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Hope5One educates on the dangers of human trafficking

By **Faith Bemiss-McKinney**

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A Warsaw-based anti-human trafficking ministry, Hope5One, is providing preventive awareness and shelter to survivors of human trafficking.

Connie McCray, the executive director of Hope5One, told the Democrat on Tuesday, Feb. 27 that she began the ministry in 2021. Hope5One covers Pettis, Benton and Henry counties and has eight board members. It was incorporated in January 2021 and became a 501(c)3 organization in February 2022. McCray noted they are working on a capital campaign to buy land and build a Hope House for survivors.

"We are giving hope and freedom from human trafficking," she said. "And our mission is to protect the vulnerable and to educate and empower the community to be a part of our solution, and to provide shelter, hope, and healing to the rescued."

She noted traffickers usually target youth between the ages of 12-14 and groom them online by befriending them through phone or gaming exploitation. Human trafficking can be sex or labor-related, although Hope5One is targeting sexual exploitation.

According to statistics from the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline for 2020, 16,648 victims of trafficking were identified that year, with 10,836 attributed to sex, 3,583 to labor, 631 to sex and labor, and 1,634 as not specified.

McCray noted she began the independent organization because of a book she read, "Run the Race," by Christine Caine, founder of A21, an anti-human trafficking organization.

"I read many of her illustrations and stories, and I had the burden of wondering why I was not doing something about this," she noted. "It had always been a noble cause for others, but it became personal after reading that."

"I firmly believe that God just put that passion in my heart to do something," she continued. "So, I began researching and looking into all the

Human trafficking

"It is not so much abduction as it seduction. The majority of that begins with online grooming."

— *Connie McCray, executive director of Hope5One*

different avenues."

Through a friend with law enforcement and victim advocacy experience, she found direction to the Missouri Attorney General's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

"And they gave me a link to a tool kit," McCray said. "Which is for people who want to be involved who don't know where to start."

The Task Force's freedom strategy illustrates several different ways one can help. McCray chose to focus on two things: awareness and shelter. She found when she began, most people felt like human trafficking wasn't a problem in the area.

"So, that has been an area we have really focused on with awareness training in our community," she added. "We can tailor that to any organization or group."

Hope5One speaks to community groups, youth groups, health care, law enforcement, dispatch, and schools. "We're just letting people know that it's not what Hollywood makes it to look like," McCray explained. "It is not so much abduction as it seduction. The majority of that begins with online grooming."

Many children ages 12-14 have their own phones and gaming systems and are vulnerable to human trafficking.

"When we talk about protecting the vulnerable, they are the most vulnerable," she noted. "So, we want to make them aware of their vulnerabilities and help them know how to stand up against those."

Hope5One teaches which apps or games can be dangerous, such as those with a chat feature or location sharing and any that encourage one to meet strangers online. It also teaches youth how to determine when someone might be a predator, such as they will appear to be friendly and develop trust online. A predator will also establish secrecy and control, attempt to push and lift boundaries, and use direct intimidation and forceful demands.

See **HOPE | A6**

Wellness coordinator supports Johnson County law enforcement

By **Annelia Nixon**

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JOHNSON COUNTY – First responders in Johnson County have access to many resources, including a wellness coordinator who has been working in the role for more than a year.

Dawn Morris filled a new position as Johnson County's law enforcement wellness coordinator on Sept. 6, 2022. Stationed at the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, 278 SW 871 in Centerview, Morris is available to any law enforcement officer or first responder within the county who may need her services.

Morris is qualified to serve as a mental health professional, personal trainer and nutritionist. For that reason, she said she wanted to be known as the wellness coordinator.

"I didn't want everyone here to only see me as a mental health professional," Morris said. "So, for me, it's the total person. It's not just mental health, it's not just their physical health. It's their spiritual health, it's all of those things, and I wanted a part of all of that in the title that I have. So, I'm considered wellness coordinator here."

Morris said not many law enforcement departments within the state employ a mental health professional, and she is the first to fill the position in Johnson County. She said the sheriff's office had thought of adding such a position for a few years. When she spoke with the staff about it, the idea became a reality. Working together, she and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department tailored the wellness coordinator role to suit the needs of the county.

"I'm thinking it's a luxury to have," Morris said.



Wellness Coordinator Dawn Morris poses in front of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office sign with the department's K9, Ammo. Morris officially stepped into the role on Sept. 6, 2022, as the the county's first law enforcement wellness coordinator.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"So very few people have them yet. To have someone embedded in a law enforcement office, to be a part of that office, to wear their uniform and to work with them side by side is a rarity and I hope that we're really creating what could be in the future."

"I don't think they envisioned having a personal trainer and the nutrition coaching position here. That was just an added bonus, which has been pretty tremendous so far. I'm very blessed to live so close and then to have a sheriff who is so forward-thinking in regards to having somebody like myself on board for his staff. It's almost unheard of because many departments can't afford or have the vision of having someone like



Morris is stationed at the Johnson County Sheriff Office, 278 SW 871 in Centerview, but she meets with law enforcement wherever they feel comfortable. She offers mental health, nutrition, and personal training services.

me embedded in their department."

Aside from providing mental, physical, and nutritional help to law enforcement, some of Morris' other duties include annual check-ins with staff, conducting various

trainings and programs, debriefing and defusing after a critical incident and more.

Since stepping into her role, Morris has introduced the chaplain program.

See **SUPPORT | A6**

90,000 kids eligible for unclaimed food aid about to expire

By **Clara Bates**

Missouri Independent

Missouri families who haven't claimed food benefits in a program launched during the height of the pandemic could lose out in the coming weeks unless they act quickly.

Federal pandemic-era summer food benefits, referred to as P-EBT, were designed to help cover costs in summer 2022 but did not begin being disbursed in Missouri until May of 2023. The benefits provide a one-time deposit of \$391 per eligible child on a debit card called electronic benefits transfer that can be used to buy groceries.

The program was

intended to help families afford food in the summer, without subsidized school meals.

Now, those benefits are set to expire — for some families, as early as March 7. Thousands of eligible families have not yet used them. The state estimates that \$36.7 million of benefits has not yet been accessed by families, according to records obtained by The Independent under Sunshine Law, which is equivalent to benefits for over 90,000 kids.

That's part of a broader trend: Advocates nationally have said that states could have conducted more outreach to inform families of the pandemic benefits, so they would expect and

use them.

The state social services agency has said it did all it could to publicize the benefits — working with schools, sending letters to affected households, issuing press releases and using their social media and websites to keep participants up to date.

P-EBT was a new, temporary program that changed each year of the pandemic, so families may not have understood what they were, weren't expecting them and potentially threw the cards away. Other eligible families may not have received their cards in the mail to begin with, if the state didn't have the correct address on file.

In Missouri, nearly

25,000 benefits cards were returned in 2023, meaning the state and schools may not have had the correct address on file, according to records obtained under the Sunshine Law and provided to The Independent by David Rubel, an education policy consultant from New York who has been tracking unclaimed P-EBT benefits nationwide.

The largest group of benefits expirations in the state will occur between March 7 and April 18, though expirations will continue through September and are staggered depending on when the state issued benefits to the family. Benefits expire 274 days after they were issued.

See **AID | A6**



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OBITUARIES

Evelyn Livinia O'Dell

Evelyn Livinia O'Dell, 87, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on Sunday, February 25, 2024, in the comfort of her daughter's home in Lee's Summit, MO. She was born on March 22, 1936, in Sedalia, MO, the daughter of Gordon Sr. and Martha (Yancey) Kelley, who preceded her in death.



sister Ruby Preismeyer of Sedalia; daughter Penny Oxley (Bill) of Lee's Summit; son Billy Casto of Sedalia; five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held graveside at Highland Sacred Gardens at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Open Door Ministries.

Arrangements are in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Ruth Ann 'Soozi' Hawkins

Ruth Ann "Soozi" Hawkins, 93, passed away after a short illness on February 20, 2024, at Sylvia G Thompson Residence Center in Sedalia, MO.

Ruth Ann was born on August 12, 1930, in Kansas City, MO, to Lyman Cordes Keuper and Ruth Boggess Keuper of Sedalia, who owned and operated the Wheel Inn Drive In. She grew up on South Barrett Avenue and attended Smith-Cotton High School, where she graduated in the class of 1948. She attended Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg, MO, and worked at Lockett's department store in Sedalia before marrying her sweetheart, Jack Marvin Hawkins, on September 27, 1950.

Ruth Ann and Jack took over the Wheel Inn from her parents in 1952, after Jack's return from the Korean War. While the Guberburger and "Soozie-Q" curly fries remained bestsellers, Ruth Ann's famous chili was a local favorite.

Ruth Ann and Jack's son Keith was born in 1954, and Jack Lyman followed in 1960. They built a house on Hickory Lane in 1965, and Ruth Ann enjoyed tending her garden and hosting neighbors and friends. She was devoted to her children

James Henry Kreisel

James Henry Kreisel, 28, of Sedalia, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2024, at his home. He was born on February 10, 1996, in Sedalia, Missouri, a son of Randy L. and Kelly S. (Azar) Kreisel.

James attended elementary school at Faith Christian School in Sedalia and eighth through 11th grade at Morgan County R1 in Stover, where he was the school mascot and played guitar and piano for show choir. He then graduated from Smith-Cotton High School in 2014. He was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 54, where he attended many events and camping trips, and traveled to Yellowstone National Park. This trip sparked his love for nature, hiking, and rock climbing. He loved music, singing, and playing piano and was a member of the church choir at Faith Baptist Church in Sedalia. James also enjoyed singing solos and karaoke.

He enjoyed being a security guard for several years at Conagra and Tyson Foods. He later worked at Walmart in Versailles and then enjoyed Florida for a summer. He also worked other jobs around Sedalia, meeting people and making new friends. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his parents, Randy and Kelly Kreisel of Versailles; sisters, Kimberly Kirschenbaum and Austin of Independence and Elizabeth Kubik and David II of Louisville, Kentucky; and brother, Jeffery Kreisel and Mary of Independence.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert Kreisel, Allene Frances Kreisel-Stover, and George and Katherine Azar; step-grandfather, Jerome D. Stover; and cousins, Daniel Mittenburg and William Kreisel.

The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024, at Faith Baptist Church in Sedalia, where funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. with Pastor Matt Edwards officiating. Burial will be in Union-Williams Cemetery near Cole Camp.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Mittenburg, Lucas Mittenburg, Ethan Warren, Russell DeHaven, David Kubik II, Austin Kirschenbaum, Donnie Eveler, and Mark Eveler.

Memorial contributions may be given to Faith Baptist Bus Ministry for a new van in care of the Fox Funeral Home, Cole Camp. Online condolences may be left at www.foxfuneralhomecolecampmo.com.

DEATH NOTICE

Biddinger

Deborah J. "Debbie" Biddinger, 76, of Sedalia, died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, at her home.

There are no services

scheduled at this time.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Tucker

Alberta Lucille Tucker, 93, of Madison, Mississippi, formerly of Cole Camp, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday,

March 10, 2024, at Cole Camp Cemetery near Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

FUNERALS

Larry Wayne Barb

10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at First Baptist Church in Windsor.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hadley Funeral Home in Windsor.

Vicki L. Powers

1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Dorothy Deane Edmonds Anthony

Noon Thursday, Feb. 29 at the Davis-Miller Funeral Home in Lincoln. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Miller Funeral Home.

Dorothy Mae Broadbuss

2 p.m. Friday, March 1 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

James Henry Kreisel

2 p.m. Friday, March 1 at Faith Baptist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

David Oconel "Rerun" Waters

1 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in

Sedalia.

Dennis Paul Cranfill

11 a.m. Wednesday, March 6 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Alberta Lucille Tucker

2 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at Cole Camp Cemetery near Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

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 Incidents Feb. 26

10:40 a.m.: An officer stopped a vehicle with a defective brake light that also failed to stay on the right side of the

road. Methamphetamine residue was found in a pill bottle. No charges are being sought.

12:42 p.m.: An officer met a victim from the 400 block of North Grand Avenue who wished to report they'd

been scammed out of money. Payments to the scammers were determined to have happened in a different agency. The suspects' identities are unknown.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

CRASH REPORTS

Gravois Mills man drowns in Truman Lake

Sylker R. Lewis, 31, of Gravois Mills, drowned at 7:29 p.m. Monday in Benton County.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Sylker waded into the water of Truman Lake near Shawnee Bend to retrieve a snagged net

and drowned. He was not wearing a life preserver.

His body was released to the Benton County Coroner.

Two injured in Johnson County head-on accident

Benjamin Richards, 40, of Concordia, and Zeshan Siddiqua, 47, of St. Joseph, suffered moderate injuries at 2:38 p.m.

Monday in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Siddiqua was driving a 2015 Toyota Sienna south on the northbound lanes and struck a 2010 Ford Escape driven by Richards head-on.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts and

were transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Nominations open for 2024 Senior Service Award

The Office of Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award. The Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award promotes and highlights the positive accomplishments Missouri's senior citizens provide their local communities.

Nominations are open to the public for submission through April 1. The nomination form can be found at ltgov.mo.gov/senior-service-award-nom

inations. Nominees should be Missourians who are at least 60 years of age and volunteer a minimum of 25 hours per year.

The Kehoe's office will review the nominations, notify nominators if their nominees have been chosen, and coordinate award presentations for the selected award winners. Senior Service Award winners will receive an official declaration and challenge coin from Kehoe.

SFCC Theatre Arts to present 'The 39 Steps (Abridged)'

The State Fair Com-

munity College Theatre Arts program will present "The 39 Steps (Abridged)" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 to March 2 and March 9, at 2 p.m. March 3 and 10, and 10 a.m. March 8.

The production will be at Thompson O'Sullivan Studio Theatre on the Sedalia campus. The dinner theatre will be at 6:30 p.m. March 2. The play is directed by Tim Wells, SFCC Theatre Instructor & Technical Director.

The new 60-minute stage adaptation by Patrick Barlow is a comedy mystery based on John Buchan's novel. "The 39 Steps" is a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theater. This two-time Tony and Drama Desk

award-winning show is packed with laughs and dozens of zany characters racing across the British Isles.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at SFCCTheatre.Eventbrite.com or by calling the Box Office at 660-530-5814 from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. SFCC students and employees may reserve tickets for performances at no cost at the Box Office. Dinner theatre tickets for Saturday, March 2 cost \$13 per person.

Wheelchair seating is available upon request. For special accommodations, email Theatre Program Coordinator Kristen Henning at khenning@sfccmo.edu.

Democrat Salutes



Students from Smith-Cotton High School's Team SCREAM, the school's competitive robotics program, gave a presentation during the Sedalia Lions Club meeting on Wednesday, Feb 21. From left are S-C student Morgan Withers, S-C engineering instructor Michael Wright, Lions Club President Evan Fluty and S-C student Parker Ellison. The S-C representatives are accepting a \$500 check from the Sedalia Lions Club.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SEDALIA LIONS CLUB



The University of Central Missouri will celebrate the 55th annual Children’s Literature Festival March 3-5. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

UCM celebrates 55th annual Children’s Literature Festival

The University of Central Missouri will celebrate the 55th annual Children’s Literature Festival (CLF) March 3-5, with 24 nationally recognized authors and illustrators in attendance.

The festival begins with a luncheon with visiting authors and illustrators at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3 in the Elliott Student Union. This year’s Gilbert-Sadler Speaker is award-winning author Padma Venkatraman, an oceanographer and the award-winning author of numerous books for young people, including “The Bridge Home,” “Born Behind Bars,” “A Time to Dance,” “Island’s End” and “Climbing the Stairs.” Luncheon tickets must be purchased in advance. They are \$30 for adults, \$17 for kids.

The following two days of festivities will include authors and illustrators presenting at various locations across campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. These talks will be directed toward children in grades 3-10. Book Sales will also be available from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Elliott Student Union ballroom during both days.

New this year, attendees will be able to select the presenters and their

desired session time slots themselves. To register for the festival, there is a \$5 fee for students and a \$10 fee for adults. Registration is still open.

The 2024 Children’s Literature Festival received a grant from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. The Children’s Literature Festival has a long history at UCM, bringing school children to campus in grades 3-10 to hear and meet nationally recognized children’s authors and illustrators.

The Festival is the longest children’s literature festival in the United States and dates back to 1969 when Philip Sadler, professor of Children’s Literature, and Ophelia Gilbert, laboratory school librarian, invited five Missouri authors to campus. Children from Central Elementary School (Campus Laboratory School) listened to them speak about their experiences as authors and got their books autographed. The next year, 13 authors came and were recognized, and year by year, the festival has grown, both in number of presenters and attendance of school children and their teachers.

This year, the CLF welcomes three local Kansas City authors: Angela

Cervantes, Adib Khorram, and Niki Lenz. Cervantes is the award-winning author of several children’s novels, including “Lety Out Loud” (a Pura Belpre Honor Award winner). Her short stories have been featured in “Chicken Soup for the Latino Soul” and the YA anthology, “Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican in America.”

Khorram is the author of “Darius the Great is Not Okay,” which earned the William C. Morris Debut Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor, among other accolades. His follow-up book, “Darius the Great Deserves Better,” became an instant Indie Bestseller and received a Stonewall Honor.

Lenz is the author of “Bernice Buttman Model Citizen” and “The Step-mom Shake-Up!” She is also a fourth grade teacher and loves to introduce kids to books they’ve never read before.

For more information, visit clf.ucmo.edu or contact festival director Maya Kucij at kucij@ucmo.edu or 660-543-4306.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.

