CAMPAIGN TRAIL
Biden, Harris promote health care agenda • **News A4**

LEADING THE PACK
New S-C golf coach building up young team • **Sports A9**

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Search for Echo Lloyd continues as case nears four-year mark

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

On May 15, 2020, a Benton County Sheriff's Office deputy was dispatched to Stag Drive in Edwards for a missing person. They met Echo Lloyd's daughter, who said she had not seen her mother in weeks.

After entering Lloyd's home, Benton County called in the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control to conduct a forensic investigation.

"We discovered she was certainly a missing person because of what we found in the home," Benton County Sheriff Eric Knox told the Democrat on Tuesday, March 26. "It just brought more questions, and I knew it was going to be a big deal and way more than what my office could handle."

Even with all departments searching diligently for Lloyd, it's as if she simply vanished.

"There was no forensic evidence, there's no sign of a struggle, there's no evidence saying that she's deceased, but obviously by now we know she is. So, all we still have is a missing person," Knox said. "The Missouri State Highway Patrol has the case. As a matter of fact, they don't even talk to me about it, so I haven't really had anything to write about or anything new because, basically, it's gone cold."

Knox and other sheriff's office employees, the Highway Patrol, area firefighters, water patrol, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and other volunteers conducted a grid search of the heavily wooded areas around Lloyd's home.

"Again, this search produced no answers that would help us to locate Echo or help determine what had happened to her," Knox said. "I knew our office did not have the resources necessary to give this case what it was going to need, so the case was turned completely over to the DDCC."

Knox said the Highway Patrol has put in thousands of man-hours on the missing person case. Expert cavers were brought in to search the extensive caves in Benton County. All leads from citizens were followed, and every person who had contact with Lloyd was interviewed. The DDCC interviewed every other person of interest that may have related to her in any way.

"They interviewed people whose names came up from those leads and interviews still producing no hard evidence of what happened to Echo," Knox said.

See **SEARCH | A6**



Echo Lloyd, of Edwards, was reported missing May 15, 2020. The case is in the hands of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control.
PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK



On Tuesday, March 26, Samantha Hood, of Smithton, the owner of Wander'n Acres, stands beside her beeswax candles and other items she's selling at Moore's Greenhouse and Flower Shop in Sedalia. Hood placed the items at the flower shop in early March, and they will remain until after Mother's Day. PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

Wander'n Acres provides clean alternatives

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

With a love for plants and all things natural, Samantha Hood, of Smithton, is now offering beeswax candles, bath soaks, and lip balm at Moore's Greenhouse and Flower Shop in Sedalia through Mother's Day.

Hood is married to Jeff Hood, and they have three children: Carter, 14, and twins Emma and Allie, 6. On Tuesday, March 26, Hood noted she enjoys planting vegetable and herb plants from seeds in her basement. She plans to begin offering the plants for sale this season and installing bee hives on the couple's small Pettis County property.

Her garden area is 50 by 50 feet, just big enough to handle. She hopes to teach others how to garden in small spaces, such as on a patio or small yard. She has been working on her gardening techniques for the last seven years.

"Basically, it's just become a hobby and a lifestyle," she explained. "I grow most of my plants by seed. I start them in the basement, and it sort of gets you over the winter blues.

"Over the years, I've just gotten a little bit better at it each year," she continued. "And this is the year I'm going to open the doors to sell the plants that I grow in hopes that other people will want to have a garden."



Samantha Hood, with Wander'n Acres, makes beeswax candles, garden bath soaks, and beeswax lip balm. This season, she plans to expand her business to grow flowers for cut arrangements.

Hood said her husband, who owns two businesses, Ideal Fire and J2 Deicing, is a big supporter of her business.

"He was really open to me doing this because every year, I have a tendency to overplant," Hood said.

See **CLEAN | A6**

Embattled House speaker now running for secretary of state

By Jason Hancock
Missouri Independent

Missouri House Speaker Dean Plocher, fending off an ethics investigation into allegations of misconduct, announced Tuesday he will drop out of the lieutenant governor's race and instead seek the GOP nomination for secretary of state.

The announcement comes on the final day candidates can file to run for the August primary. And it also comes the same day as the House Ethics Committee will hold its fifth hearing of the legislative session in its ongoing investigation of Plocher, a Des Peres Republican.

Plocher has denied any wrongdoing, largely painting his woes as a conspiracy whipped up by "leftist" media, Democrats and disgruntled staff.

But the switch to the secretary of state race has managed to rekindle more recent criticism over Plocher's decision to arrange a series of meetings in the state Capitol between GOP legislators and an out-of-state technology vendor that focuses on the initiative petition process.

The secretary of state's office oversees the initiative petition process.

In announcing his new campaign, Plocher made only passing reference to the scandals that have dominated his final year as speaker, saying in a press release that "the liberal press can attack me all they want, but as your speaker and when I am your secretary of state, I will never stop fighting for the people of Missouri."



Missouri House Speaker Dean Plocher, R-Des Peres, announced Tuesday he will drop out of the lieutenant governor's race and instead seek the GOP nomination for secretary of state.
PHOTO BY TIM BOMMEL | MISSOURI HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Instead, Plocher focused his announcement on "ensuring only American citizens vote in state elections" and touting his legislative record on abortion, gun rights and tax cuts.

See **STATE | A6**

7 81838 50001 5

What's Inside:

News
Obituaries A2
Weather A6
Opinion A7
Comics A8

Sports
Calendar A10
Horoscope A11
Classifieds A13

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OBITUARIES

Mary Frances Mullins

Mary Frances Mullins, 80, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at E.W. Thompson in Sedalia. She was born on December 31, 1943, in Sedalia, the daughter of Paul Andrew Fiedler and Lilly Margaret (Lind) Fiedler, who preceded her in death.



Mary graduated from Sacred Heart School. She worked in dietary at Bothwell Regional Health Center for 26 years, retiring in 2006. Mary enjoyed reading true crime books. She also enjoyed doing puzzle books and sitting outside feeding the birds, and she loved her dogs, Droopy, Katie, and Zoey. Mary especially loved getting together with her family.

Mary is survived by four children, Terri Dillon of Houstonia, Rusty Mullins of Sedalia, Chuck Mullins (Bonnie) of Holts Summit, MO, and Pattie Clark-Snapp of La Monte; eight grandchildren, Jeremy, Dalton (Meghan), Shelby (Nick), Gage (Valerie), Abby, Kiley (Dylan), Justin, and Chase (Lexi); and five great-grandchildren with one on the way.

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by three brothers, Paul Fiedler, Charles Fiedler, and Bobby Brown; three sisters, Margaret, Hazel, and Clara; a nephew, Junior Fiedler; and two great-grandbabies.

A celebration of life gathering with family and friends will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Rea Funeral Chapel, 3510 W. 16th St. in Sedalia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sedalia Animal Shelter in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.

DEATH NOTICE

Otten

Isaiah Jordan Otten, 31, of Sedalia, died Sunday, March 24, 2024, in Sedalia.

A celebration of Isaiah's life will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at Rea Funeral Chapel, 3510 W. 16th St. in Sedalia. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until service time at the chapel. A private burial by the family will be held at a later date in Providence Cemetery in Smithton. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

LOCAL BRIEFS

East 32nd to close for culvert work

The Pettis County Road and Bridge Department announced that East 32nd Street between Rissler Road and Oak Brook Boulevard will be closed to all traffic for culvert replacement from 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 2 through 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 3. The culvert is located approximately 0.5 miles east of Rissler Road on East 32nd Street.

Watch for work zone signs and barricades. Drivers are asked not to drive around the barricades, as they are there to provide safety for workers and prevent damage to the construction site and vehicles.

SFCC to close for spring holiday

State Fair Community College, all extended campus locations and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art on the Sedalia campus will close Friday, March 29. The college will reopen April 1.

The Daum Museum will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 30 and will close Sunday, March 31. Regular museum hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays. Admission is free. For more information, call 660-530-5888 or visit www.daummuseum.org.

The State Fair Career and Technology Center, which provides technical training to area high school juniors and seniors on the Sedalia campus, will close Friday, March 29. Classes will resume Monday, April 1.

Enrollment for summer and fall classes opens April 2 for new and returning students. Summer classes begin June 4 and fall classes begin Aug. 20. Admission applications are free. Visit www.sfccmo.edu to apply and enroll.

Baby Café to host 'Reading to Your Baby' session

Rachelle Simon, United Way of Pettis County executive director, will give a "Reading to Your Baby" presentation at Pettis County Baby Café on April 2.

Baby Café is a free breastfeeding support group that meets each Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. inside Women's Health and Newborn Care on the first floor of Bothwell Hospital. The group provides pregnant and breastfeeding mothers an opportunity to meet with a lactation consultant, get support from specifically trained staff, hear from special speakers and share experiences with other mothers from the community.

Simon will present and answer questions from 4 to 6 p.m. Baby and children's books will be available for attendees to take with them and refreshments will be served.

For more information about Baby Cafe, visit brhc.org/baby-cafe or follow Pettis County Baby Café on Facebook.

FUNERALS

Jacob Ross Mothersbaugh
1 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

James Richard Larkey
3 p.m. Monday, April 1 at Liberty Life Center in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

Mary Frances Mullins
5 p.m. Monday April 1 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Faith Anne Evans Lovell
2 p.m. Friday, May 3 at Calvary Episcopal Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Azle Funeral Home in Azle, Texas.

Isaiah Jordan Otten
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3 at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Carl Chester Clopton
1 p.m. Monday, June 17 at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

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
March 25

9:55 a.m.: Officers responded to the 400 block of East Seventh Street regarding vandalism to a vehicle. They located the vehicle with two slashed tires. There is an ongoing investigation.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

CRASH REPORTS

Sedalia woman hurt and Pettis County rollover

Alyssa N. Wickham, 27, of Sedalia, suffered minor injuries at 6:37 a.m. Monday in a Pettis County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Wickham was driving a 2008 Mercury Mountaineer south on U.S. Highway 65 near Abney Road when she swerved to avoid an object in the roadway. Her vehicle traveled off the road, struck a ditch and rolled over several times.

Wickham was wearing a seat belt and was transported by the Pettis County Ambulance District to Bothwell Regional Health Center.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

IRS has 940,000 unclaimed tax refunds from 2020 about to expire

By Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The IRS is warning taxpayers that they may be leaving more than $1 billion on the table.

The federal tax collector said Monday that roughly 940,000 people in the U.S. have until May 17 to submit tax returns for unclaimed refunds for tax year 2020, which total more than $1 billion nationwide.

The average median refund is $932 for 2020. Texas (93,400), California (88,200), Florida (53,200) and New York (51,400) have the largest amount of people potentially eligible for these refunds.

IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said in a statement: "We want taxpayers to claim these refunds, but time is running out for people who may have overlooked or forgotten about these refunds. There's a May 17 deadline to file these returns so taxpayers should start soon to make sure they don't miss out."

For people who need to file a return, the IRS advises taxpayers to request their W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 from their employer or bank — or order a free wage and income transcript using the "Get Transcript Online" tool at IRS.gov.

Taxpayers typically have three years to file and claim tax refunds, otherwise the money becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury.

Generally the deadline to claim old refunds falls around the April 15 tax deadline, but this year the three-year window for 2020 unfiled returns was postponed to May 17, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But if taxpayers haven't filed a return for tax year 2021 and 2022, any 2020 refunds would be withheld until they file for those years as well to make sure they don't owe.

Werfel said "some people may not realize they may be owed a refund. We encourage people to review their files and start gathering records now, so they don't run the risk of missing the May deadline."

Tax season officially began on January 29.

According to the latest tax season statistics, more than 71.5 million individual tax filings have been submitted to the IRS this season.

Democrat Salutes



Sedalia Moose Lodge No. 1494 Board members present a check to the Sedalia PSG girl's soccer team. From left, President Nick Rasa, Administrator Kevin Long, Treasure Ed Crampton, First Year Trustee Steve Ratliff, Vice President Bob Kempf, Three Year Trustee Jason Young and Two Year Trustee Hollis Bell.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA MOOSE LODGE NO. 1494

Photo Submissions

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

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Sacred Heart School announced the following students were named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

A Honor Roll

Fourth grade: Nicholas Kehl, Jude Page, Evie Paul, Leo Steeves, James Jarvis, Abigail Diller, Moriah Jennings, Samuel Renck, Mary Katherine Jenkins, Auggie Kramer, Finlee Hout, Jabari Simeus.

