CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE

Preview the Central Missouri Agriculture Club's Ag Expo • **Special Section**

RECORD BREAKER

Pinzke becomes Stover girls basketball's all-time leading scorer • **Sports A7**

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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Kehoe appoints Page as Pettis County Clerk

By Democrat Staff

Governor Mike Kehoe has appointed Megan Page to be Pettis County's next County Clerk, his office announced in a press release late Friday, Jan. 31.

Page fills a vacancy created following the departure of former County Clerk Nick La Strada, who departed earlier this month to become the Director of Election Integrity for Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins.

The appointment comes a week after Jessica Renee Capkovic was named as the Interim Clerk by the Pettis County Commission on Jan. 24.

Page is the owner of Heckart, Meisenheimer, and Scrivner Morrow Funeral Homes as well as Memorial Park and Highland Sacred Gardens Cemeteries. She previously served as 4th Ward Councilwoman from 2017 to 2020.

She is a member of several regional boards including the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, Business Network International, State Fair Community College Foundation Board, and the Boys & Girls Club of West Central Missouri Board.



Jacqueline Willis, Aliza Owens, Jennifer Eckhoff, Marci Williams, Sara Bass, Annette Smith, Gabriela Hernandez, Mayor Andrew Dawson, Amanda Gaspard, Bridgette Peak, Joylynn Allard, Rayvin Welch and Larry Perham visit City Hall Monday, Feb. 3, for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

CASA staff raises awareness for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

A group from Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, CASA, went to meet Mayor Andrew Dawson first thing Monday, Feb. 3, to raise awareness for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Dawson proclaimed February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in Sedalia and recommitted the city to protecting adolescents from violence in their relationships.

A proclamation was also presented by the Pettis County Commission on Monday.

"It's difficult to raise awareness for teen dating violence," CASA Director of Operation Amanda Gaspard said. "Especially amongst the teens because a lot of the relationships that are portrayed throughout music and movies and TV shows are actually not as healthy as you think."

Many relationships seen in popular culture should raise red flags with teens as something not OK, but CASA workers find teens often reluctant to confide in their parents.

"It's hard for them to come forward when they feel like something is wrong because a lot of their friends find it acceptable," Gaspard said. "They are welcome to call CASA, we are there 24/7, there will always be somebody there on hand to talk to even if they just want to question whether or not their relationship is healthy or not."

12 women from CASA as well as Charm their emotional support dog, Dawson, and Pettis County Sheriff Deputy Larry Parham visited the City of Sedalia and took photos before preparing to take their meeting with Pettis County.

Joylynn Allard is a therapist at CASA and frequently speaks to teens on the topic of dating violence.

"I personally go in and do a teen dating violence presentation to educate kids," Allard said.

See **CASA**, Page A5



ASA Board Chairman Turf Martin, CASA Hotline and Case Management Specialist Rayvin Welch, CASA Court Advocate Bridgett Peek, CASA Housing and Outreach Coordinator McKenzie Tichenor, Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza, Presiding Commissioner Bill Taylor, CASA Director of Facility and Client Services Amanda Gaspard, CASA Therapy Dog Charm, CASA Therapist Joylynn Allard, Western Commissioner Mark Edwards and Pettis County Sheriff's Office Community Interaction Deputy Larry Parham. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETTIS COUNTY



Recovery Lighthouse's first ever Super Bowl Bash will be held at the Beacon of Hope Recovery Community Center, 910 West Main St. Sunday from 4:30 to 10:00 p.m. for clients and their families. PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

A sober Super Bowl party planned by Recovery Lighthouse

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

The Super Bowl is rapidly approaching, which means there will be plenty of beer for Kansas City Chiefs fans to wash down the pizza, chicken wings and salty snacks to go around for Kansas City Chiefs fans Feb. 9.

Lindsey Adams and Myreon Briscoe are certified peer specialists at Recovery Lighthouse and understand the pitfalls of Super Bowl parties and other problematic places for those struggling through recovery.