Ferguson agrees to pay \$4.5M to settle ‘debtors’ prison’ lawsuit

By Jim Salter
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis suburb where Michael Brown was fatally shot by a police officer has agreed to pay \$4.5 million to settle a class-action lawsuit that accused it of operating a so-called debtors’ prison.

The legal nonprofit ArchCity Defenders announced the settlement Tuesday with the city of Ferguson, Missouri. The preliminary agreement calls for the money to be paid out to more than 15,000 people who were jailed between Feb. 8, 2010, and Dec. 30, 2022, for failing to pay fines, fees and other court costs.

Michael Brown, 18,

was fatally shot by white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014, during a street confrontation. Wilson was not charged, but the shooting led to months of protests and prompted a Department of Justice investigation.

The Justice Department in 2015 accused Ferguson of racially biased policing and using excessive fines and court fees. A year later, Ferguson and the agency reached an agreement that required sweeping reforms.

Meanwhile, lawsuits were filed against Ferguson and several other St. Louis County cities over policing and municipal court practices. ArchCity Defenders said prelim-

inary settlements have been reached in seven class-action cases, with total payouts of nearly \$20 million.

The lead plaintiff in the Ferguson lawsuit, Keilee Fant, died before the case was settled, as did another original litigant, Tonya DeBerry.

“The harsh reality is that, oftentimes, those most impacted by injustice do not live long enough to see the seeds of change bloom,” Arcy-City managing attorney Maureen Hanlon said in a news release. “But this settlement would not be possible without them.”

Ferguson admitted no wrongdoing in the settlement. Phone and email messages left with the city were not returned.

New Year Goals

1. Get involved in my community
2. Save \$2000 for an emergency fund
3. Start kitchen renovation
4. Open Christmas Club savings account
5. Switch to BTC Bank

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DRAKE UNIVERSITY FALL 2023 DEAN’S LIST

The following local students have been named to the dean’s and president’s lists at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

To be eligible for the dean’s list, students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the fall 2023 semester at Drake. To

be eligible for the president’s list, students must have earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2023 semester at Drake.

The following local students were named to the dean’s list:

Sedalia: Hayden Altena, Arts & Sciences

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APRIL - SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Are you the bomb or the balm?

When there's a bomb threat or, God forbid, an explosion, we run away and report it so attackers can be arrested and punished.

But what if the "bomb" in your surroundings is a person? Someone with volatile reactions and weaponized emotions? What do you do then?

I've been thinking about this for a few weeks after making a phone call to schedule a medical procedure for my mom. The sweet woman who answered the phone confirmed that they'd received the doctor's referral, and then she told me the name of the person who would be scheduling it. I thanked her and said I'd follow up in a day or so.

"Oh, no. Don't do that," she whispered with alarm in her voice. "She has a strict way of doing things, so she will call you when she's ready. You shouldn't call her. I don't want to get on her bad side. If you call her... well, I can tell you that it will not be appreciated."

The receptionist's nervous caution made me realize what she meant but couldn't say. She has a co-worker who explodes like a bomb if things don't go exactly how she wants. People have learned (probably the hard way) to tip-toe around her like a silent cat in a field of landmines.

Human "bombs" can be anywhere – workplaces, homes, schools, family reunions, roads, airplanes, and sometimes even churches. It's scary and unnerving – to see what looks like a regular human suddenly explode with anger, sending emotional shrapnel far and wide. When we see someone "go off," we often diffuse the situation by giving apologies that aren't deserved or by retreating to a safer place.

Unfortunately, when we duck and cover or try to appease the bomb, it reinforces the idea that adult temper tantrums are effective. It's mean and manipulative, but the bomb will do what works. They'll pounce on any excuse to vent their rage.

People who work or live around human bombs balance on eggshells and dodge invisible hair triggers just to get through the day. These innocent bystanders who've seen and heard too much will say things like, "That's just how she is," or "He's been through a lot and has a bad temper."

Last time I checked, we



Gwen Rockwood
Contributing Columnist

all feel anger because it's a basic human emotion. Some of us manage it, and some explode – loudly or passive-aggressively. But bombs of any kind don't deserve a pass.

More and more, I'm learning that grown-ups and adults aren't always the same thing. Grown-ups have done the work of growing up physically and emotionally, and it shows even during their difficult moments. But some adults are just toddlers with mortgages. We mostly avoid them. But when possible, we've got to stand against lousy behavior with truth and consequences.

Because the world is scattered with human bombs, the rest of us need to be a "balm" – the kind of person who makes someone feel better for no other reason than kindness and because they can. A balm who soothes the spirit and comforts old wounds.

Sometimes, even the smallest gesture can be a balm. A few days ago, I was in a McDonald's drive-thru, and the young man who slid open the window to take my credit card said, "Good morning," looked me in the eyes, and smiled in such a warm, genuine way that it felt like he was happy to see me – a tired, middle-aged, stressed-out lady in a wrinkled T-shirt who obviously hadn't showered in days. That three-second exchange made the morning feel hopeful. It made me want to be a balm, too.

If emotions are contagious, and I do believe they are, I want to be a grown-up who spreads the good ones.

Are you the bomb or the balm? Who do you know who's one or the other?

None of us are "how we are" with no capacity for change. It's a choice we make from one moment to the next.

May we all make the right one.

Gwen Rockwood is a syndicated freelance columnist. Email her at gwenrockwood5@gmail.com. Her book is available on Amazon.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Mules show off at the Missouri State Fair

In 1899, Gov. Lon Stephens asked the Missouri General Assembly to work toward creating a state fair in Missouri, basing his comments on the belief that state fairs helped educate farmers by showing the best crops and animals that demonstrated the best methods of crop and animal production.

The competition among farmers and stockmen to produce and show their best would be enhanced by high premiums paid for top crops and animals.

Missouri was the most important producer of mules in the U.S., producing 244,521 mules in 1900. Missouri mules had shown at the first fair, and mules and draft horses competed for \$316 in prize money (\$7,720 today, according to measuringworth.com).

In 1905, 25 mules competed in the show ring. The average height of the mules that year was 16 hands, or 5 feet, 4 inches at the shoulders, and the average weight was more than 1,600 pounds. According to the Sedalia Democrat, those mules provided "a splendid exhibit of quality."

In 1906, State Fair Secretary John Rippey announced the fair would expand the mule show and host "the biggest mule show ever held in this or any



Rhonda Chalfant
Contributing Columnist

other country," being bigger and better even than the mule show at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The mule show increased the number of classes to include four- and six-mule teams, pairs of mules, single mules, herds of five mules, and a sweepstakes prize for the best mule. The classes demonstrated the mule's usefulness and ability.

For example, teams of mules demonstrate their ability not only to pull larger and larger weights, but also their ability to work together. Pairs of mules were evaluated for the degree to which their appearance and stride matched as they pulled a wagon or carriage.

Judges of single mules looked for the height, weight, and general appearance of the animal, as well as the animal's ability to perform in the show ring. Herds of five mules demonstrated the best group of mules an individual

producer could offer.

Jacks, the male sires of mules, and jennets, the female offspring of a jack and a horse, would be included in the show.

The prizes, averaging \$100 (\$3,360 today) per class, would, according to Rippey, demonstrate both the best mules of different ages but also "mules adapted to different purposes." The classes were also divided by age.

The state's mule dealers and breeders promised to bring the finest of "the most useful of all animals" to the exhibit.

The 1906 mule show culminated on Wednesday, Aug. 30, with a parade of the prize-winning mules, jacks, and jennets through the show ring. Samuel Clemons of Norborne, superintendent of the mule department, and judges R.H. Cauthorn and Leonidas Dural awarded prizes.

As Rippey hoped, the exhibit brought out some of Missouri's best and largest breeders, including the Hamilton Brothers of Auxvasse, the Petty Brothers, J.R. Gentry of Millville, S.A. Spriggs, Blackburn and Jones of Warrensburg, Frank Barkley, and W.B. Emerson of Wellington.

It also brought out some smaller breeders, including E.F. Kendricks of Knob Noster,

Fred C. Leiter of Blackburn, G.W. Gorrell, J.A. Elliot, H.H. Taylor, and Col. Quisenberry of Mexico, Missouri.

The Democrat didn't list the winners of the four- and six-mule teams. It did print the winners of the age classes, the herd of five mules, and the pairs.

Some of the winners included Hamilton Brothers, who won the prize for the best jack, Big Bob. They also won first for a jack four years or older.

S.A. Spriggs placed second for a jack four years, and for a jack one year. He also placed first for a jennet two years and for a jennet under one year. He placed first and second for a jennet one year old.

Blackburn and Jones placed first for a pair of mules under three years old, for a herd of five mules, and for a mule two years old; they placed second for a pair of mules three years old.

E.F. Kendricks won first for a pair under two years old.

The mule show, fair management believed, was a success and would "not be surpassed until future generations improve the animal."

Rhonda Chalfant is active in the Sedalia/Pettis County chapter of NAACP and the Pettis County Historical Society.

GUEST COLUMN

Uplifting Missouri's economy starts with rural small businesses

Small businesses drive our economy forward, providing jobs and essential resources like food and fuel for local communities that might not have access for miles around.

In Missouri, small businesses represent more than 99% of business statewide and employ nearly 45% of the workforce, more than 1 million workers. In urban and rural areas alike, small businesses have a big impact on the state. Despite this, rural small businesses are often overlooked and continue to face unique challenges that are limiting their growth and ability to thrive.

Our research tells us that access to funding is a concern for 68% of rural small business owners nationally. With more than a third of Missouri's population living in rural areas, a dedicated investment is crucial to help rural entrepreneurs access the funding to grow, find skilled workers and tap essential services.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses seeks to do just that. For over a



Asahi Pompey
Guest Columnist

decade, we've helped more than 14,500 small business owners across the country thrive by providing access to education, capital, and support services and convening a likeminded cohort of growth-minded entrepreneurs. We know the program drives impact for rural small business owners – since launching 10,000 Small Businesses, 72% of rural small business graduates reported they have added jobs, 74% reported they have increased revenue and 85% reported that they are more resilient after completing the program.

Last year, Goldman Sachs announced an expansion of 10,000 Small Businesses with a \$100 million Investment in Rural Communities, set to reach

rural small businesses in 20 states over five years. This month, we're bringing the initiative to Missouri to uplift rural small business owners and help tackle these challenges head-on.

Our \$100 million investment is aiming to serve and address the most pressing needs of rural entrepreneurs. We are deploying \$75 million in capital through community development financial institutions (CDFI), including CDFIs serving rural small businesses in Missouri. We're also investing \$15 million to expand our business education program and \$10 million in access to capital capacity-building grants.

No one is more aware of how essential small business owners are to Missouri's economy than Tamara Keefe, owner of Clementine's Naughty & Nice Creamery in St. Louis and a 2018 graduate of 10,000 Small Businesses. When Tamara joined the program, she had one brick-and-mortar store and the growth plan she developed throughout 10,000 Small Businesses laid the groundwork for where she is

today – she's opened eight locations and is preparing for more with broader plans to expand nationally.

While Tamara's story took place in the city, the data shows us it's even harder when you go further out into rural areas. 10,000 Small Businesses' Investment in Rural Communities aims to provide them with the education and tools they need to succeed and create a lasting impact on their communities.

Even in the face of these challenges, the spirit of entrepreneurship remains strong in our rural communities. Eighty six percent of rural small business owners we surveyed have current plans to grow their business, and Goldman Sachs is committed to helping support these businesses that drive innovation in rural America.

Our investment is in the resilience and prosperity of local and national economies. By uplifting small businesses, we can ensure everyone thrives.

Asahi Pompey is Goldman Sachs' global head of corporate engagement and president of the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest.

Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

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

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

Treasurer removes ads on unregulated slot machines after grilling by lawmakers

By Rudi Keller
Missouri Independent

State Treasurer Vivek Malek endured a bipartisan beatdown Tuesday as members of a House subcommittee spent two hours telling him it was a big mistake to put decals advertising the Unclaimed Property program on unregulated gambling machines.

A few hours later, Malek gave in to demands from members of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations – General Administration and removed the ads from machines owned by Torch Electronics.

“I have today revoked permission for Torch Electronics to display Unclaimed Property messages on their devices, and I have asked Torch Electronics to immediately begin the process of removing any reference to the Unclaimed Property Program from Torch’s devices,” Malek wrote to Republican state Rep. Scott Cupps of Shell Knob, the subcommittee chairman.

Malek was absent last week when Cupps first sought answers on how the decals turned up on slot machines owned by Torch. During Tuesday’s hearing, Malek was told repeatedly that he had made a mistake by agreeing to place the ads.

“This might just be the most egregious thing done during my time in office by a statewide

elected official,” said state Rep. Maggie Nurrenbern, a Kansas City Democrat.

Cupps was not pleased with the answers received during the hearing.

“Your legacy will go down as making a mockery of the state treasurer’s office,” Cupps said near the end of the hearing.

Throughout, Malek sought to assure lawmakers that his only goal was to expand the places where he is getting out the message that the state is holding more than \$1 billion in funds collected from financial institutions, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations unable to locate a person owed money or property.

The legality of the Torch games is not certain, Malek said, and he wasn’t going to judge how Missourians conduct business or spend their money.

“I am the state treasurer,” Malek said. “I am not the state pastor. Missourians have the right to spend their money on their own.”

Torch is the largest purveyor of the games offering cash prizes that have proliferated in Missouri convenience stores, truck stops and other locations since 2018. The company has been sued, charged criminally with promoting gambling and even sued the Missouri State Highway Patrol to block enforcement ac-

tions, but no final court decision on the legality of Torch’s machines has come from any court.

The company has also spent heavily on lobbying to prevent any legislative action to define its games as illegal and donated more than \$1 million since 2018 to politicians in both political parties.

In his testimony Tuesday, Malek said the state has not paid Torch to place the decals and did not pay for production of the decals. The idea to use Torch machines for the ads, Malek said, stems from an August meeting he had in a Chesterfield airplane hangar owned by Torch lobbyist Steve Tilley.

Tilley set up the meeting where Malek met Steve Miltenberger, owner of Torch, and two other Torch lobbyists. After some chit-chat, Malek said one of his top priorities as treasurer was to increase the amount of money being returned, and he would appreciate any help.

“They expressed that they had a lot of machines located in high traffic areas such as convenience stores and gas stations,” Malek said.

Malek said he described discussions he was having with the Missouri Bankers Association about decals being prepared for placement on automatic teller machines.

“I suggested maybe the same decal would

work for them,” Malek said. “They liked it and we verbally agreed to follow up in early October.”

Malek, who took office in January 2023 after his appointment by Gov. Mike Parson, is seeking election to a full term this year. He faces Republican primary challenges from House Budget Committee Chairman Cody Smith of Carthage, state Sen. Andrew Koenig of Manchester and attorney Lori Rook of Springfield.

Cupps is supporting Smith.

During questioning, Cupps suggested that the August meeting was about more than unclaimed property. He questioned Malek if any discussion of political support occurred.

“I fully believe that there was a deal made,” Cupps said during the hearing. “I didn’t know that it was made in an airplane hangar.”

Malek denied that any political discussions took place.

Much of the committee’s time was spent on whether Malek should have appeared at last week’s hearing. Cupps sent the request to Malek on Feb. 19 and was told on Feb. 20 he would not come to the next day’s hearing.

He had committed to testify on a bill important to his office, Malek said, and had appointments throughout the day. He did, at that time,

offer to meet in person with Cupps.

That explanation, however, upset Cupps.

“When you say that you are given short notice, that’s a lie,” Cupps said. “For you to say that you were not given a chance to say when you could meet, that’s a lie.”

In a letter sent to Cupps last week, Malek criticized him for the amount of time between Cupps discovering the decals and raising questions about them. Documents provided to the committee Tuesday show the treasurer’s office has been anticipating questions about the decals since early January.

On Jan. 5, Malek’s chief of staff Ray Bozarth sent Brittany Robbins, a registered lobbyist for Torch, a statement for release if any reporters asked about the decals.

“The Missouri State Treasurer’s Office is currently in custody of roughly \$1.2 billion in unclaimed property,” the statement read. “The Treasurer’s Office is happy to work with small business owners to help raise awareness for Missouri’s unclaimed property, so that more folks can get their money back.”

The statement is identical to one sent to The Independent on Wednesday. The only change was an additional sentence: “Promotions for Unclaimed Property at retail outlets cost the state nothing.”

Other records provided to the committee detail the work done to create a poster for the Unclaimed Property program to be placed in state license offices. During his testimony, Malek tried to use that to show he is using every possible idea to increase traffic to the program’s website.

Members, however, kept bringing the question back to the particular placement on Torch machines.

“I appreciate your bogus rhetoric,” Cupps said. “I appreciate your skill and your ability to come to this committee and deliver it.”

Rep. Kemp Strickler, a Democrat from Lee’s Summit, asked Malek if there are any boundaries for placing Unclaimed Property decals.

“Are there any places where we won’t put those stickers?” Strickler asked. “Strip clubs? Porn magazines?”

Malek replied: “I don’t know we would have the focus of attention at those locations for these stickers.”

At the end of the hearing, Cupps asked Malek to promise to have the stickers removed from the Torch games. Malek declined at that time, before relenting several hours later.

“I will have to deliberate on that issue before I make a decision,” Malek said after the hearing. “I do not have an answer at this point.”

AG FORWARD

Please join us at our next meeting!