Fifth grade: Hannah Engles, Elsie May, Layla Isabel Bautista.

Sixth grade: Sophia Perez, Catherine Alvarado-Ruiz, Matias Urbina Morelos, Hunter Engles, Nealy Jennings, Ava Figge, Alison Hawkins.

Seventh grade: Aspen Carl, Abram May, Sam Diller Diller, Avery Dillon, Cooper Hladik, Josh Lucchesi, Madison Hill, Ruby Schulze, Easton Reid, Keaton Sanders, Sofia Guevara-Rodriguez.

Eighth grade: Sidnee City, Cash Conardy, Addie Figge, R.J. Hladik, Filip Perets, Eri Steeves, Mason Trelow, Maggie Van Leer, Anna Carney, Colt Conardy, Bayler Cromley, Aedan Brennan.

Ninth grade: Emily Alvarado-Ruiz, Paisley Carl, Lauren Diller, Katherine Kehl, Abby Cramer, Miles Johnson, Olivia Dillon, Jacob Velando.

10th grade: Tony Sierra, Austin Perez, Logan Howell, James Russell, Max Van Leer, Mary Butner, Natsuki Tange, Cassidy Bentch, Emilee Jackson, Bailee Vogel, Noah Damlo, Delaney Grose.

11th grade: Sophie Anderson, Paige Diller, Sarah Hill, Laysha Lopez, Sophia Carney, Joleen Frost, Kaleb Schaffer, Josh Pacheco.

12th grade: Connor Rice, Spencer Aeschbacher, Margarita (Margo) Karpenc, Jackson Manning, Carter Rice, Reuben Smith, Faithlynn Parks, Sammy Altena, Shea Smith, Mariah Van Leer, Tommy Mertes, Ellie Coruna, Ximena Lopez, Megan Aonzo, Luke Jenkins, Gavin Caldwell, Olivia Dobson, Vladimir Lopez, Emily Hesse, Traven Wheeler.

B Honor Roll

Fourth grade: Gabe Jarvis, Mariana Martinez, Evelin Caraveo-Dominguez, Alayna Almazan, Nathanael McGalliard, Corbin Bentch, Thomas Schlarb, Preslee Moon, Eden Riley, Fatima Resendiz, Owen Clutter.

Fifth grade: Emery Paul, KJay Mahalovich, Angelo Caraballo, Rowyn Reed, Jase Hinshaw, Charlotte Tippie, Avery Forst, Allan Lopez.

Sixth grade: Isabella Hernandez, Fatima Kamara, Jocelin Angel-Saldana, Aiden Hardin Peed, Sarah Kehl, Easton Grose, Daila Castanonfajardo, Athan Crumm, William McGalliard, Ethan Anders, Liam Bain, Madelyn Jeffries, Piper Howell.

Seventh grade: Christian Almazan, Tayen Whited, Kennedy Owen, Allie Offineer, Ireland Weller, Sophia Hesse, Sophia Sauser, Frannie Morris, Johnhenry Cordia, Zachary Anderson, Jonah Page.

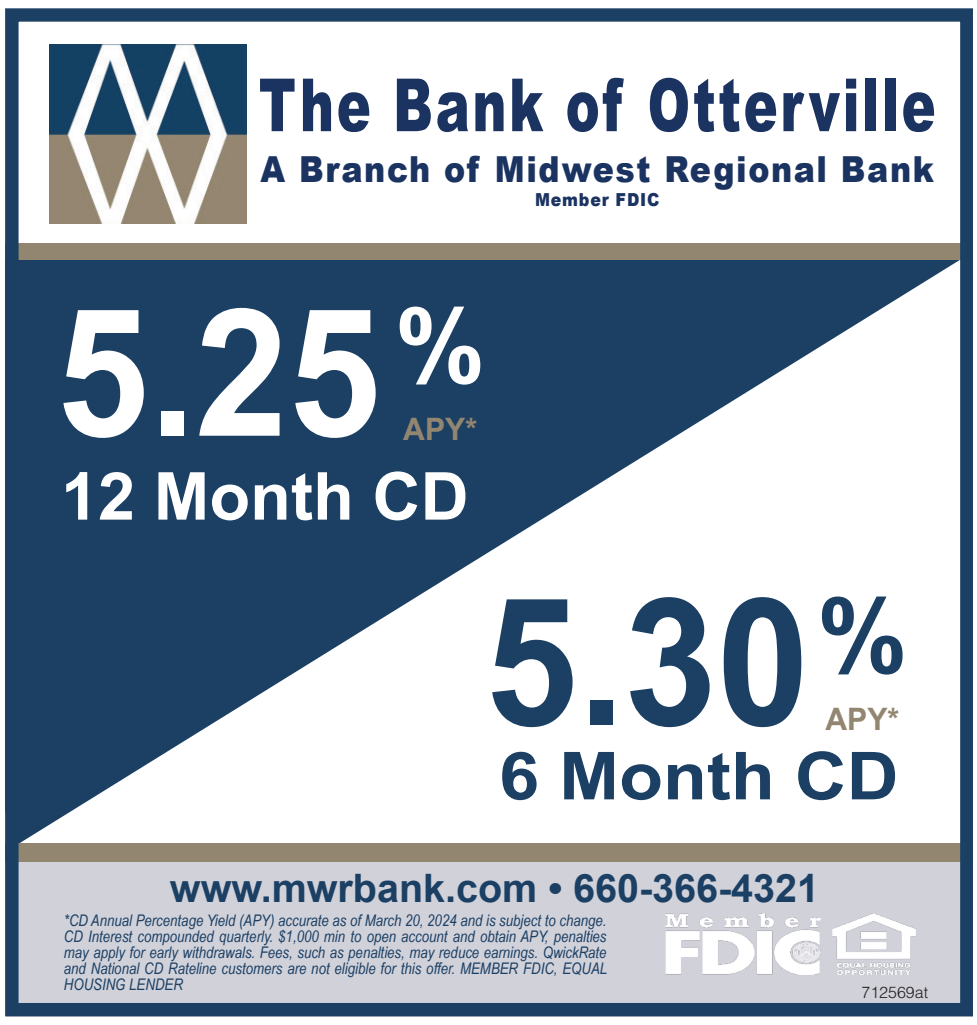
Eighth grade: Diego Lopez, Jaxon Twenter, Litzy Ortiz, Carolina Rivera-Montoya, Carson Bentch, Eli Schaffer, Keylen Hernandez, Kendall DeHaven, Harper Cromley, Ava Judd, Mariah Armstrong, Birkli Martin.

Ninth grade: Sasha Kiyevets, Cole Rhodelander, Jace Cordia, Wyatt Damlo, Kyler Downing, Kieran Cahill, Owen Borchers, Rylie Schlarb, Sammy Angeles, Kynslee Prewitt, Sarah Smith, Daniel Butner, Molly Brown.

10th grade: Thomas Jenkins, Ebrinn Cahill, Camila Ponce, Jaden Twenter, Daniella Chinchilla, Cristal Toro, Olivia Jones, Gabriel Malacara.

11th grade: Avery Epple, Grant Goodwin, Ramses Rivera-Montoya, Jacob Cordia, Ava Stone, Conner Brown, Jocelyn Arista Hernandez, Zander Jackson, Riley Bradley.

12th grade: George Bain IV, George Perez III, Andres Vanegas, Marcel Walton, Lexi Owens, Bryan Tienda.





President Joe Biden delivers remarks during a campaign event with Vice President Kamala Harris in Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday, March 26, 2024. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH | AP PHOTO

Biden & Harris: Democrats will preserve health care, Republicans will take it away

By Chris Megerian
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday promoted their health care agenda in the battleground state of North Carolina, arguing that Democrats like themselves would preserve access to care while Republicans would reverse gains made over the past decade and a half.

Fourteen years after President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, the White House still sees health care as a winning issue during a campaign in which Biden has sometimes found himself on the defensive when it comes to immigration or the economy. Republicans have opposed Biden's signature initiatives to lower medical costs, and they've seized opportunities to restrict abortion rights after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

"It's sick. Now they want to quote, his words, terminate the ACA, as my predecessor says," Biden said, referring to Republican former President Donald Trump. "If that were ever to happen, we'd also terminate a lot of lives as well. But we're not going to let that happen, are we? We're not going to let that happen."

North Carolina was Biden's final stop on a tour of battleground states after his State of the Union address this month, which jump-started a frenzied travel schedule as the Democratic president makes his case for a second term in a likely rematch with Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee.

The state is also a health care success story for the president. The American Rescue Plan, a coronavirus pandemic recovery measure signed by Biden, included financial incentives for states to expand Medicaid coverage for low-income residents. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, used the money, which amounted to $1.8 billion, to persuade Republican lawmakers to support his plan. More than 600,000 residents are expected to qualify.

Biden and Harris visited hours after the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case about access to mifepristone, a widely used abortion pill. The justices appeared inclined to preserve access to the medication.

The White House has tried to make mifepristone more available as one of its few opportunities to protect women's ability to end their pregnancies.

Afterward, Biden and Harris were attending a campaign fundraiser in Raleigh. They've built a significant cash advantage over Trump, with $155 million cash on hand through mid-March. Trump had $37 million.

Biden's approval ratings on health care are among his highest on a range of issues, but he trails there, too, According to a February poll from The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 42% of U.S. adults approve of Biden's handling of health care while 55% disapprove.

KFF, a health policy research firm, found in its own poll in November that 59% of U.S. adults trust the Democratic Party to do a better job addressing health care affordability issues. Only 39% said the same about Republicans. There was a similar divide in trust when it came to access to mental health care, prescription drug costs and the future of the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid.

Trump has never detailed his health care proposals despite campaigning since 2016 on a promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. After Biden landed in North Carolina, Trump denied in a new social media post that he wants to "terminate the ACA," even though he had promised to do just that as recently as last week in Arizona. Trump pledged Tuesday, without providing any details, that he would make the Affordable Care Act better, stronger and less expensive.

However, health care has not been a prominent issue in his 2024 campaign as Trump instead focuses on immigration, inflation and the wars in Europe and the Middle East.

Polls show a tight race between Biden and Trump, and Democrats hope to create another potential path to victory in North Carolina.

Although Democrats have failed to win a U.S. Senate seat or a presidential race there since 2008, Trump beat Biden in North Carolina by just 1.3 percentage points in 2020. The White House has repeatedly highlighted federal injections of funds for transportation, rural broadband and other initiatives while dispatching top administration officials to the state.

Democrats also want to exploit what they view as weaknesses among Republican candidates for statewide offices. For example, the party's nominees for governor and state schools superintendent, Mark Robinson and Michele Morrow, respectively, have a history of inflammatory comments.

"We're seeing a Republican slate at the statewide level that is filled with MAGA extremists that ultimately is going to hurt the Republicans' chances of winning the state again," state Sen. Jay Chaudhuri of Raleigh, the chamber's Democratic whip, said Monday in an interview. "As we get closer to November, I think independents that are critical in winning the state will be able to see how extreme the Republican ticket is from top to bottom."

Democrats hope unaffiliated voters, the largest category in North Carolina, will cool to Trump in part based on worries that his election along with Robinson and Morrow could make businesses question relocating to a state that is currently riding an economic boom.

Associated Press writers Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina, Jill Colvin in New York and Darlene Superville, Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux and Matt Brown in Washington contributed to this report.



How to make an Easter ham last all week

By Katie Workman
Associated Press

The beauty of making a baked ham for Easter (or any holiday or large gathering) is that there's bound to be leftovers.

Leftover ham, which will last for up to five days in the fridge, can be a springboard for other meals during the week. Of course you'll want a sandwich or two, but there are many other ways to put that porky, smoky flavor to good use.

FREEZING IT

First off, you can always freeze leftover ham if you can't use it all within several days. Wrap it tightly in plastic wrap or some type of reusable wrap that really clings to it. Place the wrapped ham in a freezer-proof bag. Press out any excess air from the bag, seal, and freeze for up to 6 months.

