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SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Mittelhauser to take Koffman's role in 18th Circuit

By Chris Howell
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Judge Jeff Mittelhauser will take over the responsibilities of Judge Robert L. Koffman when he retires from the bench soon.

Gov. Mike Parson announced the appointment last week, just before Thanksgiving. Mittelhauser told the Democrat on Monday, Nov. 27 that he started as a public defender right out of college.

"Then I was an assistant prosecutor for four years," Mittelhauser said. "Prosecutor for 28 years, finishing my

ninth year here as associate judge."

With Judge Koffman stepping down, there will be a subtle change of guard.

"We're the 18th Judicial Circuit," Mittelhauser explained. "That's Pettis and Cooper counties. There are three associate judges in the circuit, two here in Pettis, one over in Cooper. Judge Koffman is the sole Circuit Judge for both Pettis and Cooper counties."

When the need arises, Mittelhauser will now assign cases to different judges as there are "concurrent congruent jurisdiction" between

associate and circuit courts.

"There are no longer the old distinctions that existed when there were circuit judges, probate judges, magistrate judges," Mittelhauser said. "It's just someone has to be responsible for some of the administrative tasks and in a single-judge circuit, it's the sole Circuit Judge who does that."

As that new Circuit Judge, Mittelhauser hopes to keep the wheels of justice turning in the 18th Judicial Circuit.

"My hope is that Pettis County will continue to have the same level of services from the Circuit Judge that

we've been fortunate to have for the last 42 years since I've been practicing," Mittelhauser said. "We've had only two circuit judges, Judge Koffman and Judge Barnes before him. I've been blessed having two very good circuit judges and I just want to keep trying to repeat what they've done."

With around 80% of the cases heard by the Circuit Judge being felony criminal cases, Mittelhauser has seen his share of criminals flow through his courtroom and noted an exponential increase during his tenure.

See **JUDGE | A5**



Judge Jeff Mittelhauser will become presiding judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit when Judge Robert Koffman retires. Mittelhauser said he hopes no one notices the transition and that judicial business proceeds smoothly.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Harley Anders, who plays Clara in Studio A Dance Conservatory's 12th annual "The Tale of the Nutcracker," poses for a photo on Saturday, Nov. 25 at the dance studio. Studio owner and director Ann Crumley Nelson said Anders had looked forward to playing this role since she was 2.

PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

Studio A to present 12th annual 'Nutcracker' ballet

Performances to be hosted Saturday and Sunday

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney

faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

Christmas magic will take the stage this weekend as Studio A Dance Conservatory's 12th annual "The Tale of the Nutcracker" is brought to life with the most extensive cast to date.

The performance will feature more than 90 dance students and adults creating

a pre-professional ballet that will kick off the Christmas season on Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3. Nelson noted that this year, they have more parent volunteers for the "Party Theme" scene and the largest cast since she began directing the "Nutcracker."

"We have 67 members in this year's show, not including the adults involved," she added. "It's been really neat to see it grow since we had auditions this summer."

Playing the lead role of Clara this year is 13-year-old Harley Anders.

"Harley is very dedicated," Nelson said. "She actually wanted to be Clara since I can remember since we've done the show. She has worked so hard.

See **BALLET | A6**



Three Studio A dance students pose for a photo at Hotel Bothwell on Thursday, Nov. 23. This year, more than 90 students and adults will participate in the 12th annual "The Tale of the Nutcracker."

PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDIO A DANCE CONSERVATORY

Many ways to support Pettis County on Giving Tuesday

By Democrat Staff

With the holiday gifting season officially underway, Giving Tuesday provides a chance to press pause on shopping and offer some help to local nonprofit organizations.

WILS

WILS operates in Warrensburg, Sedalia, and Warsaw, serving the counties of Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline. This Giving Tuesday, WILS is raising money for its ramps program.

Many people in WILS' six-county service area often find themselves trapped in a home that has become inaccessible as their mobility needs change. The average ramp construction costs \$1,851 and takes more than 10 man hours to build. As a 501(c)(3), WILS has limited resources, and donations allow more people to safely access their own yard, community, and beyond.

For more information, visit W-ILS.org and click the green "donate now" button on the top right to donate.

West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League

The West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides quality-of-life programs to those who live at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

It is hosting its Tree of Stars program. Every \$50 raised will allow VAL to purchase a Christmas present for one of the veterans who live there. Individuals, businesses and organizations may sponsor a dog tag that includes a message of inspiration. All of the dog tags will be placed on the Tree of Stars in the

front lobby. Sponsorships range from \$25 to \$200. The deadline is Dec. 24.

Cash or checks made payable to the Veterans Assistance League will be accepted. For more information, email Lati-sha.Koetting@mvc.dps.mo.gov.

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots Region 7 helps children in need in Johnson, Pettis, Henry, Lafayette, and Benton counties. The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

Appreciated forms of support are monetary donations, volunteering, gas gift cards and meal vouchers for the volunteers, services, waivers and discounts, warehouse and office supplies, advertisements, and other forms of support and services as needed.

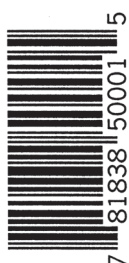
Visit www.warrensburg-mo.toysfortots.org to donate online, volunteer, request a toy, or become a toy drop-off location. To discuss other forms of donations, call local coordinator Jerome Coleman at 773-683-4744.

Birthday Blessings

Birthday Blessings, a nonprofit that provides resources to foster kids in Pettis and Cooper counties, has a goal to raise \$5,000 for Giving Tuesday.

The charity partners with Children's Divisions and other agencies to support kids in care. Their programs target the physical and emotional needs of the children. Meeting a child's basic needs allows them to focus on important tasks like getting an education or improving social skills.

See **GIVING | A5**



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OBITUARIES

Donald Glen Morton

Donald Glen Morton, 89, of Raymore, formerly of Sedalia, died peacefully on Nov. 25, 2023, at his home.

He was born Sept. 29, 1934, in Sedalia, son of Porter and Beulah (Latimer) Morton.

On Oct. 8, 1966, he was united in marriage to Deloris J. Davis Cole at East Sedalia Baptist Church by Rev. Walter P. Arnold. Deloris preceded him in death on Nov. 21, 2015.

On Oct. 20, 2018, Virginia R. (Chamberlin) Davis married her sweet man, Don. They enjoyed the last five years together.

Don was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He taught high school in Stover for two years before becoming the librarian at the Sedalia Public Library, a position he held for 32 years, retiring in 1998.

Don was a faithful member of East Sedalia Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, church clerk, head usher, and Sunday school teacher.

Don was a longtime Rotarian and member of the Sedalia Rotary Club, where he was once Rotarian of the Year.

He volunteered with the Bothwell Hospital Auxiliary and was a founding member of Meals on Wheels. He was a Sedalia

Freedom Award finalist. He enjoyed sports and reading.



Surviving are his wife, Virginia, of the home; a granddaughter, Rachel Vickrey Rayburn (Matthew); a sister, Jerry Heap Taylor; great-grandsons, Trevor Rayburn and Ethan Rayburn; and Virginia's daughters, Jennifer McCullough, Anne Davis and Amy Crunk.

In addition to his parents and wife, Deloris, he was preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Marsha Jean Vickrey; son-in-law, Carl William "Bill" Vickrey; a grandson, William Russell Vickrey; two sisters, Nadine Durrill and Shirley Finley; and four brothers, Dean Morton, Porter F. Morton, Wayne Morton and Melvin Morton.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Heckart Funeral Home.

Burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at the funeral home.

Memorials are suggested to East Sedalia Baptist Church.

The family wishes to thank ProMedica Hospice and Home Health for the wonderful care they gave Don.

Gayle Jarrett

Gayle Jarrett, mother to Darrell Wayne Jarrett, Daniel Dwayne Jarrett, and Sherry Renee Jarrett, passed away on Nov. 14 after a tragic boating accident in Nassau, Bahamas. Her final moments were spent with her family on their way to an event on Blue Lagoon Island, Bahamas.



She was known for her love of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Gayle will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Gayle's family asks that she be remembered for the joy she brought to others in life, not the sadness of her passing.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Alton "Ted" Jarrett; her sons, Darrell Wayne Jarrett and Daniel Dwayne Jarrett; her daughter, Sherry Renee Jarrett; and her brother, John David Murray.

She had a passion for photography and scrap-

booking all of her family's memories and experiences.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Rea Funeral Chapel, with Pastor Mike Wood officiating.

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

The burial will be at La Monte Cemetery, La Monte, MO. La Monte is her childhood home, and she is to be buried next to her parents, Violet Elizabeth and John Lincoln Murray.

Pallbearers will be John Jones, David Guier, Darby Fitzpatrick, Scotty Jarrett, Charlie Chubiler, and Jerry Stapaly.

Flowers and memorial gifts are welcome but not necessary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

DEATH NOTICE

McMillen

Bernadette Maria McMillen, 61, of Jefferson City, died Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital in Jefferson City.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel in Kansas City. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home 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.

CRASH REPORTS

Lowry City passenger injured in Benton County accident

Donna M. Scott, 75, of Lowry City, suffered moderate injuries at 7:20 p.m. Friday in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 2015 Ford F-350 driven by Justin R. Blake, 43, of Cole Camp, was westbound on Highway 52 and slowed to make a left turn when it was struck in the rear by a 2017 Ford Taurus driven by Delbert L. Scott, 74, of Lowry City.

Everyone was wearing a seat belt. Donna Scott was transported by Cole Camp Ambulance District to Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton.

Two from Fair Grove hurt in Benton crash

A 13-year-old girl and Summer L. Johnson, 33, both of Fair Grove, suffered minor injuries at 10:10 a.m. Saturday in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State

Highway Patrol report, a 2016 Volkswagen sedan driven by Crystal D. Brown, 31, of Lawrence, Kansas, was eastbound on state Route 7 and struck the rear of a 2022 Ford Explorer driven by Deena R. Johnson, 56, of Edwards.

Everyone was wearing a seat belt. Two occupants in Deena Johnson's vehicle, the teen and Summer Johnson, were transported by Warsaw-Lincoln Ambulance District to Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton.

Clinton teen suffers serious injuries in Henry County accident

Xzavier M. Ray, 18, of Clinton, suffered serious injuries at 1:50 a.m. Saturday in a Henry County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the crash occurred when Ray was driving a 2012 Ford Focus north on Route O. He failed to negotiate a curve and the vehicle traveled off the roadway and struck a tree.

Ray was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected. He was transported to Research Medical Center in Kansas City by Life Flight.

Russellville woman seriously injured in Moniteau crash

Jessica N. Taylor, 30, of Russellville, suffered serious injuries at noon Wednesday in a Moniteau County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Taylor was driving a 2018 Mazda CX-9 north on Highway 87 when she crossed the centerline. The vehicle traveled off the left side of the road, struck a tree and Taylor was ejected.

She was not wearing a seat belt and was transported by MU Air Care to University Hospital in Columbia.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

Sedalia Police Department Arrests Nov. 21

10:35 a.m.: Maria G. Gutierrez Borrego, 49, of the 700 block of West Broadway Boulevard, was arrested after an officer performed a traffic stop in the 1400 block of South Limit Avenue. Borrego had no operator status and was transported to the police department and released with a municipal citation.

Nov. 22

4:53 a.m.: Barbee R. Faulconer-Laine, 51, of the 2300 block of Highway MM, was arrested after officers responded to the 1400 block of South Limit Avenue for a report of a single-vehicle crash. The driver had no injury and was arrested and transported to the Pettis County Jail. She was booked and released for driving while intoxicated-alcohol/drugs, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and failure to register a vehicle.

10:40 p.m.: Jorge Cruz Arreola, 54, of the 300 block of North Engineer Avenue, was arrested after an officer observed a vehicle failing to maintain the right-half of the roadway and conducted a traffic stop near West Broadway Boulevard and South Marvin Avenue. The driver had a suspended driver's license and was transported to the Pettis County Jail.

10:43 p.m.: Robert A. Graff, 54, of Knob Noster, was arrested after a vehicle stop for not displaying a front registration plate near West Broadway Boulevard and South Sneed Avenue. It was discovered the vehicle had been stolen in Colorado in January 2023. Graff was arrested and found to be in possession of methamphetamine. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of possession of a controlled substance, tampering with a motor vehicle, and receiving stolen property.

Nov. 23

1:25 a.m.: Oscar Diaz Padilla Jr., 25, of the 2800 block of Monsees Drive, was arrested after officers initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle carelessly driving west

on West Broadway Boulevard. They attempted to get the vehicle to stop and it began to speed away from officers. It was eventually stopped in the 1000 block of South Beacon Avenue and the driver began to flee on foot but was caught by pursuing officers. Padilla was treated at the hospital, released, then transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of driving with a suspended license and resisting arrest.

1:55 a.m.: Jonathan Bryce Holland, 24, of the 900 block of North Henry Avenue, was arrested after a traffic stop for a vehicle being driven by a driver with suspended driving status near South Missouri Avenue and West 14th Street. Holland was transported to the Pettis County Jail.

7:55 p.m.: Ronald Worthington, 63, of the 2000 block of Broadway Boulevard, was arrested after officers responded to a domestic disturbance. It was determined Worthington had assaulted another resident. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending charges of fourth-degree domestic assault and property damage.

10:52 p.m.: Chelsea M. Schirrmann, 27, of the 1200 block of South Lamine Avenue, was arrested after a traffic stop on a vehicle with no lights on near South Lamine Avenue and East Ninth Street. While conducting an investigation, the passenger got out of the vehicle and refused to get back in so the investigation could continue. Schirrmann refused to identify herself and became belligerent and uncooperative, resulting in the use of force. She spat at officers and hospital staff, received a fit of confinement exam and then was transported to the Pettis County Jail. Charges of fourth-degree assault on law enforcement, resisting arrest, harassment, and failure to identify have been submitted to the prosecutor.