Chris Chinn

Missouri Director of Agriculture

March 28
5:30 PM

- Heckart Science & Allied Health Center, Thompson Conference Center at State Fair Community College
- Meal provided with RSVP to Brad Driskill at bdriskill@SFCCMO.EDU

Hosted by:

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Support

From Page A1

“That’s another pillar of wellness, is having a spiritual program,” Morris said. “That was something that was identified pretty quickly when I started here is that they didn’t have a chaplain program here. So, I knew of two other chaplain programs, so we really researched what they had done there, but I wanted it to have the flavor of Johnson County. I wanted to bring people here that was a fit here and I had loved what other programs had done, but it needed to be fit into what Johnson County is doing, so we ended up bringing in two chaplains and they are volunteer.

“One is a former squadron leader from Whiteman (Air Force Base) and the other is a volunteer fireman. We also have a chaplain on board here that works in the jail, which is amazingly wonderful because strategically having him back here is wonderful. So, we actually have

three.”

Morris said she believes her biggest accomplishment during her first year as the wellness coordinator was gaining the trust of the staff, which she said can be difficult.

“I think if it wasn’t embraced from the top down, then people here at the sheriff’s office would not have accepted who I am, but from the sheriff, the major and the captain, all of the lieutenants all the way down, they appreciate who I am and have accepted me as part of the admin here,” Morris said. “Because of that, I’m accepted, which gives me so much more leeway with making some really good strides with them over time.”

Morris said so far, she has received positive feedback about everything she has done for law enforcement in Johnson County. Morris said she has plans to have more trainings that are specific to Johnson County as well as continuing the wellness program.

Annelia Nixon can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Hope

From Page A1

“According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, over 80% of the youth are reported to be exploited and trafficked say that their grooming began online,” McCray said. “And

98% of them were talking to someone they did not know in person.”

Since its inception, Hope5One has continued to grow its outreach. In 2021, it reached or educated 700 people; in 2023, that number climbed to 2,000.

“We’ve been able to broaden our reach a little bit, and people know what

we’re about,” McCray noted. “They’re realizing it is a problem.”

Hope5One invited the Stop Trafficking Project to Warsaw for a presentation at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Warsaw High School. The March 6 presentation is for parents, and the project will speak to students on March 7 in assemblies for Lincoln R-2

grades 5-12 and Warsaw R-IX grades 7-12.

For more information about Hope5One or the Stop Trafficking Project, call McCray at 660-428-6002, email hope5oneministry@gmail.com or visit hope5one.org.

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

Aid

From Page A1

The state sends out letters to families at least one month before expiration to warn them.

Families who believe they are eligible but didn’t receive or claim benefits can request new cards by phone. Cards generally take two to three business days to arrive, though the state tells participants it will be five to seven business days for a buffer.

With a possible deadline looming, families would need to call as soon as possible to access benefits.

Children who qualified for subsidized school lunches in the 2021-2022 academic year are eligible, along with children under 6 who qualified for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as food stamps, during that period.

Christine Woody, director of Empower Missouri’s food security policy program, said Missouri’s delayed benefits disbursement could have contributed to confusion and affected the rate of families redeeming the benefits. Benefits for summer

2022 were dispersed “a whole year later,” she said — at the same time that people were hearing the state wouldn’t be participating in the version of the program designed to cover summer 2023.

Families may have thought the benefits they were receiving at that time were fraudulent, she said, or could have forgotten about the delayed prior year’s benefits. The last of the summer 2022 benefits were distributed in December.

The reason the benefits were so delayed was due to administrative issues, including the need to set up a data portal from scratch. The state declined tens of millions in federal aid to run a summer 2023 benefit program in part because officials lacked confidence they could disperse those benefits before a federal deadline.

Missouri is now working to set up a new permanent federal program, rather than one tied to the COVID pandemic, that will provide \$40 in food benefits per summer month, per eligible child. Children who are eligible for free or reduced lunch during the school year will be eligible for the program, called Summer EBT, as part of a pack-

age approved and made permanent by Congress last year.

Missouri needs to fund half the administrative costs, and the federal government will fund the other half plus the cost of the benefits themselves.

In the supplemental budget request, Missouri’s social services department requested \$2.65 million to fund the program: Half of that would be paid for with state revenue and the other half by the federal government.

If the legislature approves the funding, Woody said, the issues with benefits not being used are unlikely to persist. The summer program is an “entirely different program” from the temporary P-EBT program, she said, with different federal assistance and funding. Rather than a temporary program with ever-changing federal guidance, the new program will be permanent, enabling more consistent messaging to participants.

“I don’t believe that will be the case in 2024 and beyond,” Woody said, “because I think there’s going to be some changes in how the program is run, how it’s administered, the time-

line and all that sort of thing.”

Woody said the “key to making this successful” will be clear, frequent and concise communication to families from the state and schools about their benefits.

The state needs those administrative funds to get approval from the federal government before they can proceed with the program, said Baylee Watts, a spokesperson for the Missouri Department of Social Services.

Watts said DSS and the state education department are working “to ensure a smooth process should the program have approval,” with data solutions, and they are planning communication and outreach strategies.

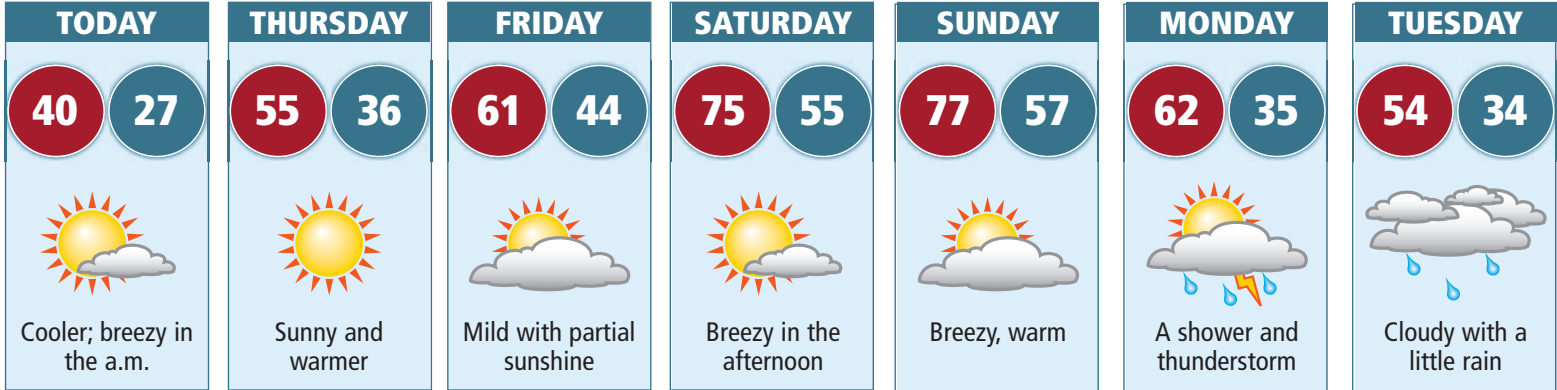
The current plan is those receiving SNAP won’t need a separate summer EBT card, Watts said. And those not on SNAP will need to apply for the benefit, she said, “which would give us their current address information.” Only the head of household will receive a card rather than one per child, Watts said, under their current proposal, which will reduce the number of cards needed to be issued.

Check out our E-Editions to find what you’re looking for!

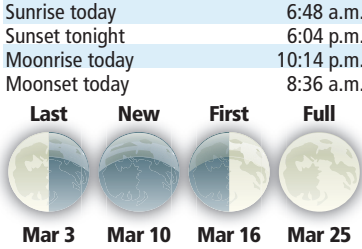
SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

THE WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



SUN AND MOON



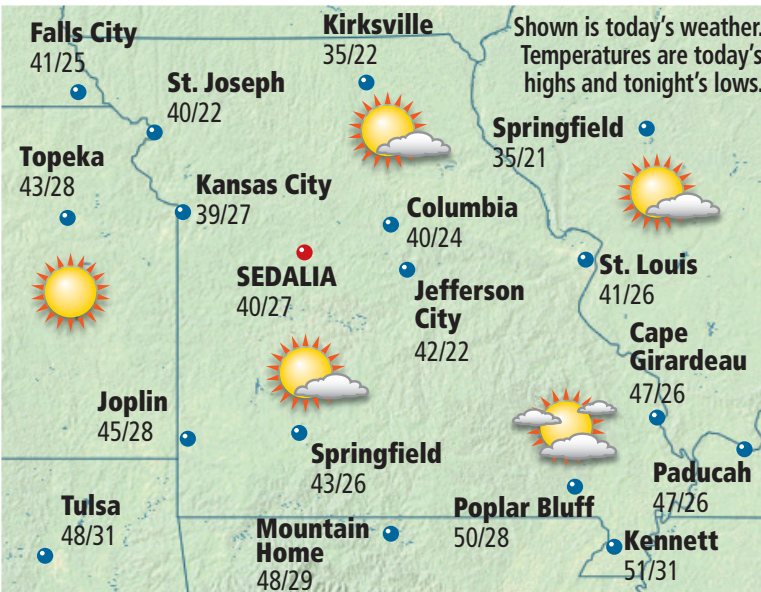
WEATHER HISTORY

On Feb. 28, 1900, a giant storm produced a state record 24-hour snowfall of 36 inches in Astoria, Ill. The storm moved on to drop 43 inches of snow on Rochester, N.Y.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Monday			
TEMPERATURES			
High	79		
Low	44		
Normal high	47		
Normal low	26		
Record high	79 in 2024		
Record low	3 in 1963		
PRECIPITATION			
Monday	0.00"		
Month to date	0.08"		
Normal m-t-d	1.98"		
Year to date	2.14"		
Normal y-t-d	3.90"		
HEATING DEGREE DAYS			
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.			
Monday	3		
Month to date	445		
Season to date	3017		
Normal season to date	4014		
Last season to date	3321		
RIVER LEVELS			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Tuesday			
Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.01	-0.05	24
Valley City	2.76	-0.01	22
Lamine			
Otterville	0.97	-0.02	15
Missouri			
Boonville	4.21	-0.11	21
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024			

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024



BRANSON
High: 46. **Low:** 26. Intervals of clouds and sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Sun and some clouds tomorrow; a big warmup on the way.

KANSAS CITY
High: 39. **Low:** 27. Breezy during the morning; otherwise, plenty of sun today. Bundle up as winter is back. Clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.

ST. LOUIS
High: 41. **Low:** 26. Mostly sunny and windy today; bundle up as winter is back. Clear tonight. Sunny to partly cloudy tomorrow; a big warmup on the way.

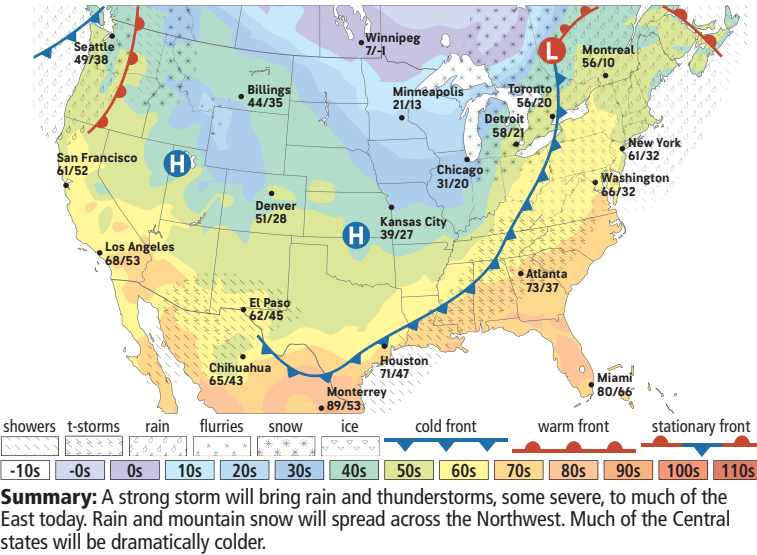
NEW YORK CITY
High: 61. **Low:** 32. Cloudy, becoming windier and mild today with a couple of showers. Showers bringing heavy rainfall tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

LOS ANGELES
High: 68. **Low:** 53. Patchy low clouds early today; otherwise, mostly sunny. Partly cloudy during the evening followed by low clouds tonight.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Thursday		Today	Thursday
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W		Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Atlanta	73/37/t	59/45/c	Milwaukee	30/18/sn	43/32/s
Baltimore	66/30/t	46/26/s	Nashville	64/29/t	51/38/pc
Billings	44/35/pc	54/33/c	New Orleans	78/51/c	62/56/c
Boston	55/29/sh	36/26/pc	Norfolk	75/37/c	46/38/pc
Buffalo	61/21/t	29/25/sf	Oklahoma City	50/31/pc	49/37/pc
Charlotte	71/33/t	56/36/pc	Orlando	83/62/pc	76/64/pc
Chicago	31/20/sn	45/32/s	Phoenix	73/52/c	77/54/s
Cleveland	62/26/t	36/27/s	Pittsburgh	62/23/t	39/21/s
Dallas	55/44/c	57/42/t	Portland, ME	48/25/r	32/15/pc
Denver	51/28/s	60/33/pc	Portland, OR	53/40/r	45/38/r
Detroit	58/21/sn	39/28/s	Sacramento	66/46/pc	58/49/sh
Honolulu	79/70/sh	81/70/sh	St. Louis	41/26/s	53/34/s
Houston	71/47/sh	59/51/t	San Francisco	61/52/s	60/50/r
Indianapolis	45/21/sf	44/30/s	Seattle	49/38/r	42/36/r
Las Vegas	65/45/s	72/53/s	Washington, DC	66/32/t	49/30/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.



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2023 Financial Statement of Pettis County

The financial Statement for Pettis County, Missouri, for the year ending December 31, 2023

Page 1 of 3 pages

- A. The total Valuation of Pettis County for the purpose of taxation for the year 2023:
- a. Real Estate \$ 475,499,620
 - b. Personal Property \$ 206,925,429
 - c. Railroad & Utilities:
 - i. Personal (State) \$ 8,920,698
 - ii. Real Estate (State) \$ 44,610,545
 - iii. Personal (Local) \$ 1,581,789
 - iv. Real Estate (Local) \$ 2,391,741
- B. Maximum constitutional rate permitted by the County’s purpose of \$0.5000 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation including Railroad and Corporation.
- C. The tax rate levied by the County Commission for the Year 2023 was \$0.0900 cents per \$100.00 assessed valuation.
- D. Maximum constitutional rate permitted for Road & Bridge purposes is \$0.3500 cents per \$100.00 assessed valuation.
- E. The tax rate levied by the County Commission for the year 2023 for Road & Bridge purposes was \$0.2852 cents per \$100.00 assessed valuation.

2023 PUBLIC OFFICIALS		
WESTERN COMMISSIONER Jim Marcum (R) 826-5000 x407	PRESIDING COMMISSIONER Bill Taylor (R) 826-5000 x405	EASTERN COMMISSIONER Israel Baeza (R) 826-5000 x406
AUDITOR Beverly Dillon (R) 826-5000 x409	ASSESSOR Christopher Woolery (R) 826-5000 x412	COLLECTOR Marsha L. Boeschén (R) 826-5000 x425
COUNTY CLERK/ELECTION AUTHORITY Nick La Strada (R) 826-5000 x400	CIRCUIT CLERK Susan Sadler (R) 826-5000 x453	CORONER Robert (Skip) Smith (R) 827-0052 x408
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY Robert A. Farkas (R) 826-5000 x446	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR Charli Ackerman (D) 826-5000 x 433	RECORDER OF DEEDS Barbara Clevenger (R) 826-5000 x431
SHERIFF Brad Anders (I) 827-0052 x241	SURVEYOR Kerry Turpin (D) 287-4104	TREASURER Kim Lyne (R) 826-5000 x408
2023 JUDGES		
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE DIVISION 4 Jeff Mittelhauser (R) 826-5000 x465	ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION 5 R. Paul Beard (R) 826-5000 x924	ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION 6 Phillip Sawyer (R) 826-5000 x924
US CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	MISSOURI SENATE
District #4 US Representative Mark Alford (R) 1516 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-2876	District 52 MO State Representative Brad Pollitt (R) Room 233-A 573-751-9774	District 28 Sandy Crawford (R) Room 323 573-751-8793
US Senator Josh Hawley (R) 212 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-6154	District 57 MO State Representative Roger Reedy (R) Room 411-2 573-751-3971	COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS
US Senator Eric Schmitt (R) 260 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5721		Director of EMA Trisha Rooda 827-4800 x317
		Director of 911 Dannelle Lauder 826-8100
		Director of IT Brett Denomme 827-4800 x305
		Director of Grants/GIS James Theisen 826-5000 x320
		Director of Facility/Grounds Bret Manuel 827-4800
		Superintendent of Road & Bridge James Hill 826-7187
OTHER NUMBERS		
COUNTY HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR Malinda Nevils 827-1130	PUBLIC DEFENDER 530-5550	PETTIS COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT Central Office 829-0777
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES 826-3316	SEDALIA POLICE 827-7823	SEDALIA FIRE 826-8044