"Particularly for our clients or people who are in recovery, social events such as the Super Bowl like that have alcohol can be triggering," Adams said. "We want to offer them a safe and fun atmosphere where they can still engage in those activities without alcohol being involved."

The Recovery Lighthouse is hosting a Sober Super Bowl party where alcohol will be forgotten, and family fun will start a new tradition.

This is the first year of the event.

"We are going to have a Sober Super Bowl party for our clients," Adams said. "Clients of Recovery Lighthouse are allowed to bring their families with them we're going to do that on Super Bowl on Sunday Feb. 9. Doors are going to open at 4:30 and we'll be open till the game ends approximately around 10 p.m."

Getting families together to relearn appropriate interactions where alcohol and drugs are not involved is the point of the Sober Super Bowl party.

See **SOBER**, Page A6

SHS recognizes Teacher of the Year and presents Leadership Awards

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

Sacred Heart School honored several people during a 1:15 p.m. Mass in the Saint. Vincent de Paul Parish Sacred Heart Catholic Church Chapel to conclude Catholic Schools Week on Friday, Jan. 31.

Sarah Tippie received the Teacher of the Year Award. Sacred Heart Principal Suzann Jenkins spoke to the crowd about awarding Tippie.

"It is my great honor to announce the recipient of the 2025 St. Boniface and St. Anne Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year Award," Jenkins said. "What makes this award so special is that it is chosen exclusively by the Sacred Heart School faculty. It is the best of the best voting for the best of the best."

Jenkins explained that Saint Boniface and Saint Anne Teacher of the Year Award is named in honor of two saints who represent the heart of Catholic education: Saint Boniface spread Christianity and established schools and monasteries. He also recognized the deep connection between faith and education.

See **AWARD**, Page A6



On Friday afternoon, Jan. 31, Sarah Tippie thanks everyone at Sacred Heart School for selecting her as the 2025 Teacher of the Year. Tippie was recognized after a Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Sacred Heart Church. On the left is SHS President Nikki Howell and SHS Principal Suzann Jenkins. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

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OBITUARIES

Maria A. Luukkonen

Maria A. Luukkonen, 97, of Sedalia, died Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at the E.W. Thompson Health & Rehabilitation Center in Sedalia.

There will be no local funeral services. She will be buried in Gilbert Cemetery in Gilbert, Minnesota with her husband. McLaughlin Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Born June 20, 1927 in Turin, Italy, she was the daughter of the late Ambrogio Capello and Giuseppina Nervo Capello. She was married to Toivo J. "Tuggie" Luukkonen, and he preceded her in death on January 9, 1978.

During World War II, Mrs. Luukkonen worked in the PX on a military base near Pisa, Italy, selling goods to the servicemen, where she met her future husband. She moved from northern Italy to Sparta, Minnesota with her husband as a war bride in 1947. She worked for over thirty years in Luukkonen's Grocery Store, until her husband's death in 1978, when she sold the store. She then went to work in the Palace Clothing Store in Virginia, and when it closed, she went to work at Shoes & Things Clothing Store, where she worked for nearly two decades until her retirement. Shortly before her 86th birthday, she moved to Sedalia to live with her older sister, Laura Marie Beatty, who preceded her in death on June 10, 2024. Continuing her love of retail, she enjoyed working in the gift shop at Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia.

DEATH NOTICE

Cline

Terrance A. Cline, 64, of Sedalia, passed away Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at Heckart Funeral Home.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Burial will be at a later date in Dresden Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Sedalia Animal Shelter or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are in the care of Heckart Funeral Home.

Marriott

David Lee Marriott, 60, of Sedalia, passed away, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

Smith

Lisa Marie Smith, 38, of Sedalia, passed away at 12:13 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia.

Cremation arrangements are in the care of Heckart Funeral Home.