Nov. 25

11:37 p.m.: Francisco Javier Martinez Garcia, 27, of Sedalia, was arrested after a vehicle stop near South Park Avenue and West Main Street for improper lane usage. He did not have a driver's license and had a warrant out of Saline County. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and booked.

Nov. 26

12:32 a.m.: Elizabeth Aimee Davis, 37, of the 1100 block of West 11th Street, was arrested after a vehicle stop in the 3500 block of West 16th Street for failure to signal a lane change. Davis was intoxicated and driving with a suspended driver's license. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail for driving while intoxicated-persistent offender and driving with a revoked license, and was released to a sober driver.

Incidents Nov. 20

7:10 a.m.: An officer responded to the 1100 block of South Lamine Avenue for a hit-and-run accident report. Evidence was collected and photos were taken. The report was completed and a subject has not been located.

Nov. 21

12:38 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to a business in the 1400 block of South Limit Avenue for the theft of rental property. They gathered information and a report was completed.

Nov. 22

11:37 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to a fraud report at a business in the 800 block of South Limit Avenue. An employee became suspicious of a check and called law enforcement. The incident was determined to be a scam and a report was completed.

3:51 p.m.: An officer responded to East Ninth Street and South Summit Avenue in reference to a hit-and-run accident. The victim said he was driving north on Summit when he was struck in the passenger side by a westbound SUV, which fled the scene without providing information. The victim suffered minor injury and his vehicle had extensive passenger-side damage. The suspect has not been identified.

5:56 p.m.: Officers responded to a business in the 3200 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a property damage report. The reporting party stated while he was inside the business, someone cut the plastic over his window. No suspects have been identified.

10:12 p.m.: A victim came into the police headquarters to make a report that their wallet had been stolen from an unknown address in Sedalia.

See **POLICE | A4**

FUNERALS

Doris Elaine Oelrichs

1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 at Brauersville Lutheran Church near Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

Donald Glen Morton

1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under Heckart Funeral Home.

Bernadette Maria McMille

2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at Mt. Olivet Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel in Kansas City. Arrangements are under

the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Gayle Ann Jarrett

2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Wayne Leroy Kitchen

Friday, Dec. 1 in Oakland, California.

Pearly John Jett

10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Nov. 13
Shannon and Travis S. Hagedorn to Ashley Stevenson, Cotton Brother's 1st and 2nd Addition, block, lot 11.
Jesse A. Perry to Mary J. and Ruben W. Hill, Pleasant Hill Addition, block 4, lots 1, 2.
Caleb A. and Kesha Joy L. Lurnet to Brandon and Michelle Chapman, section 14; township 45; range 22; Land of Blessings, lot 1.
Davide D. Arpino Fusar Poli and Gaybriel M. Prince to Allan R. Akeson, Monsees Lake Estates 2nd Subdivision, lot 37.
Inna and Yevgeniy Zayata to Cannon Holdings & Enterprises LLC, West Country Club Estates Part 5, lot 88.

Nov. 14
Zeus Properties and Enterprises LLC to Jeffry and Leslie Stone, Dal Whi Mo Place, block 3, lot 26.
Debra A. and Michael R. Mills to Recovery Light-house, section 4; township 45; range 21; Belle Place, block 1.
Nov. 15
Alan Leo Giokaris, Diane Giokaris, James Daniel Giokaris Jr., Margaret Giokaris and Polli P. Giokaris to Norma J. Turley, Dal Whi Mo Place, block 7, lots 1, 2.
Loretta L. Hall, Paul D. Hall and Ruth A. Hall to Maria C. Arroyo Barajas and Marcelina Martinez Lemus, La Monte Highlands 3rd Addition, lot 48.
David C. and Jennifer Cachero to A Perfect Space LLC, section 9; township 45; range 21.
Marilyn J. Treece to Orry Rau, Andrew Williams and Shelly Williams, section 16; township 45; range 21.

Nov. 16
Bayler Backyard LLC to Cailee and Tyler Hanisch, Ranchro Marieta Replat,

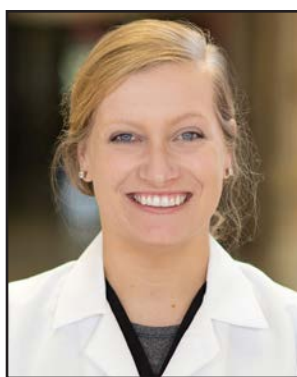
lot 3.
Katie E. and Michael L. Fisher to Katie E. and Michael L. Fisher, Animal Acres Plat 2, lots 7, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Nov. 17
Travis A. Dowler and Morgan Fairfax Dowler to Monte C. and Tasha R. Miller, section 13; township 45; range 21.
Julie D. and Marcus T. Mateja to Rochelle and Steve Hockett, Walnut Hills South, lot 19.
Shirley Ann Thompson to Regina K. Kreisel Trustee, Lisa A. Sell Trustee and Shirley Ann Thompson Trust, West View Addition 2nd Part, block 30, lots 24, 25, 26.
Claudia Esperanze Landaverde Maldonado and Elmer Maldonado to La Senda Antigua Church and Jancinto Quetzecua Trustee, Stewart JR Addition Corrected Plat, block 12, lots 2; Clay's 2nd Addition, block 4, lot 10.
Lindor Elite LLC to Albert James Campbell III and Thomas W. Knight, West View Addition, block 14, lots, 1, 2, 3.
Alexander Antonov, Natakya Antonov and Vitaliy Antonov to Jennifer and Michael Frederick, section 13; township 45; range 22.
James Bolger to Samuel Esteban Lopez, West Broadway, block 5, lots 2, 3.
Padmaja Allaboyina and Shyam Sudhakar Allaboyina to 610 W. 4th Street Trust and Scott Royal Smith Trustee, section 4; township 45; range 21; Smith and Cotton Addenda, block 54.
Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Covered Bridge Estates Plat 2, lot 20.
Christina R. and Timothy Wilson to Michael Simpson, Chaney's Addition, block 1, lots 4, 5.

Physician assistant joins Bothwell Walk in Winchester

Kelsey Reid, a certified Physician Assistant, has joined Bothwell Walk In Winchester and will care for patients of all ages for their urgent health care needs.

Physician assistants (PAs) are mid-level clinicians who provide patient care under the guidance and supervision of a collaborating physician. They can evaluate and treat illnesses, order and interpret labs and tests, prescribe medications and perform procedures.

Reid received a master's degree in medical science physician assistant from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2020. She earned a bachelor's degree in health science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Following completion of an intensive 13-month fellowship in Emergency Medicine at University of Missouri



Kelsey Reid

Health Care, which is a Level I Trauma Center, Reid worked at MU Health as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant.

"I was drawn to Bothwell because of its reputation for offering quality care to the area," Reid said. "My background in emergency medicine has well equipped me to evaluate and treat acute conditions and I look forward to working in the walk-in clinic setting." Reid will treat many

different non-emergent health issues, including illnesses and injuries. Michele Laas, Bothwell's interim Clinic Operations vice president, said Reid's background and experience make her a great addition to the medical team at the Winchester walk-in location.

"Kelsey has a lot to offer Walk In Winchester and the community with her extensive background in emergency medicine," Laas said. "It's clear she has the skills and experience necessary to treat patients in an urgent care setting for a variety of health issues, and we are happy to have her on the team."

Reid said she has always had an interest in medicine and science, and she enjoys learning more in the two areas. She has always been fulfilled by helping others and chose a career where

she had the opportunity to do that daily.

"I am transparent, compassionate, strive to be a good communicator and want the best outcomes possible for those that I treat," she said. "I appreciate being able to practice medicine, collaborate with physicians and have the opportunity to make a difference in patients' lives."

Reid joins Nurse Practitioners Belinda Harper, Ali Roth and Sherry Schwartz, as well as Physician Assistant Mike Shipp at Bothwell Walk in Winchester. Visit them in the Bothwell Healing Arts Center at 3700 W. 10th St. in Sedalia. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. No appointment is needed.

Release courtesy of Bothwell Regional Health Center.

Google will start deleting 'inactive' accounts in December

By Wyatt Grantham-Philips
Associated Press

Here's what you need to know

NEW YORK — Have a Google account you haven't used in a while? If you want to keep it from disappearing, you should sign in before the end of the week.

Under Google's updated inactive-account policy, which the tech giant announced back in May, accounts that haven't been used in at least two years could be deleted. Accounts deemed inactive will be erased

in a phased-approach beginning Friday.

If you have an account that's at risk for deletion, you should receive multiple notices from Google sent to the email affiliated with that account and its recovery address (if one exists). But if you're still catching up on this new policy — and want to ensure that your content on Google Drive, Docs, Gmail and more is saved — here's what you need

to know. **WHY IS GOOGLE DELETING INACTIVE ACCOUNTS?**

In May's announcement, Google attributed its inactive-account update to security issues.

Accounts that haven't been used for a long time are more likely to be compromised, the company said, noting that "forgotten or unattended accounts" typically have old passwords, often lack

two-factor authentication and receive fewer security checks. As a result, these accounts could be hijacked and used for spam or other malicious content, as well as identity theft.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MY ACCOUNT FROM BEING DELETED?

The easiest way to keep your Google account active (and thus prevent it from being deleted) is to sign in at least once every two years.

See **GOOGLE** | A4

New incentives could boost in-person work satisfaction, few employers making changes

By Wyatt Grantham-Philips
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justin Ryan Horton has two jobs. When he's not putting in 24-hour shifts as a firefighter, the 22-year-old is working as an administrative assistant for a local community college from his home in Colorado Springs.

Firefighting is, of course, not a work-from-home kind of job. So when the community college position gave Horton the choice to clock in remotely, he took it.

"I'm gone a lot being a firefighter," Horton said. "Instead of coming home and then seeing my family for a few minutes before leaving to go to my other job... I feel like I have just more time with (them) when I work from home."

The COVID-19 pandemic upended what working looks like for millions of people all around the world. While many jobs can only be done in person, swaths of employers shuttered their physical doors and moved their workplaces increasingly online.

Workers have since begun to return to the office in waves, at least for part of the week, and navigating that transition is an ongoing and significant hurdle for employers and workers alike. And many

simply cannot fathom a return to the pre-COVID status quo, changing how companies approach their staffing needs.

Retaining employees who don't want to work in person is an issue for companies, but relatively few employers (13%) have introduced new incentives that would make employees more satisfied with it, according to a newly released poll conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

About 3 in 4 human resources representatives say that retaining employees who don't want to work in the office is a problem — including 19% who call it a "major problem." Another 54% of HR representatives call it a minor problem. And only about one-third of HR professionals say employees at their workplace are "extremely" or "very" happy about returning to the workplace.

"Once workers discovered that (remote work could be) less expensive and... make their life a little easier, they just wanted to keep doing it, even once the pandemic began fading away," Marjorie Connelly, senior fellow with NORC's Public Affairs & Media Research department, told The Associated Press.

In both the HR survey and a separate poll of U.S. adults, researchers found that the top factors be-

hind employees' desire to work from home include their prioritization of flexibility and work-life balance. Other HR representatives and employees who work from home cite the length and costs of commuting as key.

Those are some of the main reasons that Megan Homis, 33, prefers remote work. As a senior account executive for an advertising and marketing firm in Southern California, Homis goes into the office once a month.

"With traffic, it's about an hour and 45 minute drive each way into the office," she said. "And on top of that, I have two little kids — so just wrangling childcare for them with drop off and pick up

is a lot."

Homis said that the ability to work remotely will continue to be a priority for her down the road. She would consider potentially going into the office more if an employer offered sufficient incentives and support for in-person work, but hasn't seen opportunities that would sway her in that direction yet.

Bill Castellano, a professor in the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, notes that flexibility is key — particularly in giving employees agency for scheduling their work.

"Employees really value more of when to do work vs. where to do work," Castellano, who

was not involved in the NORC surveys, said. He added that this is a key benefit for many remote workers today — and could be duplicated in physical offices with the right policy, such as having flexible start times.

There are some initiatives that could incentivize more employees to work in-person — or at least increase their satisfaction about already going into the office — the poll shows. Most hybrid workers (55%) say paying employees more

for their in-office work would provide "a lot" of encouragement for them to work in-person more often.

Additional pay topped the list across respondents whether they were working in-person, remotely (44%) or in hybrid (50%) roles. However, just 4% of HR representatives whose companies have introduced new policies to get employees back to the workplace say that higher compensation is among them.

See **WORK** | A4

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POLICE REPORTS

Continued FROM A2

Nov. 23

1:54 p.m.: An officer responded to the 200 block of South Marvin Avenue in reference to a stolen vehicle. Investigation revealed a man stole a 2004 F250 from the business's lot. Security video of the theft was obtained and the case remains under investigation. A second vehicle was found damaged in an apparent theft attempt.

Nov. 24

2 a.m.: Officers responded to the 1400 block of South Prospect Avenue in reference to a hit-and-run accident. The reporting party stated his vehicle was struck and the suspect fled the scene on foot. No suspects have been identified.

6:31 a.m.: An officer responded to the 1200 block of South Lamine Avenue for a property damage report. The victim reported her unlocked vehicle was entered and the steering column was damaged. No suspects were determined.

3:13 p.m.: An officer responded to a business in the 1600 block of South Limit Avenue for a fraud report. Employees reported fraudulent transactions totaling \$4,500. A suspect has not been located.

8:47 p.m.: An officer responded to a business in the 3200 block of West Broadway Boulevard in reference to a trespasser. Management reported a former employee came into the business after hours and they wished to pursue charges. A State trespassing charge was sent to the prosecutor.

9:18 p.m.: An officer took a hit-and-run report from an accident in the 300 block of South Montgomery Avenue.