Statement of Revenues and Disbursements PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI				COUNTY OF PETTIS-TAX ACCOUNT		HARRISON, CATHY G		\$18.14
Fiscal Year 2023				COUNTY OF SALINE		HAWKINS-FRAZIER, LACIE M		\$18.07
	Balance 1/1/23			Balance 12/31/23	COVERT TRACK GROUP INC	\$5,105.00	HEADSETS DIRECT INC	\$3,646.31
	Beginning			Actual	COX HEALTH	\$67.42	HECKART FUNERAL HOME INC.	\$1,200.00
Fund	Cash Balance	Revenues	Expenses	Ending Balance	CRAFCO INC	\$33,537.43	HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC	\$15,472.44
001 - GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,878,854.48	\$ 10,166,619.19	\$ 8,909,675.71	\$ 3,135,797.96	CRAIG PLUMBING & HEATING	\$835.00	HIGGINS CONCRETE LLC	\$16,646.91
002 - SHERIFF	\$ 101,833.77	\$ 183,260.39	\$ 64,708.80	\$ 220,385.36	CRAMER, JAMES E	\$18.21	HIGGINS MATERIALS LLC	\$158.45
003 - ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 2,262,617.44	\$ 12,584,839.76	\$ 8,310,904.74	\$ 6,536,552.46	CRAMPTON, JESSICA	\$110.63	HILL, SIERRA	\$32.84
004 - COVID 19	\$ 8,111,935.72	\$ 353,228.39	\$ 2,259,638.93	\$ 6,205,525.18	CREATIVE FORMS & CONCEPTS	\$2,209.97	HILTON BRANSON CONVENTION CENTER	\$511.68
005 - ASSESSMENT	\$ (48.03)	\$ 745,477.57	\$ 705,583.49	\$ 39,846.05	CRESCENT PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO	\$3,637.95	HMS ENTERPRISES, INC	\$5,500.00
006 - SPECIAL ELECTIONS	\$ (201.11)	\$ 19,744.74	\$ 19,543.63	\$ -	CRISIS SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, LLC	\$425.00	HOCKADAY, MARION D	\$325.00
007 - JOHNSON GRASS	\$ 196,072.98	\$ 71,944.66	\$ 38,562.64	\$ 229,455.00	CROW-BURLINGAME COMPANY	\$842.51	HOEHNE, HAWKINS HEATHER	\$205.00
008 - HAVA GRANTS	\$ -	\$ 12,263.69	\$ -	\$ 12,263.69	CROWN POWER & EQUIPMENT	\$7,541.72	HOKE, CHRISTOPHER	\$100.00
009 - PROSECUTING ATTY TRAINING	\$ 18,687.02	\$ 4,520.26	\$ 422.89	\$ 22,784.39	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	\$2,039.26	HOLLAND, DEL D	\$16,350.00
010 - SHERIFF DEPUTY FUND	\$ -	\$ 21,150.00	\$ 21,150.00	\$ -	CURTIS, DAVID	\$3,300.00	HOLLAND, SHARON E	\$19.40
011 - SHERIFF'S TRAINING	\$ 1,779.67	\$ 2,733.50	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 713.17	CUSTOM AUTO GRAPHICS	\$4,836.35	HOLLOWAY, JEFFERY	\$150.00
013 - JUVENILE-INCENTIVE SUBSID	\$ (19,105.88)	\$ 54,579.52	\$ 42,345.80	\$ (6,872.16)	CUSTOM TECHNOLOGIES LLC	\$21,790.86	HRMA OF WEST CENTRAL MO	\$25.00
014 - CO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	\$ 8.47	\$ 363,925.24	\$ 363,914.19	\$ 19.52	DAKE, KENNETH	\$19.12	IAAO	\$480.00
015 - EXTRADITIONS	\$ 10.00	\$ 11,993.00	\$ 2,354.29	\$ 9,648.71	DAKE,JOEL E ATTORNEY AT LAW	\$3,285.00	IDEAL FIRE SERVICES, LLC	\$2,620.00
016 - INMATE SECURITY	\$ 35,144.45	\$ 114,348.73	\$ 120,404.23	\$ 29,088.95	DALTON, JUDY A	\$18.35	IMPACT SIGNS AWINGS WRAPS, INC	\$6,848.25
017 - SHERIFFS SALES TAX	\$ 209,676.69	\$ 3,981,021.35	\$ 3,369,578.18	\$ 821,119.86	DAMIAN, PETRU D	\$36.70	INDEPENDENT ELECTRIC	\$584.34
018 - SHERIFF'S CIVIL FEES	\$ -	\$ 59,044.06	\$ 20,246.74	\$ 38,797.32	DAVIS AND STANTON	\$517.00	INDEPENDENT HEALTH SERVICES	\$29,039.95
019 - COUNTY SHERIFF'S REVOLVIN	\$ 45,614.83	\$ 12,002.09	\$ 32,086.89	\$ 25,530.03	POLICE AWARD DIVISION	\$850.00	INDEPENDENT SALT CORP	\$47,734.25
020 - DRUG TASK FORCE	\$ (15,436.45)	\$ 757,513.86	\$ 732,702.90	\$ 9,374.51	DAVIS, JOHN	\$251.55	ING LIFE INSURANCE	\$420.00
021 - NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT	\$ -	\$ 3,053.38	\$ -	\$ 3,053.38	DEHAVEN, SCOTT	\$251.55	INMOTION INDUSTRIES LLC	\$635.49
022 - VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE PROGR	\$ (19,383.22)	\$ 63,579.77	\$ 50,700.87	\$ (6,504.32)	DEJARNETTE, ANDREW	\$44.07	INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIES OF	\$640.75
023 - LAW ENFORCEMENT RESTITUT	\$ 35,428.90	\$ 22,167.51	\$ 22,887.00	\$ 34,709.41	DENOMME, BRETT	\$77.50	EMERGENCY DISPATCH	\$2,561.64
024 - SRO-SCHOOL RESERVE OFFICE	\$ 22,252.06	\$ 138,747.05	\$ 153,609.63	\$ 7,389.48	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$21,150.00	INTERPRETERS, INC	\$2,422.00
025 - P A DEL TAX FUND	\$ 324.87	\$ 17.35	\$ -	\$ 342.22	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$292.50	INTER-STATE ALL BATTERY CENTER	\$5.25
027 - FOOD ACCOUNT PROGRAM	\$ 26,093.55	\$ 19,640.00	\$ 3,083.96	\$ 42,649.59	DEPOSITION SOLUTIONS LLC	\$410.06	ISAACSON, KELLY R.	\$716.13
029 - ADMIN HANDLING COST FND	\$ 50,964.66	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 54,544.66	DEPOSITION SOLUTIONS LLC	\$38,097.42	JACKSON COUNTY MEDICAL	\$10,000.00
035 - TAX SALE ESCROW	\$ 22,577.48	\$ 61,583.41	\$ 17,482.07	\$ 66,678.82	DEVNET INCORPORATED	\$18.21	EXAMINER	\$11,280.08
040 - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	\$ 5,541.77	\$ 9,994.75	\$ 10,410.21	\$ 5,126.31	DEY, SHARON L	\$320.10	JANKE, LAKIN R	\$3,800.00
046 - TAX MAINT & CITY CONTRACT	\$ -	\$ 237,690.54	\$ 205,796.07	\$ 31,894.47	DIGITAL ALLY INC	\$2,119.74	JASON A SHACKLES	\$515.00
055 - PAYROLL	\$ -	\$ 11,366.66	\$ 1,263.62	\$ 10,103.04	DILLON, BEVERLY	\$2,035.00	JEFFREY RAYMOND NILSON	\$95,902.50
060 - SCHOOLS	\$ -	\$ 33,374,561.91	\$ 33,374,561.91	\$ -	DISCOUNTELL INC	\$154,532.00	JESSICA OF ALL TRADES LLC	\$446.00
061 - BOONSLICK REGIONAL LIB.	\$ -	\$ 699,452.94	\$ 699,452.94	\$ -	DITZFELD CONTAINER, INC	\$4,342.00	JIM HAWK TRUCK TRAILERS, INC	\$195,013.00
062 - PETTIS COUNTY FIRE DIST.	\$ -	\$ 840,469.66	\$ 840,469.66	\$ -	DITZFELD, LISA	\$140.00	JIM'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.	\$82,269.23
063 - SHELTERED WORKSHOP	\$ -	\$ 703,781.57	\$ 703,781.57	\$ -	DON BROWN CHEVROLET INC	\$55,245.00	JNA FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE	\$1,284.50
064 - GOOD SAMARITAN NH	\$ -	\$ 22,465.99	\$ 22,465.99	\$ -	DON'S TRUCK TOWING INC	\$895.95	JOHNSON, GILBERT	\$24.69
065 - LINCOLN NURSING HOME	\$ -	\$ 18,791.61	\$ 18,791.61	\$ -	DOVE, DENNIS	\$5,752.99	JOSTENS INC	\$6,062.35
066 - SWEET SPRINGS AMB DIST	\$ -	\$ 118,349.22	\$ 118,349.22	\$ -	DRECHSEL TRUCKING LLC	\$1,175.00	JUSTICE BENEFITS, INC.	\$3,679.06
068 - COLE CAMP AMB DIST	\$ -	\$ 22,842.74	\$ 22,842.74	\$ -	DUGAN GLASS OVERHEAD DOOR CTR	\$3,670.00	KELLER FIRE & SAFETY	\$890.22
069 - WEST CENTRAL FPD	\$ -	\$ 22,924.20	\$ 22,924.20	\$ -	DUGAN PAINT, INC	\$2,536.95	KEN KARE INC	\$4,345.12
070 - WINDSOR AMBULANCE	\$ -	\$ 44,425.33	\$ 44,425.33	\$ -	DULL & HEANY LLC	\$23,481.48	KEYSTONE KC ENGINEERING	\$9,000.00
071 - FINANCIAL INST TAX-CITIES	\$ 435.10	\$ 8,098.30	\$ 425.08	\$ 8,108.32	DUNCAN SALES LLC	\$4,713.58	KILO 2 WORKING DOG KENNELS	\$5.58
072 - CITIES INCLUDING SUR TAX	\$ -	\$ 4,089,458.39	\$ 4,089,458.39	\$ -	EASY ICE, LLC	\$304.67	KNOW.INK	\$7,620.00
073 - PETTIS COUNTY HEALTH CTR	\$ -	\$ 677,562.48	\$ 677,562.48	\$ -	ECOLAB INC.	\$297,688.50	KOBEL, ASHER	\$218.31
074 - LINCOLN FIRE DISTRICT	\$ -	\$ 5,966.43	\$ 5,966.43	\$ -	ECONO SIGNS	\$35,117.00	KOBEL, DARRELL	\$147.50
075 - SEDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	ED ROEHR SAFFETY PRODUCTS	\$134.10	KOFFMAN, ROBERT L.	\$623.95
080 - OTHER GRANTS	\$ (2,504.72)	\$ 4,992.73	\$ -	\$ 2,488.01	EDWARD J RICE COMPANY, INC.	\$955.00	KOZHUKHARENKO, ESTHER	\$78.00
085 - PILOT	\$ -	\$ 34,813.11	\$ 34,813.11	\$ -	EDWARDS, MARK	\$213.95	KRATZER, TONY	\$32.28
090 - MONUMENT MAINTENANCE FUND	\$ 16,100.83	\$ 860.10	\$ -	\$ 16,960.93	EICHLER, JR LAWRENCE C	\$20.10	KRINGLE, MARIE	\$554.35
093 - 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE	\$ 300,458.50	\$ 1,113,088.40	\$ 1,329,408.94	\$ 84,137.96	ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE LLC	\$37,596.08	KUSTOM SIGNALS INC	\$5,201.48
094 - COURTHOUSE MURAL	\$ 1,714.49	\$ 61.50	\$ -	\$ 1,775.99	ELECTRONIC OFFICE SYSTEMS, INC	\$12,968.10	LA STRADA,NICK	\$489.46
095 - GRANTS	\$ 14,737.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,737.32	ELEVATOR SAFETY SERVICES, INC.	\$18.21	LAMONTE R-4 HIGH SCHOOL	\$65.97
101 - SHERIFF GRANTS	\$ 15,786.84	\$ 8,830.99	\$ 2,572.24	\$ 22,045.59	ELITEK-9, INC.	\$19.54	LANDMANN TITLE COMPANY	\$3,500.00
102 - SHERIFF POLICE FUND	\$ 24,855.59	\$ 209,439.72	\$ 197,453.25	\$ 36,842.06	ELLFSEN, SANDRA K	\$7,328.27	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC	\$660.36
COUNTY SCHOOL FUD	\$ 103,827.98	\$ 404,054.06	\$ 67,688,677.57	\$ 401,836.35	ELLIS ELLIS HAMMONS &	\$153,216.74	LASER SPECIALISTS INC	\$999.48
Vendors	Total			\$556,763.50	JOHNSON PC CORP	\$12,968.10	LAUDER, DANIELLE L	\$207.60
A&B AUTO TRIM	\$240.00			\$19.05	EMBLEM ENTERPRISE, INC	\$400.00	LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.	\$1,910.00
ABBOTT TELECOM & SECURITY, LLC	\$6,857.50			\$85.00	ENTERPRISE UAS, LLC	\$18.21	LAWRENCE ROUNDS	\$1,736.00
ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS GROUP, LLC	\$28,000.00			\$4,141.37	ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS	\$19.54	LEA'S TRUCK SERVICE, LLC	\$20,772.74
ACKERMAN, CHARLI	\$3,183.09			\$86.25	RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC	\$11,986.00	LEK-TRO-MEK SALES AND SERVICE	\$1,397.00
ADAM, HEATHER	\$36.06			\$695.00	EQUIPMENT BLADES INC	\$153,216.74	LEO O'LAUGHLIN INC	\$8,329.75
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC	\$328,891.46			\$75.00	ESTATE OF ROY THOMAS	\$9,806.36	LEON UNIFORM COMPANY, INC	\$837.50
ADVANCED SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, INC.	\$1,105.00			\$2,387.89	EUBANKS, EVA L	\$714.50	LEWIS, MARCUS	\$46.95
AFLAC: ACCT#23719	\$16,663.68			\$10,560.00	EVANS, SHIRLEY J	\$14,441.85	LIBERTY NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO	\$7,676.76
AG CO-OP SERVICES, INC.	\$2,743.34			\$1,905.75	EVERBRIDGE, INC.	\$464.49	LIBERTY UTILITIES	\$37,819.42
AG POWER, INC	\$8,021.33			\$265,575.18	EVERGY MISSOURI WEST, INC	\$494.34	LIFESTYLE LEASING CORP	\$7,978.00
AG SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC	\$248.16			\$540.00	EXTRA MILE AUTO & DIESEL LLC	\$1,083.11	LILI ENTERPRISES, LLC	\$172.50
AIRGAS MID AMERICA, INC.	\$85.54			\$1,918,688.84	FABER AND BRAND, LLC	\$16,035.90	LINCOLN COMMUNITY NURSING HOME	\$0.23
ALBIN TRANSPORTATION LLC	\$25,955.00			\$1,721.20	FAMILY SUPPORT PAYMENT CENTER	\$9,625.17	LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC	\$9,336.94
ALLSTATE WORKPLACE DIVISION	\$1,181.04			\$44.79	FARKAS, TONY	\$1,159.50	LITTLE BIG HORN	\$375.00
ALLSTOT, JULIA	\$66.54			\$254.63	FAS-BREAK	\$52,042.17	LONG, MATTHEW S	\$63.96
ALM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION, LLC	\$1,840.00			\$4,678.10	FASTENAL COMPANY	\$41,850.00	LOWE'S BUSINESS ACCOUNT	\$18,033.38
ALRO STEEL CORPORATION	\$1,659.38			\$1,624.63	FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION	\$5,285.28	LUPER,TINA	\$4,350.00
AMEREN MISSOURI	\$808.41			\$4,764.14	FIDLAR TECHNOLOGIES	\$447,053.18	LYNE, KIM	\$298.86
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS & ITS CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS & BRANCHES	\$3,455.50			\$234,972.99	FIRST CALL, INC	\$16,000.00	LYNN PEAVEY COMPANY	\$10,035.40
ANDERSON ENGINEERING INC.	\$346,755.41			\$13,128.40	FIRST RESPONDER OUTFITTERS, INC	\$9,791.62	MAIN STREET LOGO INC	\$605.00
ANGELA DODSON	\$101.63			\$1,105.03	FLOCK GROUP, INC	\$18.70	MARCUM, JIM	\$82.00
ANSON, LEONA E	\$47.99			\$1,105.03	FLORIDA STATE DISBURSEMENT UNIT	\$176.00	MARSHALL, LATONYA	\$2,550.00
APCO INTERNATIONAL, INC	\$3,634.04			\$4,109.90	FOLEY EQUIPMENT COMPANY &	\$3,462.80	MARTIN EQUIPMENT OF	\$181,055.95
APEX MECHANICAL LLC	\$55,652.26			\$2,953.70	INDUSTRIES CORP	\$3,246.00	ILLINOIS, INC	\$10.87
APPLIED CONCEPTS INC.	\$45,755.50			\$1,662.00	FORCE AMERICA DISTRIBUTING LLC	\$16,000.00	MARTIN, TANNER	\$1,945.14
APROIAN, LAURIE D	\$18.28			\$20.10	FORSYTHE, CYNTHIA G	\$9,791.62	MARTINEZ COLLISION &	\$1,945.14
ASBURY,TODD	\$600.00			\$280,917.00	FOSNOW, SHAWN D	\$37.12	MECHANIC LLC	\$88,315.35
ASSURED PARTNERS CAPITAL, INC	\$41,536.00			\$468.00	FRANKLIN, CHEYENNE L	\$21.50	MASTERCARD BANKCARD CENTER	\$216.42
AT&T	\$66,221.29			\$2,528.00	FRANKUM FAMILY DENTISTRY	\$190.00	MATHENY, ERIN	\$216.42
AT&T MOBILITY	\$38,039.96			\$67,800.00	FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE #16	\$190.00	MATT CORDOVA	\$47.94
AUTO GLASS EXPRESS	\$1,320.00			\$42,450.00	FRONTIER METAL LLC	\$900.00	MC LEWIN, CHRISTINA	\$2,390.00
AUTONOMY TODAY LLC	\$10,800.00			\$26,106.34	FRONTLINE PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS	\$18.21	MC POWER, INC	\$70,793.00
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	\$31,022.21			\$149,015.11	GAIL, CYNTHIA L	\$140.00	MCKESSON MEDICAL -SURGICAL INC	\$5,485.79
B & B BATTERY CO	\$680.59			\$163,589.58	GAMACHE & MYERS, P.C.	\$85.88	MCMURTREY, NYLE	\$87.35
B & B CONST/ B & B PORTABLES	\$1,190.00			\$79,808.95	GARCIA CLINICAL LAB INC	\$3,442.99	MCNEAL VETERINARY SERVICE LLC	\$2,767.01
B & B TRUCK REPAIR, LLC	\$79,270.58			\$1,500.00	GARDNER, GARDNER & GARDNER	\$377.16	MCNEAL, MYRON	\$4,000.00
B & P EXCAVATING LLC	\$16,357.00			\$722.75	GARRETT, JEFFREY S	\$9,559.00	MEDICAL PRIORITY CONSULTANTS, INC	\$34,440.00
BANKCARD CENTER	\$204,928.78			\$				

What would happen without a Leap Day? More than you might think

By Leanne Italie

AP Lifestyles Writer

NEW YORK — Leap year. It’s a delight for the calendar and math nerds among us. So how did it all begin and why?