You can also slice or dice your ham before freezing. Diced or sliced ham will also need to be well wrapped before freezing, and is best when used within 4 months. Don't forget to label your ham with the date.

To defrost frozen cooked ham, transfer it to the fridge and let defrost. Small pieces of cubed ham will take about a day to defrost. A larger piece of ham may take up to 2 days. Do not defrost ham at room temperature, which can allow bacteria to form.

BEST HAM SANDWICH

There are ham sandwiches, and there are Ham Sandwich Masterpieces.

My favorite version is made with toasted sourdough or country white bread, lots of crunchy lettuce, slices of an assertive firm cheese (like Provolone or sharp cheddar), coarse or grainy mustard (like Maille), mayonnaise, some verrrrrrryyyyy thinly sliced onion, and maybe a slice of tomato, if they are in season. Simple and classic.

Also, layer some ham into a grilled cheese sandwich – its own perfect kind of pleasure.

A VERSATILE ADDITION

Diced or chopped ham is a great addition to salads: Try adding a cup or so to macaroni salad, Cobb salad, potato salad or kale salad. Or make a simple ham salad with chopped ham, mayo, minced celery and onion, and a bit of mustard and relish, along with salt (be judicious – most hams are salty) and pepper.

You can also give a casserole a boost with leftover ham. Add it to dishes like baked tortellini or baked macaroni and cheese. Diced ham is a good addition to vegetable gratins and potato dishes of all kinds, such as scalloped potatoes. Quiches, soups, stir-fried rice and more. And don't forget about braised greens like collards or mustard greens.

If a recipe calls for bacon, consider using ham.

Eggs are always a perfect partner to ham, whether scrambled, in an egg sandwich, or as part of Eggs Benedict. A classic Denver omelet is a perfect way to enjoy ham in a new guise.

Not wasting food has never tasted so good.

CLASSIC DENVER OMELET

2 or 3 large eggs

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1 tablespoon unsalted butter, divided

3 tablespoons chopped cooked ham

2 tablespoons chopped onion

2 tablespoons chopped bell pepper (any color or mix of colors)

2 tablespoons shredded cheddar cheese (optional(

DIRECTIONS:

Whisk the eggs with salt and pepper in a small bowl and set aside.

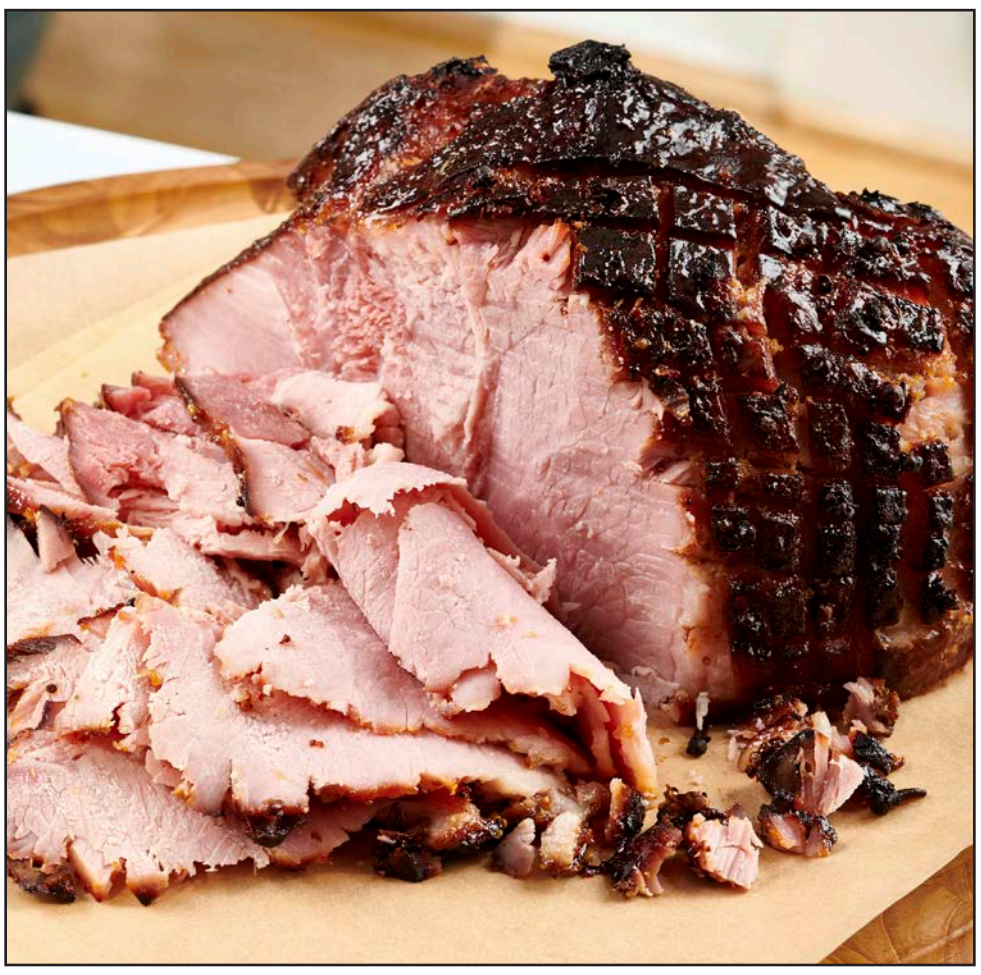
Melt half of the butter in an 8-inch omelet pan or shallow skillet, preferably nonstick, over medium-high heat. Add the ham and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 2 minutes, until it starts to brown on the edges. Add the onion and bell pepper and stir occasionally for another 3 minutes until the vegetables soften slightly. Transfer the ham and vegetables to a small bowl.

Return the pan to the heat and add the rest of the butter. Let it melt, and swirl the pan so that the butter coats the bottom evenly. Pour the eggs into the pan and quickly shake and swirl it so the eggs cover the entire bottom of the pan. Let the eggs firm up on the bottom, about 30 seconds, then use a rubber spatula to lift the edges of the omelet up, so any uncooked egg on the top runs underneath.

Sprinkle half of the eggs with the sauteed vegetables and ham and the cheese, if using, and let it cook for another 30 seconds; the top should be moist but not quite runny (unless you like it runny). Flip the untopped side of the eggs over the filling, and slide it onto a plate.

—-

Katie Workman writes regularly about food for The Associated Press. She has written two cookbooks focused on family-friendly cooking, "Dinner Solved!" and "The Mom 100 Cookbook." She blogs at themom100.com. She can be reached at Katie@themom100.com.



This September 2020 photo shows a sliced baked ham on parchment paper in Washington, D.C. Leftover ham, which will last for up to five days in the fridge, can be a springboard for other meals during the week. Of course you'll want a sandwich or two, but there are many other ways to put that porky, smoky flavor to good use.
PHOTO BY CHEYENNE COHEN VIA AP

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SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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State

From Page A1

"Real leadership takes action," he said, "and I am going to keep leading."

Plocher joins an already crowded Republican primary that includes Valentina Gomez, a real estate investor also making her first run for office; Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller; state Sen. Denny Hoskins of Warrensburg; state Rep. Adam Schwadron of St. Charles; and Jamie Corley, a longtime GOP Congressional staffer and leader of an abandoned campaign to legalize abortion.

Plocher joined the Missouri House in 2016, winning a special election for a seat vacated when then-Speaker John Diehl was forced to resign over revelations he had been sending sexually inappropriate text messages to a 19-year-old legislative intern.

During his time in the legislature, Plocher has championed bills to legalize sports betting, make it harder to amend the state constitution and lower the corporate income tax. He also pushed for legislation allowing the state to take over control of the St. Louis police department and prosecutor's office.

Prior to becoming a member of the House, Plocher served as a prosecuting attorney and municipal judge in St. Louis County. He is a graduate of Ladue Horton Watkins High School and received a degree in political science with a classical civilizations minor from Middlebury College. He received his law degree from St. Louis University.

Ethics investigation

In September, Plocher was accused of engaging in "unethical and perhaps unlawful conduct" as part of a months-long push to get the House to award an $800,000 contract to a private company to manage constituent information. Nonpartisan staff accused Plocher of threatening their jobs over criticism of the proposed contract.

A month later, The Independent reported that Plocher had on numerous occasions over the last five years illegally sought taxpayer reimbursement from the legislature for airfare, hotels and other travel costs already paid for by his campaign.

As those scandals swirled, Plocher fired his chief of staff. According to the Kansas City Star, that got the attention of the House Ethics Committee, which began looking into whether the staffer was protected as a whistleblower when he was fired.

Plocher even garnered attention from federal law enforcement, with the FBI attending the September legislative hearing where the constituent management contract was discussed and voted down. The FBI, which investigates public corruption, also conducted several interviews about Plocher.

In December, The Independent reported Plocher spent $60,000 in taxpayer money to renovate his Capitol office, including converting another lawmaker's office into a makeshift liquor cabinet Plocher referred to as his "butler's pantry."

Most recently, Plocher drew scrutiny when his office arranged Capitol meetings between key Republican lawmakers and the owner of Western Petition Systems LLC. The Oklahoma-based technology firm signed a $300,000 contract with the Oklahoma secretary of state's office in 2021 to offer technical assistance for signature verification in the initiative petition process.

Plocher downplayed the significance of the meetings and said he has no position on whether Missouri should follow Oklahoma's lead.

But the meetings, and the similarity to Plocher's unsuccessful push outside the normal bidding process to hire a private company to manage constituent data, drew criticism.

Republican state Rep. Scott Cupps said at the time that acting as an emissary for a potential vendor sounds more like the actions of a lobbyist than a legislator.

HOOVER'S
BULK FOOD STORE, LLC
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Clean

From Page A1

"I'm always trying to find a place for all the tomatoes and cucumbers, so I thought, why don't we see if anybody locally is interested?"

Hood likes to plant unusual vegetables instead of standard varieties. She grows heirloom tomatoes and peppers and purchases seeds through Baker Creek Seeds in the Ozark area. However, she does offer standard varieties as well.

"I just try to give everybody a different variety," she noted. "The candles are the start of the business (but) it's more of a niche-hobby customer base."

She added that many people want to transition to more natural products. They are often more mindful of what they put in their homes, in their bodies, and on their bodies. Wander'n Acres' products give them that opportunity.

"So, the beeswax candles are a really great clean alternative," Hood said. "And we do have bees; that is something we have recently got into.

"So, the beeswax is not from my bees, but it is sourced from through local apiaries throughout Missouri," she continued. "So, that's nice to be able to keep it full circle in Missouri."

Hood became interested in plants and gardening because she often traveled to greenhouses as a child with her grandmother, Carolyn Barbour.

"I had great-aunts who had gardens," she added. "I have just always been around a garden. The interest in the more natural approach came with having kids, wanting it to be cleaner for them."

Her goals include introducing additional plants, honey, and flowers for bouquets and local flower shops. She explained that bouquets are not always the easiest to ship or cost-effective. But they are something that can grow well in Missouri.

"One thing I'm also working on this year is dye-friendly plants," she added. "So, you have dyer's chamomile; you have certain basils; you have different plants that you can dry and essentially dye fabric with.

"There's a lot of people who are wanting these products," she continued. "They want an option to get creative in their own home. And there's a lot of wool farmers here, so if they ever wanted to purchase the dye from me, they certainly could as well."

Her ultimate goal is to become involved with a master gardening program.

Hood is available to speak about gardening or offer advice to home gardeners. She can be reached at 660-221-5030 or wandernacresmo@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/wandernacresmo or www.wandernacres.com.

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

Search

From Page A1

"Three weeks ago, they came across a lead, and they followed up on it," Knox said. "They didn't even tell me about it. I found out through the Camden County Sheriff's Office."

That most recent lead was worked by DDCC involving K9s and a forensic team. Unfortunately, this latest search resulted in no additional information in the Lloyd case.

"It is our heartfelt desire by every member of the BCSO that evidence will come in that will help the DDCC solve this case," Knox said.

"As time goes by, somebody's going to talk," Knox predicted. "Somebody's going to slip something, somebody's going to brag, some ex-girlfriend relationship gone bad, somebody's going to say something."

