dyne, Deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent. You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Vivia Van Dyne Robertson, 7805 Valburn Drive, Austin, TX 78731, for the determination of the heirs of John Rudd Van Dyne, deceased, and of their respective interests as such heirs in and with respect to the property owned by the decedent at the date of death, to-wit: J.R.V.D., CORP (50.0%) \$172,500.00 2009 Chevrolet Corvette VIN #1G17Z26E795113394 \$40,424.00 2002 Ford Econo E250 VIN #1FDPE24L32HB40642 \$5,697.00

You are hereby required to appear in answer to said petition on or before the 18th day of April, 2023, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., of said day in said court in Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree may be entered in due course upon said petition.

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

/s/James P. Buckley James P. Buckley BUCKLEY & BUCKLEY 121 East Fourth Street P.O. Box 348 Sedalia, Missouri 65302-0348 Attorney for Petitioner 4x-3/18, 25, 4/1, 8, 2023

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LIVING ESTATE AUCTION Patsy Wickern 1630 Willow Dr. (Walnut Hills) Sedalia Mo. 65301 As I am selling my home & moving closer to family, we will sell the following at public Auction on: Saturday, April 15th 10:00am 2023 Directions: From 65 hwy & 16th st. stop light go west on 16 st. thru roundabout to Willow Drive, Turn left onto Willow Dr. to Auction on Right, watch & follow signs on sale day. Automobile: 2008 Cadillac DTS North Star V8 leather loaded 165k (has electrical issues) Household & Misc.: Samsung French door stainless steel refrigerator w/mid crisper drawer (Ice maker not working). GE cross top refrigerator, Roper washer, Whirlpool dryer, 48" Hisense Roku tv, 42" Westinghouse tv, 32" Sanyo tv, 37" Viore tv, Formal dining room table w/8 chairs leaf & pad, King size bed, pr nightstands, Pub height wooden dinette set (table & 4 chairs), trundle bed, handicap knee walker, 5 - wire shelves, tea cart, ladies antique writing desk, lot small kitchen appliances, lot misc. pots, pans & kitchen ware, wooden china hutch, lot sewing notions & fabric, Coffee table w/ storage & two matching end tables, glass top end table w/reading lamp, 13' church pew from St Patrick's church in Sedalia, 1920s China hutch, office desk & chair, 2 - faux leather recliners w/matching love seat, 2 - wing backed chairs, misc. glass, lot misc. occ tables, rocker glider, pr mid-century modern chairs, lift chair, roll away bed, 2 - electric fireplace log sets & screens, misc. table & floor lamps, lot wood shelving, Lot misc. cut glass, Siamese cat tv lamp, lot decorative boxes & baskets, lot costume jewelry, Wood boxes w/ graphics, 15+ 1920s Judge magazines in frames, 20+ copper cake molds, steamer trunk, Lg lot DVDs & VCR tapes (Many Disney), lot pictures & wall art, beading & other craft supplies, lg glass 5gal. jar, lot towels, comforters & linens, pr wood benches, tabletop ice maker, lot cat trees, Lg lot misc. board games & puzzles, toddler bed, bassinette, Graco baby stroller, lot wood bowls, Anker antique ele. sewing machine no cabinet, lot locks & keys, pr patio lounge chairs, patio fire pit, large lot books (complete set Time Life Civil War) lot history books, Shark upright vacuum, lot seasonal decor, lot canning jars, Gas string trimmer, "Tool Shop" portable air compressor, misc. long handled tools, lot misc. outdoor area rugs, lg lot land scaping bricks, Schwinn 270 recumbent bike, Many More Items Too Numerous to Mention *Statements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. Auctioneer Note: We want to Thank the Bybee family for allowing us to assist them at this time, There is something for everyone & many more hidden treasures to be found, hope to see you there Concessions provided by the Award Winning "Benton County Good Ole Gals" JOHNSON AUCTION SERVICE Third Generation Family Tradition Since 1942 Russell "Rusty" Johnson (660)221-4067 Phillip Yoder (660) 723-3389

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Absolute Moniteau County REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 AT 10 AM Auction & Property Location: 23251 Indian Springs Road at California, Missouri 65018 Directions: From the stop light on Highway 87 and West Buchanan Street (Business Hwy. 50) in California, MO, take Hwy. 87 and Hwy. 0 north 4 miles, (Hwy. 87 becomes Hwy. 0 on the north side of California), to Hwy. D, turn right and go 5 miles to Gooseberry Hollow Road, turn left and go 1 mile to Indian Springs Road, turn tight and go 1.5 miles to the end of the road 189.76 SURVEYED ACRES OFFERED IN ONE TRACT IN TOWNSHIP 46N, RANGE 15W, SECTIONS 16 AND 17 IN MONITEAU COUNTY, MO. IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE A 3,000+ SQ. FT. ONE AND A HALF STORY ALONG WITH DETACHED GARAGE AND OTHER OUTBUILDINGS PRE-AUCTION PROPERTY VIEWING Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 2 PM to 4 PM Personal Property Includes: TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT, SHOP TOOLS, LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT, LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT, AUTO, PICKUP, TRAILER, ATV, MISCELLANEOUS, HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS, CANDLE MAKING & BEE KEEPING, BALUSTERS, JUKEBOXES, BARBER CHAIR SELLER: THE DUGAN FAMILY LANCE DUGAN AND BEN AND VELMA DUGAN Wheeler AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE Visit wheelerauctions.com for more information! For more information call Charlie Nordwald at 636-795-4552 or visit wheelerauctions.com.