Have a look at some of the numbers, history and lore behind the (not quite) every four year phenom that adds a 29th day to February.

BY THE NUMBERS

The math is mind-boggling in a layperson sort of way and down to fractions of days and minutes. There’s even a leap second occasionally, but there’s no hula-laloo when that happens.

The thing to know is that leap year exists, in large part, to keep the months in sync with annual events, including equinoxes and solstices, according to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

It’s a correction to counter the fact that Earth’s orbit isn’t precisely 365 days a year. The trip takes about six hours longer than that, NASA says.

Contrary to what some might believe, however, not every four years is a leaper. Adding a leap day every four years would make the calendar longer by more than 44 minutes, according to the National Air & Space Museum.

Later, on a calendar yet to come (we’ll get to it),

it was decreed that years divisible by 100 not follow the four-year leap day rule unless they are also divisible by 400, the JPL notes. In the past 500 years, there was no leap day in 1700, 1800 and 1900, but 2000 had one. In the next 500 years, if the practice is followed, there will be no leap day in 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500.

Still with us? The next leap years are 2028, 2032 and 2036.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITHOUT A LEAP DAY?

Eventually, nothing good in terms of when major events fall, when farmers plant and how seasons align with the sun and the moon.

“Without the leap years, after a few hundred years we will have summer in November,” said Younas Khan, a physics instructor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. “Christmas will be in summer. There will be no snow. There will be no feeling of Christmas.”

WHO CAME UP WITH LEAP YEAR?

The short answer: It evolved.

Ancient civilizations used the cosmos to plan their lives, and there are calendars dating back to the Bronze Age. They were based on either the phases of the moon or the sun, as various calendars are today. Usually they were “lunisolar,” using both.

Now hop on over to the Roman Empire and Julius Caesar. He was dealing with major seasonal drift on calendars used in his neck of the woods. They dealt badly with drift by adding months. He was also navigating a vast array of calendars starting in a vast array of ways in the vast Roman Empire.

He introduced his Julian calendar in 46 BCE. It was purely solar and counted a year at 365.25 days, so once every four years an extra day was added. Before that, the Romans counted a year at 355 days, at least for a time.

But still, under Julius, there was drift. There were too many leap years! The solar year isn’t precisely 365.25 days! It’s 365.242 days, said Nick Eakes, an astronomy educator at the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Thomas Palaima, a classics professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said adding periods of time to a year to reflect variations in the lunar and solar cycles was done by the ancients. The Athenian calendar, he said, was used in the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries with 12 lunar months.

That didn’t work for seasonal religious rites. The drift problem led to “intercalating” an extra month periodically to realign with

lunar and solar cycles, Palaima said.

The Julian calendar was 0.0078 days (11 minutes and 14 seconds) longer than the tropical year, so errors in timekeeping still gradually accumulated, according to NASA. But stability increased, Palaima said.

The Julian calendar was the model used by the Western world for hundreds of years. Enter Pope Gregory XIII, who calibrated further. His Gregorian calendar took effect in the late 16th century. It remains in use today and, clearly, isn’t perfect or there would be no need for leap year. But it was a big improvement, reducing drift to mere seconds.

Why did he step in? Well, Easter. It was coming later in the year over time, and he fretted that events related to Easter like the Pentecost might bump up against pagan festivals. The pope wanted Easter to remain in the spring.

He eliminated some extra days accumulated on the Julian calendar and tweaked the rules on leap day. It’s Pope Gregory and his advisers who came up with the really gnarly math on when there should or shouldn’t be a leap year.

“If the solar year was a perfect 365.25 then we wouldn’t have to worry about the tricky math involved,” Eakes said. **WHAT’S THE DEAL**

WITH LEAP YEAR AND MARRIAGE?

Bizarrely, leap day comes with lore about women popping the marriage question to men. It was mostly benign fun, but it came with a bite that reinforced gender roles.

There’s distant European folklore. One story places the idea of women proposing in fifth century Ireland, with St. Bridget appealing to St. Patrick to offer women the chance to ask men to marry them, according to historian Katherine Parkin in a 2012 paper in the Journal of Family History.

Nobody really knows where it all began.

In 1904, syndicated columnist Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer, aka Dorothy Dix, summed up the tradition this way: “Of course people will say ... that a woman’s leap year prerogative, like most of her liberties, is merely a glittering mockery.”

The pre-Sadie Hawkins tradition, however serious or tongue-in-cheek, could have empowered women but merely perpetuated stereotypes. The proposals were to happen via postcard, but many such cards turned the tables and poked fun at women instead.

Advertising perpetuated the leap year marriage game. A 1916 ad by the American Industrial Bank and Trust Co. read thusly: “This being Leap Year day,

we suggest to every girl that she propose to her father to open a savings account in her name in our own bank.”

There was no breath of independence for women due to leap day.

SHOULD WE PITY THE LEAPLINGS?

Being born in a leap year on a leap day certainly is a talking point. But it can be kind of a pain from a paperwork perspective. Some governments and others requiring forms to be filled out and birthdays to be stated stepped in to declare what date was used by leaplings for such things as drivers licenses, whether Feb. 28 or March 1.

Technology has made it far easier for leap babies to jot down their Feb. 29 milestones, though there can be glitches in terms of health systems, insurance policies and with other businesses and organization that don’t have that date built in.

There are about 5 million people worldwide who share the leap birthday out of about 8 billion people on the planet. Shelley Dean, 23, in Seattle, Washington, chooses a rosy attitude about being a leapling. Growing up, she had normal birthday parties each year, but an extra special one when leap years rolled around. Since, as an adult, she marks that non-leap period between Feb. 28 and March 1 with a low-key “whew.”

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ACKERMAN, MICHAEL	\$ 200.00	FRENCH, WESLEY	\$ 42,037.80	MARTIN, TANNER	\$ 31,571.33	SMITH, ROBERT	\$ 29,709.94
ADAM, HEATHER	\$ 43,143.52	FRITZ, STEVEN	\$ 59,999.94	MATHENY, ERIN	\$ 25,658.87	SMITH, SARAH	\$ 38,015.52
ALLSTOT, JULIA	\$ 22,915.18	GADT, NICOLE	\$ 37,688.72	MCCULLOUGH, GERTRUDE	\$ 3,686.67	SOUTHARD, DUSTIN	\$ 69,542.51
ANDERS, BRADLEY	\$ 92,534.77	GARTNER, ANGELA	\$ 65,052.34	MCFATRICH, SONDR	\$ 325.00	SPARKS, DANIEL	\$ 41,927.80
ANDERSON, CAMERON	\$ 51,782.72	GATES, AMANDA	\$ 7,903.01	MCINTYRE, ALLISON	\$ 180.00	SPARKS, MICHELLE	\$ 180.00
ANSON, LEONA	\$ 66,239.71	GAYLORD, RHONDA	\$ 840.00	MCKEEHAN, DANIEL	\$ 6,883.02	STEVENSON, BRYAN	\$ 40,598.74
APEL, SHAWN	\$ 66,437.63	GENTGES, HOLLY	\$ 85.00	MCKINNEY, CHRISTINE	\$ 425.00	STEVENSON, ROBERT	\$ 41,705.00
ARNOLD, RONALD	\$ 10,860.00	GENTGES, NICHOLAS	\$ 80.00	MCMAHAN, CHERYL	\$ 200.00	STRATTON, SAMUEL	\$ 180.00
ASBURY, TODD	\$ 49,236.00	GERKEN, MICHELLE	\$ 57,732.90	MCMURTREY, NYLE	\$ 2,832.00	STRICKLAND, KATHY	\$ 180.00
ASH, TERRY	\$ 40,335.00	GERKEN, TYLER	\$ 43,698.25	MILLER, DEBRA	\$ 175.00	STRIZHIUS, IRINA	\$ 39,592.64
ATKINSON, MELISSA	\$ 175.00	GERTZ, DANIEL	\$ 15,321.80	MOON, LISA	\$ 80.00	SULLIVAN, ASHLEY	\$ 48,594.50
BACON, JORDAN	\$ 4,962.05	GIBSON, JEREMIAH	\$ 63,448.32	MOON, PATRICK	\$ 175.00	TANNER, KIMBERLY	\$ 9,499.88
BAEZA, EFRAIN ISRAEL	\$ 50,679.98	GLIDEWELL, CAROL	\$ 5,790.60	MOORE, JIMMY	\$ 68,841.20	TAYLOR, WILLIAM	\$ 52,679.90
BAHNER, MATHEW	\$ 232.80	GLIDEWELL, ERIC	\$ 33,604.00	MORGAN, MARK	\$ 54,400.95	TERRELL, JEFFREY	\$ 180.00
BAHNER, STEPHANIE	\$ 51,340.01	GLIDEWELL, GLEN	\$ 12,699.00	MORGAN, PATRICIA	\$ 3,360.00	THEISEN, JAMES	\$ 73,855.08
BARLOW, ABINADI	\$ 19,323.80	GONZALEZ, JAVIER	\$ 58,863.48	MORLEY, BRIAN	\$ 26,794.76	THIERFELDER, JOANN	\$ 175.00
BARNES, PATRICIA	\$ 6,219.41	GOOCH, NICHOLAS	\$ 54,588.00	MORRIS, MARILYN	\$ 180.00	THIERFELDER, MELVIN	\$ 42,043.00
BARNHILL, DAVID	\$ 5,599.38	GOOSEN, LUKE	\$ 11,538.45	NAIL, JOHN	\$ 175.00	THOMAS, MARY	\$ 195.00
BARTLETT, KIP	\$ 61,360.00	GOURLEY, JADIAN	\$ 37,702.51	NAIL, SHERLYN	\$ 175.00	THORNTON, PATRICIA	\$ 37,209.16
BECK, RICHARD	\$ 15,185.00	GRAY, MELISSA	\$ 175.00	NEUMANN, DAVID	\$ 43,440.00	TICHENOR, EMILY	\$ 10,698.06
BELL, HOLLIS	\$ 18,508.88	GREEN, CAROLYN	\$ 19,568.00	NEWMAN, NATHAN	\$ 37,119.14	TANNER, MARIANNE	\$ 51,233.42
BELL, LUCAS	\$ 31,732.80	GREER, ISAAC	\$ 32,270.70	NEWTON, DANIEL	\$ 11,750.00	TOWLES, KYLE	\$ 50,960.00
BELSHA, RAEGAN	\$ 15,040.00	GUDDI, KATELYNN	\$ 36,392.22	NICHOLS, SCOTT	\$ 48,399.60	TOWNSEND, RICHARD	\$ 62,020.00
BELTON, ANTONIO	\$ 42,055.58	GUILLIN, SELENA	\$ 34,961.22	NOLAN, SIDNEY	\$ 195.00	TRAY, DEBORAH	\$ 195.00
BINNING, BRADFORD	\$ 31,200.00	GUTIERREZ, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 2,240.00	NORMAN, BAILEY	\$ 17,426.25	TROUT, WILLIAM "NEIL"	\$ 58,869.98
BOESCHEN, MARSHA	\$ 100,259.67	HALL, CANDY	\$ 39,696.00	OLLISON, BETTY	\$ 200.00	ULMER, KATHY	\$ 85.00
BOESCHEN, SHANNON	\$ 52,761.48	HALL, ROY	\$ 46,080.09	OPFER, CHARLES	\$ 44,041.23	VANCE, CHARLOTTE	\$ 155.00
BORGMEYER, OLIVIA	\$ 175.00	HAMMOND, TAMMY	\$ 29,152.90	O'ROURKE, MONICA	\$ 30,241.18	VASQUES, ANGELO	\$ 27,162.13
BRANSTETTER, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 47,557.42	HAMMONDS, CURTIS	\$ 55,058.00	ORR, PAIGE	\$ 9,066.13	VIEBROCK, SKYLER	\$ 65,600.00
BRIDGES, AMBER	\$ 37,329.40	HARDY, VICKI	\$ 180.00	PAINTER-TORRES, SHERRY	\$ 39,715.32	VOGELSMEIER, MATHEW	\$ 31,057.50
BRONSON, KARMYA	\$ 9,211.96	HART, EDWARD	\$ 180.00	PAPPERT, CHARLES	\$ 38,864.50	VOLHEIM, JOHN	\$ 39,827.24
BROOKS, DONALD	\$ 200.00	HARVEY, JAMES	\$ 175.00	PARHAM, LARRY	\$ 37,061.00	VONHOLTEN, SHERYL	\$ 32,704.68
BROWN, CHERYL	\$ 200.00	HAWKINS-HOEHNE, HEATHER	\$ 46,129.83	PARKER, JAZZMINE	\$ 30,641.50	WALKER, BRANNON	\$ 45,492.00
BROWN, JACOB	\$ 46,692.00	HENDRICKS, AUBREY	\$ 19,460.91	PEREZ, AMY	\$ 175.00	WALKER, TRISTA	\$ 39,923.17
BROWN, TREVOR	\$ 38,305.90	HESELBACHER, PRESTON	\$ 62,782.64	PERRETTA, VICTORIA	\$ 41,879.83	WASSAM, KAMERYN	\$ 57,595.00
BROYLES, SHERRY	\$ 325.00	HICKMAN, JACOB	\$ 9,801.00	PHILLIPS, LEONARD	\$ 10,877.80	WAUCHOPE, DANIEL	\$ 43,269.01
BRUSCA, ANGIE	\$ 30,093.71	HIGGINS, FRANK	\$ 31,559.26	PIERS, NAOMI RUTH	\$ 180.00	WHELAN, LORNA	\$ 1,904.00
BRYAN, JENNIFER	\$ 44,547.02	HILL, JAMES	\$ 69,061.08	PLILLARD, SEAN	\$ 36,000.12	WILLIAMS, CARLA	\$ 35,582.60
BUTENKO, DENNIS	\$ 39,782.01	HILL, SIERRA	\$ 42,069.69	PLATT, STEVEN	\$ 41,174.35	WILLIAMS, DAVID	\$ 33,637.56
BUTLER, BILLIE	\$ 180.00	HIRNER-GARDNER, DONNA	\$ 195.00	POLLITT, COLLEEN	\$ 180.00	WILLIAMS, FRANCES	\$ 180.00
CALLAHAN, STEPHEN	\$ 8,752.00	HOCKADAY, MARION	\$ 56,494.39	POLLITT, JOHN	\$ 180.00	WILLIAMS, GAGE	\$ 20,488.05
CANDELAS, SAMANTHA	\$ 31,653.20	HOKE, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 41,087.23	POORT, DOROTHY	\$ 175.00	WILLIAMS, MARY	\$ 1,215.00
CAPKOVIC, JESSICA	\$ 35,578.50	HOLLAND, ABIGAIL	\$ 9,948.28	POTTS, ANNA	\$ 200.00	WILLIAMSON, SARA	\$ 40,456.26
CARLOS, HIRAM	\$ 14,287.84	HOMAN, JOYCE	\$ 3,039.50	PRETTYMAN, RACHAEL	\$ 13,455.47	WITTE, NANCY	\$ 543.75
CARTER, SUETTA	\$ 200.00	HOOD, BRAYDN	\$ 7,891.53	PRICE, CHARLES	\$ 175.00	WOLFE, THOMAS	\$ 39,610.60
CARVER, SHIRLEY	\$ 32,840.15	HORSTMAN, AUBREY	\$ 18,591.79	RASA, CHERYL	\$ 558.75	WOOLDRIDGE, RENE	\$ 13,431.43
CASEY, LINDA	\$ 175.00	HOSSETTER, DEBRA	\$ 13,856.00	RAY, CHRISTINA	\$ 34,935.60	WOOLERY, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 74,783.02
CHANCELLOR, CHRISTINA	\$ 30,062.37	HUNTER, KELTON	\$ 5,121.25	REAM, LARRY	\$ 33,357.60	WRIGHT, WILLIAM	\$ 22,610.29
CHAPIN, JEANNE	\$ 195.00	HUTCHINSON, SAVANNAH	\$ 39,804.63	RENO, AARON	\$ 10,820.00	YANAK, DAVID	\$ 10,690.36
CHEYNE, KATHRYN	\$ 1,560.76	ISAACSON, KELLY	\$ 50,069.49	RICHMOND, LEON	\$ 195.00	YOUNGER-LOESING, DANIEL	\$ 493.00
CLARDY, NATASHA	\$ 53,164.38	JACKSON, CHRISTOPHER	\$ 42,145.68	RICHMOND, NANCY	\$ 195.00	ZEILER, SPENCER	\$ 9,677.46
CLEVENGER, BARBARA	\$ 74,783.02	JACOBI, RICHARD	\$ 12,174.59	RITZO, JAN	\$ 3,232.50		
CLEVENGER, SUSAN	\$ 63,200.00	JARAMILLO, NATHALIE	\$ 41,153.06	RIVERA, MELISSA	\$ 9,541.00		
CLINE, JOHN	\$ 63,648.88	JENNINGS, CALEB	\$ 51,491.00	ROBERTSON, RICHARD	\$ 200.00		
CLINGAN, HARRY	\$ 7,780.00	JOHNSON, GILBERT	\$ 59,051.30	ROBINSON, JILL	\$ 18,256.00		
COFFEY, RANDY	\$ 14,585.00	JONES, RHYANNA	\$ 1,060.80	ROBINSON, NATHAN	\$ 240.00		
COLE, RHONDA	\$ 38,221.50	JORDAN, CHRISTIAN	\$ 16,279.50	RODEWALD, JENNIFER	\$ 35,807.82		
COLLINS, DANIEL	\$ 7,663.86	KAUFFMAN, DEVEN	\$ 23,220.00	ROGERS, CHRISTINA	\$ 195.00		
CONNER, TEAGAN	\$ 29,655.04	KELSEY, CHRISTINE	\$ 50,724.76	ROODA, TRISHA	\$ 59,999.94		
COOK, JOHN	\$ 60,606.75	KELSEY, ROBERT	\$ 47,436.74	ROWE, TOLBERT	\$ 70,660.06		
COWGILL, DANIEL	\$ 29,181.11	KESSING, CHEYENNE	\$ 31,731.29	ROWLAND, KEITH	\$ 200.00		
CRAIG, DALLAS	\$ 46,800.00	KLENKE, JANICE	\$ 24,445.50	ROWLAND, SHERRILL	\$ 200.00		
CRAMPTON, EDWIN	\$ 54,516.00	KOEBEL, ASHER	\$ 22,760.50	RUD, VICKIE	\$ 29,810.11		
CRAMPTON, JESSICA	\$ 9,159.00	KOEBEL, DARREL	\$ 45,380.00	SADLER, CAROL	\$ 175.00		
CREWS, KIMBERLY	\$ 31,597.20	KOZHUKHARENKO, ESTHER	\$ 10,389.60	SALMONS, CHARLES	\$ 42,007.80		
CROSSWHITE, ROSE MARY	\$ 180.00	KOZHUKHARENKO, TIMOTHY	\$ 2,295.00	SALMONS, HANK	\$ 1,760.00		
CUNNINGHAM, JASON	\$ 55,752.50	KRATZER, TONY	\$ 38,605.20	SALMONS, LEONARD	\$ 16,833.71		
DAHLIN, CAROL	\$ 200.00	KRINGLE, MARIE	\$ 70,000.05	SARABIA, CHRISTIAN	\$ 34,605.76		
DECKER, CYNTHIA	\$ 180.00	LA STRADA, NICHOLAS	\$ 74,783.02	SAWYER, PHILLIP	\$ 153,124.53		
DEHAVEN, SCOTT	\$ 65,206.00	LANE, JUDITH	\$ 180.00	SCHLESSELMAN, MELISSA	\$ 40,320.55		
DEHAVEN, WILLIAM	\$ 59,580.00	LANE, JUDY	\$ 180.00	SCHOUTEN, VIRGINIA	\$ 200.00		
DEJARNETTE, ANDREW	\$ 54,133.57	LASTER, MICHEAL	\$ 41,322.34	SCHRADER, JR., HENRY	\$ 19,950.00		
DEMOTTE, MARY BETH	\$ 345.00	LAUDENBERGER, JERRY	\$ 180.00	SCHROEDER, JAMI	\$ 195.00		
DENMAN, ETHAN	\$ 19,430.00	LAUDER, DANNELLE	\$ 71,392.10	SCHROEDER, TINA	\$ 175.00		
DENOMME, BRETT	\$ 82,799.86	LAZENBY, SHERYL	\$ 345.00	SANNON, BRAYDEN	\$ 6,231.25		
DESMOND, CASSIE	\$ 31,329.78	LAZENBY, WESLEY	\$ 175.00	SHEPARD, NOAH	\$ 36,391.30		
DILLON, BEVERLY	\$ 74,783.02	LEWIS, CHARLOTTE	\$ 30,401.58	SHERLIN, WILLIAM	\$ 33,740.04		
DOYAL, BRIANNA	\$ 73,102.30	LEWIS, MARCUS	\$ 41,542.60	SHEWMAKER, GARRETT	\$ 36,760.20		
DOYAL, TERRY	\$ 12,861.17	LIGON, JAMES	\$ 43,614.06	SHUMAKER, DEVIN	\$ 10,800.00		
DYSON, CYNTHRELL	\$ 49,697.36	LINDERMAN, RICHARD	\$ 12,870.00	SIDWELL-SMITH, KYLIE	\$ 39,052.55		
EASLEY, BRYCE	\$ 2,907.70	LLOYD, ALEXANDER	\$ 2,688.31	SIKES, BRANDON	\$ 6,877.93		
EDGAR, AUSTIN	\$ 1,760.00	LONG, MATTHEW SHAWN	\$ 66,034.95	SIMMONS, TERRY	\$ 42,013.00		
EDWARDS, MARK	\$ 17,009.98	LONG, ZACKARY	\$ 51,629.75	SIMON, KAREN	\$ 180.00		
EDWARDS, WHITNEY	\$ 1,436.40	LOWE, DANIEL	\$ 175.00	SIMONS, MADISON	\$ 39,561.88		
EMERY, MITCHELL	\$ 16,945.00	LUNSFORD, DELTA	\$ 41,802.01	SIMONS, MICHAEL	\$ 65,660.00		
ERFURTH, REBECCA	\$ 200.00	LYNE, KIMBERLY	\$ 74,783.02	SIPE, JOYCE	\$ 200.00		
EVANS, KYLIE	\$ 1,728.96	MANUEL, BRET	\$ 64,570.74	SKIRBALL, SAMANTHA	\$ 14,494.00		
FARKAS, R. ANTHONY	\$ 74,501.70	MARCOS, ANASTACIO	\$ 35,961.00	SLAUGHTER, BRYAN	\$ 27,620.00		
FOSTER, TERRIE	\$ 35,813.37	MARCUM, JAMES	\$ 50,679.98	SLIVKOV, JEANNA	\$ 36,582.82		