Knox is asking anyone with information on the missing woman to come forward.

"My door is always open," Knox said. "Somebody knows something. Please come forward and give Echo's family and loved ones the peace they deserve."

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol at 573-751-3452, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse at 866-362-6422, or Benton County Central Dispatch at 660-438-9555.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146

THE WEATHER

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
54 / 35	66 / 46	74 / 55	70 / 52	73 / 59	73 / 40	54 / 40
Mostly sunny and warmer	Sunny and warmer	Breezy with clouds and sun	Low clouds	Cloudy, a shower; warm	Partly sunny and breezy	Mostly sunny and cooler

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:05 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:32 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:09 p.m.
Moonset today	8:04 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 23

WEATHER HISTORY

A great storm buried the Dakotas under knee-deep snow on March 27, 1950. Dumont, S.D., received 38 inches, the greatest 24-hour snowfall in South Dakota history.

ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Monday

TEMPERATURES

High	61
Low	46
Normal high	58
Normal low	35
Record high	87 in 1938
Record low	-3 in 1974

PRECIPITATION

Monday	Trace
Month to date	1.88"
Normal m-t-d	2.14"
Year to date	4.02"
Normal y-t-d	6.29"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

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

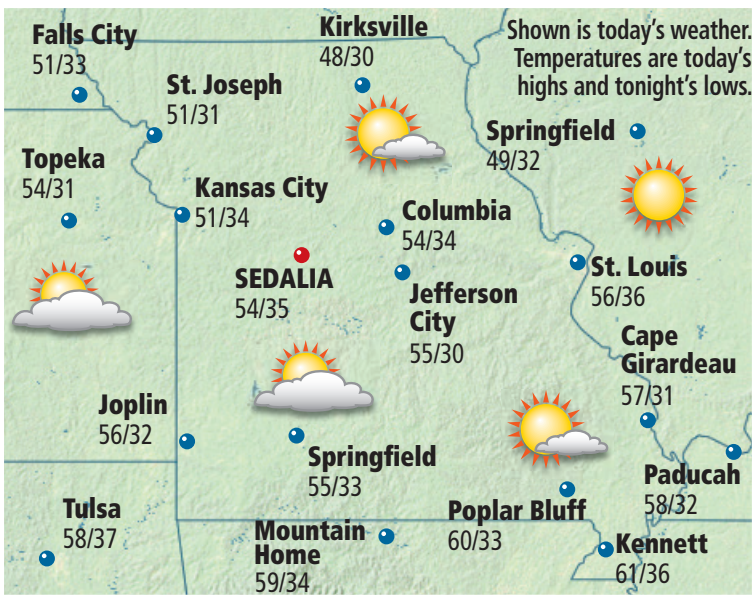
Monday	11
Month to date	343
Season to date	3434
Normal season to date	4674
Last season to date	3884

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Tuesday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.04	-0.02	24
Valley City	2.63	none	22
Lamine			
Otterville	1.29	+0.03	15
Missouri			
Boonville	4.30	+0.33	21

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2024



BRANSON

High: 59. **Low:** 35. Mostly sunny and warmer today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow. Friday: mostly sunny and warm. Saturday: clouds and sun.

KANSAS CITY

High: 51. **Low:** 34. Warmer today with partial sunshine. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny and milder tomorrow.

ST. LOUIS

High: 56. **Low:** 36. Sunny and warmer today. Clear tonight. Warmer tomorrow with plenty of sunshine. Friday: clouds and sun. Saturday: considerable cloudiness.

NEW YORK CITY

High: 54. **Low:** 47. Cloudy today with a brief shower or two. Periods of rain tonight. Periods of rain tomorrow; there can be ponding on roadways.

LOS ANGELES

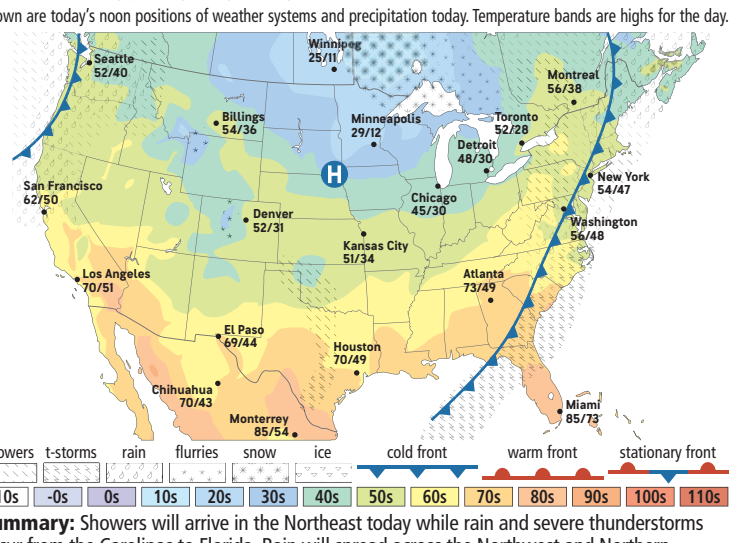
High: 70. **Low:** 51. Pleasant today with intervals of clouds and sunshine. Partly cloudy this evening followed by areas of low clouds late.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thursday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	73/49/pc	69/44/c
Baltimore	53/47/sh	56/40/r
Billings	54/36/s	59/31/c
Boston	53/47/sh	51/42/r
Buffalo	49/33/c	46/30/c
Charlotte	69/52/r	67/39/r
Chicago	45/30/s	51/35/s
Cleveland	50/32/pc	50/32/s
Dallas	66/44/t	72/55/s
Denver	52/31/s	64/36/pc
Detroit	48/30/pc	51/28/s
Honolulu	84/72/sh	83/73/sh
Houston	70/49/pc	78/55/s
Indianapolis	50/32/s	57/38/s
Las Vegas	72/56/s	75/53/pc
Milwaukee	44/28/s	49/28/s
Nashville	62/36/s	67/39/s
New Orleans	74/54/pc	72/53/s
Norfolk	56/50/sh	54/44/r
Oklahoma City	51/35/c	65/51/s
Orlando	86/69/c	82/58/t
Phoenix	77/53/s	83/56/pc
Pittsburgh	60/34/sh	52/33/pc
Portland, ME	49/38/r	45/39/r
Portland, OR	57/45/r	56/44/r
Sacramento	61/49/r	63/46/c
St. Louis	56/36/s	68/46/s
San Francisco	62/50/r	61/49/c
Seattle	52/40/r	52/41/r
Washington, DC	56/48/sh	55/41/r

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

Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Summary: Showers will arrive in the Northeast today while rain and severe thunderstorms occur from the Carolinas to Florida. Rain will spread across the Northwest and Northern California.



THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Why we need a jolt of joy



Gwen Rockwood
Contributing Columnist

For months now, I've been eating breakfast with a goose.

He's not loud or messy and doesn't even beg for bites of my toast. He's a low-maintenance goose, and he lives on a magnet I put on the metal breadbox in my kitchen.

A few years ago, I wouldn't have even considered bringing a silly goose into my newly remodeled kitchen. I wanted it to look "high-end." If we were going to spend money on remodeling, I reasoned, the end result better look like something straight out of a magazine layout. For a while, it did.

But time is chilling me out day by day. Circumstances sand down my rigid rules about how things should be. Life shows me how important it is to surround myself with little jolts of joy, regardless of whether they fit the overall design.

That's what came to mind when I spotted that little magnet that happened to be outlined in the same color as my mint green breadbox. It was silly, yes. In fact, it even says so right there by the bird – "Silly Goose." But it makes me smile, and I enjoy him each morning when I make toast. He reminds me that even when life gets hard, sometimes it's okay to be a silly goose. Not only is it okay, it's downright therapeutic.

Apparently, I'm not the only one choosing fun over fancy. The recent trend in "dopamine decorating" involves using items, colors, textures, or even smells that make you feel good. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter in the brain, also known as the "feel-good" hormone. It makes us happy, alert and focused.

What's great about dopamine decorating is that it's hard to do it wrong. The only guideline is to choose things that jumpstart that jolt of joy. It might be a favorite color or something nostalgic. It might be a bit of whimsy (like a silly goose guarding the bread box). Or it might be a collection of photos where you and your favorite people are genuinely having fun (not just nicely posed). If you're confused about what to look for, don't worry. You'll know it when you feel it.

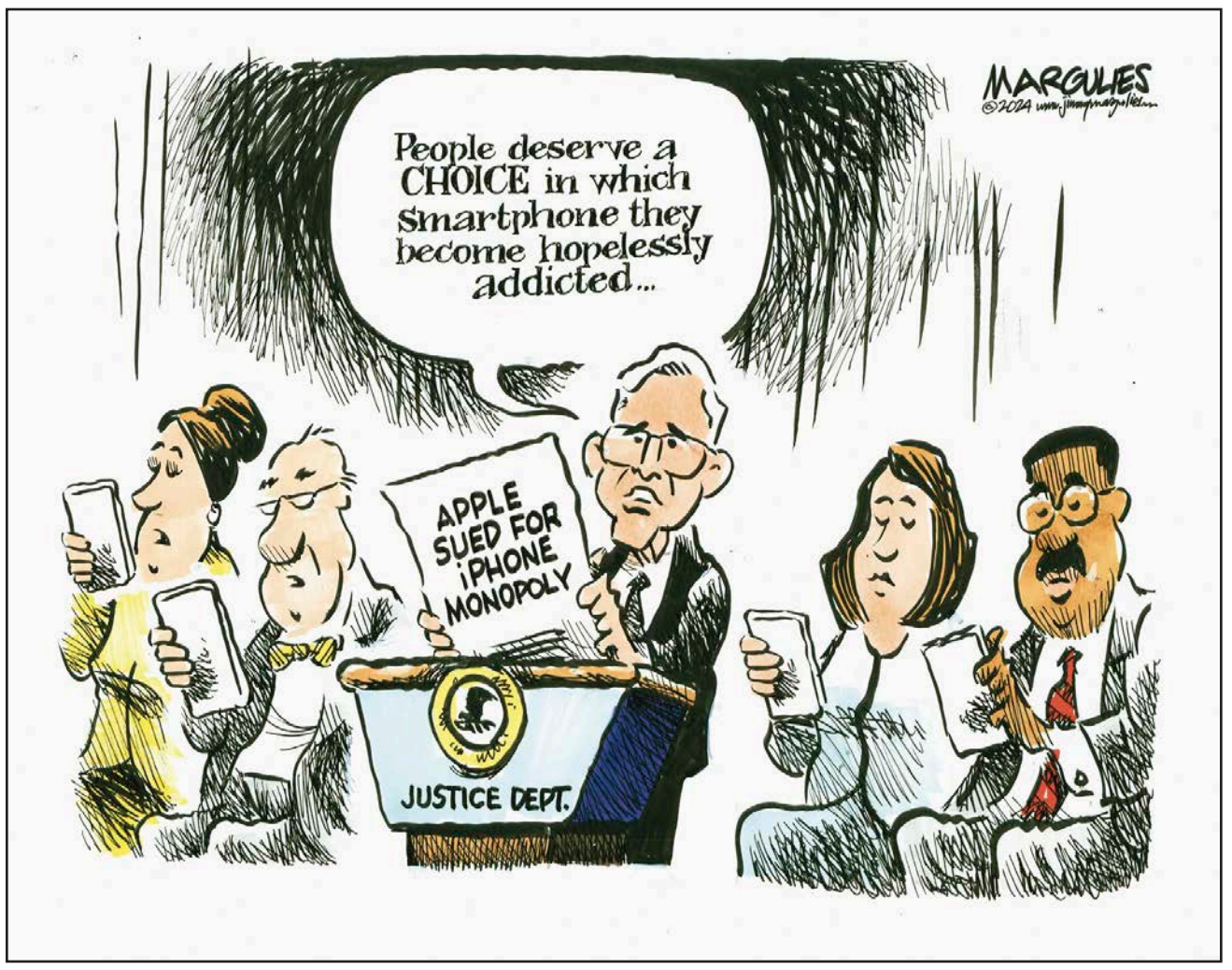
On a larger scale, a nonprofit group called Bloomberg Philanthropies is taking this feel-good decorating concept to the street. Four years ago, the group began the "Asphalt Art Initiative" to use artwork and design to spruce up public spaces and improve street safety at the same time. And it works! According to an article published in The Washington Post, researchers studied the past two years of crash history at 17 sites in America where asphalt art and ground murals were created. The sites with art-filled, colorful crosswalks had a more than 50% decrease in crashes compared to the time before their makeovers by local artists.