10:22 p.m.: Officers collected a theft report from the 1100 block of East 11th Street. The victim said she had several items stolen from her by people she knows. Information for a report was collected.

Nov. 25

9:01 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 900 block of West Sixth Street for a hit-and-run accident. A driver reported his vehicle was found damaged after being parked in front of his residence overnight. They collected information and a report was created.

11:44 a.m.: Officers responded to

the 1100 block of East 11th Street in reference to a theft. The reporting party said while they were away from home, somebody took their security cameras. Officers collected the necessary information for a report.

Nov. 26

8:46 a.m.: Officers responded to the 900 block of East Ninth Street in reference to a vehicle theft. The reporting party told officers their vehicle was taken overnight and officers made contact with a neighbor who caught the incident on camera. Officers collected the footage and entered the vehicle as stolen.

11:05 p.m.: Emergency personnel were dispatched to a reported medical emergency in the 1700 block of South Kentucky Avenue. No medical emergency existed and a person known to the resident was determined to have made the false report in an attempt at harassment. The suspect could not be located and criminal charges were submitted to the Pettis County prosecutor.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests

Nov. 24

10:59 p.m.: Matthew C. Good, 29, of Wellington, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated and speeding. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

Nov. 25

12:53 a.m.: Hayden P. Collier, 25, of California, was arrested in Moniteau County for driving while intoxicated and driving with a suspended driver's license. He was transported to the Moniteau County Jail and released.

9:20 p.m.: Cassidy L. Peepo, 33, of Liberty, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated. She was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

Nov. 26

11:34 p.m.: Billy R. Stevens, 47, of Warsaw, was arrested in Benton County for felony driving while intoxicated, careless and imprudent driving, and driving with a suspended license. He was transported to the Benton County Jail and placed on a 12-hour hold.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

COMMISSION UPDATE

Commissioners attend conference, tour businesses

By Democrat Staff

During daily meetings Nov. 20-24, the Pettis County Commission completed the following:

Nov. 20: Presiding Commissioner Bill Taylor and Western Commissioner Jim Marcum attended the Missouri Association of Counties Annual Conference in the Lake of the Ozarks.

Nov. 21: Taylor and Marcum attended the MAC Annual Conference in the Lake of the Ozarks.

The Commission accompanied U.S. Congressman Mark Alford on tours of Starline Brass and Gardner Denver. Also present was state Rep. Brad Pollitt, R-Sedalia.

Nov. 22: The Commission presented a proclamation to the Northwest High School Mustangs volleyball team, congratulating them on their exceptional season and third-place finish at the Missouri State High School Activities Association State Tournament.

The Commission went into closed session for legal counsel.

The Commission approved the CERF Annual Contribution Election for 2024. Citizen Margaret Sisk discussed various issues on Murphy Lane.

Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza helped serve a Thanksgiving meal to the 509th Security Forces at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Nov. 23: Pettis County Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving.

Nov. 24: Pettis County Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving.

The census for the Pettis County Jail for the week of Nov. 20 is 132 inmates and the census for 911 calls is 1,938 calls.

The Pettis County Commission meets at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday in Commission Chambers on the second floor of the Pettis County Courthouse. To make an appointment or to request an issue be placed on the commission's agenda, call Noah Shepard, assistant to the commission, at 660-826-5000 ext. 410.

Highway Patrol reports four fatalities over Thanksgiving holiday

By Democrat Staff

The Missouri State Highway Patrol reported four people died in traffic crashes during this year's Thanksgiving holiday counting period from 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26. There were no boating crashes or drownings.

According to a news release, during the Thanksgiving holiday counting period, troopers investigated 431 traffic crashes, which included 138 injuries and four fatalities. Troopers arrested

103 people for driving while intoxicated and made 10 drug arrests.

During the 2022 Thanksgiving holiday counting period, troopers investigated 414 traffic crashes, which included eight fatalities and 115 injuries. Statewide, nine people died, and 482 people were injured in 1,355 traffic crashes over last year's Thanksgiving holiday. Troopers arrested 113 people for driving while intoxicated.

Troopers investigated all four of the traffic crash fatalities in 2023. Two of the

traffic fatalities occurred in the Troop A, Lee's Summit, area and two traffic fatalities occurred in the Troop C, Weldon Spring, area.

One traffic fatality occurred on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, one occurred on Nov. 24, and two occurred on Nov. 26. There were no traffic fatalities on Nov. 22 or Nov. 25.

There were zero boating crashes, zero boating fatalities, zero drownings, and zero boating while intoxicated arrests reported during the 2023 Thanksgiving holiday counting period.

Google

From Page A3

Other actions that fulfill account activity requirements include sending or scrolling through emails, using Google search and watching YouTube videos (YouTube is owned by Google) all while signed into your Google account. Existing subscriptions set up through your Google account, including profiles for third-party apps and publications, can also account for activity.

Preserving content on Google Photos requires a specific sign-in. As previously announced by Google, Photos content may be similarly deleted after two years of inactivity — meaning you should open the application every so often to keep images from going into the trash.

ARE THERE ANY

EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY?

Only personal Google accounts that haven't been used for two years or more will be impacted under this inactive-account update. Accounts made for organizations, like schools or companies, will not be affected, Google says.

Per Google's online policy, other exceptions include Google accounts that manage active minor accounts, accounts containing a gift card balance as well as those that have been used to purchase Google products, apps or subscriptions that are ongoing.

There are also no plans to delete accounts with YouTube videos at this time, a Google spokesperson confirmed to The Associated Press Monday.

CAN I SAVE DATA FROM MY GOOGLE ACCOUNT?

Beyond keeping your Google account active,

there's a few tools to help manage and backup your data.

Google Takeout, for example, allows users to download and export account data outside of Google at any time. And its Inactive Account Manager lets you choose what would happen to your account and data if it becomes inactive — including options to send select files to trusted contacts or delete the account entirely. Google's online policy also says the company can work with immediate family to close the account of a deceased loved one and/or provide some account content — without sharing login credentials — on a case-by-case basis.

Google asks users to provide and update a recovery email for their account — which is also helpful for sending inactive account notices and other communications.

Work

From Page A3

Employees who are already going into the office — either entirely or part-time — indicated that other incentives such as commuter benefits, in-office childcare, free food and social gatherings could also add at least "some" more satisfaction with returning to the office.

Those in-office perks had less sway among solely remote workers, Connelly noted — particularly social gatherings. "For example, I work hundreds of miles away from the main office, so they can have a pizza party (and) all the pizza parties they want, but I'm not going to be affected by it," she said.

Regardless, many U.S. employees have returned to in-person work, or

had never left. Most paid employees report that they work in person per NORC's survey, and three-quarters of those in-person employees say they are required by their employer to do so. About 1 in 10 indicate that they could work remotely but prefer working from the office.

Meanwhile, about one-third of paid employees surveyed work remotely or in hybrid positions. The majority cited convenience and work-life balance, as well as a lack of in-office requirements, as reasons to do so.

The number of people working remotely has fallen significantly since the peak of COVID-19 — but is still far higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Estimates are mixed, but according to a Pew Research Center survey published in March, 35% of workers with jobs that

can be completed remotely were working from home all of the time. That's down from 43% in January 2022 and 55% in October 2020. Still, that's much higher than the mere 7% recorded before the pandemic.

This coincides with dwindling work-from-home options from employers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 72.5% of private-sector establishments, for example, had little to no telework in mid-2022 — up from 60.1% a year earlier.

"I would think that this trend downward will continue, but I don't think it's going to go down to zero... (or) where we were pre-pandemic," Castellano said, adding that he believes the hybrid model will grow in popularity. "The question is, what kind of schedule will that be?"



Cole Camp Christkindlmarkt

Please excuse the December 2nd date as shown on the Black Friday Wrap & Christmas Book, December 1st is the correct date

December 1st • 5 pm - 9 pm



Evening Shopping Event
Activities for the whole family!

All downtown shops open until 9 pm

Eating Establishments plus Chamber Food Stand

Pictures with Santa

Farm Animals to Pet

Lighting of the German Festbaum at 5:15

A Living Nativity Scene

Free Hot Chocolate or Apple Cider

The Pick Pocket Lady & Festive Wagon Rides

Live Window Displays

S'mores Station and Cookie Booth

Free Books from the Library

Carolers & Bands

Pretzel Stand

Check Cole Camp Christkindlmarkt Facebook Page for details



Giving

From Page A1

Executive Director Shannon VonAllmen said the nonprofit is seeing higher operating costs due to inflation and increased service requests.

Locally, the organization has a volunteer group that meets monthly at LifePointe Church in Sedalia. Volunteers prep birthday parties and other resources for delivery to kids in care.

Donations can be made at www.birthday-blessings.org or by mailing checks to Birthday Blessings, 808 Westwood Drive, Sedalia, MO 65301. For more information, call 660-619-1250.

Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri

Supporters of Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri can donate to its Whatever It Takes Fund, which allocates monies to literally whatever it takes to ensure our members are on the path to a successful future.

During the year, BGC provides afterschool and summer programs to more than 1,600 children at 12 Club Sites in seven communities. In 2024, two additional Club Sites will open to serve more children more often. Donations may be made by sending a check to Boys & Girls Club, 3100 Aaron Ave. in Sedalia, or online at bgckids.com.

Pettis County Community Partnership

The Pettis County Community Partnership is in need of basic necessities such as body wash, shampoo, conditioner, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, wash rags, bath towels, socks, and underwear for the community closet to help the community members struggling with housing instability.

PCCP is also in need of blankets, sleeping bags, coats, granola bars and other similar items for the unhoused community members.

For more information, visit www.pettiscountycommunitypartnership.com or call 660-827-0560.

Citizens Against Spouse Abuse

Citizens Against Spouse Abuse is inviting supporters to provide items that CASA is always in need of for the shelter. Those items include toilet paper, paper towels, bath towels and washcloths, paper plates and cutlery, pillows, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, lotion, new hair brushes/combs, elastic hair ties, Q-Tips cleaning supplies, 13-gallon trash bags, 1- or 2-gallon storage bags, tampons, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, baby lotion, baby wash/shampoo, size 4/5 diapers, dish soap and aluminum foil.

Any donations of \$100 or more are eligible for a 70% tax credit on your Missouri taxes and can be made at www.casa-sedalia.org/donate.

For more information, visit www.casa-sedalia.org or the CASA Facebook page, call the shelter at 660-827-5559 and ask for Sara or email sara@casa-sedalia.org.

Retrieving Freedom

It is a little-known fact that the nonprofit's combined facilities' in Sedalia, Missouri, and Waverly, Iowa, daily consumption of dog food amounts to a remarkable 136 cups.

This Giving Tuesday, Retrieving Freedom presents to the community a call to action: the opportunity to contribute to a dog food drive with donations of Purina Pro Plan dog food

for service dogs in training. Reducing the expenses associated with the service dogs' nutrition allows Retrieving Freedom to strategically re-direct financial resources to continue its mission to provide service dogs to veterans with disabilities and children with autism nationwide at no cost.

The Giving Tuesday Dog Food Drive will be at the following locations:

Pruitt Insurance, 622 S. Ohio Ave., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Family Center Farm & Home, 1400 S. Limit Ave., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Liberty Center, 111 W. Fifth St., 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday.

Central Bank: 301 W. Broadway Blvd., 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and until 6 p.m. Friday.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/mtm4j8ha.

Bothwell Foundation

The Bothwell Foundation helps provide the latest medical equipment and facilities for the best patient diagnosis and treatment, disease prevention and health education for community health-care needs, recruiting and retaining the best medical staff for this area, and ensuring Bothwell Regional Health Center is locally managed and community-owned health care. Community support is the only other source of revenue for the health center. Through generous gifts from the community, the Foundation is able to fund health projects that meet a variety of needs.

This year, the Bothwell Foundation is beginning a new project to raise funds to remodel patient care rooms on the 24-bed unit of 2SW. Patient rooms have not been remodeled on 2SW since 1985. These much-needed revisions will increase patient safety and satisfaction, improve mood, encourage the presence of a patient's support network, and aid in faster recovery.

To donate, visit brhc.org/foundation-giving/donate or contact the Bothwell Foundation office at 660-829-7786 or LThiel@brhc.org.

Child Safe of Central Missouri

Child Safe, a Child Advocacy Center, has a mission to respond to and prevent child abuse, help families heal and restore childhood hope.

Child Safe is committed to serving children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, exploitation and other traumatic events that involve a crime. The nonprofit provides advocacy for the child and their non-offending family members free of charge to the following counties: Pettis, Morgan, Henry, Saline, Chariton, Lafayette, Linn, Carroll, Johnson, Moniteau and Benton.

Child Safe of Central Missouri is a 501(c)3 and offers Champion for Children Tax Credits for donations over \$100 per year. Visit child-safehouse.org and click the "Be a Hero" button to sign up for monthly or one-time giving.

Open Door Service Center

The Open Door organization offers many types of assistance for Pettis County residents. The Service Center helps with clothing vouchers, prescription costs, heat assistance, transportation to safe shelters, and other basic human needs. An average of 2,770 individuals eat each month at the kitchen and the food pantry serves about 120 families daily.

During the holiday

season, Open Door needs monetary donations, plus items like shelf-stable foods, meat and produce, coats and gloves. Donations are also needed at the Thrift Shop, which sells items to raise money for Open Door's services.

Open Door Service Center has set a goal of raising \$5,000 in 24 hours for Giving Tuesday. People can donate at www.opendoorservicecenter.org/donate-today. When making a Giving Tuesday donation, donors are invited to join the GEM Treasure Club by setting up recurring donations, which help Open Door with stability by giving a reliable, predictable source of ongoing revenue to help individuals & families stay healthy through food security.

The Democrat is also hosting a fall food drive to benefit Open Door. Donations can be dropped off at 111 W. Fourth St. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; the deadline is Nov. 29.