Delinquent Taxes due as of 12/31/2023 \$ 4,301,996.23

Certification

We, Beverly Dillon and Kim Lyne, the duly authorized agents appointed by the county commission of Pettis County, state of Missouri, have prepared for publication the financial statement as required by section 50.800, RSMo, hereby certify that we have diligently checked the records of the county and that the above and foregoing is a complete and correct statement of every item of information required in section 50.800, RSMo, for the year ending December 31, 2023, and especially have we checked every receipt from every source whatsoever and every disbursement or expenditure of every kind and to whom and for what each such disbursement or expenditure was made and that each receipt or revenue and disbursement or expenditure is accurately shown.

Beverly Dillon, Auditor

Kim Lyne, Treasurer

Bill Taylor, Presiding Commissioner

Jim

BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



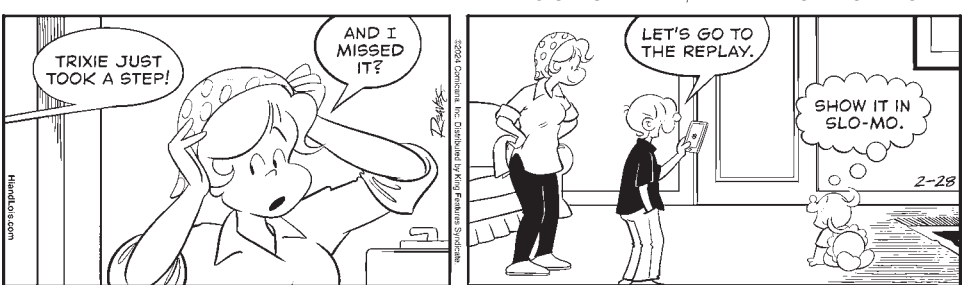
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



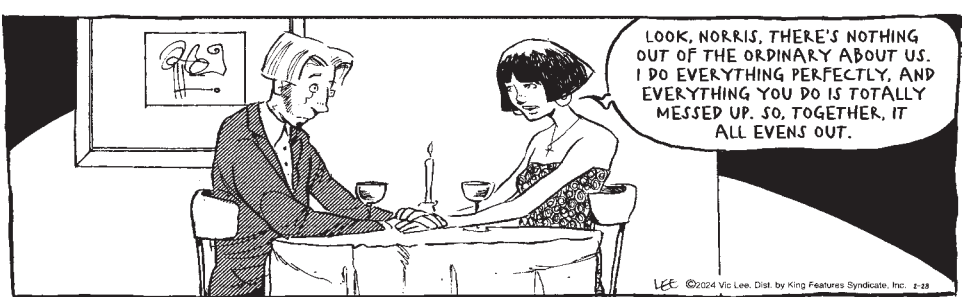
ZITS



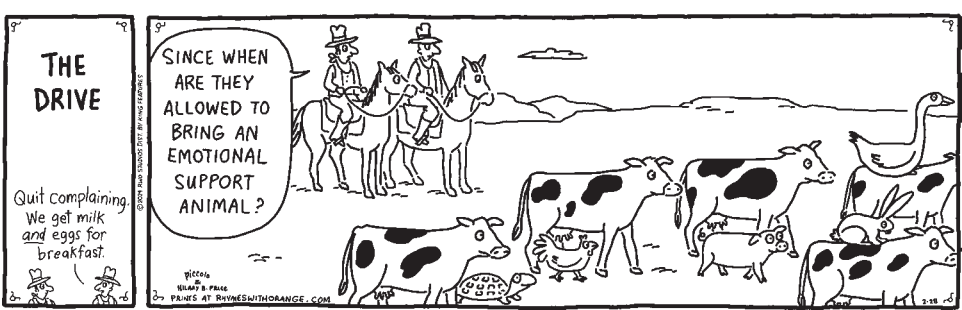
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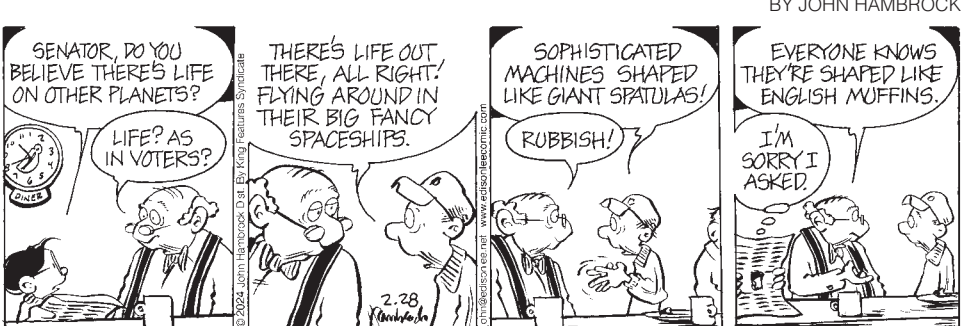
PARDON MY PLANET



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE



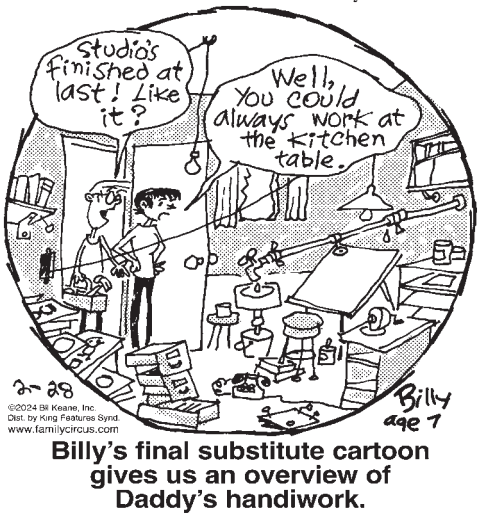
DUSTIN



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Letter before Bravo
5 Back teeth
11 Con man's trick
12 Mideast peninsula
13 Basilica part
14 Garden pavilion
15 Track act
16 Ballet leap
17 Full moon, for one
19 Tyler of "Armageddon"
22 Chinese or Thai
24 Black card
26 Brooklyn team
27 Cruise stop
28 Marina sight
30 Mink's cousin
31 Bat material
32 Team
34 Close
35 Tick off
38 Thorny shrub
41 Leave speechless
42 "Apollo 13" director
43 Teen woe
- 44 FBI employees
45 Coaster rider's cry

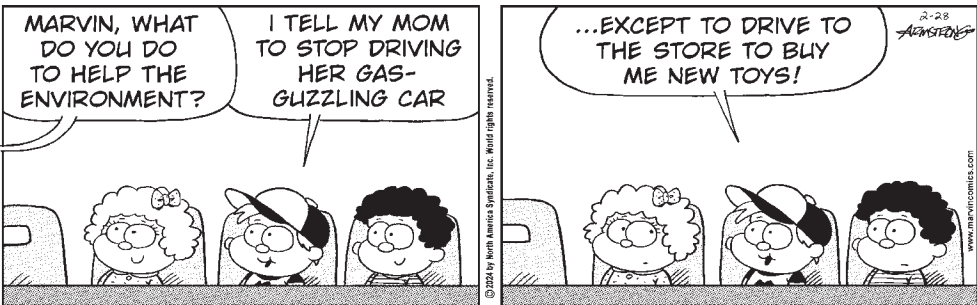
DOWN

- 1 Obsessed captain
2 Easy gait
3 Softball variety
4 Woodsman's tool
5 Wizards
6 Gives an address
7 Take it easy
8 Penny prez
9 Chest protector
10 — Paulo
16 Painter Vermeer
18 Diner dish
19 Desperate
20 Goofing off
21 Turn suddenly
22 Writer Seton
23 Sailor's septet
25 Falafel holder
29 Summer top
30 Unconscious
33 Thigh muscles
34 Check a UPC
36 Celtic letter
37 Pants part
38 "So that's it!"
39 Machinery part
40 Really impress
41 Spotted

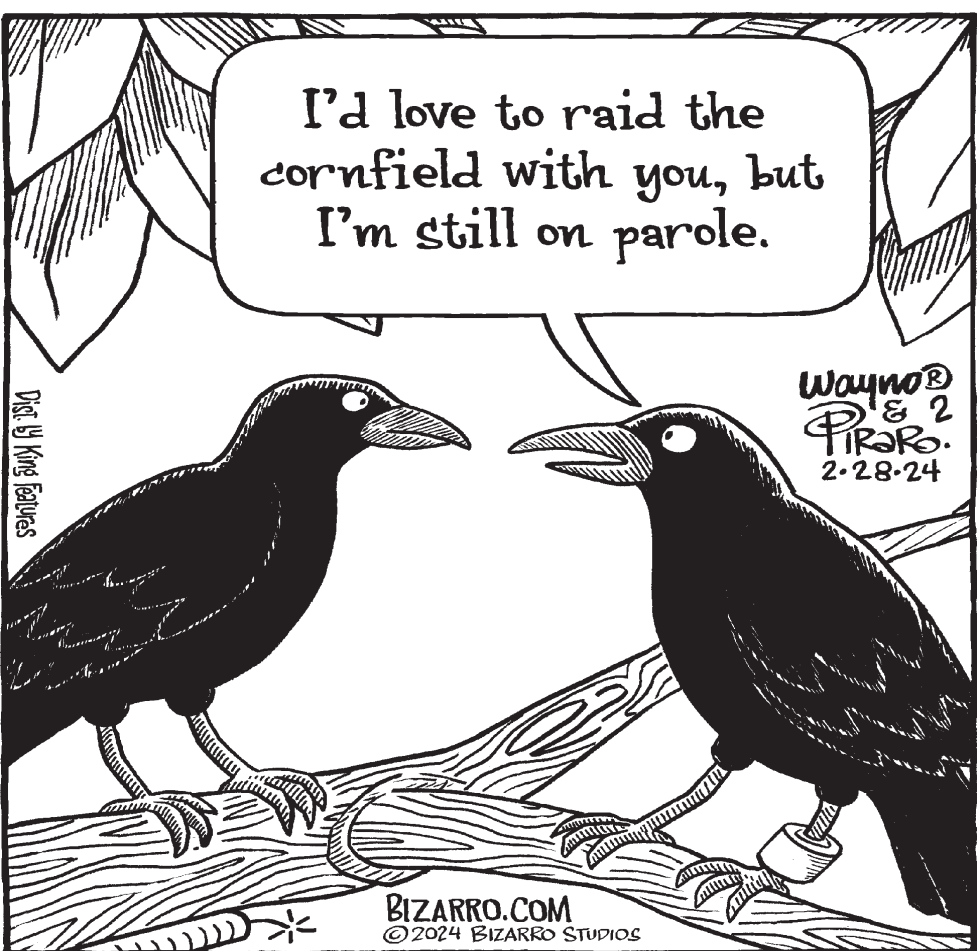
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17	18					19	20	21
22	23					24	25			
26							27			
28				29		30				
31				32	33					
			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

2-28

MARVIN



BIZARRO



King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/28

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

2/27

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District championship road set for Smith-Cotton basketball

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

The Smith-Cotton basketball teams each enter the Class 6 District 7 as lower seeds, but that’s not stopping the Tigers from looking to pull off some upsets.