FUNERALS

Terrance A. Cline

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Our Lady Savior Lutheran Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Marguerite Ellis

11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at the First Christian Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Seeing Sedalia Succeed announces campaign expenditures

The Seeing Sedalia Succeed Political Action Committee, led by Treasurer David Goodson, announced it will be investing in various forms of campaign promotion for candidates running for the Sedalia City Council, it announced Friday, Feb. 30.

The committee has allocated approximately $2,312 to purchase yard signs to support Michele Abney, Harry Hoffert and Albert Reine.

In addition, it plans to spend approximately $3,600 on digital billboard advertising for Abney, Hoffert, Reine and David Covington.

The committee also intends to invest an estimated $1,200 in printed materials to promote the candidacies of Abney, Hoffert and Reine.

For additional information, contact David Goodson at seeingsedaliasucceed@gmail.com

Photo Submissions

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

CRASH REPORTS

Liberty man hurt in Henry County accident

A 45-year-old man from Liberty suffered minor injuries at 1:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in a Henry County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the man was driving a 2024 Freightliner west on Missouri Highway 7 when he lost control on the wet roadway and ran off the right side. The truck returned and ran off the left side of the roadway before running off the right side of the roadway a second time. It then rotated and overturned.

The driver was wearing a seat belt and was transported to Golden Valley Medical Center by Golden Valley EMS.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

POLICE REPORTS

Sedalia Police Department

Arrests

Jan. 28

4:31 p.m.: Annette Burton, 50, was arrested after an officer responded to Walmart, 3201 West Broadway Blvd, for shoplifting.

Jan. 29

4:15 p.m.: Key Kunios, 48, was issued a citation after an investigative traffic stop at Pettis Street and Lamine Avenue on a vehicle being driven by an individual without a valid driver's license. Kunios was transported to the Pettis County Jail and cited for operating a vehicle without a driver's license.

Jan. 30

9:08 p.m.: Octayvya Nabor, 30, was arrested after officers conducted a vehicle stop at West Broadway Boulevard and South Park Avenue. Nabor was confirmed to have a revoked driving status and was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold pending a State charge of felony driving while suspended.

Jan. 31

5:00 p.m.: Timothy D Eckhoff, 24, was arrested after officers were dispatched to Walmart, 3201 West Broadway Blvd, for a reported theft. Eckhoff was identified, cited and released on scene.

Feb. 2

4:13 p.m.: Marquis Pannell, 45, was arrested after officers conducted a traffic stop at 16th Street and South Limit Avenue. Pannell was charged with drug possession.

6:23 p.m.: Anthony Michael Johnston, 23, was arrested after officers responded to the 900 block of West 11th Street for a hit-and-run accident. Johnston was charged with DWI alcohol and leaving the scene of an accident

Incidents

Jan. 28

11:06 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 2800 block of South Ingram Avenue for a report of an assault. They arrived, gathered information and identified all parties, and documented injuries. Charges were referred to the prosecutor.

1:53 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the Sedalia Police Department for a report of a hit-and-run in the 300 block of East Fourth Street. They identified the reporting party, documented the information and took a report.

Jan. 31

7:45 p.m.: An officer responded to the 1000 block of East 15th Street for a report of property damage. The victim reported intentional damage to the motor of his motorhome.

9:39 p.m.: Officers responded to Walmart, 3201 West Broadway Blvd. in regard to shoplifting.The reporting party said the suspects had fled the scene and are unknown.

Feb. 1

12:12 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of East Seventh Street in regard to a hit-and-run accident. They gathered information from the victim for a report.

11:35 a.m.: Officers responded to the 1300 block of East 9th Street for a domestic disturbance. They gathered information and created a 12-hour log.

6:28 p.m.: Officers responded to South Moniteau Avenue and West Seventh Street for a disturbance. A report was made of the incident.

7:14 p.m.:Officers responded to the 300 block of South Lamine Avenue for a fraud report. A report was made of the incident.