For more information, visit opendoorservicecenter.org or call 660-827-1613.

Sedalia Animal Shelter

The Sedalia Animal Shelter is inviting supporters to provide items the shelter is always in need of, including bleach, paper towels, magic erasers, Purina Kitten Chow, Dawn dish soap, Rugged tough dog toys, and cleaning supplies. For more information, visit the shelter at 2420 S. New York Ave. from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, call 660-826-5816 or email rbattson@sedalia.com.

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

Show-Me serves Pettis and Johnson counties with homes in La Monte and Knob Noster. Significant, positive memories build the resilience these kids need to overcome their unfortunate pasts and prepare for a healthy future.

Donors can help create memories that last a lifetime by giving gift cards or passes to special events, such as movies, bowling, sporting games, and other fun activities. Or stuff the kids' stockings with gift cards of \$5 or \$10 to allow each child

to pick out a favorite treat.

Also, a variety of items to gift the families is available on Show-Me's Amazon Wish List at <http://Lead.me/ShowMeList>, or find the latest needs at ShowMeHelpingKids.com. For more information, call 660-347-5982.

The Salvation Army

The Sedalia Salvation Army is seeking volunteers to ring bells this Christmas season. Visit www.register-toring.com or call 660-826-1525. The Salvation Army is also in need of coats, hats and gloves to distribute for free at the Service Center. Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 1200 E. Broadway Blvd.

Cancer Perks

Cancer Perks helps provide simple, practical needs to people with cancer at Bothwell Regional Health Center, Fitzgibbon Hospital and Western Missouri Medical Center. Help includes gas mileage reimbursements for people traveling for radiation treatments, resources for people who need to get their lawns mowed, small bills paid or meals provided, and care packages for people undergoing chemotherapy or radiation.

Cancer Perks is hosting its annual Virtual Angel Tree on Facebook as part of its 12 Needs of Christmas campaign. Visit facebook.com/CancerPerks to learn more.

The nonprofit also provides Christmas dinners to all patients receiving chemo on Christmas Eve at all three cancer centers, and donations are needed.

United Way of Pettis County

The United Way of Pettis County brings together people and resources to improve the lives of everyone in the community. All proceeds from Giving Tuesday will go toward the 2024 "Give Where You Live" Campaign, which supports education, health, and financial stability programming across the county. To donate, visit www.spcuw.org/donate. Those interested in donating their time or talent can contact Rachele Simon at rachele.simon@spcuw.org.

Compiled by Nicole Cooke.

Judge

From Page A1

"You're talking about four decades," Mittelhauser said. "So yes, I've seen an explosion in the number of cases. When I first started as prosecutor Jan. 1, 1987, there were approximately 400 cases filed that previous year and it's four times that now."

Asked if the increased caseload meant a balance had to be struck in who to put on trial, Mittelhauser deferred to Pettis County Prosecutor Phillip Sawyer.

"You'd have to ask Phillip how close he is to the point where he has to make those decisions," Mittelhauser said. "I have never seen it reach the point where the prosecutor has to say, 'All right, that's a crime, I think that guy or that girl did it, but I just don't have time for that, I've got to do this homicide case or this other case.' There's certainly got to be a decision about where you put more resources, but I've never seen it come down

to ignoring lesser stuff so you can concentrate on the major must-do cases."

Mittelhauser has seen neighboring counties where felony jury trials were waiting up to 18 months for a place on the docket. He said the 18th Circuit Court is delivering justice much quicker than that.

"If a person is charged with a crime in Pettis County and they want a trial quickly, they can still get a trial quickly," Mittelhauser said. "Judge Koffman is setting cases as Circuit Judge. I'm sure he could give a person a trial date in three or four months if they insisted on it."

Mittelhauser said he hopes his transition to presiding judge is seamless and thanked his mentors for their fine example.

"Judge Koffman and Judge Barnes were very good examples to me," Mittelhauser said. "My strongest goal is that no one will really see any change when I take office upstairs."

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

Buyers worldwide go for bigger cars, erasing gains from cleaner tech

By Alexa St. John
Associated Press

The negative impact on the climate from passenger vehicles, which is considerable, could have dropped by more than 30% over the past decade if not for the world's appetite for large cars, a new report from the Global Fuel Economy Initiative suggests.

Sport utility vehicles, or SUVs, now account for more than half of all new car sales across the globe, the group said, and it's not alone. The International Energy Agency, using a narrower definition of SUV, estimates they make up nearly half.

Over the years these cars have gotten bigger and so has their cost to the climate, as carbon dioxide emissions "are

almost directly proportional to fuel use" for gas-powered cars. The carbon that goes in at the pump comes out the tailpipe.

Transportation is responsible for around one-quarter of all the climate-warming gases that come from energy, and much of that is attributable to passenger transport, according to the International Energy Agency.

But the negative environmental impact from SUVs could have been reduced by more than one-third between 2010 and 2022, if people had just continued buying the same size cars, according to the initiative, which is a global partnership of cleaner vehicle groups.

One fix for this could be electric vehicles.

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Dec 05 LOVE: Wesley UMC, 1322 W Broadway Blvd ✨
Dec 12 HOPE: Celebration Center, 1701 W 32nd St ✨
Dec 19 PEACE: 400 N Main St, LaMonte ✨

from 6-7pm

Ballet

From Page A1

"I'm just so proud of her that this is her time," Nelson continued. "It takes a lot to be cast and to play this main role. So, it's time for her strength-wise and overall character and performance qualities — she is just going to knock it out of the park."

Nelson said the performance is a great way to begin the holiday season, even if one doesn't have family in the production.

"We've tried to promote this show over the last 12 seasons," she noted. "I know we have a lot of the same people that come and make it their holiday tradition."

"So, I think even if you're not involved or you don't have a granddaughter or grandson or a family member in the show, I think when you leave, you will feel a respect for dance and a love for the arts," she continued. "And that's what this show is all about. Because it is a well-known story and people all over the world celebrate with the 'Nutcracker' at Christmas time."

Nelson added those attending will be "surprised by the talent and the entertainment" the students and other cast members bring to the stage.

"This show isn't just about dancing," she explained. "It's also about the theatre performance. So, these students have to work on that for this show, too."

"They are not just working on all the dance steps and choreography," she added. "But they are actually developing a character. They all learn these parts and become these characters. So, when the show ends, it's kind of a (let-down) for them."

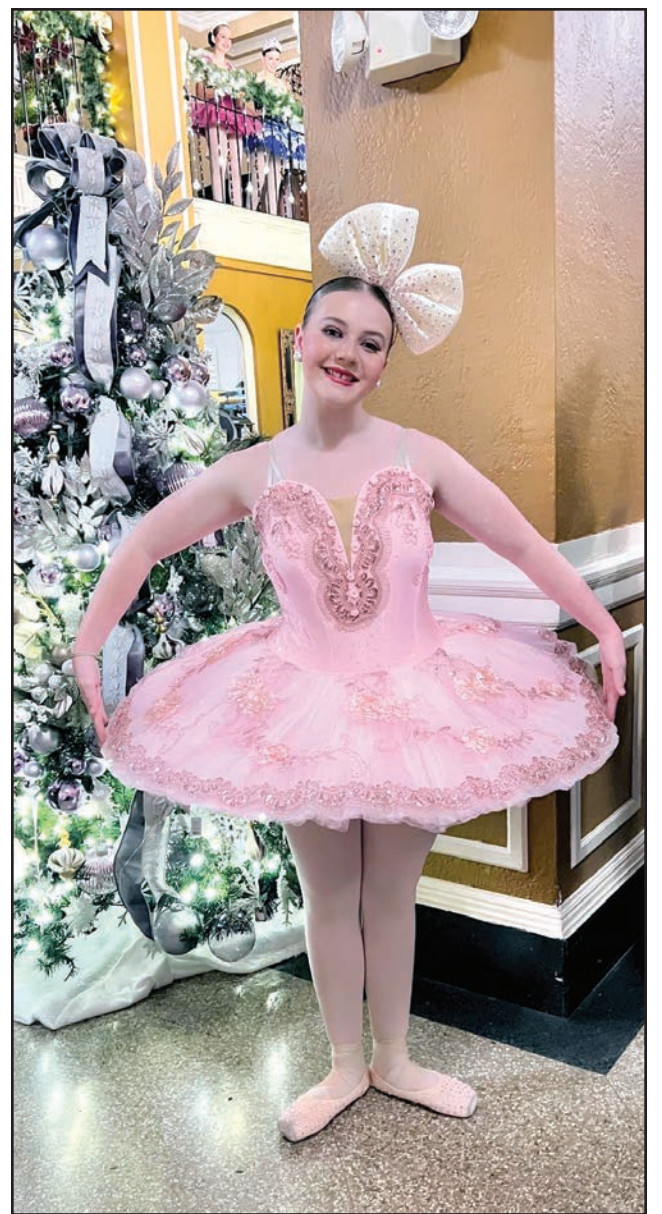
Students have been working since summer to perfect the December performance. Once the show ends on Dec. 3, the students begin discussing characters for the 2024 "Nutcracker" production.

"They are inspired after the show," Nelson noted. "And they are working hard because it's really goals that they are setting to earn their part, no matter what role it is."

"Whether it's the Mouse Queen, the Snow Queen, the Sugar Plum Fairy, or Clara," she noted. "Everyone works together to make their role the best. It's



On Thursday evening, Nov. 23 before Hotel Bothwell's annual Thanksgiving fireworks celebration, Harley Anders, dressed as Clara for Studio A Dance Conservatory's 12th annual "The Tale of the Nutcracker," has her photo taken outside the hotel. PHOTOS COURTESY OF STUDIO A DANCE CONSERVATORY



A Studio A dance student dressed in her Nutcracker ballet costume has her photo taken at Hotel Bothwell on Thanksgiving night. Dance students will perform "The Nutcracker" at the Heckart Performing Arts Center on Saturday and Sunday.

amazing. And I try to really build that in them — no matter what role, it's the perfect role for you at this time."

Along with the professional quality of the performance, the students' costumes are also top-notch.

"That's something I pride myself in, is costuming," Nelson said. "If I weren't a dancer or a dance director, I would go into fashion. Because I love costuming dance shows."

Nelson speaks with each student about what they envision for their costume, such as color schemes, etc.

"I want them to love it too and feel special when they put it on," she noted. "We talk about color, and we order a lot of the costumes with the bodice and the tutu."

From there, it's up to Nelson, the

students, and their families to "bling out" the costume with rhinestones and appliques.

"So, it's really an artistic event," she added. "Because we lay everything out and put it all together. Then we layer and keep adding ribbons and bows."

"So, the students are really part of that process," she continued. "It's important for them to understand the importance of their costume as well."

Studio A Dance Conservatory will present the 12th annual "The Tale of the Nutcracker" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Heckart Performing Arts Studio, 2010 Tiger Pride Blvd. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at 660-530-0289.

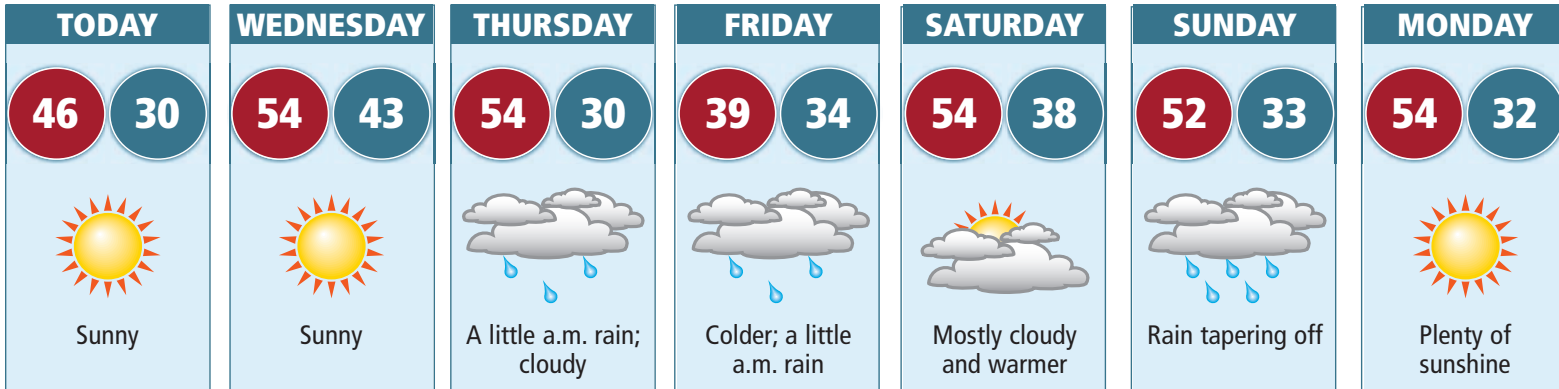
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THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:53 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:45 p.m.
Moonsset today	8:41 a.m.