Maybe this is proof that people slow down for a jolt of joy. We look around. We notice. We marvel at what a delightful departure it is in a sea of otherwise bleak blacktop. We need moments to remember what creative, inspired humans like us can do when we stop taking ourselves too seriously.

Here's a tip if you need help figuring out how to get started. Pay attention to the things that already draw your attention. Jot them down or take a picture. Look for things in the same color as your favorite shirt. Notice what feels incredible to touch. And listen when you read or hear something that makes you laugh out loud. Your life needs more of that. Figure out how to incorporate it into what you see each day. Let joy abound in the spaces of your most lived-in places.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I must go because I have an important appointment – to have toast with a very silly goose.

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Local crimes had long reach



Rhonda Chalfant
Contributing Columnist

In late September 1902, thieves broke into the Terry Brothers Hardware Store in La Monte and escaped with a large amount of merchandise.

On the night of Oct. 7, 1902, thieves entered R.T. Williams' general store in Hiattville, Kansas, and stole a great deal of merchandise.

During the night, three men woke R.W. Morrison of Pawnee Station, Kansas, and asked him to open his general store so they could purchase some patent medicine for a sick female friend. Morrison got the medicine and handed it through the door to the men.

One of the men hit Morrison on the head with a pick handle. Morrison fell to the floor, unconscious.

The men took $500 from the store, the Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellows Lodge, and the U.S. Post Office, all of which used the store building.

When Morrison began to come to, one of the men slit his throat. They rode away and left him dead.

On Oct. 24, the Sedalia Weekly Democrat printed a story of robbery, murder, and attempted murder that ended with "two men…safely locked up in the Pettis County Jail" and another man accused of robbery and murder, "hiding in the woods near Windsor with his anatomy perforated with buckshot."

On Friday, Oct. 17, Pettis County Constable Robb heard that the men who burglarized the Terry Brothers' store were hiding out near Windsor. He and Deputy Constable Tom Robb went to Henry County, where they met with Constable Sam Majors. They decided to go and look for the thieves, accompanied by John Richardson, who knew the people and the area well.

Richardson led the men to a cabin in the woods eight miles from Windsor being used by Sam and John Butcher. The posse arrived at the Butcher cabin, but found no one there except a "young girl" who was Sam Butcher's sister-in-law and Charles Bradshaw's daughter. She told the posse the men were in town.

The posse began to search the cabin. They found stolen merchandise belonging to the Terry Bothers' store and to R.T. Williams' store. Buried in a hog pen at the back of the cabin, they found a large box of assorted goods.

The posse took the stolen merchandise, except for some "fine dress goods," to Windsor.

On Saturday afternoon, the posse went to the Butcher brothers' home in Windsor. They surprised Sam Butcher, who was an ex-convict, and arrested him. Sheriff Majors took him to the Henry County Jail until he could be transported to Sedalia.

At 4:30 Sunday morning, the posse, armed with "double barreled shotguns and revolvers," drove to the Butcher cabin in the woods. They arrived at daybreak, surrounded the cabin, and called for the occupants to "come out."

John Butcher started to come out, but when he saw the posse, he closed and barred the door.

Constable Robb heard a noise behind him and turned to face Charles Bradshaw, well-known in Sedalia as a criminal recently released from the Kansas Penitentiary in Lansing.

Bradshaw was holding a .44 caliber revolver. He shouted to Robb, who started to fire. John Richardson, who was with Robb, fired both barrels of his shotgun. Bradshaw got up, started to run, fell again, got up again, and ran into the woods.

The posse surrounded the house and shouted to John Butcher to come out or they "would burn the house over his head." Butcher complied and was handcuffed by Constable Robb.

The posse returned to Sedalia and placed the Butchers in the Pettis County Jail.

The next day, they learned that Bradshaw's sister had come to the drug store in Windsor and bought medicines, including a bottle of liniment. She was followed by Constable Majors, who hoped to find Bradshaw's hiding place.

Constable Robb praised Majors as "the bravest officer in Missouri."

An officer in Hiattville, Kansas, telegraphed Constable Robb that David Bradshaw, Charles Bradshaw's brother, had been arrested that day and was in their jail.

Thus almost ends the story of the arrest of a group of vicious men living in a society that believed itself to be civilized and cultured.

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



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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recent letter needed more context

Dear Editor:

I read Sharyn Fante-Hession's letter in the March 6 edition and am enormously disappointed with the Sedalia Democrat editor's decision to publish it without at least addressing a few items that mischaracterize Doug Kneibert's writings and positions. I hope Fante-Hession will take the time to speak with him before writing a similar letter in the future.

Calling President Biden's efforts "a little clunky" in turning over documents he should not have possessed while referring to former President Trump as a "wannabe dictator" shows that Fante-Hession's letter is little more than a partisan screed as opposed to an effort to get closer to the truth of what happened with each case of classified documents. She proves this point later in her letter when she refers to Trump as "the former guy."

She clearly has not either spoken with or even read Kneibert's columns if she thinks he is a Trump fan. I would direct her to his columns from the following print editions of the paper: "The underside of Donald Trump's bus" from Oct. 14, "Two sides to legal woes of Trump" from Sept. 9, "Republicans should resist isolationism" from April 15, and "How to mishandle classified material" from March 22. These are only his columns from the last year where he has been critical of former President Trump.

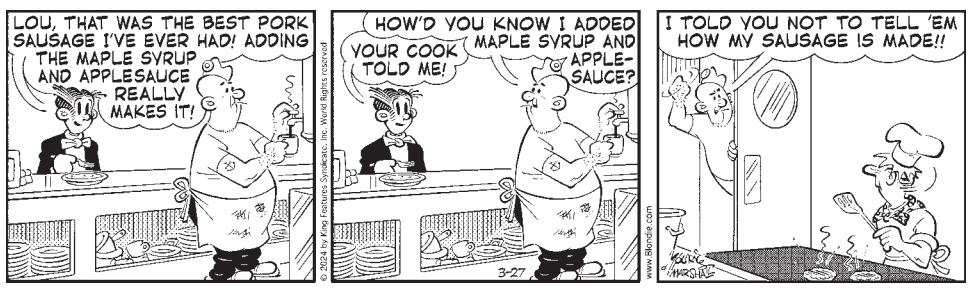
It is my understanding that Fante-Hession is relatively new to Pettis County and may be unfamiliar with Kneibert's work over the last five decades. I would recommend she research and talk with others about his career both at the newspaper and in the community. She will find that many longtime Democrats in the area value and respect Kneibert's work and his willingness to share his perspective even while disagreeing with it at times.

Should Fante-Hession take the time to speak with him about former President Trump and any other number of topics, I think she will learn why so many continue to read and respect Doug Kneibert's work.

Kevin Lujin
Sedalia

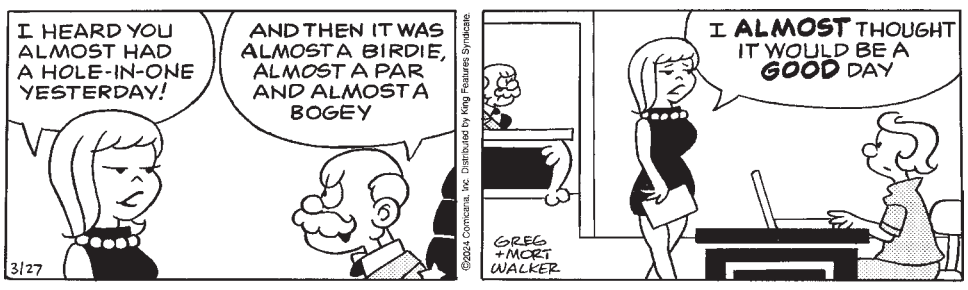
BLONDIE

By Dean Young and John Marshall



BEETLE BAILEY

by Greg Walker, Brian Walker and Neal Walker



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Chris Browne



ZITS

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



HI AND LOIS

Written by Brian & Greg Walker; Drawn by Chance Browne



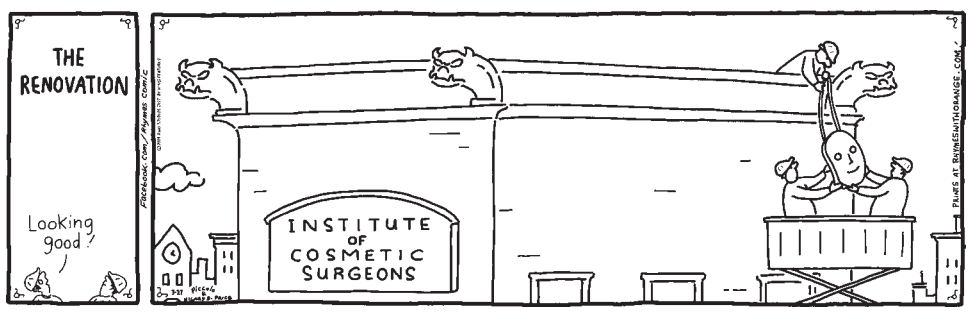
PARDON MY PLANET

By Vic Lee



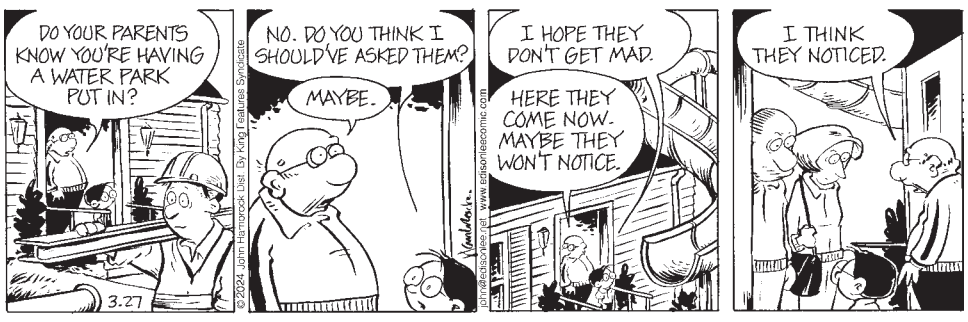
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

By Hilary Price



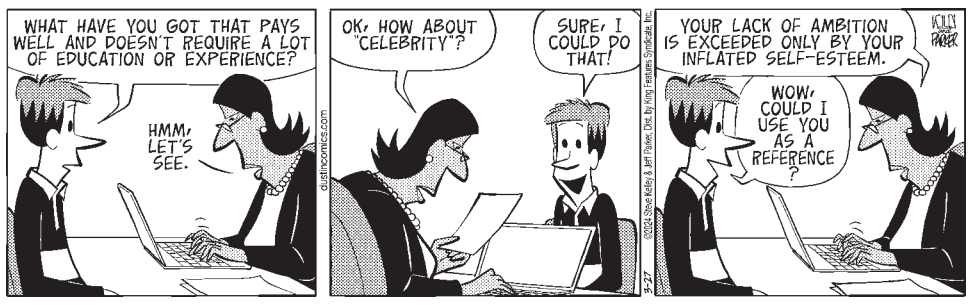
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

By John Hambrock



DUSTIN

By steve kelley & Jeff parker



DENNIS THE MENACE

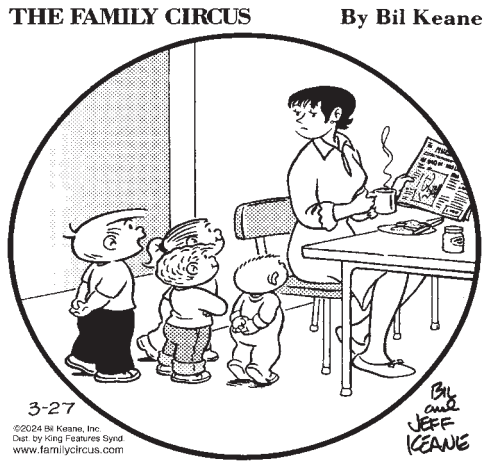
By Hank Ketcham



"RUFF NEVER BITES THE HAND THAT FEEDS HIM. HE JUST LICKS IT CLEAN!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, make that face you made for your driver's license picture."