7:47 p.m.: Sedalia police responded to El Espolon, 2400 South Limit Avenue for a report of two individuals leaving without paying their check. They were identified by law enforcement from previous contacts and are both known to steal. Formal charges are being sought through the Pettis County prosecutor's office.

Feb. 2

7:53 a.m.: Officers were called to a physical domestic disturbance in the 400 block of West Sixth Street. The reporting party provided information for officers who generated a report and filed charges.

10:10 a.m. Officers were dispatched to the Sedalia Police Department lobby for a report of stealing from a motor vehicle. They gathered the reporting party's information about the items stolen and wrote a report.

12:42 p.m.: Officers responded to the 3100 block of Brianna Boulevard for a report of property damage. A vehicle was damaged overnight and a report was made of the incident. No suspects were identified.

3:38 p.m.: Officers took a report in the lobby of the police department in reference to found property. The property was placed into evidence and a report was completed.

4:34 p.m.: Officers were called out to North William Parkhurst Drive and North Grand Avenue for a previous physical domestic assault. The reporting party provided information and officers generated a report and filed charges.

Pettis County Sheriff's Office

Incidents

Jan. 30

9:30 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1600 block of West 11th Street in reference to an identity theft report. The victim said someone impersonated her to open a loan without authorization.

6:30 p.m.: Officers responded to Casey's, 3500 West 16th St, for a hit-and-run accident. The complaint said she was in an accident and the other vehicle left the scene without providing any information. Officers were unable to locate the suspect vehicle.

Jan. 31

7: 07 a.m.: Pettis County Deputies took a report of a possible theft of property after moving out of a crew house located in the 2000 block of McFarland Road months ago.

11:25 a.m.: Deputies were dispatched to the Pettis County Assisted Living Center, 3017 Brooking Park Ave, for a disturbance where a male resident was assaulted. Charges of fourth-degree assault were submitted to the prosecutor's office.

4:05 p.m.: Deputies were dispatched to the 7300 block of Highway JJ in Pettis County in reference to an assault that occurred where the reporting party was pulled from her vehicle and hit and hit in the face. The female had visible bruising to her face and was wearing clothing covered in mud. Deputies learned her ex-boyfriend arrived with another female to collect his clothing when an altercation occurred.

They made contact with the female suspect who admitted to assaulting the female victim in self-defense. She was placed under arrest pending charges of third-degree assault.

Feb. 2

9:45 a.m.: Deputies responded to the 1300 block of East Boonville Road for a verbal domestic disturbance. No one was arrested and the incident was documented.

Feb. 2

9:00 p.m.: Deputies were dispatched to the 200 block of West Clay Street in Pettis County for a domestic assault in progress. After investigation a female resident was arrested and transported to the Pettis County Jail and booked on charges of second-degree domestic assault.

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Arrests

Jan. 30

10:03 p.m.: Christopher W. Smith, 54, of Knob Noster was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated, driving with revoked driver's license, and misdemeanor warrant from the Johnson County Sheriff's department and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway. Smith was transported to the Johnson County Sheriff's Department.

Jan. 31

8:00 a.m.: Daniel L. Eschliman, 43, of Warrensburg was arrested in Johnson County for a felony Jackson County warrant, driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor Johnson County warrant, failure to drive on the right half of the roadway resulting in a crash, no valid license and failure to obey reasonable directions from a highway patrolman. He was transported to the Johnson County Jail.

Feb. 1

10:20 p.m.: Jordan J. Ullrich, 21, of Mack's Creek was arrested in Morgan County for DWI alcohol — prior offender. He was transported to the Morgan County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold.