ESTATE AUCTION 310 E. JACKSON ST WARSAW, MO Due to the death of Murl Stull, the following will be sold at auction located at 310 E Jackson St. Warsaw, MO (from the Library at the corner of Commercial and Jackson, go east 2 1/2 blocks to sale) on SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2023 10 AM GUNS & BOW Winchester 94 22 S,L,LR, lever act. w/scope, Winchester 94 22 mag, w/scope, Winchester 190 22 L,LR, auto, Winchester 74 22 S, auto, Winchester 1200 12 ga 3" pump, rib barrel, Winchester 1400 MK12 12 ga. 2 3/4", Winchester 1912 12 ga full choke, rib barrel, Winchester mod. 40 12 ga., full choke, Winchester Ranger 20 ga. 2 3/4", rib barrel, JC Higgins 583-1101 16 ga. 2 3/4" Bolt act, poly choke, Sears 22 S,L,LR, Winchester by Daisy mod 1029 air rifle, thumbhole stock, Sears 799-19051 Lever action BB gun, Daisy BB gun, Old box Peters 16ga ammo, other ammo ; Extra barrel for 12 ga. 2 3/4"; Whitetail Bow and arrows TOYS: Mattel Fanner 50 toy pistol- Hubley cap gun Note: The guns will not be on premises until morning of auction KNIVES Winchester Limited Edition 2006 folding knife set, Knife set w/US Presidents, in case FURNITURE Antique Hoosier kitchen cabinet w/ flour and sugar bins, bread drawer, glass spice jars, Antique chifforobe, Antique oak buffet, Antique 41" round claw-foot dining table, Small antique pie safe, 28" w x 33" t, Antique kitchen utility table w/ enamel top, Antique 4 drawer chest and matching vanity dresser, Antique flat front china cabinet, Antique washstand w/thick marble top, Antique oak desk, Antique wardrobe, Antique Seth Thomas mantle clock, Regulator 31 day clock, Antique Grunow tube cabinet radio, Large steamer trunk, Large camel back trunk, Antique iron bed, 2- Antique dressers w/mirror, Antique Victrola player, Antique firewood box, Antique curve-front china cabinet, 6' Long Store showcase counter, Old oak cabinet w/2 shelves, 2 drawers, Pie safe cabinet, Wooden trash can, handmade by Murl, Older Whirlpool upright freezer, Older Kenmore refrigerator ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES Large cast iron kettle, Western #2 Crock churn, #8 Glass butter churn, Red Carnival glassware, John Wayne and Winchester metal signs and other collectibles, Norman Rockwell Coca Cola thermometer, Revere China Pitcher/Bowl & water pitcher, Silver Pistol Express train engine metal toy, Bridge Tool Co meat saw with John H Beck initials, Top tobacco tin, razor straps, corn knife, Coke bottle opener, Wagner corn pan, Wagner iron skillet, other iron pans, USA roofing hammer, Chamber pot w/ lid, Sano cigar boxes, Sev. Collectible decorator plates, Collection of manger scenes, other antiques, lg lot baseball caps, Several Time Life "Old West" books LAWN, GARDEN, TOOLS John Deere LA105 mower, TroyBilt Super Bronco tiller, 6 hp B&S, TroyBilt Chipper-Shredder, Troybilt trimmer, Push garden plow, Wheel garden planter, 2-Wheel garden push cart, Garden tools, Husqvarna push Mower, Yard wagon, Double wheel grinder, McGraw 8 gal air compressor, Small Craftsman air compressor, Small hand tools MISCELLANEOUS Propane double burner cook top, Fishing rods and reels, Tackle boxes and tackle, Porch glider swing, Live animal traps, 6 qt Ice Cream freezer, small kitchen appliances Note: Murl was well-known in the area for the paddlefish he'd catch every spring, and for the big gardens he tended every summer up until the time of his death at 100 years of age. He and his wife lived in this house many, many years; we're sure there will be a lot of surprises as we prepare for the auction! Children of MURL STULL Terms: Cash, approved check, debit/credit (convenience fee applied to card purchases). Nothing to be removed until settled for. Not responsible for accidents. Statements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. Lunch served. Larry DRENON AUCTION Since 1969 Office: 660-723-6188 www.DrenonAuction.com

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