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

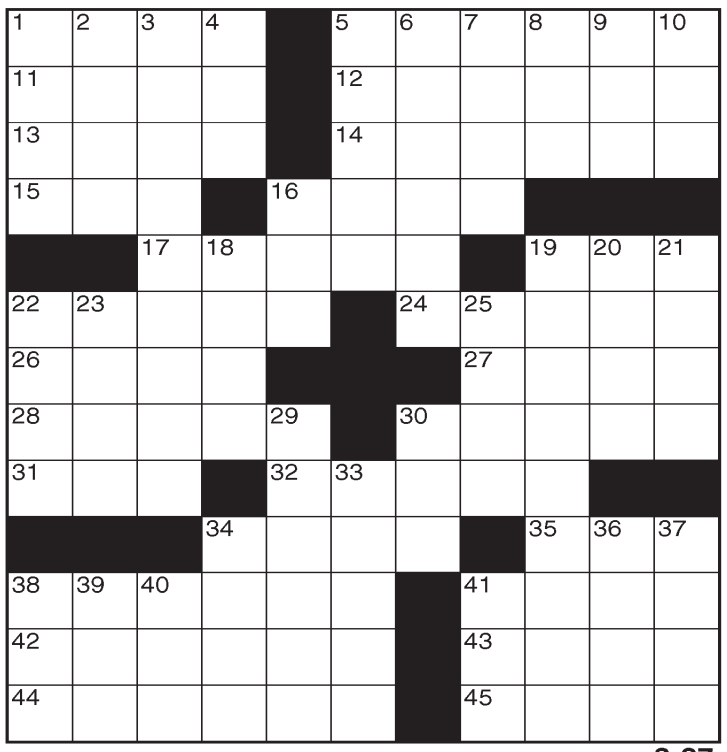
1 Unexciting
5 The Milky Way, e.g.
11 Shortly, in poems
12 Infant outfit
13 Poker game
14 Select on the radio dial
15 Model buy
16 Triangular sails
17 Half of Hispaniola
19 Urgent call
22 Boring
24 Cone fill
26 River to the Severn
27 Greek liqueur
28 Ceases
30 Sacred song
31 Pub pint
32 Suppress
34 Supply with cash
35 Young seal
38 Luau setting
41 Tedious fellow
42 "King of the Trumpet"
43 Radius partner
44 Newscast segment
45 Cubicle fixture

DOWN

1 Chore
2 Opposed to
3 Ski mask feature
4 Purpose
5 "I understand"
6 Jackal-headed god
7 Microscope part
8 Enzyme suffix
9 Noon, on a clock
10 Desire
16 Huck's friend
18 Pop's sister
19 Low point, of a sort
20 Seep
21 Location
22 "Very funny!"
23 Track shape
25 Dove calls
29 Use a water pistol
30 Enraged
33 Feet and meters
34 Ump's call
36 Coffee dispensers
37 Summit
38 Possesses
39 Swiss summit
40 Question of identity
41 Future flower

A	C	M	E	■	■	S	H	I	P	S
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O	N	E	■	B	A	T	■	I	L	L
R	E	M	A	R	K	■	A	B	E	T
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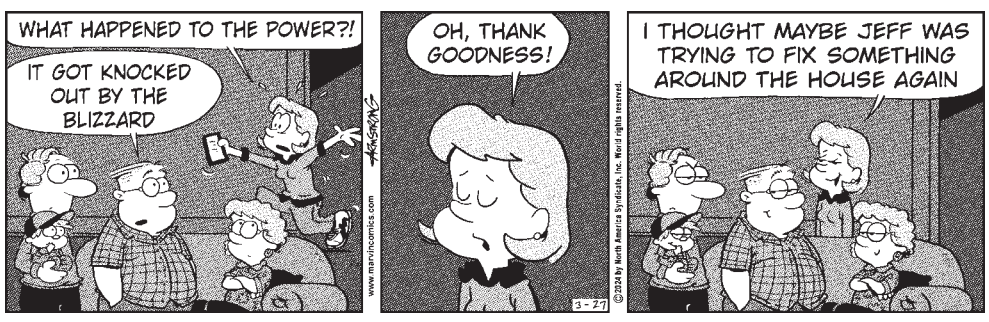
Yesterday's answer



3-27

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro



King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 3/27

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ 3/26

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New head coach helping improve inexperienced S-C golf team

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

When Craig Harvey found out he was going to be Smith-Cotton's next head golf coach, he could hardly contain his excitement.

"I was ecstatic. I mean, it was something I wanted to do for quite a while and I was excited to get there," Harvey said. "I was excited to get to work and try to recruit and get more players out for the program."

Harvey had been a football coach for 10 years, a basketball coach for three years and coached track for a year before becoming the head golf coach for both the girls and boys teams.

Harvey said being a part of the golf program is just something he has always wanted to do.

"I just enjoy the game of golf. I enjoy being out here," he said. "I enjoy having more one-on-one interactions with each individual and walking with them. I love getting to know these kids as we're walking to holes and stuff like that."

Harvey was successful in bringing in some new faces to the boys' team, which has doubled from four players to nine this season.

Harvey said he is thrilled to have this many players on the team, but many are new to golf.

Last week, the team had its first match of the season and took eight players to the meet. Harvey said for five of those players, it was their first high school match ever.

"So, there's a lot of newness for them. There will definitely be some learning curves and stuff, but they're out here playing all the time," Harvey said. "They put in all kinds of extra work, so we're getting better."

Senior Brayden Butts said it has been fun learning from his first-year head coach and that he has definitely noticed some changes.

"Practices have been different from previous years. I think we've worked on a lot of different types of scenarios that we're going to see on the course," Butts said. "I think it's been pretty good so far and I think we'll learn a lot from what he has taught us."

Harvey has been trying to instill in the boys team the importance of a good short game.

"We've been practicing the last 100 yards and in, so being able to shoot par from 100 yards and in with irons and putters," Harvey said. "That's where they are going to have the most success in scoring."



First-year head golf coach Craig Harvey laughs with the Smith-Cotton boys golf team after the team's match against Warrensburg at Sedalia Country Club Monday night. PHOTOS BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

The team got some work in Monday night as they competed in a nine-hole head-to-head match against Warrensburg.

The top four golfers were scored on each team. The Tigers lost to Warrensburg 185-189.

Butts was the top scorer for the Tigers and tied for first overall in the match as he shot a 42.

Senior Dayne Hart shot a 44, which was good for a tie for second place in the match.

Senior Findlay Hume came in third on the team with a 51, while freshman Carter Robinson finished with a 52.

Despite the loss, Hart said the depth of the team really showed.

"I think we've improved a lot from last year because we only had four, sometimes five last year," Hart said. "But we have nine this year and a bunch of freshmen. So, we'll get better eventually."

Hume said it's been a soggy and cold start to the season for the Tigers so far, and hopes the next match will come on a sunny day.

Hume also set some target numbers he wants to see the team reach in their matches for the rest of the season.

"I think for the [top] four varsity members, we should try to shoot in the low 40s, and as a team score, try to get 350 in total through 18 holes," Hume said.

The team's next match is at 4 p.m. Friday against Blair Oaks and Versailles.

Coaches, please send game results, stats and any schedule changes to jackd@sedaliademocrat.com.



Senior Dayne Hart hits his tee shot during the Smith-Cotton boys golf team's match against Warrensburg at Sedalia Country Club Monday night. Hart tied for second place by shooting a 44 in the nine-hole match.



Senior Findlay Hume putts during the Smith-Cotton boys golf team's match against Warrensburg at Sedalia Country Club Monday night. Hume shot a 51 in the nine-hole match.

Raptors player at the center of NBA gambling investigation

By Tim Reynolds
AP Basketball Writer



Toronto Raptors center Jontay Porter, right, pulls in a rebound as Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 11, 2024, in Denver. PHOTO BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI | AP PHOTO

The NBA has opened an investigation into Toronto two-way player Jontay Porter amid gambling allegations, something Raptors coach Darko Rajaković said he became aware of shortly before the team's game on Monday night.

A league spokesman confirmed that the probe had been opened. ESPN first reported the investigation, which it said surrounded Porter's performance in games on Jan. 26 and March 20. In both games, Porter played briefly before leaving citing injury or illness.

Porter played 4 minutes and 24 seconds against the Los Angeles Clippers in the first of those games, then played 2:43 against Sacramento in the second game.

"I never doubt injuries. I never doubt honestly from players," Rajaković said. "Obviously, I've never had a situation like this before."

In both of those games, Porter did not come close to hitting the prop-wager lines for points, rebounds and 3-pointers that bettors could play. ESPN said the props surrounding Porter for the Clippers game were 5.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.5 assists; he finished with no points, three rebounds and one assist. For the Kings game, they were around 7.5 points and 5.5 rebounds; Porter finished that game with no points and two rebounds.

Porter was away from the Raptors for Monday's home game against Brooklyn, with the team citing personal reasons. He also was out for Saturday's loss at Washington, again for personal reasons. His locker was empty ahead of Monday's game against the Nets, although his nameplate was still in place.

See RAPTORS | A12

NFL to adopt XFL's kickoff format

By Rob Maaddi
AP Pro Football Writer



Rich McKay, Atlanta Falcons CEO and Competition Committee Chairman, addresses reporters about rules changes at the NFL owners meetings, Monday, March 25, 2024, in Orlando, Fla. PHOTO BY PHELAN M. EBENHACK | AP PHOTO

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kickoff returns are returning to the NFL.

Team owners on Tuesday approved a new rule that will take what essentially had become "a dead play" and make it an integral part of the game again.

"We feel this is a great day for the NFL," said Saints special teams coordinator Darren Rizzi, who was heavily involved in creating the framework for the new hybrid kickoff.

The major overhaul to special teams — which has been in the works for years — takes elements of the kickoff rules used in the XFL and tweaks them for use in the NFL beginning in 2024. The rule will be in play for one season on a trial basis and then be subject to renewal in 2025.

NFL Competition Committee chairman Rich McKay said the new rule passed by a 29-3 to vote.

"There was a little fear of the unknown," McKay said. "I think the optics are definitely the most drastic (rule change) we've seen. The thing that gives us all the comfort is we have the tape, we've seen it. We can show you the plays and you can see how this can play out."

McKay said there was urgency to vote on this rule before the draft because it could impact the way teams structure rosters. There were 1,970 touchbacks on kickoffs last season that now could be returns. There were 92 fair catches last season that are no longer allowed. Any ball caught in the field of play must be returned.

"The kickoff returners' value is gonna skyrocket," Cowboys special teams coach John Fassel said.

For a standard kickoff, the ball would be kicked from the 35-yard line with the 10 kick coverage players lined up at the opposing 40, with five on each side of the field.

See KICKOFF | A12

SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday
ON TAP
BASEBALL
4:30 p.m. Sacred Heart at Kingsville

5 p.m. Concordia at La Monte

Lincoln at Warsaw

Otterville at Santa Fe

SOFTBALL
2 p.m. State Fair Community College at Jefferson College

4 p.m. State Fair Community College at Jefferson College

5 p.m. Concordia at La Monte

Lincoln at Tipton

GIRLS SOCCER
5 p.m. Blair Oaks at Sacred Heart

TENNIS
4:30 p.m. Smith-Cotton at Capitol City

GOLF
4 p.m. Lincoln/Windsor/Sacred Heart at Cole Camp

ON AIR
AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
7 p.m. NHLN — Rockford at Chicago

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL
3:30 a.m. (Thursday)

FS2 — AFL: Collingwood at Brisbane

COLLEGE BASEBALL
7 p.m. PAC-12N — Seattle at Oregon

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
4 p.m. ESPN2 — CBI Tournament: TBD, Championship, Daytona Beach, Fla.

6 p.m. ESPN2 — NIT Tournament: UNLV at Seton Hall, Quarterfinal, St. Joseph, Mo.