Feb. 2

3:45 a.m.: Jason M. Johnson, 24, from Temecula, CA was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated and failure to drive on the right lane of the roadway. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

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Washington Elementary Learns about kindness at Wellness Assembly



Washington Elementary School hosted a Wellness Assembly on Friday afternoon, Jan. 31. During the event many students at the school received Humble and Wonderfully Kind. Special guests at the assembly were, Dr. Doug Kiburz, Third Ward Councilman Bob Cross, and Mayor Andrew Dawson.



On Friday, Jan. 31, during the Washington Elementary Wellness Assembly, Dr. Doug Kiburz reminded the students about the story of spreading kindness and Mayor Andrew Dawson read a Kindness Proclamation. Students and staff also received kindness cards. "What would happen if everyone in this gym would do one simple act of kindness for a year?" Kiburz said. "Over 90,000 random acts of kindness would occur, a tidal wave of kindness, a Washington School Tsunami of kindness."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUG KIBURZ

Department of Natural Resources addressing concerns around Henry County landfill

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is working with local and state partners to address community concerns regarding reports of dust blowing offsite from the Montrose Generating Station Utility Waste Landfill.

The Department of Natural Resources has determined there are no identifiable issues for lead, selenium or arsenic from public water systems near the landfill, all of which use water that originates from Harry S Truman Public Water Supply District #2. Samples collected from Henry County public water systems near the landfill show levels for metals are in compliance with regulatory standards.

On Jan. 25, the department collected soil samples from the Davis R-XII school campus. The department has reviewed all sampling results and compared them to the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Screening Levels. Screening levels are risk-based action levels that, if exceeded, indicate the presence of contaminants at concentrations that require additional investigation and possibly cleanup.

Analysis by the Department of Natural Resources showed the soil sampled was below the regional screening levels for all contaminants except for arsenic, which was detected above the regional screening level in all of the department's soil samples. The department is working with the Department of Health and Senior Services on public guidance in regard to handling soil that contains elevated levels of arsenic. However, the Department of Health and Senior Services notes that this heavy metal does occur naturally in background levels in Missouri.

Preliminary soil sample results show no detection of hexavalent chromium.

The department has developed a fact sheet and dedicated webpage to provide the most current information about department activities related to the site. The fact sheet is available at dnr.mo.gov/waste-recycling/sites-regulated-facilities/interest/montrose-generating-station-utility-landfill. The department will add environmental sampling results and other information to the website as they become available.

The department will continue to investigate and work with concerned parties and stakeholders.

Release courtesy of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Planned Parenthood asks judge to block remaining Missouri abortion regulations

By Anna Spoerre
Missouri Independent

Nearly two months after a voter-approved constitutional amendment legalizing abortion went into effect, the procedure remains inaccessible in Missouri.

On Friday, a Jackson County judge heard arguments over whether to grant an injunction requested by Planned Parenthood that would permit the organization to offer abortion services almost immediately.

Last month, Jackson County Judge Jerri Zhang struck down a number of "targeted regulation of abortion provider" statutes, better known as TRAP laws.

Laws mandating a 72-hour waiting period for an abortion and a requirement that physicians performing the procedure have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals were put on hold.

But other regulations the judge allowed to remain — such as state licensing requirements and a mandate to receive a pelvic exam before being prescribed the pill used in medication abortion — have left clinics unable to perform the procedure in Missouri.

On Friday afternoon, Zhang again listened to arguments from Planned Parenthood and the Missouri Attorney General's Office during the hearing in downtown Kansas City.

"We have still not been able to restore abortion access in Missouri," Eleanor Spottswood, an attorney with Planned Parenthood, argued Friday.

Zhang asked how Planned Parenthood clinics would be regulated if she were to strike down the current licensing requirements from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Spottswood said that like other outpatient practices, the facility would not require a license, but the providers would need to meet their own professional licensing requirements through the Missouri Board of Healing Arts.

Planned Parenthood is currently held to a much higher threshold of regulations, she said.