The girls basketball team enters the tournament as the No. 5 seed and will take on No. 4 seed Blue Springs South (11-12).

The Lady Tigers (14-12) have won the most games they have since the team won 15 in 2012.

Head coach Ron Rhodes said he is proud of the team’s progress so far this season and the team is keeping the energy up.

“They’re still working hard and showing every-day,” Rhodes said. “At this time of year, it takes championship kids to want to continue [playing]. Some-

times these kids are ready to move on to a different sport at this time of year, and so I’m just hoping they can enjoy the ride as long as they can.”

Rhodes said he is excited for the team to see some fresh competition on the road against a tough Jaguars team.

“They’re a handful. They’ve got an all-state player that’s signed with Purdue. We’re going to have to slow her down to have a chance,” Rhodes said. “If we come out with a lot of energy, then we can compete.”

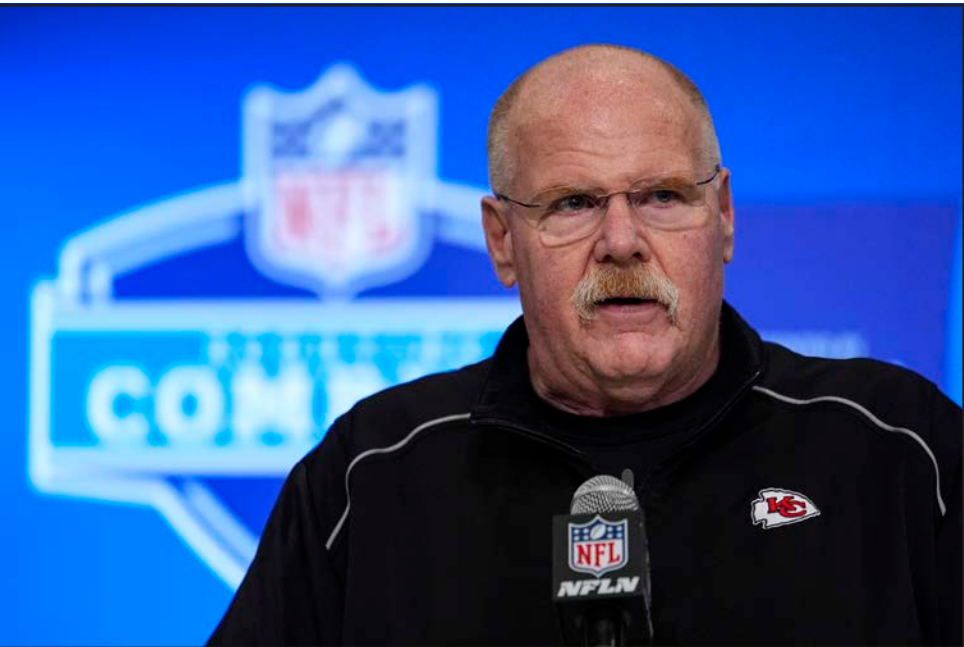
The Lady Tigers will battle the Jaguars at 5:30 p.m. today (Wednesday) at Blue Springs South High School.

The boys team comes into the tournament as the No. 8 seed and will play No. 1 seed Rock Bridge (20-5) at 4 p.m. Thursday at Blue Springs South High School.

See **DISTRICT | A16**



Senior Anastasia Bellamy shoots a basket over an Eldon defender in a game on Dec. 16. FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid speaks during a press conference at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024. PHOTO MICHAEL CONROY | AP PHOTO

Coach Reid expresses sorrow, offers hope after parade shooting

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid walked to the podium Tuesday in Indianapolis with a message that went beyond the football world.

He paid tribute to the woman who was killed two weeks ago at the city’s Super Bowl celebration — and wanted everyone to know that what happened in not representative of the city he calls home.

It’s the first time since the Feb. 14 shooting that killed

Lisa Lopez-Galvan and left 22 injured that anyone from the organization spoke publicly about the incident.

“I want to share my condolences for the Galvan and Lopez family for their loss of Lisa, and for the people of Kansas City,” Reid said as he opened his news conference at the NFL’s annual scouting combine. “She was a person-ality there, and a very good human being, first of all. We’ll all miss her, as I know her family will.”

Two people, Dominic M. Miller and Lyndell Mays, have been charged with second-degree murder.

But Reid also used the league’s second-biggest offseason stage to suggest how tragedies such as the one that rocked Kansas City can be avoided.

“Just a positive word on Kansas City,” he said. “That’s not what Kansas City is all about — and for our youth of America, that we gather together and make this great, you’re our future and as great as we can make this place, we want to do that. So we can turn this, which was a negative, into a real positive. With just a little togetherness and love we can fix a lot of problems.”

US falls to Mexico for the second time ever, losing 2-0 in the Women’s Gold Cup

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Mexico beat the United States for the second time ever, getting goals from Lizbeth Ovalle and Mayra Pelayo for a 2-0 victory Monday night in the CONCACAF Women’s Gold Cup.

The U.S. entered the game 40-1-1 against its rival, with its only previous loss a 2-1 decision during Women’s World Cup qualifying in 2010.

It was the first loss for the U.S. under interim coach Twila Kilgore, who took over after the team’s dramatic exit from the Women’s World Cup last summer in the round of 16. Emma Hayes will take over for Kilgore this spring.

Mexico, which failed to qualify for

last year’s World Cup, finished atop Group A in the Gold Cup while the United States finished second. Both teams advanced to the knockout round.

“They went out and they were bold, they were brave with the dream of playing a good game against the United States,” Mexico coach Pedro Lopez Ramos said.

Ovalle, who plays for Tigres of Monterrey, put Mexico ahead in the 28th minute. U.S. defender Becky Sauerbrunn tried to defend Ovalle but kicked the ball right at her. Ovalle floated a shot over goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher and two U.S. defenders and into the net.

It was the first goal conceded by the U.S. to a CONCACAF opponent in 33 matches.

See **WOMEN | A16**



United States forward Sophia Smith, front, falls while vying for the ball against, from back left to right, Mexico defender Rebeca Bernal, midfielder Alexia Delgado and defender Cristina Ferral during a CONCACAF Gold Cup women’s soccer tournament match, Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, in Carson, Calif. PHOTO BY RYAN SUN | AP PHOTO



South Carolina’s Bree Hall (23) goes to the basket as Kentucky’s Saniah Tyler (2) watches during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, in Lexington, Ky. South Carolina won 103-55. PHOTO BY JAMES CRISP | AP PHOTO

South Carolina remains unbeaten

By Doug Feinberg
AP Basketball Writer

Coach Dawn Staley has South Carolina in a familiar place with a week left in the regular season.

For the second straight year the No. 1 Gamecocks haven’t lost a game heading into March — a feat they hadn’t accomplished before last season. Even with all five starters from last year’s Final Four run gone, the Gamecocks sit at 27-0 with two games left.

They visit Arkansas on Thursday before hosting Tennessee on Sunday. The Gamecocks clinched their third consecutive

outright Southeastern Conference regular-season championship and eighth in 11 years with Sunday’s win over Kentucky.

“We haven’t lost a game and our players are thinking this is the way it is. The competition gets better and better as we approach the postseason,” Staley said after beating Kentucky. “We want to give our players their flowers but want them to know there’s work to do.”

Staley has been impressed with her players and how they have rallied even when they have been down in games.

“They find a way to

win basketball games,” she said. “That’s the sign of a really good team. I’m not gonna say that we’re not a good basketball team. We’re a really good basketball team when we are playing like we played today.”

It’s been a balanced effort for the Gamecocks, who have seven players averaging 8.5 points or more this season.

South Carolina won’t have to go far for the SEC Tournament again because it’s played in Greenville. The Gamecocks are poised for the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament.

See **UNBEATEN | A16**

HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Yesterday's Moon Alert continues until 10:30 p.m. EST today (7:30 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Libra into Scorpio.

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024:

You're a natural performer. You're warm and exciting, and you can light up any room. You're also generous. This is a slower paced year. It's OK to rest and rejuvenate yourself. Focus on relationships that are supportive and beneficial to you. Find people who have your back.

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)

★★★ If you need to research anything or look for hidden answers or solutions to problems, today is the day to do this. You won't give up. You'll look under every rock. You'll be like a dog with a bone. This is why you will get results and solve problems! Tonight: Avoid arguments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Discussions with someone older or more experienced will be important and significant today. You might talk to someone who is an older friend, or they could be someone in a group or an organization. Either way, it will likely be in your best interests to listen to their advice. Tonight: Patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today discussions with parents, bosses and anyone in a position of authority will be serious and much to the point. Nothing will be frivolous. Details will be discussed. However, you can count on the fact that there will be a strong respect for the truth and getting to the bottom of something. Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is an excellent day to study, because your mind is focused and steady. You won't overlook details. Your powers of concentration are top-notch. This is also a good day to learn rules, regulations and the laws about things that affect you. Tonight: Be understanding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You couldn't pick a better day to do some research or have a serious discussion about banking issues, insurance matters, shared property, inheritances and such. Your mind will be focused on the necessary details at hand. Discussions will be serious and thorough. Tonight: Improvements.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ In talking to a partner or close friend today, you might find yourself discussing something sober, serious and practical. It might pertain to legal matters or the obligations or responsibilities that you have to each other. Nothing will be overlooked. You'll cover everything. Tonight: Persuasion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You'll be productive at work today or with any job you do, because you have excellent powers of concentration and your mind is focused. You will stick with the job until it is done; furthermore, you won't overlook details, and you won't make mistakes. You're in the groove! Tonight: Be sensible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ This is a good day to iron out details related to sports contracts, rules and regulations. It's also an excellent day to teach children, because your mind is focused. Furthermore, you'll be patient, especially with minor details that require explanation. Tonight: Lighten up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ This is an excellent day to tackle home repairs or have an important family discussion about practical matters that need to be addressed. Fortunately, everyone will have the patience and willingness to wade through some red-tape details and paperwork, because it needs to be done. Tonight: Solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This is a wonderful day to study or learn something, because you have tremendous powers of concentration. You'll be able to focus on what you need to learn, and you won't be put off by minor details. It's also an excellent day to teach or explain something to someone. Tonight: Go gently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ If you're dealing with banking matters or anything to do with cash flow and earnings today, you will be diligent and focused. Nothing will be overlooked. No detail will be too small. This is also a good day for practical discussions. Tonight: Obey rules.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today the Sun, Mercury and Saturn are lined up in your sign, which gives you tremendous energy and mental focus combined with a discipline of mind and attention to detail. This means that discussions with others will be serious and nothing will be overlooked. Tonight: Stay steady.

BORN TODAY

Actor John Turturro (1957), race car legend Mario Andretti (1940), actress Rae Dawn Chong (1961)



Fans storm the court as they celebrate with Wake Forest players after Wake Forest defeated Duke in an NCAA college basketball game in Winston-Salem, N.C., Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024. PHOTO BY CHUCK BURTON | AP PHOTO

Duke coach wants action after court-storming incident

By Aaron Beard

AP Basketball Writer

Duke coach Jon Scheyer wants the Atlantic Coast Conference to implement measures to prevent court-storming after star big man Kyle Filipowski was hobbled following a collision with a fan during a weekend loss at Wake Forest.

Scheyer said Monday that Filipowski was “a little bit sore” following the incident, which left him sporting a bag of ice on his knee after banging his right leg into the leg of a fan running by him toward midcourt.

“Absolutely we shouldn’t wait until next year, something should be done right now,” Scheyer said during the weekly league coaches teleconference, adding: “At the end of the day, players and coaches and officials are the only people that belong on a court.”

Scheyer — who initially misspoke Saturday when he said Filipowski hurt his ankle — said Monday that the pre-season Associated Press All-American didn’t require any type of diagnostic internal imaging for his knee to search for a structural injury. Filipowski didn’t have a significant limp when he spoke to a few reporters after the game, though his status wasn’t immediately clear for the 10th-ranked Blue Devils’ game Wednesday against an eight-win Louisville team.

Scheyer followed his postgame call to ban court-storming with a

plea for the ACC to put such a policy in place now, even with Duke down to four regular-season games and only one on the road (at North Carolina State on March 4).

The ACC requires member schools to have detailed safety procedures in place for managing court-stormings. But it historically has not levied fines, something four of the six major basketball conferences do for a first offense — such as the Southeastern Conference issuing a \$100,000 penalty on LSU after its fans stormed the court following last week’s win over a ranked Kentucky team.

The ACC has no plans to issue a fine to Wake Forest, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the league hasn’t commented publicly beyond commissioner Jim Phillips’ statement Saturday night.

Still, the image of Filipowski having to be helped off the court amid the chaos only added to the discussion on the dangers of court-storming in a season with multiple run-ins, the highest-profile one being when Iowa star Caitlin Clark was accidentally knocked down by a fan running onto the court after a January upset loss.

Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne went as far as saying he thinks teams should have to forfeit in scenarios like the Duke-Wake Forest game.

“You have two kids run out there, no, but when you have a sustained rush like what just happened the other day at Wake, you lose the game,” Byrne told reporters in Birmingham on Monday. “That will get people to stop.”

Purdue coach Matt Painter raised concerns about court-storming security measures after a loss at Nebraska, less than two weeks before Clark’s collision. And on Sunday, after his Boilermakers had beaten Michigan, Painter reiterated those concerns while noting that court-storming fans can simply overwhelm security measures set out in pregame plans.

“But also watch the weather, because when they say it’s snowing, you’ve got to be ready for the snow,” Painter told the AP. “You know Duke’s coming to town or you know Kansas is coming to town or the (then-) No. 1-ranked team in the country, UConn, is coming to town. If they get upset, it’s probably going to happen.

“Well, they probably should make a rule so it doesn’t happen, period. Just period.”

Painter went on to say: “The NCAA has got to step in here and show some leadership on this. Because what’s happened to Caitlin Clark, what happened to Filipowski, should not happen.”

It’s a position echoed by Kansas coach Bill Self, who said the court-storming at Wake Forest “was one of the quickest ones I’ve ever seen.”

“That happened so fast,” Self told a small group of reporters Monday. “And if you don’t have the proper security in a situation like that, it would be hard to imagine that fans do not come into contact with visiting players, which could lead obviously to injuries or maybe legal things down the road. I would hope they could totally do away with them.”

To Self’s point, Scheyer pointed to the risk of confrontation, noting that Jared McCain had a fan run onto the court and stop right in front of the freshman as McCain tried to exit the court Saturday.

“It would be wrong of me not to speak up for all the student-athletes that can be put in this position,” Scheyer said. “And something needs to change now before something serious happens. Go back and look at Jared McCain, and the position he was in when that game ended. Where the kid could’ve punched him in the face, he could’ve punched the kid for his own safety.

“When you get a student or a fan that close to you, face to face, 2 seconds after the game ends — we’ll regret that as college athletics, college basketball, if we don’t do something to prevent that from happening in the future.”

— AP Basketball Writer Dave Skretta in Lawrence, Kansas, and AP Sports Writers Larry Lage in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and John Zenor in Alabama contributed to this report.

Four Horsemen wrestler dies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Ole Anderson, a professional wrestler whose tough, no-nonsense style led him to become a founding member of the famed collective known as The Four Horsemen, has died, the WWE said. He was 81.

Anderson’s death was disclosed Monday by the wrestling organization’s website, which described Anderson’s approach in the ring as hard-nosed and his demeanor as gruff.

Anderson gained that reputation early in his career as a tag-team champ, paired with partners billed as relatives, including Arn Anderson.

They gained notoriety as the tag team known as The Minnesota Wrecking Crew, the WWE said.

The pair later teamed up in the 1980s with Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard to form The Four Horsemen, led by manager J.J. Dillon in the NWA wrestling organization. They battled some of wrestling’s biggest names, including Dusty Rhodes, the Road Warriors, Magnum T.A. and Sting, who later became a member of the foursome.

“The group set a standard of style, attitude and success that has inspired every stable that followed,” the WWE said

about The Four Horsemen.

Anderson was born Alan Robert Rogowski and he served in the U.S.

Army, according to an obituary posted on the website of Carter Funeral Home in Winder, Georgia.

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NBA's Western Conference playoff race heating up

By Pat Graham
Associated Press

DENVER — It's almost hard to picture a postseason without both LeBron James and Stephen Curry. And yet it very well could happen. They're both on the bubble.

That's just the strength of the Western Conference this season. As it currently stands, James and his ninth-place Los Angeles Lakers would host Curry and the 10th-place Golden State Warriors in the play-in tournament, with the loser being eliminated and the winner still needing to win another to actually make the postseason field.

From top to nearly bottom, the West has been a grind this season. Consider this: Kawhi Leonard and the Los Angeles Clippers reside in fourth and 2 1/2-games out of the No. 1 seed. They're also a four-game slide away from falling into play-in

territory.

Uncertainty reigns in a conference where the Minnesota Timberwolves and youthful Oklahoma City Thunder sit atop the standings with matching 40-17 marks.

The next several weeks are going to be a mad dash for seeding — and playoff survival.

"The depth of the West and the amount of teams that are legit threats is as deep as it's ever been," said Phoenix coach Frank Vogel, whose team has an identical record (34-24) as New Orleans, both a half-game away from the play-in line.

A quick refresher course on the format for the play-in tournament that takes place April 16-19: The seventh and eighth seeds will play in each conference and the winning team will earn the seventh seed into the NBA playoffs. The eighth seed still has a safety net and

will face the winner of the ninth and 10th seeds to see who gets in.

Last season, Miami lost its first game in the play-in bracket, then beat Chicago to advance. The Heat made it all the way to the NBA Finals before losing to Denver in five games. The Lakers, too, were in the play-in tournament, winning their matchup, before going on a run all the way to the Western Conference finals.