WEATHER HISTORY

Arctic winds dropped temperatures to as low as 32 below zero in Minnesota on Nov. 28, 1989. One year later, 60 new records for warmth were set in the Midwest and Northeast.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Sunday

TEMPERATURES

High	39
Low	28
Normal high	49
Normal low	29
Record high	77 in 1965
Record low	8 in 1977

PRECIPITATION

Sunday	0.09"
Month to date	0.36"
Normal m-t-d	2.54"
Year to date	31.92"
Normal y-t-d	41.04"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

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

Sunday	31
Month to date	416
Season to date	647
Normal season to date	947
Last season to date	799

RIVER LEVELS

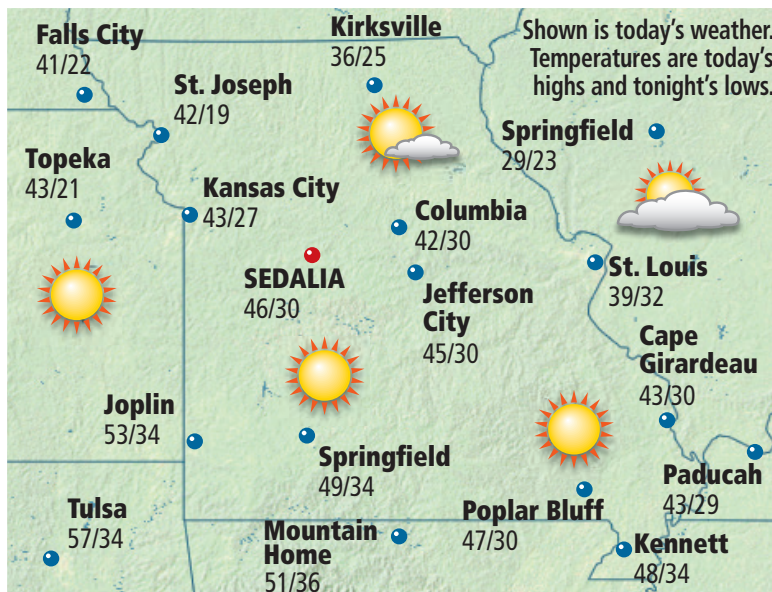
In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fid Stg
Blue Lick	6.71	-0.07	24
Valley City	2.49	+0.02	22

Lamine	Stage	Chg	Fid Stg
Otterville	1.02	-0.04	15

Missouri	Stage	Chg	Fid Stg
Boonville	6.79	-0.08	21

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023



BRANSON
High: 53. Low: 39. Plenty of sunshine today. The stretch of dry weather will end later this week; check AccuWeather often. Clear tonight. Sunshine tomorrow.

KANSAS CITY
High: 43. Low: 27. Sunshine today. Clear tonight. Sunshine tomorrow. Thursday: cloudy with a little rain in the afternoon. Friday: mostly cloudy.

ST. LOUIS
High: 39. Low: 32. Mostly sunny and chilly today. Patchy clouds tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow. Thursday: occasional rain and drizzle.

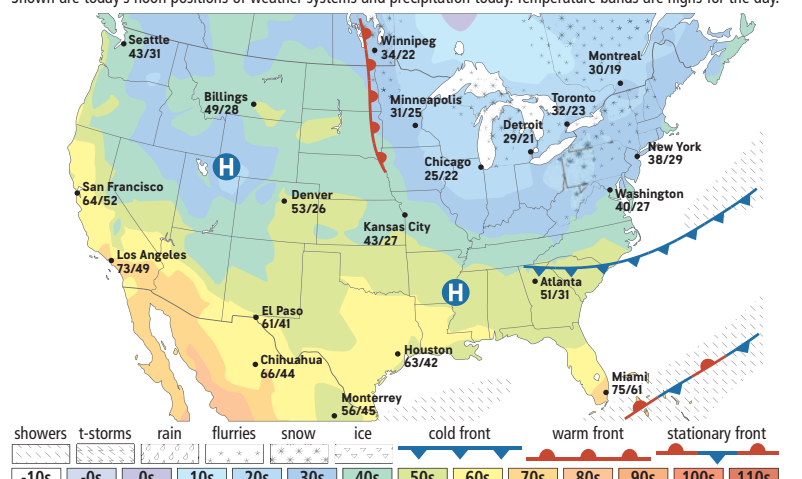
NEW YORK CITY
High: 38. Low: 29. Partly sunny, windy and colder today with a few flurries. Clear tonight. Sun and some clouds tomorrow.

LOS ANGELES
High: 73. Low: 49. Mostly sunny and pleasant today. Increasing clouds tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with a stray shower in the afternoon.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Wednesday	Today	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	51/31/s	56/37/s	Milwaukee	27/22/pc
Baltimore	38/24/s	43/29/pc	Nashville	45/25/s
Billings	49/28/s	49/21/s	New Orleans	59/44/s
Boston	40/27/pc	39/30/s	Norfolk	47/26/s
Buffalo	31/25/sf	35/34/sf	Oklahoma City	57/33/s
Charlotte	51/23/s	51/30/s	Orlando	62/47/c
Chicago	25/22/pc	39/30/s	Phoenix	76/54/pc
Cleveland	29/22/sf	40/31/c	Pittsburgh	28/20/sf
Dallas	61/38/s	63/53/pc	Portland, ME	38/22/pc
Denver	53/26/s	52/22/s	Portland, OR	47/32/s
Detroit	29/21/c	38/26/c	Sacramento	63/40/pc
Honolulu	82/71/sh	81/70/sh	St. Louis	39/32/s
Houston	63/42/s	68/58/pc	San Francisco	64/52/s
Indianapolis	29/21/pc	47/33/s	Seattle	43/31/pc
Las Vegas	60/42/pc	59/42/c	Washington, DC	40/27/s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Summary: Lake-effect snow will continue across portions of the Great Lakes today, as windy and cold conditions remain in the Northeast with snow showers. Most other areas of the nation can expect sunshine.



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Chiefs play clean, offense comes alive in second half against Raiders

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Perhaps the Kansas City Chiefs finally solved their second-half woes against the Raiders on Sunday in Las Vegas.

Or maybe they just did what Andy Reid has been imploring them to do for the past month.

Despite falling behind by two touchdowns early, the Chiefs were able to rally for a 31-17 win largely because they committed just four penalties and were turnover-free for the first time since Week 5 and the second time all season. The result was an offense led by Patrick Mahomes that started to resemble their high-scoring teams of the past five years.

“We’ve shown that we can move the ball,” Mahomes said, “but penalties and drops, and me not getting to the right guy at the right time (were problems). ... Little things have kind of stalled our drives, but we got to it. Kind of went back to fundamentals this week, and we kept pressing and pushing, and we’re going to try to keep going the rest of the season.”

While the offense finally came online, the defense continued to do

its thing. Steve Spagnuolo’s bunch only allowed a field goal after those two early touchdowns, keeping intact its streak of allowing 24 points or fewer in every game.

“We knew our defense would do a good job of maintaining and keeping us around,” Mahomes said.

The Chiefs still have not put a complete game together since Week 3 against Chicago, but the fact that their offense ended a three-week streak of second-half shutouts was a step in the right direction.

And making it even more impressive is the fact that Kansas City turned things around on a short week — after an emotional Monday night loss to Philadelphia in their Super Bowl rematch — while on the road against a divisional rival with a holiday thrown into the mix.

That kind of focus is another hallmark of Chiefs teams the past few years.

“We went down 14 points. It’s a tough thing to come back on that, but our guys battled back and I’m proud of it,” Reid said. “We started off a little bit slow and the guys just started making plays and really worked through their fundamentals.”

See **ALIVE | A9**



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) celebrates after an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY DAVID BECKER | AP PHOTO



State Fair Community College guard Nakayla Green moves off-balance with the ball in the second half of Saturday afternoon’s victory in Sedalia.

PHOTOS BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

Lady Roadrunners rally, run record to 9-0

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

A dominant third quarter helped State Fair Community College women’s basketball defeat Northeastern Oklahoma A&M 76-68 Saturday afternoon at the Fred E. Davis Multipurpose Center.

The Lady Roadrunners outscored the visitors 26-9 to expunge a half-time deficit and move their record to 9-0 on the season.

Intermission provided a chance to regroup and address what was lacking in the first two quarters.

“We talked about who wanted it more,” SFCC head coach Nicole Collier said. They called a play and we were puppets to them ... The things we weren’t doing well were [things we could control]; fronting the post, boxing out, rebounding. We talked about doing the details and we changed up a couple things as far as how we guarded the point and

the five, and I thought we were assignment-correct the whole second half.”

Despite a suboptimal outside shooting performance (4/19 3FGs), especially in that first half, State Fair converted efficiently off the drive in the third quarter to build the lead, and down the stretch also knocked down shots at the free-throw line, where the Lady Roadrunners finished 24 of 30.

With an average margin of victory of over 43 points in the first eight games, the pressure the Lady Norse (2-6) exerted down the stretch resulted in some turnovers — SFCC finished with 20 — but that’s a new situation that Collier agreed is best encountered in a game like this and used as a learning tool. “The late-game stuff, we just haven’t been in that situation, and you could tell we looked uncomfortable,” she said. “But it was a great test, and I think we’ll see more of that headed our way.”

Playing in her sixth



Lady Roadrunners sophomore Tanila Marshall challenges an attempt by a Northeastern Oklahoma A&M shooter in Saturday’s victory.

game back from injury (ACL), redshirt sophomore Quincenia Jackson led the Lady Roadrunners in both points (20) and rebounds (11).

“We’re three-deep right now with our bigs, and Q is obviously very talented [along with] Jaida [Shipp] and Briar [Cox],” Collier said. All three do something good differently. They’ve complemented

each other and we’ve been able to keep them all in our rotation. Q has fantastic hands, her strength is unbelievable. She can get what she wants [offensively].”

Myra Claas ended with 17 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Shipp and Nakayla Green each added 10 points and Tanila Marshall had nine.

See **RALLY | A9**

Dynamo end Sporting Kansas City’s playoff run

By Bryan Everson
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

Controversy surrounded Sporting Kansas City’s best scoring chance in a season-ending 1-0 defeat at Houston Dynamo FC Sunday night.

It was all part of a frenetic 90 seconds late in the first half that included what ended up the match-winning goal to send Houston into the Western Conference final with LAFC.

Dynamo left back Franco Escobar rose to meet Hector Herrera’s corner for a far-post header past Tim Melia that got Houston on the board in the 39th minute.

Less than 20 seconds after the restart, Gadi Kinda put a first-touch pass through to Alan Pulido, who made one defender miss on the dribble and had his shot stopped by Dynamo goalkeeper Steve Clark.

The rebound rolled left to Sporting KC winger Daniel Salloi, whose shot was stopped off the line by what appeared to be the left arm of defender Erik Sviatchenko. Video as-



Houston Dynamo forward Corey Baird, center left, attempts to shoot on goal as Sporting Kansas City goalkeeper Tim Melia, front right, makes a stop and Sporting’s Khiry Shelton, back left, and Andreu Fontas, back right, look on during the second half of an MLS playoff soccer match Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Houston.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL WYKE | AP PHOTO

sistant referee viewed the incident and determined it wasn’t deserving of a penalty kick, card, or both.

Handball law dictates that an offense is committed when a player “deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm,” or “touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger.” Sviatchenko, it seemed, had his right arm tucked closely down at his side, but the ball struck the inside of his left arm, which was more outward and removed from

his frame.

“It’s not a hard decision to make when you have replay,” Sporting KC manager Peter Vermes said. “When a player kind of picks his arms up to make himself a little bit bigger, even if his hands are out to the side, it doesn’t matter. He saves the ball with his hand. Normally speaking, a player will put his hands behind his back. His hands are to the side and up a little bit on the left. I’ve seen the replay already. There’s no doubt in my mind.”

See **END | A12**

Mules’ season ends with one-point loss to Harding

By Joe Andrews

joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

SEARCY, Ark. — The final 22 seconds of the NCAA Division II Super Region 3 semifinal between Central Missouri and Harding came with a whirlwind of emotions.

First, the Mules capped off a 10-play, 69-yard drive with a six-yard touchdown pass from redshirt junior quarterback Zach Zebrowski to redshirt senior wide receiver Arkell Smith.

Then, Bisons junior defensive lineman Gage Price blocked UCM sophomore kicker Luke Dobson’s extra point. The miss was the difference in a 35-34 Mules loss Saturday, Nov. 25, at First Security Stadium.

“We were going to kick the field goal,” Central Missouri head coach Josh Lamberson said. “We felt like that was the right call in the right moment. Unfortunately, we didn’t get it. It didn’t go our way. That’s life. We’ll learn from that. That’s a tough pill to

swallow.”

Price said he had the possibility of defending a two-point conversion in the back of its mind, matching a scenario Central Missouri (11-2) attempted in its 38-37 loss to Pittsburg State on Sept. 16.

Dobson and the field goal unit took the field instead, setting up the block Price had his eye on all game. It marked Dobson’s first missed PAT on the year, going 68-of-67. He appeared in 11 games while starting 10.

“When I saw their field goal unit go out, their kicker was actually kicking kind of low, I had a good chance,” Price said. “The call was over right victory. We left the right side up. I had big Wes [Wesley Coleman] beside me to help me with the guard. I just had to time it right. I tried to time the snap. I got off the ball. I felt them push the guard back. I tried to time it right and put my hands up. I just smacked the ball.”

Central Missouri trailed 35-21 with 6:52 remaining.

See **LOSS | A12**



Central Missouri redshirt junior Zach Zebrowski throws a pass against Harding on Saturday, Nov. 25, at First Security Stadium in Searcy, Arkansas.

PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

SPORTS CALENDAR

Tuesday ON TAP

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Camdenton vs Otterville (at Tipton)
 South Callaway at Tipton
 Knob Noster vs Lincoln (at Warsaw)
 Cole Camp vs Skyline (at Warsaw)
 Calvary Lutheran at Smithton
 Lafayette County at Sacred Heart
 Lone Jack at Windsor
 La Monte at Jamestown
 Bunceton with Prairie Home at Green Ridge

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Smith-Cotton vs Capital City (at Tipton)
 Northwest at Climax Springs
 Calvary Lutheran at Smithton
 Lafayette County at Sacred Heart
 Lone Jack at Windsor
 La Monte at Jamestown
 Prairie Home with Bunceton at Green Ridge

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING

Tipton at California Quad

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SWIM

Sacred Heart at Blue Springs South

ON AIR COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

5:30 p.m. BTN — Georgia Southern at Michigan St.
 6 p.m. ACCN — ACC/SEC Challenge: Mississippi St. at Georgia Tech
 ESPN2 — ACC/SEC Challenge: LSU at Syracuse
 FS1 — Wagner at Providence
 SECN — ACC/SEC

Challenge: Notre Dame at South Carolina
 6:30 p.m. ESPN — ACC/SEC Challenge: Miami at Kentucky
 ESPN — ACC/SEC Challenge: Missouri at Pittsburgh
 7:30 p.m. BTN — Texas Southern at Purdue
 8 p.m. ESPN2 — ACC/SEC Challenge: NC State at Mississippi
 FS1 — Southern U. at Marquette
 8:30 p.m. ESPN — ACC/SEC Challenge: Clemson at Alabama
 9 p.m. PAC-12N — UC San Diego at Washington

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

6 p.m. ESPN — College Football Playoff: Top 25

COLLEGE HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

4 p.m. ESPN — TBA

NBA BASKETBALL

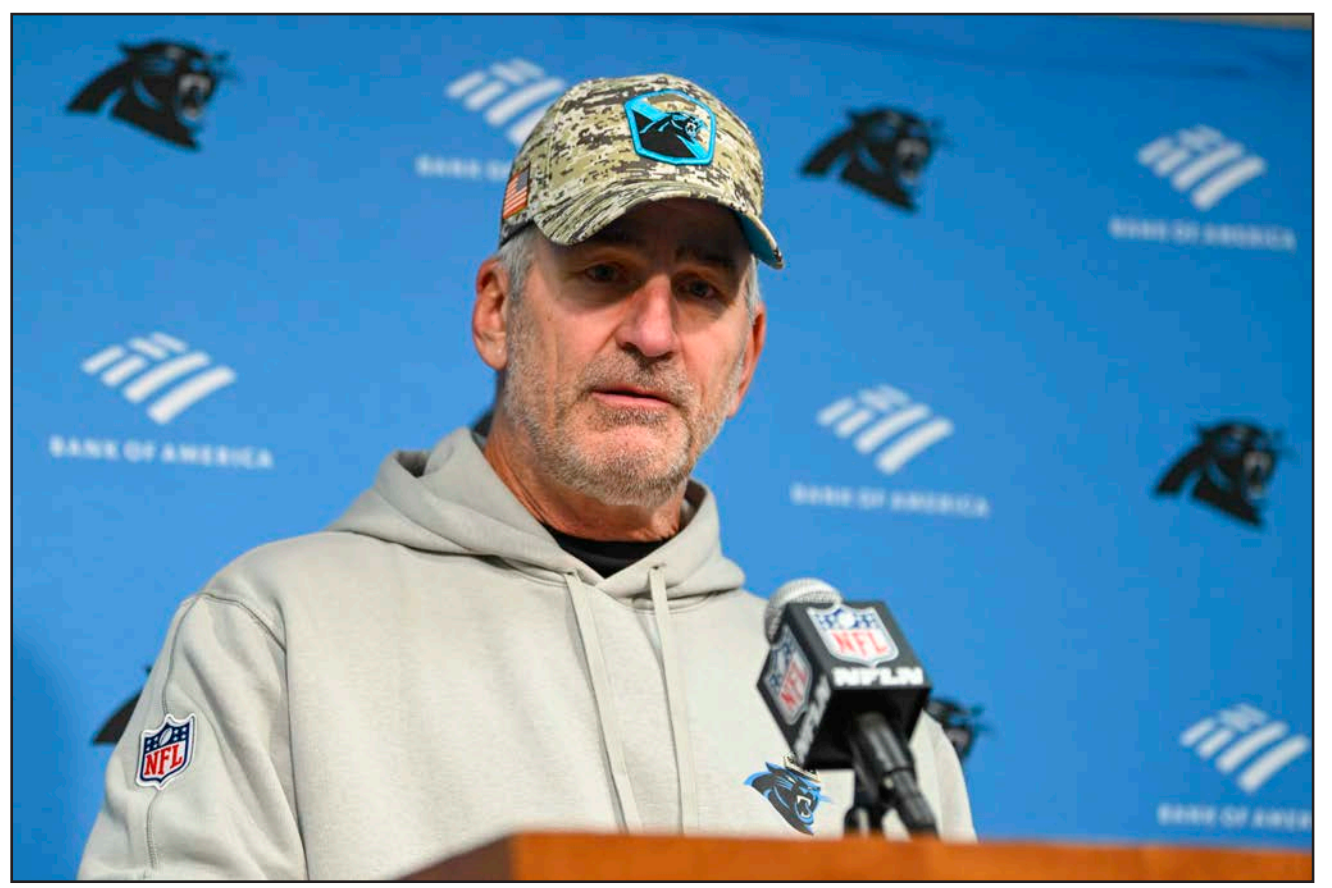
6:30 p.m. TNT — Milwaukee at Miami (In-Season Tournament Group Game)
 9 p.m. TNT — Golden State at Sacramento (In-Season Tournament Group Game)

SOCCER (MEN'S)

2:20 a.m. FS1 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: Argentina vs. Germany, Semifinal, Surakarta, Indonesia
 5:45 a.m. FS2 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: France vs. Mali, Semifinal, Surakarta, Indonesia

TENNIS

6 a.m. TENNIS — ATP Next Gen Finals Round Robin
 11 a.m. TENNIS — ATP Next Gen Finals Round Robin



Carolina Panthers coach Frank Reich attends a news conference after an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. The Carolina Panthers fired coach Frank Reich on Monday, Nov. 27, with the team off to an NFL-worst 1-10 record in his first year in charge. FILE PHOTO BY JOHN AMIS | AP PHOTO

Panthers fire Reich after 11 games; Tabor named interim HC

By Steve Reed
 Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Frank Reich era in Carolina is over after only 11 games. The Carolina Panthers fired their coach on Monday following the team's NFL-worst 1-10 start in his first year at the helm. Panthers owner David Tepper announced the move hours after several news outlets reported that he used a profanity as he was leaving the locker room following a 17-10 loss to the Tennessee Titans on Sunday. Tepper hired Reich to fix one of the league's worst offenses over the past few

seasons and develop Bryce Young, the No. 1 overall pick whom he gave up four draft picks and top wide receiver D.J. Moore to acquire this past offseason in the hopes of winning multiple Super Bowls. Instead, the Panthers are assured a franchise-record sixth straight losing season. The Panthers are 30-63 since Tepper bought the team from Jerry Richardson in 2018 for \$2.275 billion and have never made the playoffs. Special teams coordinator Chris Tabor will take over as interim head coach. Offensive coordinator Thomas Brown will become the team's play caller, with senior assistant Jim Caldwell serving as his special adviser. Tabor's first move as interim coach was to fire quarterbacks coach Josh McCown and running backs coach Duce Staley, according to a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the moves have not been announced. McCown and Staley were handpicked by Reich to be assistants. When Tepper makes his next head coaching hire after the season, it will be the seventh full-time or interim head coach to serve under him. Tepper is scheduled to address reporters Tuesday at a news conference at Bank of America Stadium. The Panthers canceled all media access Monday. Reich is the second NFL head coach to be fired this season, joining Josh

McDaniels of the Las Vegas Raiders. Reich was fired earlier in his tenure than any head coach since Pete McCulley, who went 1-8 with San Francisco in 1978. He is the fifth NFL head coach in the last six years to be fired during or after just one season, joining Nathaniel Hackett (Denver, 2022), Urban Meyer (Jacksonville, 2021), Freddie Kitchens (Cleveland, 2019) and Steve Wilks (Arizona, 2018). Phone calls and text messages sent to Reich seeking comment were not immediately returned. Tepper has shown a lack of patience as a team owner. Reich is the Panthers' third head coach fired during the season under Tepper. He also owns the Major League Soccer team in Charlotte and has fired two coaches in the organization's first two years of existence. On the NFL front, Tepper inherited Ron Rivera as his head coach in 2018 but fired him less than two years later during the season. Perry Fewell finished out the season before Tepper gave Matt Rhule, who previously coached at Baylor, a seven-year, \$63 million contract. But Rhule lasted less than 2 1/2 seasons before Tepper dismissed him and replaced him with Wilks, the Panthers' defensive coordinator, on an interim basis. Tepper then hired Reich, who as offensive coordinator of the Philadelphia Eagles helped them win the Super Bowl before becoming head coach of

the Indianapolis Colts, who fired him last season. Wilks is now the defensive coordinator for San Francisco. Carolina still ranks near the bottom of the league in nearly every offensive category. The Panthers are 30th in the league in total offense and 30th in passing yards per game and haven't scored more than 15 points in a game since the bye week. Reich had signed a four-year contract with the Panthers that runs through the 2026 season. Tepper will be on the hook for an estimated \$9 million per season over the next three seasons. Reich had experience running good NFL offenses, but that didn't translate over to the Panthers. Young has been sacked 40 times this season, and the Panthers' offensive line has allowed 43 overall over in 11 games, fourth most in the NFL. Young has been under heavy pressure most of the season, making it difficult to evaluate his progress as a quarterback. But the former Alabama product has failed to progress as a quarterback and ranks near the bottom of the league in most statistical categories. He has yet to throw for 250 yards in a game and has nearly as many interceptions (eight) as touchdown passes (nine). Because of their record, the Panthers could possibly land the No. 1 pick in next year's draft, but that immediately would go to the Chicago Bears because of the trade for Young.

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 8 p.m. EST today (5 p.m. to 11 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Gemini into Cancer.

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023:

You are constantly curious, and sometimes you overextend yourself. You work hard once you embrace something. This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. Don't hesitate to take action and initiate new directions.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ This is another day where your thinking might be cloudy, especially when talking to daily contacts, siblings, relatives or neighbors. You might confuse them, or they might confuse you. Listen to that little voice on your shoulder. Don't be naive. Tonight: Cocoon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ This is a poor day for important financial decisions, because things are a bit fuzzy. This means you can't really trust your judgment. This will especially apply to cash flow or spending money in any form. If shopping, definitely keep your receipts — and the box. Tonight: Conversations!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Today the Moon is in your sign; however, it's at odds with fuzzy Neptune and opposite Mercury. This is the classic combination for wishful thinking and confused communications. Things can't be a certain way just because you want them to. Open your eyes and deal with reality. Tonight: Check your belongings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might try to hide something from someone today because you don't want to upset them. Or perhaps you're trying to avoid some embarrassment. Whatever the case, you're playing your cards very close to your heaving bosom. Double-check information related to work. Tonight: You win!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You like to believe the best of your friends. (It's a strong Leo trait.) You are a loyal friend, but you can also be naive. (Oh yes.) Therefore, be careful when dealing with friends or members of groups today, especially if something makes you hesitant. Trust your gut instincts. Tonight: Solitude.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You are high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual, especially authority figures. However, you might be sending out the wrong vibes or giving a different impression than you think you are. Possibly, a boss is deceiving you. Or vice versa. Tonight: Friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Don't fall for other people's propaganda today. It will be easy to do this. Don't be a sucker. This will especially be true for social media related to religion, politics and foreign countries. Usually, you are very wise at being able to see all sides of a situation. Tonight: Be respectful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ This is a poor day to sign important papers or agree to any important financial matters, especially related to inheritances or how to divide or share property. These are important issues, and if there's an element of confusion, postpone these decisions for another day. You'll be glad you did. Tonight: Explore!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Today, conversations with partners and close friends might be like two ships passing in the night. Neither party really grasps what the other one is saying. In part, this could be due to wishful thinking. However, it can also be due to different levels of deception. Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Work-related issues might be confusing to you today. Possibly, they are confusing because someone isn't giving you the straight facts. Or there might be a genuine confusion happening because of misinformation or a lack of information. Tread carefully! Tonight: Cooperate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

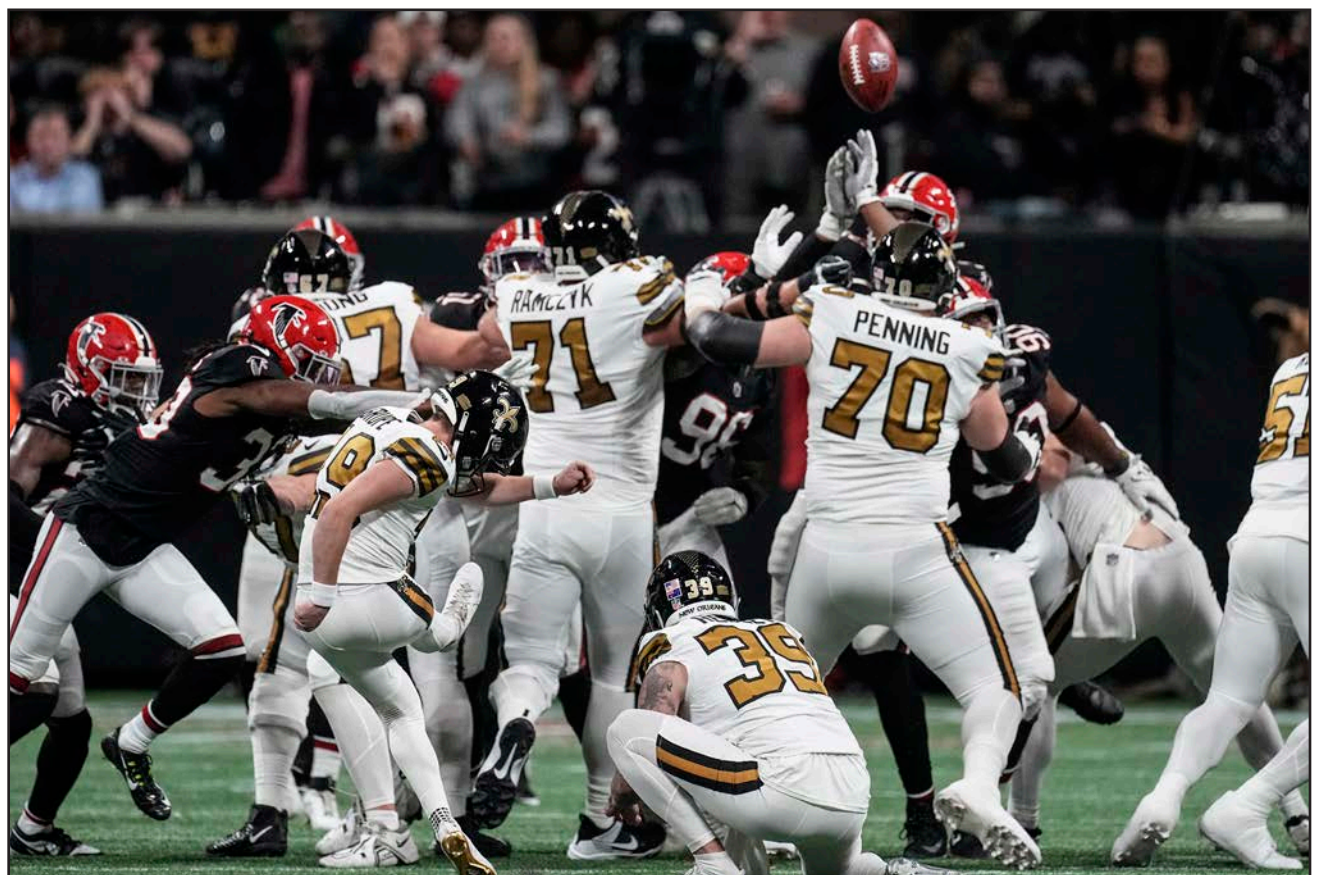
★★ If you back your kids into a corner, sometimes their only recourse is to lie. Give them enough wiggle room so they're not afraid to tell the truth. Meanwhile, deception related to romance is also likely today — mucho confusion, which only leads to disappointment. Tonight: Work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Expect confusion in family discussions today. Someone might withhold the truth, or they might cry crocodile tears and give you a sob story. Or possibly, you're finally grasping the truth of something. Whatever the case, make an effort to be clear in all your communications with others. Tonight: Socialize.