Spottswood said if the judge strikes down the remaining TRAP laws, it's Planned Parenthood's intention to offer medication abortions at all nine clinics across the state within a week The organization hopes it can hire and train the necessary staff to also begin performing surgical abortions at its clinics in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The state previously asked that the case be dismissed, arguing that because abortion is still accessible by mail or by leaving the state, Planned Parenthood didn't have the standing to ask for a temporary ruling.

Much of Friday's hearing revolved around pelvic exams, which Planned Parenthood's attorneys maintained are "invasive and unnecessary" ahead of prescribing abortion medication. Instead, Spottswood said, the clinics use other methods to determine if the pregnancy is at risk of being ectopic, meaning the fertilized egg has implanted itself outside the uterus.

Taking abortion medication to end an ectopic pregnancy can be dangerous.

Missouri Solicitor General Joshua Divine argued that pelvic exams ahead of any procedure are "routine care," and should remain in place.

Zhang asked if hospitals can perform abortions following passage of Amendment 3 last year, seemingly attempting to determine whether the current pelvic exam law is discriminatory against abortion clinics or if it would also be required at hospitals.

Spottswood said they presumably can, but a question remains of whether any will. Divine agreed that while he believes hospitals can now provide abortions, it is "very, very rare" that they do so in Missouri … so there's not much need to regulate."

Without a broader injunction, Spottswood argued, "the state will enforce the law in the most obstructive way possible" and "treat abortion providers differently and worse than other providers."

This interferes with patients rights, she said, which is in violation of Amendment 3, which states in part that "the right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, interfered with, delayed, or otherwise restricted unless the government demonstrates that such action is justifiable by a compelling governmental interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

A decade ago, more than 5,000 abortions were performed in Missouri, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. By 2020, when abortions were still legal, that number fell to 167, a drop that abortion providers attributed to the state's growing list of regulations.

Divine questioned why the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis hadn't reapplied for a license, since they were the only clinic in the state that still met licensing requirements when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022. He called the lack of access a "purely self-inflicted injury."

Missouri's trigger law banning all abortions with limited exceptions for medical emergencies went into effect the same day, ending the procedure at the St. Louis clinic.

Assuming that the state would grant the license, Spottswood said by limiting patients' choices to one clinic in the state, "the licensing law inserts the state between the patient and the provider."

The hearing, which lasted four hours, also discussed the state's continued objection to the Jackson County prosecutor, formerly Jean Peters Baker and currently Melesa Johnson, being named as the defendants representing all county prosecutors in the case.

The attorney general's office argues Johnson, who was endorsed by the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood, does not appropriately represent all statewide prosecutors.

Zhang previously denied the state's request to remove the Jackson County prosecutor as a representative for the defendant class and move the case to Cole County, where last summer a judge attempted to strike the abortion-rights amendment from the ballot.

On Friday, the prosecutors from Wright, Texas, Franklin and Saline counties showed up in court to continue to object, arguing that because there isn't a Planned Parenthood clinic in any of their counties, all county prosecutors shouldn't necessarily be a party in the case.

Zhang said her concern centers around the possibility that residents in any county could be prescribed abortion medication at a clinic before returning to their home counties. She also noted that three of the four counties have emergency rooms where women experiencing any abortion complications could be admitted.

"There could be a risk of prosecution across the state because of telemedicine," she said.

No specific examples of what cases could be prosecuted were entertained. Tyrrell added that if he did prosecute an abortion case, he was confident he'd quickly find himself again sitting across from Planned Parenthood in a courtroom.

"I won't swear I won't and I won't swear I will prosecute," Wright County ProsecutorJohn Tyrrell told Zhang. " … but the likelihood is very, very low."

Zhang gave both parties one week to file additional briefings. Her decision is expected after that. The bench trial, at which point the judge will make a permanent ruling, has been set for January 2026.

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THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Charlie and Pete, the sequel



Gwen Rockwood
Syndicated Columnist

The first backyard skirmish between Charlie and Pete happened five years ago on a night with a full moon. Charlie is our beloved beagle mutt who is now 14 years old and missing a few teeth. Pete is a trespassing possum who's been trying to drive Charlie crazy for years.