Right now, Sacramento sits in the seventh spot and would host Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks. The loser would draw either the Lakers or the Warriors, with either James or Curry being knocked out — or both.

That's still down the road, though.

The playoff picture in the West remains way too blurry, unlike the Eastern Conference where Boston leads by 7 1/2 games over Cleveland. Miami, which

resides in sixth position, is 13 games back.

"The Western Conference has just been a bear for as long as I can remember, and this year is no exception," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "Great teams up and down. Very, very potent and capable teams on any given night."

The path to the crown, of course, goes through Nikola Jokic and the reigning champion Denver Nuggets after they won their first NBA title in franchise history. Jokic is putting up MVP-worthy numbers once again, averaging 26.1 points, 12.3 rebounds and 9.3 assists.

But with Jamal Murray and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope dealing with nagging injuries this season, Nuggets coach Michael Malone has stated he will prioritize health over chasing a particular seed.

"I'm much more concerned with getting all of our players to the finish line healthy," said Malone, whose team is currently

third. "Knowing that if we are healthy going into the postseason, I have the utmost confidence this team can go into any building in the entire NBA and win a series."

This season may be dawn of a new era for the Warriors, who captured four titles behind the nucleus of Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson. Now each in their 30s, the trio is getting some younger help in the form of Brandin Podziemski and Jonathan Kuminga.

"I look forward to coming to the gym every day and seeing all these guys," said Golden State coach Steve Kerr, who recently signed on for another two years. "We have a fun mix of vets who are Hall of Famers, champions, and then these young guys who are learning and growing. It feels like the chemistry and the connection within the group is really, really strong. It makes for a fun team to coach."

Clippers coach Tyronn Lue deserves his share of

kudos for reshaping the team into a contender after the arrival of James Harden as part of a trade involving Philadelphia. Initially, the the Clippers stumbled with Harden on the court. They've found their groove, going 23-5 in December and January.

In Dallas, Doncic and Kyrie Irving are in synch, winning seven of nine in February.

The Timberwolves are looking to finish the regular season No. 1 out West for the first time since 2003-04, when Kevin Garnett led them to the conference finals before losing to the Lakers.

Most important to them is consistency.

"It will all fall into place," Minnesota guard Mike Conley said, "if we do the right things."

—

AP Sports Writers Dave Campbell, Janie McCauley and Kristie Rieken, along with freelance writer Craig Meyer, contributed to this report.

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Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, right, moves the ball while defended by Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, in San Francisco. PHOTO BY GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ | AP PHOTO

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Pettis County Commission is requesting sealed bids on the following items necessary for the operation of the County for the term of March 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025. Bid specifications are on file at the County Clerk's Office at the Pettis County Courthouse Annex 214 East 5th St, Sedalia, MO, until the time of opening at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 13, 2024. All sealed bids must be marked on the outside with the item(s) or service(s) being bid for and MUST include a digital copy. If all bids in a category are accepted, each bidder will be contacted for a current price as needed. You must submit a bid to be placed on the approval list. Bids will not be considered "let" until a warrant has been issued. The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

- General office and building supplies, consumable paper products and cleaning supplies. Complete list on website or call Clerk's office.
- Sheriff's Office service & repair on fleet vehicles including Ford Crown Vic. Patrol car, 2017 Dodge Ram, GMC Transport Van, Galv, 25 Chev Tahoe SUV, Ford F-150, 2011 Dodge Ram 1500 Pick-Up, 7 Dodge Chargers, 3 Ford Explorers and assorted support vehicles including former military vehicles.
- Harley Davidson Police Motorcycles with associated equipment, include leasing option.
- Regular unleaded gasoline/diesel fuel for all Sheriff's vehicles. Available statewide, 24 hours a day/7days a week.
- Specification 2. Provide and install speed rated, all weather automotive tires (Rated at 140MPH+) sized P235/55 RI 7, 265x60RI 7, 225x60RI 6, 265x60RI 6 police type

Legal Notice

tires including mounting, balancing, disposal costs, rotation costs and repair costs for the said tires.

- Specification 3. Provide service for the Sheriff's Office vehicles including oil changes, replacement of oil filter with each oil change, check and fill all fluids, inspection of tires, brake pads and rotors, along with all necessary lubrication including door locks, replacement of air, fuel and other filters as needed. Bids should include a provision for priority service for Sheriff's Office vehicles and resetting the Message indicators in the vehicles. The Chevrolet Tahoe require 6 quarts of Dexos Oil.
- Specification 4. Brake Service /Provide Heavy Duty brake parts for high-speed use.
 - A. Front Brakes including turning of rotors
 - B. Rear B rakes including turning of drums or rotors
 - C. Front brake rotor turning only.
 - D. Rear Brake rotor turning only.
 - E. Replace front pads only
 - F. Replace rear pads only
- Specification 5. Transmission fluid and filter service
- Specification 6. Radiator/cooling system flush and fill
- Specification 7. Vehicle engines tune up V-8 and V-6
- Specification 8. Air Conditioning service
- Specification 9. Major Repairs% over actual cost for parts, Flat labor rate
- Specification 10. Minor repairs (replace head lights Windshield wipers etc) % over actual cost for parts Flat labor rate.
- Specification 11. Front end alignment
- Specification 12. Body and Fender Repair-Other body shop work % over actual cost of parts Flat labor rate per hour
- Specification 13. Battery service and replacement with vehicle appropriate battery at least 750 CCA
- Specification 14. 4 Wheel Alignment
- Specifications 16. Wrecker of the month. Inclusion on the wrecker of the month list as requested by the Sheriff's Office will require that all Sheriff's Office owned vehicles will be towed free of charge during a particular month that the wrecker service serves as wrecker of the month. This does not apply to vehicle seized by the Pettis County Sheriff's Office. Proof of Commercial General Liability with minimum liability coverage of \$300,000.00 per occurrence, to include Workman Compensation and Employee Liability coverage is required for bid consideration and acceptance.

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Specification 17. Law Enforcement equipment, including but not limited to class A uniform shirts, class A uniform pants, BDU style patrol uniform pants, nylon and leather duty gear, flashlights, chemical munitions, batons, and other assorted less lethal and law enforcement equipment such as firearms, training and duty ammunition and accessories.

1. Class B Shirt, 135fly blk/gray (blk/gold) LS/SS
2. Class B Pant 5.11 Apex Pant
3. Class B Duty Belt 5.11 Sierra Bravo Duty Belt 2"
4. Class B Handcuff Case Bianchi Accumold 8034 Open top cuff case
5. Class B Magazine Case Zero9 Duty Style double Mag pouch 9/40
6. Class B OC/Pepper Spray Zero9 OC/Pepper Spray can case
7. Class B Radio Holster Zero9 Portable Radio Case Motorola APX Series
8. Class B Baton Case Bianchi Accumold Elite Expandable Baton Holder
9. Hand Cuffs Smith & Wesson Model 100 Nicle Finish Peerless Model 700C Nickel Finish
10. Baton ASP Talon Infinity Baton (Black Chrome) Button 60mm
11. Weapons Light Stream light TLR-1 HL
12. Flashlight (both) Streamlight Stinger D/S HL w/ 120v AC and 12v DC charger Streamlight Strion LED HL w/ 120v AC and 12v DC charger
13. Flashlight Holder Streamlight Model 88053 (Stinger); Streamlight Model 88051 (Strion)
14. Rain Gear Visguard S578V
15. Rain Gear Liner Visguard Softshell Liner S318Z
16. Duty Bag 1st Tactical Guardian Patrol Bag 41L
17. Class A Campaign Hat Stratton Campaign Style Felt Hat F40 (double brim); Hat protector; Hat Cord (Gold)
18. Class A Shirt 5.11 Class A Twill PDU long sleeve
19. Class A Pant 5.11 Class A Tacile PDU pant
20. Class A Coat Blauer B-Dry 3 season jacket
21. Class A Duty Belt Safariland 4-row stitch safarilaminated duty belt LP133 (plain w/gold buckle) Class A Belt Keepers Safariland Safarilaminatetwo snap belt keepers (Plain w/hidden snap)
22. Class A Handcuff pouch Bianchi Accumold Elite Single Cuff Case (Plain)
23. Class A Magazine Pouch Bianchi Accumold Elite Double Mag Pouch (Plain)

3x-2/28, 3/1, 6, 2024

Women

From Page A11

“I think it just shows how far the game is coming and there’s no easy games anymore. And if we don’t take care of business and we don’t execute, this is to be expected,” Kilgore said. “We’ll step up and take ownership in that and I think anytime you have a group that is willing to take ownership in things like this, it’s a good thing for the future of the tournament. Everything’s still on the table and we’ll be motivated, that’s for sure.”

Sauerbrunn took full responsibility for the goal, both on the field and in the locker room afterward.

“As a veteran, you know, you have some rough days at the office and tonight is definitely a rough day,” she said. “But luckily, you’ll have another day at the office and it’s just what you make out of it.

Mexico nearly scored again in first-half stoppage time but Karla Nieto’s shot from distance hit the crossbar.

Kiana Palacios had a good chance to give Mexico a cushion but her shot hit defender Abby Dahlkemper and bounded away.

By that time, Mexico could feel its momentum.

Pelayo scored from distance in stoppage time and Mexico’s players celebrated wildly on the field.

“If we lose in the quarterfinals, then the beautiful win of today is useless,” Lopez Ramos said through a translator. “I hope that this is not

an isolated moment.” The United States saw success from its teenagers in the first two games of the tournament. Olivia Moultrie, 18, scored twice in a 5-0 victory over the Dominican Republic and Jaedyn Shaw, 19, scored a pair in a 4-0 victory over Argentina.

But Mexico played surprisingly tough and the United States could not rebound after conceding that first goal.

“I would say 2010, in that game, playing in Cancun, that stadium, I think we were all a little bit surprised by that result of qualifying for the World Cup,” said Sauerbrunn, who played in that loss 14 years ago. “I would say tonight that we never take any opponent for granted. I think they had a game plan and they executed it better than than what we had for our game plan. So that’s all on us.”

This is the first-ever Women’s Gold Cup, created to give women’s teams in the CONCACAF region more competitive matches. Twelve teams played group-stage matches across three cities: Carson, San Diego and Houston.

Argentina beat the Dominican Republic 3-0 earlier Monday in Group A.

The teams will be re-seeded following the group stage, so Mexico and the United States will have to wait to learn their opponents in the quarterfinals.

“The fact that everyone in that locker room can say they played a part in it is a big deal,” Diana Ordenez said afterward. “We’re just really proud but we know that we still have work to do.”



Junior Malaki Reed dribbles past a defender in a game against Hillcrest on Dec. 16. FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON

District

From Page A11

The Tigers lost to Rock Bridge in the district tournament last season and lost 68-44 on Feb. 2.

Head coach Ben Lyles said he hopes the Tigers can come out and make a statement against the No. 1 seed.

“That’s kind of the bar, right? When I took this job two years ago and rebuilding this program, you know, Rock Bridge is one of those teams that has set the bar,” Lyles said. “That’s what’s exciting about it. It’s an opportunity to measure ourselves

against the bar because that’s where we want to get to as a program.”

Even though the Tigers are 7-19 on the season, the team has won four of its last seven games.

Lyles said he feels like the team is playing its best basketball at a time when it matters most.

“I would say we are the most balanced we’ve been all season,” Lyles said. “I think just post- Christmas break getting everyone back in the fold and building chemistry, we’ve been able to play some really good basketball down the stretch.”

In other area basketball news, one of the winningest seasons in Northwest girls basketball history

came to an end as the team lost to Skyline 50-43 in the sectional round of the Class 2 state tournament Monday night.

Senior Karli Smith led the Mustangs in scoring with 17 points followed by senior Grace Walker with 11.

Northwest finishes the season with a 25-4 record. Skyline advances to play North Platte High School at 6 p.m. Friday.

The Tipton girls basketball team won their sectional matchup against Fayette High School 62-32 Monday night.

The Cardinals didn’t look back after taking an early 11-0 following a sophomore Clara Williams layup on a fast

break. Williams had 17 points on the night, but junior teammate Charlee Bailey led the team with 20 points. Sophomore Ava Schlotzhauer added 19 points as well.

The Cardinals (26-3) will take on Clopton High School (22-6) at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Clopton High School.

The Tipton boys basketball team played defending state champion Salisbury Tuesday night.

The Sacred Heart boys basketball team played Bunceton with Prairie Home in the Class 1 sectional round Tuesday at Bunceton High School.

Coaches, please send results to jackd@sedaliademocrat.com.

Hockey fights down but not going anywhere

By Stephen Whyno
AP Hockey Writer



Philadelphia Flyers’ Nicolas Deslauriers (44) and New York Rangers’ Matt Rempe (73) fight during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, in Philadelphia. PHOTO BY DERIK HAMILTON | AP PHOTO

Minnesota’s Marcus Foligno took a hit, delivered one of his own to Chicago’s Jarred Tinordi, and the two big guys dropped the gloves. Outdoors in front of 82,000 people in the Meadowlands, it took even less for Matt Rempe and Matt Martin to spice up the Rangers-Islanders showdown with a fight.

When Morgan Rielly cross-checked Ridly Greig for firing a slap shot into an empty net? Some pushing and shoving. Nothing more.

“How there wasn’t a brawl there, I don’t know how everyone didn’t start fighting,” wondered Todd Simpson, a 50-year-old retired player who piled up more than 1,300 penalty minutes in 580 NHL games. “That should’ve been a big fight.”

All of these situations were over the past month alone, riveting reminders that fighting is alive and well in the NHL even if it is diminished in many ways. It has been 20 years since Simpson and his Ottawa teammates got into a fight fest at Philadelphia, a game that still holds the NHL record with an astounding 419 penalty minutes. Of 40 players who suited up, 23 got at least two minutes of penalty time. Many got far more.

Those kinds of massive clashes are long gone, faded like the cheap shots and blood in “Slap Shot.” Like the beloved movie, however, fighting is warmly remembered, even desired, by many fans of the game and cheering on the brawls remains common. Those fans need not worry: Even in the NHL, which has fewer and fewer spots for goons these days, fighting is rare but certainly not gone,

with a fight coming roughly every four or five games across the league.

Many see a permanent place for it in a sport that values standing up for teammates, even as they have watched some of the biggest fighters left shells of themselves by repeated blows to the head.

“It doesn’t happen often, but you still have to have it,” said Vancouver Canucks coach Rick Tocchet, whose 237 career fights rank 21st all-time. “When I played, you could really use as intimidation. You can still use it a little bit today but not as much. The staged fighting and all that stuff, that doesn’t work anymore. But there is a time and place for it.”

FIGHTING ON THE WANE

The NHL does not publicly list penalties by type, including fighting and other major infractions. According to Hockey-Fights.com, there have been 219 fights this season through Monday with 63 more projected before the playoffs begin for a total of 282, which would be a sharp drop from the 789 in 2003-04. That is a 200%

decrease over 20 years and significantly down from 645 as recently as 2010-11.

Rule changes are part of the reason. The institution of the salary cap in 2005 made it more difficult for a team to pay a player whose skills were limited to throwing punches and protecting stars. In 2013, it became illegal to take a helmet off to fight and mandatory visors were grandfathered in.

“It’s obviously evolved a lot where guys like myself back in the day no longer exist — one-dimensional fighters no longer exist,” said Riley Cote, who fought 50 times in 156 games with Philadelphia from 2007-10 and countless other times in the minor leagues. “It’s been a natural progression. ... I’m not sure at the NHL level they’ll ever fully phase it out, but they’re doing a pretty good job of trying.”

No one expects a fighting ban, like the ejection and suspension policies that exist in college and internationally. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has said the fighting helps keep tensions from boiling over.

“Fighting, in the spontaneous sense, tends to act as

a bit of a thermostat when things happen in the course of the game,” Bettman said in 2013. Discussing a fight between Jarome Iginla and Vincent Lecavalier, Bettman said, “I’d rather them be punching each other than swinging sticks at each other.”

WILL FIGHTING SURVIVE?

A 2011 survey by the NHL Players’ Association and CBC found that 98% of players at that time didn’t support the total elimination of fighting. A vast majority of those players are now out of the league, replaced by a generation that has made hockey faster and more skilled than ever — but still willing to drop the gloves on occasion and wanting that option.

“It always needs to be in the game,” said St. Louis Blues captain Brayden Schenn, who has fought twice this season but never more than four times a year as a professional. “You need guys to police it themselves, and if you’re going to run around and make a big hit, you’ve got to know that sometimes you’re going to have to deal with the consequences.”

Unbeaten

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They will have the first two games at home and then most likely will travel to Albany, New York, for the regional, meaning they won’t have to leave the Eastern time zone. The other regional is out in Portland, Oregon.

While the Gamecocks have wrapped up the SEC already, there are a bunch of other big games this week. **REGULAR-SEASON HOME FINALE?**

Sunday’s matchup against No. 2 Ohio State could be sixth-ranked Iowa star Caitlin Clark’s final regular-season game at home. The NCAA’s all-time scoring leader has a year of eligibility left if she wants

it. She hasn’t announced whether she’ll come back for a fifth year or enter the WNBA draft, where she is the presumed No. 1 pick.

Clark potentially will have two more games at home in the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament because the top 16 teams host those games.

BIG 12 TITLE

No. 3 Texas visits 20th-ranked Oklahoma on Wednesday with first place in the Big 12 Conference on the line. The Sooners have a one-game lead over the Longhorns. Oklahoma won the first meeting by four points last month. If Texas wins and the two teams end up tied in the standings — they each have one game left after Wednesday — they’d share the regular-season crown.

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