8 p.m. ESPN2 — NIT Tournament: VCU at Utah, Quarterfinal, St. Joseph, Mo.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
6 p.m. CBSSN — NCAA Division II Tournament: TBD, Semfinal

8:30 p.m. CBSSN — NCAA Division II Tournament: TBD, Semfinal

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)
3 p.m. ESPNU — Loyola (Md.) at Syracuse

5 p.m. BTN — Penn St. at Maryland

6 p.m. ACCN — Xavier at Louisville

GOLF
2:30 a.m. (Thursday) GOLF — DP World Tour: The Hero Indian Open, First Round, DLF Golf & Country Club — The Gary Player Course, New Delhi, India

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOY'S)
9 a.m. NBATV — The Throne National Championship: Kell (Ga.) vs. Vikings (N.C.), First Round, East Rutherford, N.J.

10:45 a.m. NBATV — The Throne National Championship: Panthers (Texas) vs. Eagles (Ill.), First Round, East Rutherford, N.J.

12:15 p.m. NBATV — The Throne National Championship: Grayson (Ga.) vs. Jackson Redd (Washington), First Round, East Rutherford, N.J.

2 p.m. NBATV — The Throne National Championship: Ridge View (S.C.) vs. Camden (N.J.), First Round, East Rutherford, N.J.

3:30 p.m. NBATV — The Throne National Championship: TBD, First Round, East Rutherford, N.J.

NBA BASKETBALL
6:40 p.m. ESPN — LA Clippers at Philadelphia

9:05 p.m. ESPN — Phoenix at Denver

NHL HOKCEY
6:30 p.m. TNT — Boston at Tampa Bay

TENNIS
12 p.m. TENNIS — Miami-ATP/WTA Quarterfinals

6 p.m. TENNIS — Miami-ATP/WTA Quarterfinals



Vegas Golden Knights' Michael Amadio (22) and St. Louis Blues' Colton Parayko (55) battle for a loose puck as Blues goaltender Jordan Binnington (50) watches during the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 25, 2024, in St. Louis. PHOTO BY JEFF ROBERSON | AP PHOTO

Blues fall to Golden Knights in overtime

By David Solomon
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jonathan Marchessault scored 49 seconds into overtime and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the St. Louis Blues 2-1 Monday night for their third straight win.

Pavel Dorofeyev also scored and Logan Thompson stopped 30 shots to help Vegas win for the sixth time in its last eight games. The Golden Knights moved five points ahead of the Blues for the final Western Conference wild card.

"I think the word is clutch that we're looking for," Vegas center William Karlsson said about Thompson. "They were clutch and obviously a huge save there on their penalty shot in OT. That's what we need from the goalies at this time of year."

Brandon Saad scored and Jordan Binnington finished with 32 saves for St. Louis, which had won two straight games and five of its last seven.

"They're a good team." Blues captain Brayden Schenn said. "We played them hard. We're going to carry the momentum over to the next game. This team isn't going to quit fighting. We're going to go all the way to the finish, and still believe in here we can make the playoffs."

The Blues' Pavel Buchnevich was awarded a penalty shot 30 seconds into overtime after Noah Hanifin tripped him on breakaway. Thompson denied him with a glove save to keep the score deadlocked at 1-1.

"Certainly he's a player you want that opportunity," Blues interim coach Drew Bannister said. "The goalie made a good save. That's part of the game. We had the opportunities. In the third period, we had some good looks and the goalie was able to keep the puck out of the net. But it wasn't from the lack of opportunities. We had them. We had to finish on our chances."

Just 19 seconds later, Marchessault picked up a loose puck behind the Blues' net while William Karlsson fended off two players along the end boards, brought it out on the left side and settled it before firing his 39th goal of the season past Binnington.

"He's a big goal type of guy," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. "He is always going to rise up to the moment. That's one thing about (Marchessault), no matter if he's had a great game an average game or a poor game, he's always going to be ready to go when the bright lights are on and tonigh was no different."

Saad scored his 23rd goal of the season with 5:07 remaining in regulation to tie the game 1-all.

Blues center Oskar Sundqvist left the game with a lower body injury after being checked into the boards by Bryaden McNabb 9:50 into the second period. That left St. Louis with 10 forwards with Bannister electing to dress 11 forwards and seven defensemen. Bannister did not have an update on Sundqvist's status after the game.

"He's the heart and soul of this team, a warrior that brings it every single night," Blues defenseman Torey Krug said. "You know what you're going to get out of him. Any time you see a guy like that go down, you feel for him. I think guys in the room were hoping it was nothing going to be serious and we were just trying to push to get a win for him tonight."

W-K ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

The Sedalia Democrat is pleased to announce Gavin Caldwell and Alle Case as players of the week for Sunday, March 17 to Saturday, March 23.



Sacred Heart senior Gavin Caldwell hit two home runs, including a grand slam in the Gremlins' 15-0 win against Versailles Monday.



Smith-Cotton sophomore Alle Case scored two goals in the girls soccer team's home opening 8-0 win against Chillicothe Tuesday.





HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: After 5:30 a.m. EDT today (2:30 a.m. PDT), there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Scorpio.

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, March 27, 2024:

You have a unique style. Many of you dress in a memorable way. You are passionate about any causes and always independent. This is a quieter, slower year for you. Take time to catch your breath. Focus on encouraging relationships with 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)

★★★★ Discussions about shared property, taxes, debt, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with someone else will go well today because you're pumped and confident. You'll have no trouble defending your own best interests when talking to others. Tonight: Check paperwork.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today you have a strong energy, which is why you might inspire others to follow your ideas, especially when dealing with groups or members of an organization. Possibly, you will attract someone to you who has this energy. (It can work both ways.) Listen to what others have to say. Tonight: Cooperate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ This is a productive day for you. You have the enthusiasm and inner drive to accomplish what you want to do. This might relate to your job; however, it also might relate to something to do with a personal health issue. You also might be involved with a pet today. Who knows? Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is a playful day! Make sure you take some time today to have fun, even if it's just stopping for a coffee to read a book or enjoy the view. Sports events, the theater, movies and playful activities with children are excellent choices. Some of you will be excited about romance. Woot! Tonight: Socialize!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today you feel invigorated and enthusiastic about making home improvements. Quite literally, you'll have the energy to start shoving furniture around or doing something that excites you about making a change for the better where you live. Tonight: Entertain.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your communication skills are fantastic today, which is why you'll be persuasive and convincing in any discussion with others. Obviously, this bodes well for any of you who are in sales, marketing, teaching, acting, writing or editing. Tonight: Discussions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Don't dismiss moneymaking ideas that might cross your mind today; they could be worthwhile. In fact, this is an excellent time to initiate something; however, this window will be brief. You will also be strong in all your financial negotiations. Tonight: Maintain your possessions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with fiery Mars, which makes you courageous and confident! This is why you will be a natural leader today, especially with groups of people. They will listen to what you say, because you will radiate an inner excitement about your ideas. Tonight: You win!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Although this is a playful week for you, today you might enjoy some seclusion or privacy. You feel the urge to "get away from all this." Therefore, look for ways to indulge your need to have some quiet time. Find a nice place with good food and drink. Tonight: Solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Discussions with a friend or a group will be lively today because you have strong opinions. This is why you might suddenly be the leader of the pack. People will listen to what you want to achieve. Possibly, you will encounter someone with this same vibrant energy. Tonight: Popularity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today your energy level is high and people notice this. This is also why you won't hesitate to talk to bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Make your pitch, because this is a good day to initiate something new, especially if it will be finished quickly. Tonight: Be courteous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

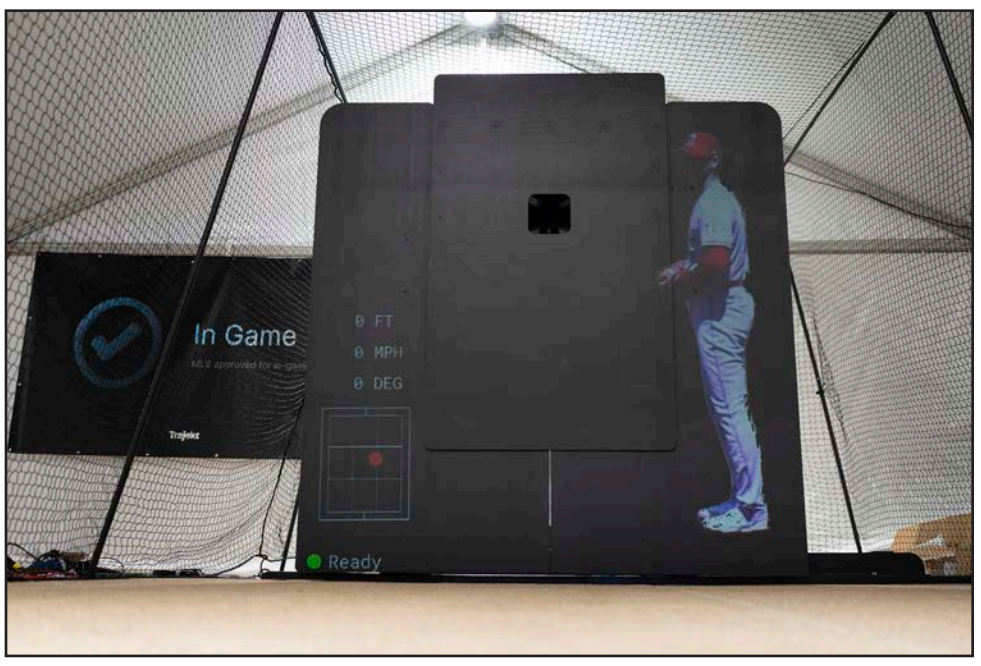
★★★★ Follow your urge to learn new things today. For example, you will appreciate a chance to travel and see more of the world — be it close or far. Likewise, you will love to learn new things by studying or "traveling" through books and film. Romance with someone "different" might begin. Tonight: Explore!

BORN TODAY

Singer-songwriter Mariah Carey (1969), singer-songwriter Fergie (1975), singer, actress Pauley Perrette (1969)

Robotic pitching machine mimics every pitcher

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer



The Trajekt Arc pitching machine is demonstrated during the Major League Baseball winter meetings Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.
PHOTO BY GEORGE WALKER IV | AP PHOTO

TAMPA, Fla. — Nestor Cortes got behind the plate in a batting cage and watched an 8-foot-high, 1,200-pound robot spit out fastballs, cutters and sweepers just like the ones spinning off the fingertips of his left hand.

"It was like seeing myself pitch. That was crazy," the New York Yankees All-Star left-hander said.

Technology has come a long way since the days of the Iron Mike.

The Trajekt Arc pitching machine uses baseball's high-tech data to mimic the way balls break from every big league pitcher and has been approved by Major League Baseball for in-game use this year in batting cages. Using video of deliveries and data, the robot allows a hitter to step in against recreated offerings from any pitcher he wants to face. Dodgers two-way star Shohei Ohtani said he used Trajekt to view his pitches from a different vantage point.

"You're training their brain. You're training their eyes," Philadelphia hitting coach Kevin Long said.

Each machine costs $15,000 to $20,000 a month as part of a three-year lease, an unimaginable leap forward from the pitching gun invented by Princeton mathematics professor Charles Howard Hinton in 1896 that looked like a 2 1/2-foot-long cannon.

Paul Giovagnoli turned the concept into a business. He owned golf driving ranges in Wichita and Topeka, Kansas, wanted to add baseball and created what become known as the Iron Mike. Giovagnoli founded Master Pitching Machine in 1952, and its units with long metal arms became omnipresent throughout the majors.

By the mid-1970s, machines with spinning wheels entered the market, the better to replicate breaking balls, and the Yankees had three at $1,600 each at spring training in 1978.

Those models have gone the way of flannel uniforms.

Spinball Sports' iPitch Smart Machine retails for $14,000 and is programmed with 16 built-in pitchers with 140 pitches. Company sales manager Sam Root says there are more than 100 of its iPitch machines among 27 MLB teams and units are at 15 Division I college conferences.

SportsAttack's Elite eHack Attack comes with fastballs, changeups, split-fingers and right and left curveballs and sliders, and allows customized pitches and storage for 20 favorites. It retails for $14,999.