BORN TODAY

Comedian, political commentator, TV host Jon Stewart (1962), actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead (1984), actress Karen Gillan (1987)



New Orleans Saints place kicker Blake Grupe (19) kicks a field goal against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Atlanta. PHOTO BY JOHN BAZEMORE | AP PHOTO

Saints offense fails to finish drives in 24-15 loss to Falcons

By Bill Trocchi

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The New Orleans Saints spent time during their bye week working on their red zone offense.

That work did not pay off Sunday against the Atlanta Falcons.

The Saints managed to get inside the Falcons 40 on eight possessions, but those resulted in just five field goals, two turnovers and a missed field goal during a 24-15 loss.

"We had our opportunities," said Saints coach Dennis Allen after his team fell to 5-6. "This game boiled down to our inability in the red area. Two penalties, two turnovers, one for a pick-6."

In the first quarter, the Saints drove to the Falcons 12. On third-and-3, quarterback Derek Carr tried to hit Rashid Shaheed, who was cutting over the middle after coming out of the backfield. Falcons safety Jessie Bates anticipated

the throw and cut in front of it. He picked it off at the 8 and raced 92 yards to put the Falcons up 7-3.

"Bates is a really good player and it's not the first time he's made a play like that," Allen said.

On the final play of the third quarter with New Orleans trailing 14-12, Taysom Hill scrambled to the Atlanta 9 before Bates made another big play for the Falcons. Bates punched the ball out just before Hill hit the turf, and Albert Huggins recovered to end another red zone opportunity for the Saints.

Entering the game, the Saints were short-handed at wide receiver. Leading pass catcher Michael Thomas was placed on IR on Thursday with a knee injury.

Shaheed, the Saints' third-leading receiver, injured his quad during the first series of the game and finished with two catches for 9 yards. Chris Olave, the team's second-leading receiver, had a season-high

114 yards on seven catches in the first half, but early in the third quarter he suffered a head injury on a deep ball down the sideline. The back of his head hit the turf, and he was placed in concussion protocol and ruled out for the game.

With their top three receivers missing, the Saints relied on running backs Alvin Kamara and Jamaal Williams as well as tight end Juwan Johnson. Not having a full complement of playmakers down the stretch hurt the offense.

"At the end of the day, we always say, 'nobody cares.' We care about their injuries, of course," Carr said. "It is a little frustrating, but nobody cares. At the end, guys came in and did their best and made some plays for us. They gave us a chance."

The Saints gained 444 yards, their second-highest total of the season, but they did not reach the end zone.

"I thought the red zone

was improving (during the bye week)," Allen said. "It wasn't good enough today. An interception and a fumble when you get down there, that's a problem. And when you get two penalties, that's a problem. ... I thought we moved the ball well. We couldn't finish in the red area."

Rookie kicker Blake Grupe took advantage of the team's struggles in opposition territory. Although his 54-yard attempt in the final 30 seconds came up short, he connected on tries from as far out as 45 and 52 yards.

Grupe became the first Saints kicker since 2004 (John Carney) to connect on at least a handful of field goals in a game. He's now 24 of 30 on the season, with that attempt total tying him for third-most in the NFL.

Democrat Sports Editor Bryan Everson contributed to this report.

Rally

From Page A7

Mady Swayze paced NEO with 22 points on 8-of-17 shooting.

Already just four wins away from last year's total, when Collier was asked if

she was satisfied with the team's undefeated record, she responded, "Coaches are never happy [laughs]. I'm always pushing for 10-0."

She said that as players danced with younger siblings around family and friends while music played postgame, and

added, "They're just having themselves a good time. We've got a lot of personalities, a lot of character on the team ... We want to enjoy the journey, right? If a loss comes our way, the girls have done some good things [so far]."

State Fair initially had

a game scheduled against St. Louis Community College at home for Wednesday, but that was axed from the slate when the opponents canceled their season due to a lack of numbers. Instead, next for the Lady Roadrunners is a trip to Jefferson College on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Alive

From Page A7

WHAT'S WORKING

The Chiefs defense has excelled at bringing pressure from the secondary, particularly with second-year pro Trent McDuffie, who had two sacks against the Eagles last week. On Sunday, his blitz and batted pass in the fourth quarter stalled the Raiders' drive in Kansas City territory, helping the Chiefs defense to preserve the victory.

WHAT'S NOT

Marquez Valdes-Scantling, who dropped a potential winning TD pass a week ago, continued to have almost no positive impact on the Kansas City offense.

Sure, he helped the running game with his blocking, but he had one catch for the loss of a yard against the Raiders, and he has only had more than two catches in a game once: three against the Chargers.

STOCK UP

Rashee Rice has

become the go-to wide receiver in the Kansas City passing game. Not only did he catch a game-high eight passes for 107 yards and a score, he did it in a variety of ways: The second-round pick showed an ability to track the deep ball, made a highlight-reel grab with a defender tightly guarding him, and turned a short pass into a long touchdown reception.

STOCK DOWN

WR Mecole Hardman was inactive with a thumb injury after playing poorly in the four games since the Jets traded him back to Kansas City. Throw in the return of WR Richie James from a knee injury, and his success in the return game, and it is difficult to see where Hardman will make an impact going forward.

INJURIES

RB Jerick McKinnon was inactive with a groin injury. WR Skyy Moore hurt his knee, LT Donovan Smith tweaked his neck and RG Trey Smith hurt his foot, but Reid said none of those injuries was serious.

KEY NUMBER

125 — Reid became the career regular-season wins leader in Kansas City on Sunday, breaking a tie with Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram. Reid is also the winningest

coach in Philadelphia history, and the only one to hold that title with two franchises.

NEXT STEPS

The Chiefs visit the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night.



Help feed neighbors in need:

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- Gravy
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- Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Corn
- Canned pie mixes
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*non-perishable only
*NO glass, please

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We will be accepting food donations from individuals and businesses from November 1st through November 29th.

Please drop off all donations at our office located at 111 W. Fourth Street, Sedalia, MO.

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

700531ch

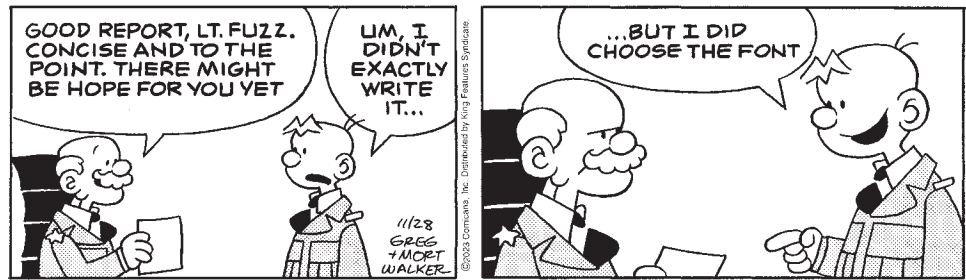
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



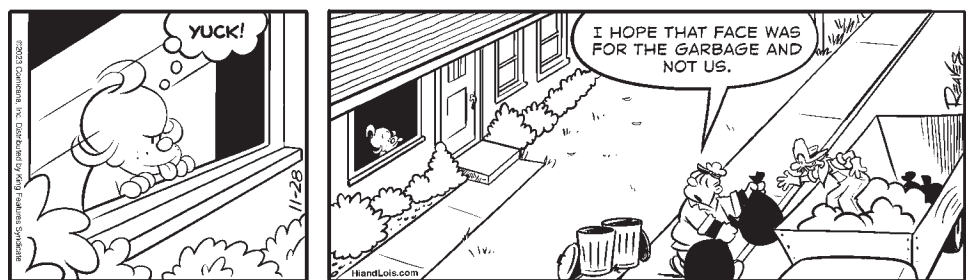
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



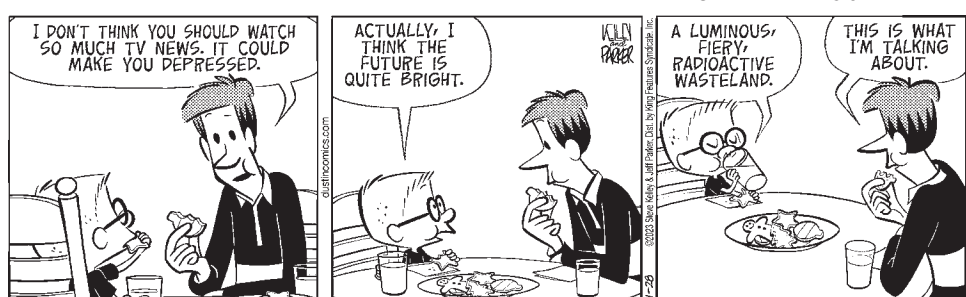
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



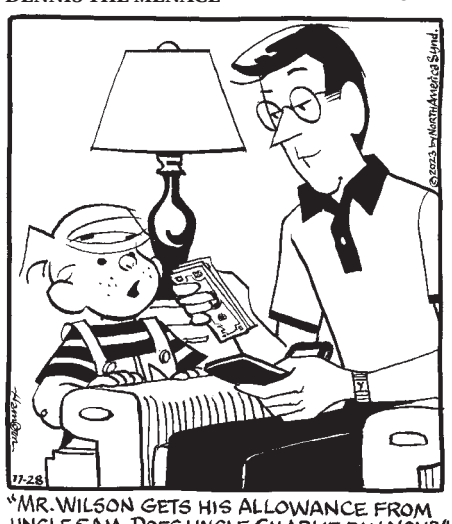
DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Improvises in jazz
 - 6 Horse's cousin
 - 11 Blockhead
 - 12 Fairy tale monsters
 - 13 Poplar trees
 - 15 Museum focus
 - 16 King of France
 - 17 Have debts
 - 18 Put in other words
 - 20 Clamor
 - 21 Wisdom bringer
 - 22 Let off steam
 - 23 Soup server
 - 26 Takes the bus
 - 27 Lotion additive
 - 28 "The Raven" writer
 - 29 Yang's counterpart
 - 30 Dangerous apps
 - 34 Lincoln nickname
 - 35 Angled pipe
 - 36 Sheep sound
- 37 Breakfast appliances**
- 40 In the vicinity**
- 41 Prod into action**
- 42 Stories**
- 43 Spirited horse**
- DOWN**
- 1 Parish leader
 - 2 Find darling
 - 3 Catchers' needs
 - 4 Cooking vessel
 - 5 Closet use
 - 6 "Holy moly!"
 - 7 Sense of self
 - 8 Was in a funk
 - 9 Merlot, e.g.
 - 10 Concurs
 - 14 Jot down
 - 19 Story
 - 22 Look upon
 - 23 Purchase plan
 - 24 Cave raider of story
 - 25 Doomed
 - 26 Jazz saxophonist
 - 28 Washed out
 - 30 Thaws
 - 31 Dwelling
 - 32 Mountain group
 - 33 Moved slowly
 - 38 Merriment
 - 39 Deep groove

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

Saturday's answer

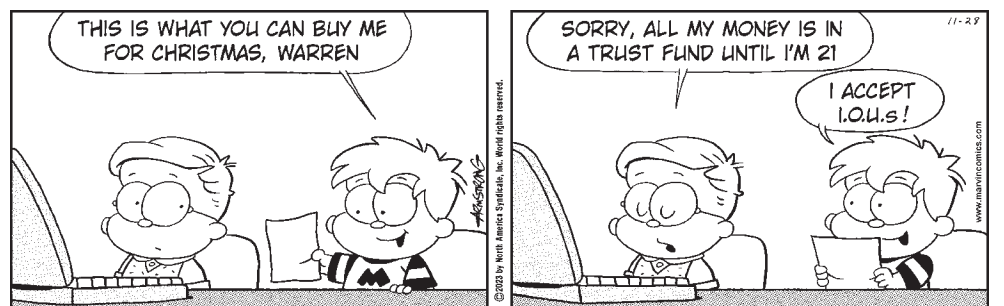
- 8 Was in a funk
- 9 Merlot, e.g.
- 10 Concurs
- 14 Jot down
- 19 Story
- 22 Look upon
- 23 Purchase plan
- 24 Cave raider of story
- 25 Doomed
- 26 Jazz saxophonist
- 28 Washed out
- 30 Thaws
- 31 Dwelling
- 32 Mountain group
- 33 Moved slowly
- 38 Merriment
- 39 Deep groove