This puppy-possum war isn't personal. Charlie and Pete are just doing what dogs and possums do. Possums lurk around at night, sometimes in places where they're not welcome, and beagles sniff things and bark. If you've ever known a beagle or any other hound, you know they have a distinctive bark that's mixed with a bellowing, baying quality. An experienced beagle parent knows that sound translates to "Come quick. I've cornered a critter!"

When this not-so-silent war began five years ago, I saw what happened the moment Charlie's nose sniffed the open air and registered the scent of an invader. He took off across the yard like a bullet – a barking blur of fur and fury. He barreled to the base of a tree, which made the backyard motion light come on. That's when I saw Sneaky Pete the Possum scurry straight up the tree trunk, Spiderman style.

Charlie jumped after him, barking and nearly nipping the tip of Pete's skinny, hairless tail. But to no avail. Pete climbed out of reach, settling on a tree branch so he could look down at the dog and trash-talk him.

Having been outrun and outwit, Charlie decided his only move was to outlast the invader. So, he sat under the tree, staring up at Pete while barking his extreme displeasure. I had to go pick him up and bring him back inside to end the verbal onslaught.

Afterward, we didn't see Sneaky Pete for a long time. I assumed he either went out of state for college or started smoking cigarettes behind a honky-tonk somewhere. Peace had finally prevailed, and our dog Charlie settled into a quiet retirement life. He mostly naps, eats, and gives us sad beagle eyes until we share our snacks.

But last night, Tom and I heard that telltale barking and knew the battle was back on. I grabbed a flashlight and walked out on the deck to find Charlie on the ground below, barking a blue streak at something above him. I pointed my flashlight in that direction, and there he was – Sneaky Pete had once again penetrated the perimeter and was perched on the backyard fence.

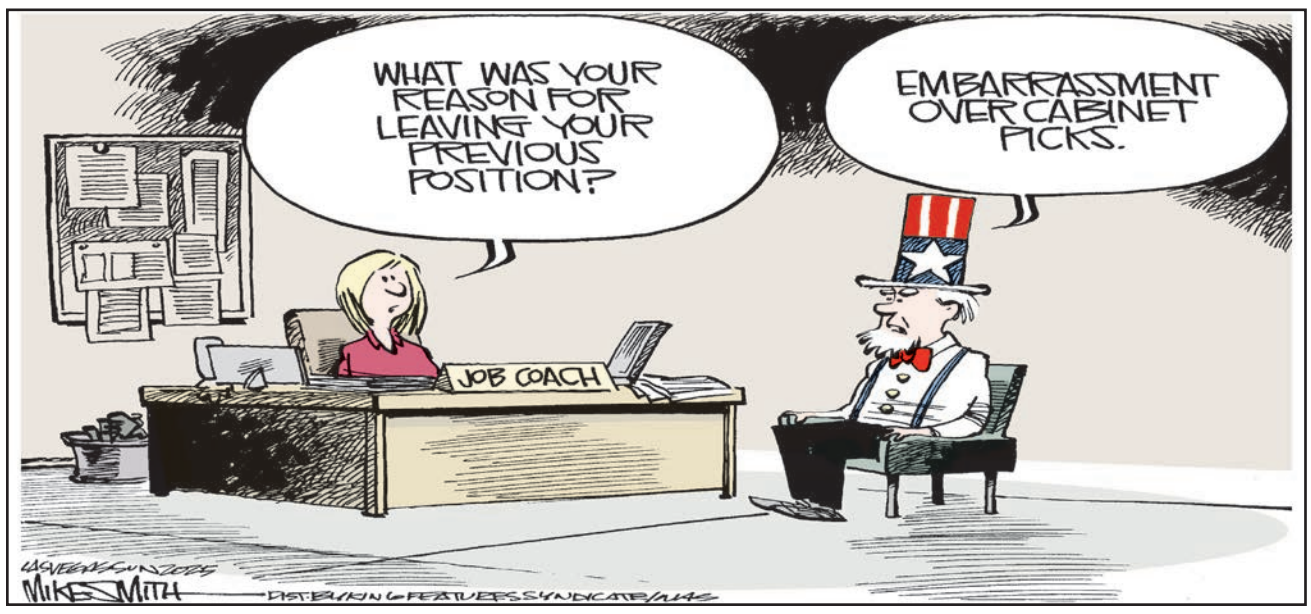
He looked a little plumper than he did five years ago, and his rat-like tail dangled down over the edge of the fence. I tried to shoo him away, but if he wouldn't budge for a ballistic beagle, he probably wasn't moving for a miffed mom with a flashlight either.