Joshua Pope took it a step further. He was a senior at TanenbaumCHAT high school in Toronto in 2014 and was talking with friends about how many swings it would take for them to get a hit off Marcus Stroman, then a top Toronto Blue Jays rookie. Having had a couple shoulder surgeries, Pope knew his career wouldn't be as an athlete. He applied to the University of Waterloo in Ontario in part because John McPhee, a mechanical engineering professor there, had developed a hockey slapshot robot.

"We had a theoretical modeling approach to how we could create a machine to replicate gyro spin," Pope said.

Data was publicly available. MLB installed Sportvision's PITCHf/x in 2006 and then its more detailed Statcast system for 2015, which runs on Hawk-Eye data. All teams get Hawk-Eye, and some now supplement it with information from Kinatrax Motion Capture, Simi Reality Motion Systems and DARI Motion.

During his five-year college program, Pope received a grant of $60,000 Canadian and raised financing to built a prototype. He became CEO of the new company founded in 2019 and recruited Rowan Ferrabee, a Waterloo mechatronics engineering student, to be chief technology officer. They originally called their firm SimulatePro but changed it to Trajekt Sports — Traject with a normal spelling was taken and they liked the K because of its use for strikeouts in baseball scoring.

Working at Velocity, a startup hub in Kitchener, Ontario, from April 2019 to March 2020 — and then in the garage of Pope's parents after the coronavirus pandemic began — they developed a machine that controls 11 of 12 degrees of freedom for pitches, maintaining only a fixed release point of 56 1/2 feet from the plate.

They presented a demo of the ball inserter and user interface at the 2019 winter meetings, and Chicago Cubs director of Innovation Bobby Basham agreed to a three-week spring training trial in 2021. Trajekt reached deals for seven teams in 2022 and now has 20 teams with about 45 machines — including a club in Japan that started last season. Until this year, MLB limited use to before and after games.

Trajekt trains a team's data and video staff and sends two people for installation, which takes a day or two. Teams appear to prefer using softer Rawlings L10 training balls to lessen broken bats.

Phillies All-Star catcher JT Realmuto spends about an hour before each game going over the data on opposing hitters, writing notes that he takes to the dugout and reviews before each defensive half inning.

"It's cool to see how far data driven baseball things have come," Realmuto said. "Obviously, analytics are a huge part of our game now. Analytics were going on 20 years ago, it's just we didn't really know how to understand it and how to transfer it into real time."

MLB began regulating on-field technology in 2016 and has approved six products for in-game, on-field use this year: 4D Motion's kinematic/movement tracker, Catapult's GPS tracker, STATSports' GPS tracker, Pulse's Motus Sleeve that measures biomechanics and heart monitors from WHOOP and Zephyr. In addition, two bat sensors from Blast Motion and two from Diamond Kinetics are approved for on-field use during workouts.



Raptors

From Page A9

Rajaković said he had not discussed the matter with his team.

"I don't know their reaction," Rajaković said. "I just know nobody wants those kind of situations to happen to anybody, to any team. We've just got to deal with it."

In Las Vegas, Jay Kornegay, Westgate vice president of race and sports operations, said in a text message that his sportsbook received "alerts that there were betting irregularities" regarding those games but his casino didn't have any player props up involving Porter for the dates in question.

The 24-year-old Porter, the brother of Denver forward Michael Porter, is averaging 4.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 26 games, including five starts. The 6-foot-10 Porter also played in 11 games for Memphis in the 2020-21 season.

The league requires players to attend one "anti-gambling training session conducted by their Team and/or the NBA" each year. At least four G League players have been suspended, those sanctions ranging from three to five games, for violating gambling policies this season and in 2022, six NBA 2K League players were disqualified for breaking that league's gambling-related rules.

Per NBA rules, any player who "wagers money or anything of value on any game or event in the Association or in the NBA G League" can face sanctions from Commissioner Adam Silver ranging from a fine to "perpetual disqualification" from the league.

"The rules are presented to us at the beginning of the season," Washington forward Corey Kispert said. "They're pretty cut and dry. They're pretty easy to follow."

The NBA has had business relationships with gaming companies for years, and lists FanDuel Sportsbook and DraftKings as official gaming partners. The league also has relationships with at least 24 other gaming operators.

Last week, Cleveland Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff revealed he received threats from gamblers last season and reported it to the NBA. "They got my telephone number and were sending me crazy messages about where I live and my kids and all that stuff," Bickerstaff said. "So it is a dangerous game and a fine line that we're walking for sure."

Bickerstaff was asked the question after All-Star guard Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers indicated days earlier that he's grown tired of regularly hearing criticism from people on social media about their prop bets.

Raptors forward Jordan Nwora offered a similar assessment Monday, saying he and other players routinely hear how their on-court performance affects bettors.

"All the time. Non-stop," Nwora said in comments published by The Canadian Press. "You get messages. You hear it on the sideline. You see guys talking about it all the time. It is what it is. It comes with being in the NBA. People bet on silly things on a daily basis. So, I mean, it's part of being in the NBA, it's what comes with it. I get it."

And on Monday, Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani said he never bet on sports or knowingly paid any gambling debts accumulated by his longtime interpreter, Ippei Mizuhara. Ohtani said Mizuhara lied to him for years and stole millions from him, in what were his first public comments about the illegal gambling and theft allegations involving him and his interpreter.

Sex offender who hacked Jags' jumbotron gets 220 years

By The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A convicted child molester has been sentenced to 220 years in federal prison for producing child sexual abuse material and hacking the jumbotron at the Jacksonville Jaguars stadium after the team learned he was a registered sex offender and fired him.

A federal judge in Jacksonville sentenced 53-year-old Samuel Arthur Thompson, of St. Augustine, on Monday, according to court records. He was convicted in November of producing, receiving and possessing sexual images of children, producing such images while required to register as a sex offender, violating the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, sending unauthorized damaging commands to a protected computer and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Thompson was arrested in early 2020 after being deported by the Philippines back to the U.S., officials said. He had fled to the Southeast Asian country about six months earlier, after the FBI executed a search warrant at his home and seized several of his computers, according to a criminal complaint.

According to court records, Thompson was convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy in Alabama in 1998. Among other things, the conviction required him to register as a sex offender and to report any international travel.

The Jaguars hired Thompson as a contractor in 2013 to consult on the design and installation of their new video board network and later to operate the jumbotron on gamedays, investigators said. The team chose not to renew his contract in 2018 after learning of his conviction and status as a sex offender.

According to prosecutors, before Thompson's contract ended in March 2018, he installed remote access software on a spare server in the Jaguars' server room. He then remotely accessed computers controlling the jumbotron during three 2018 season games, causing the video boards to malfunction repeatedly.

Kickoff

From Page A9

The return team would have at least nine blockers lined up in the "set up zone" between the 30- and 35-yard line, with at least seven of those players touching the 35. There would be up to two returners allowed inside the 20.

Only the kicker and two returners would be allowed to move until the ball hits the ground or was touched by a returner inside the 20.

Any kick that reaches the end zone in the air can be returned, or the receiving team can opt for a touchback and possession at the 30. Any kick that reaches the end zone in the air and goes out of bounds or out of the end zone also would result in a touchback at the 30.

If a ball hits a returner or the ground before the end zone and goes into the end zone, a touchback would be at the 20 or the play could be returned.

"It's a drastic kind of move that's going to be way different," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh, a former special teams coordinator. "Is that the right move at this time? I don't know. I think that's to be determined."

Under current rules, any touchback — or if a returner calls for a fair catch in the field of play — results in the receiving team getting the ball at its 25.

The proposal needed 24 of 32 votes to pass.

"I'm all for it," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "You have 2,000 dead plays. Nobody wants to see that. It'll add excitement and newness."

In other rule changes, the owners voted to make two tweaks to instant replay. Replay can now be used to review whether the game clock expired before the snap and also can correct an obvious error when a passer was ruled down by contact or out of bounds before throwing the ball.

Previously, those plays had been ruled dead at the spot but now can be changed with clear evidence. If the pass is caught or intercepted, it would be down at that spot with no advancement. If the pass was incomplete, that would stand.

There were several other changes, including allowing teams in the playoffs to have unlimited returns from injured reserve if they have missed four games. Teams also can place up to two players on IR, the physically unable to perform list or non-football injury list before cutting the roster to 53 players and have them still be eligible to return.

Owners also voted to move the trade deadline back one week to the Tuesday following the end of Week 9 and will allow a team to elevate a "bona fide" quarterback from the practice squad an unlimited amount of times to be the emergency third quarterback.

AP Pro Football Writers Mark Long and Josh Dubow contributed to this report.











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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE S SALE

For default under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Dmitriy Brenich and Irina N. Brenich, husband and wife, dated February 14, 2011, recorded on May 12, 2011 as Document No. 2011-2531, modified by instrument recorded April 30, 2018 as Document No. 2018-2131 and modified by instrument recorded August 11, 2022 as Document No. 2022-4266, Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 10:30 AM at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, 415 South Ohio, in Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:
Lot Ten (10) except that part off the South side thereof deed for a driveway by deed recorded in Book 383, Page 170, recorded in Book 383, Page 170, Recorder`s Office, Pettis County, Missouri and the South half of Lot Eleven (11) in Block number Six (6) of Cotton Brother`s First Addition to the City of Sedalia, Missouri,
to satisfy said debt and costs.

AT, Inc.
Successor Trustee
Gregory D. Todd,
Vice President
816.221.3420
www.atllp.com

(Brenich, 85124-10, Publication Start: 03/27/2024)
AT, INC., AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND IF ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
4x-3/27, 4/3, 10, 17, 2024

Legal Notice

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 24PT-PR00031
DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Deceased.
Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted
(Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Decedent:
On 3-4-2024, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of PETTIS COUNTY, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is:
LAURA BURLINGAME, 16695 WOOD RD, LA MONTE, MO 65337
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
STANLEY B COX, 1730 HICKORY LN, SEDALIA, MO 65301, 660-826-5488.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of decedent's death: 02-FEB-2024
Date of first publication: 06-MAR-2024

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk
4x-3/6, 13, 20, 27, 2024

IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 24PT-PR00056
AMANDA MICHELLE MAY, Deceased.
Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted
(Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of AMANDA MICHELLE MAY, Decedent:
On 25-MAR-2024, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of AMANDA MICHELLE MAY, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri.
The personal representative's business address is:
CYNTHIA SUE SCHULTE, 407 SW LAKEVIEW BLVD, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64063.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:
MARK T KEMPTON, 114 E 5TH STREET, PO BOX 815, SEDALIA, MO 65302-0815, 660-827-0314.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 27-FEB-2024
Date of first publication: 27-MAR-2024

Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk
4x-3/27, 4/3, 10, 17, 2024

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Courthouse, 415 South Ohio, in Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:
Lot Ten (10) except that part off the South side thereof deed for a driveway by deed recorded in Book 383, Page 170, recorded in Book 383, Page 170, Recorder`s Office, Pettis County, Missouri and the South half of Lot Eleven (11) in Block number Six (6) of Cotton Brother`s First Addition to the City of Sedalia, Missouri,
to satisfy said debt and costs.

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IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 24PT-PR00031
DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Deceased.
Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted
(Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Decedent:
On 3-4-2024, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of DEAN ALLEN DOHRMAN, Decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of PETTIS COUNTY, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is:
LAURA BURLINGAME, 16695 WOOD RD, LA MONTE, MO 65337
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
STANLEY B COX, 1730 HICKORY LN, SEDALIA, MO 65301, 660-826-5488.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of decedent's death: 18-AUG-2023
Date of first publication: 27-MAR-2024

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Deputy Clerk
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IN THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
Case Number: 24PT-PR00044
CALEB RYAN SELL, Deceased.
Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Supervised Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of CALEB RYAN SELL, Decedent:
On 25-MAR-2024, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of CALEB RYAN SELL, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri.
The personal representative's

Legal Notice

business address is:
CYNTHIA SUE SCHULTE, 407 SW LAKEVIEW BLVD, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64063.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:
MARK T KEMPTON, 114 E 5TH STREET, PO BOX 815, SEDALIA, MO 65302-0815, 660-827-0314.
All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
Date of the decedent's death: 27-FEB-2024
Date of first publication: 27-MAR-2024

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