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				
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34					35			36		
37				38				39		
40							41			
42							43			

11-28

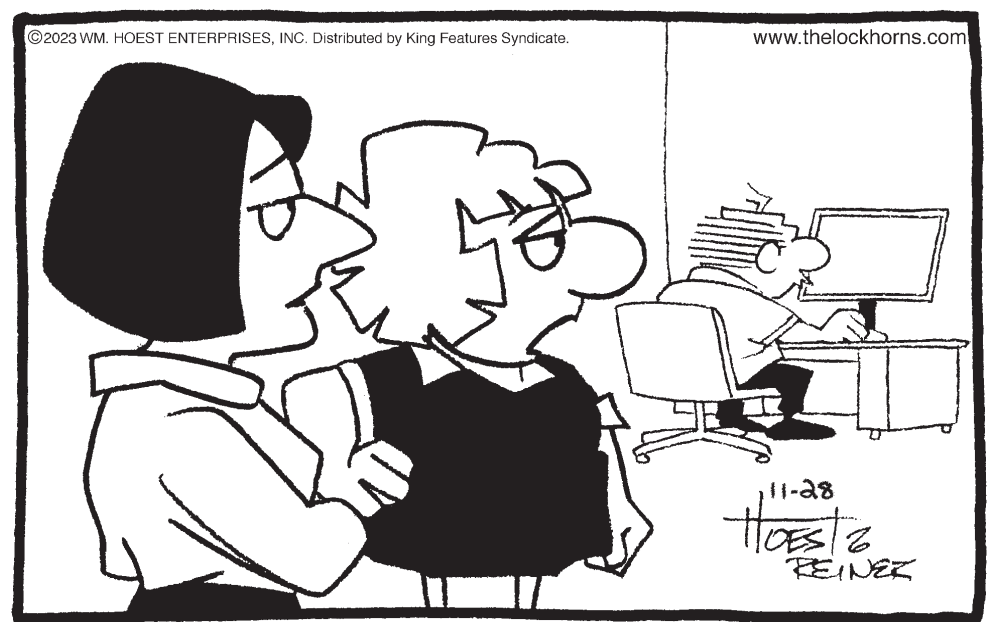
MARVIN

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

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

11/25

Difficulty: ★★

11/28

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Weekend Edition: Friday at 2pm

All legals, auctions & bordered ads deadline 24 hours prior to above deadlines.

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PLEASE READ YOUR ad carefully for accuracy. The classified advertising staff makes every effort to print your ad correctly. However, if an error is made in your ad, it must be reported immediately. We will only be responsible for errors the first time your ad runs. Call Mon.-Fri., 8:00am-5:00pm 660-826-1000; fax to 660-826-2413.

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BEAUTIFUL, LIKE NEW, King size bedroom furniture, includes mattress and box spring. 2 large dressers, head board and footboard. \$1800 Brown ceiling fan with remote. \$40. Large area rug and runner. \$40. 3 sets of frosted bathroom lights. \$25. Call 660-619-3983.

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Legal Notice

application has been filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri, by Timothy Doogs, for the determination of the heirs of Jerry Wayne Doogs, and of their respective interests as such heirs in and with respect to all of the property owned by said deceased at the time of death including the following, to-wit:

- Central Bank of Sedalia, Acct.
- Simmons Bank, Sedalia, CD Acct.
- Simmons Bank, Sedalia, CD Acct.
- Foremost Insurance (refund)
- Shelter Insurance (refund)
- IRS tax refund

You are further notified that a hearing on said application will be held in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, at the Courthouse in Sedalia, Missouri, on the 12th day of December, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at which time evidence will be presented to the Court and at which time and place you are entitled to be present and to be heard.

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

4x-11/14, 21, 28, 12/5, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
BLANCA E. GOMEZ,
Petitioner,
vs.

Legal Notice

VICTOR E. GONZALEZ CASTRO, Respondent.
Case No. 17PT-DR00396-01
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to Respondent Victor E. Gonzalez Castro:

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Pettis County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Motion to Modify Custody and Visitation. The modification of legal custody and a change in the terms of the previously entered parenting plan is specifically being sought.

The names of all parties to said action are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner is: Carmen L. Smith, 108 East 5th Street, Sedalia, Missouri, 65301.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid motion within 45 days after the 14th day of November, 2023, Judgment by default will be rendered against you. WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 7th day of November, 2023.

Legal Notice

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
/s/Kaleigh Ryan
Deputy Clerk

4x-11/14, 21, 28, 12/5, 2023

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Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
DIVISION 5

IN THE MATTER OF:
JERRY WAYNE DOOGS,
Deceased

Case No. 23PT-PR00203
NOTICE OF HEARING

And to all persons known or unknown who claim any interest as an heir or through an heir in the property of Jerry Wayne Doogs, who died on the 25th day of September, 2022, residing at Sedalia, Missouri. You are hereby notified that an



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LOSS

From Page A7

The Mules proceeded to produce a three-play, 95-yard drive that concluded with a 87-yard touchdown connection between Zebrowski and Smith.

UCM's defense forced Harding (12-0) to punt for the first time on the next drive. Beginning with the ball at the Central Missouri 31, Zebrowski slowly began to lead the Mules down field.

The possession ended with his third touchdown pass to Smith.

"Down 14 with six minutes left with the ball around the five, there were some people behind the endzone talking," Zebrowski said. "I said 'watch this.' I knew our team steps up when moments happen like that. Arkell Smith, you saw him, that's why he leads the country in receiving yards. He's just a guy. He's just a dude. Those are the guys that I feel most bad for, the seniors ... It's a terrible way to go out. I don't think there's any other way we'd want to go out together. Just fighting until the last whistle. That's been the motto of our team all year."

The Mules took a 7-0 lead on the game's opening drive, striking through a 30-yard connection between Zebrowski and redshirt senior Zion Perry.

Harding answered with a 14-play, 68-yard drive that concluded with a one-yard touchdown run from sophomore quarterback Cole Keylon.

The Bisons had two additional scores ahead of halftime, arriving on a one-yard run from junior Blake Delacruz and 38-yard run from junior running back Chauncey Martin.

Combined with a 5-yard touchdown between Zebrowski and Smith, Central Missouri trailed 21-14 at halftime.

The second half opened with the Mules defense forcing a turnover on downs at their own 22.

Central Missouri capitalized taking the ball down to Harding's goal line, before failing to convert on downs itself.

The Bisons responded with a three-play, 94-yard drive that concluded with a 89-yard touchdown run from Martin to go up 28-14 with 4:16 remaining in the third quarter.

The Mules shortened the gap back to a possession prior to the frame ending with a 28-yard touchdown pass from Zebrowski to redshirt sophomore wide receiver Michael Fitzgerald, making it a 28-21 game ahead of the final 15 minutes.

"What a game, what a day," Harding head coach Paul Simmons said.

"Central Missouri has an excellent football team. They're the most dangerous offense we've seen all year. It was, I guess, an instant classic ... I'm disappointed a little bit with how many times we gave them chances. I felt like we had chances to put the game away in the fourth quarter. We didn't do it. We let a great opponent and a great offense hang around that many times."

Harding chopped the clock away to open the fourth with a 16-play, 69-yard drive that concluded with a 12-yard run from Delacruz to make it 35-21 ahead of the final 6:52.

Zebrowski and Smith took 43 seconds to connect for the second time of the day. The defense responded, leading to the stop that forced the Bisons to punt.

"Throughout the game, it was about making changes and correcting those as a unit through each drive," Central Missouri redshirt junior linebacker Curtis Appleton II said. "Again, we believe in our offense and our offense believes in us. After they scored, we knew we just had to get one more stop to get our offense back on the field so they could score."

The Bisons ran for 384 yards and five touchdowns on 59 carries, averaging 6.5 yards per game. Delacruz ran for 154 yards on 34 carries while Chauncey ran for 123 yards on four carries.

Appleton led UCM with 13 tackles (8 solo, 5 assists) to go along with 12 from redshirt junior Noah Blair (6 solo, 6 assists) and 10 from redshirt sophomore linebacker Isaac Montgomery (2 solo, 8 assists).

Redshirt junior linebacker Cale Miller tallied the Mules' lone tackle for loss.

Zebrowski completed 34-of-44 passes for 425 yards and five touchdowns, anchored by Smith's nine receptions for 150 yards and three touchdowns. Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Jack Pospisil had nine catches for 66 yards.

Zebrowski also ran for 94 yards on 16 tries. He was sacked once for a loss of five yards.

"I couldn't be more proud of the individuals I've been associated with," Lamberson said. "From the coaching staff, to our players with how special each of them have been to come together and have committed to each other, sacrificed for each other and loved each other for a group that was ultimately picked seventh in the conference coming into the season ... to finish 11-2 and have two one-point losses, it's tough."

"It's going to sting right now. It's going to sting for a while."

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



Duke head coach Mike Elko points at the video replay board after a holding penalty was called against his team during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Pittsburgh in Durham, N.C., Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023.

PHOTO BY BEN MCKEOWN | AP PHOTO

Aggies hire Duke coach Elko to replace Jimbo Fisher

By Ralph D. Russo

AP College Football Writer

Texas A&M hired Duke coach Mike Elko to lead the Aggies on Monday, replacing Jimbo Fisher with his former defensive coordinator for four years in College Station.

Elko left the Aggies to take his first head coaching job at Duke after the 2021 season and went 16-9 in two seasons. The Blue Devils had won just 10 games combined the three previous years.

"Coach Mike Elko is one of the best leaders and coaches in college football and has had high-level success at each stop of his career," A&M athletic director Ross Bjork said.

"He is known amongst coaching circles as one of the best defensive minds in the country and has shown his ability to lead and turn around a program as a Power Five head coach."

Texas A&M fired Fisher earlier this month, paying a record buyout of more than \$75 million to move on from him with two games left in his sixth season with the Aggies.

Elko, who also had stints as defensive coordinator at Wake Forest and Notre Dame, led defenses that ranked in the top three of the Southeastern Conference in his final two seasons with A&M.

This season at Duke, Elko guided the Blue

Devils to a 4-0 start, but they struggled after quarterback Riley Leonard was injured at the end of a close loss to Notre Dame. Duke finished 7-5.

Texas A&M's search seemed to take a twist this past weekend. There were reports the school was close to a deal with Kentucky's Mark Stoops on Saturday, but it didn't get done.

Stoops even posted a statement on social media acknowledging he had been contacted by another school about a "potential opportunity" but saying he would be staying put. He did not mention Texas A&M.

The Aggies ended their season Saturday at 7-5

with a loss at LSU.

With the transfer portal opening in a week and the early signing period for high school recruits coming up later in December, school officials wanted to move quickly to get a new coach in place.

They landed on the 46-year-old Elko, a New Jersey native who was a key recruiter for Fisher in Texas and directed a defense that was the best part of Fisher's most successful team in 2020, which went 9-1.

During the first four seasons of Fisher's tenure, with Elko on staff, the Aggies went 34-14 and landed the No. 1 recruiting class in the country in 2022.

End

From Page A7

It's a handball. Actually, it's a handball and then a red card because it's stopping a goal-scoring situation. But unfortunately, they didn't call it."

That passage of play marked one of three saves required of the veteran Clark on the night. The first came in just the third minute when Johnny Russell carved up three defenders before producing a soft shot that made for an easy scoop. His third was made in the 69th minute when Russell drove a hard cross from the left flank in for Salloi, who settled it with his right foot before a powerful effort from 12 yards out required a quick-reflex denial.

Melia made a pair of stops, including a div-

ing parry from Dynamo winger Nelson Quinones' curler that looked headed for the far post in the 10th minute.

Houston finished with 64% possession but out-shot SKC just 15-12, each producing an equal four shots on target.

"We weren't going to go chase them all over the field," Vermes said. "They like to play a box in the middle of the park, so we stayed with the same [tactical approach]."

Vermes went to his bench for a number of substitutes beginning in the 84th minute. That included an appearance by Graham Zusi, his first since May 31, but his shot was among those opportunities that were either blocked or went wide as time ran out.

Another club veteran, Roger Espinoza, was depu-

tized in the 89th minute to replace Tim Leibold.

"I actually put [Roger] in late because he's played left back," Vermes said. "We've had obviously a situation where Logan Ndenbe went out with an ACL. Tim was really not fit. He hasn't played a game in I can't tell you how many months. And so Roger was the next guy up to go in at left back for us. And so at the end of the game, it made a lot of sense to put him in and just put some fresh legs in there to see if we could get some balls into the box, which he did. He actually did great and he pushed the game a little bit."

The pair of Espinoza and Zusi, who have played nearly a combined 30 seasons for the club, have one-year options for 2024, but other significant roster decisions will have

to be made for Sporting, including what to do with Designated Player midfielder Gadi Kinda. Vermes was reluctant to speak about those after Sunday's game, instead choosing to focus on the group's commitment to fight back from the bottom of the standings to make the playoff run.

"What I say again is that when you're in those situations, you have a decision to make," Vermes said. "You either find a way and you fight your way out of it or you just give up. And the great thing is, the guys never gave up. They truly, truly fought for everything. They accomplished an incredible turnaround, but they're competitors and they want more and I'm sure that they're going to feel like they missed out on an opportunity here tonight."

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