I knew I'd either have to walk down into the muddy yard to scoop up my beagle or convince my furry little soldier to stand down. Calling his name yielded zero results. So, I tried negotiating a peace deal with the only currency this dog understands – cheese.

I dangled the square slice of American cheese where he could see it. "Want some cheese, Charlie? Come on, buddy!" He looked at the cheese and then back at beady-eyed Pete. I could tell that part of him wanted to stand his ground and bark at that pompous possum all night, but Charlie is no longer a young pup. A bigger part of him wanted to curl up on the sofa, watch Wheel of Fortune, and eat some cheese.

Slowly, he trudged up the stairs to the deck, where I picked him up, rubbed his velvety head, and carried him inside. Pete the Possum may have held the high ground, but Charlie, the battle-weary beagle, enjoyed the cheesy spoils of war.

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



Letters to the Editor Policy

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

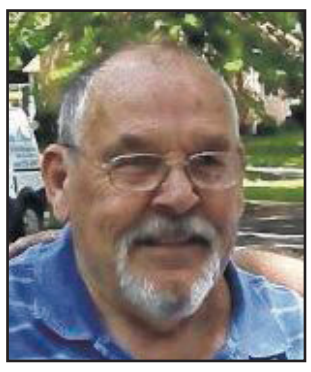
Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

- 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.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Go Chiefs



Jack Miller
Contributing Columnist

Like many other Missourians, I have been a Kansas City Chief's fan from the time they came to Missouri from Texas.

There have been a lot of good years along with some pretty rough ones for Chief's fans, but like me they were still watching them with hope in their hearts.

I am not a paint my face fan but I do like to wear their sweatshirts to show my support for the team, as a matter of fact my favorite sweatshirt is one that says, "All I want for Christmas is a Super Bowl". The sweater has the 1999 Chiefs with quarterback Elvis Grbac, offensive lineman Tim Grunhard, offensive lineman Will Shields and other team members on it.

My wife gave me the sweatshirt for Christmas that year, and I always pulled it out of my closet to wear anytime the Chiefs made the playoffs. The sweatshirt stayed in my closet for long periods of time back then, but it has got a lot of wear lately.

The old sweatshirt did win an ugly Christmas Sweater contest when I wore it to a Chamber of Commerce breakfast when I was a newsman at KSIS Radio. I should point out that I am a team fan and not just a one player fan so I root for the whole team as I watch.

I do give a lot of credit to Patrick Mahomes who has made it a lot more fun to watch the games now, but there are some great players behind him that contribute to the success of the team.

The team is currently on a win streak, and could do something never done before if they win their third Super Bowl in a row in New Orleans. The Chiefs had a Super Bowl drought for 50 years, but true fans loved them anyway.

I have to admit that it is a lot more fun now than it was for that 50 years of drought. On Sunday the 9th of February I will be sitting in my easy chair cheering loudly each time the Chiefs score, and I will be happier if they win, but my wife won't have to hide the kitchen knives if they lose.

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

GUEST COLUMN

Josh Hawley's moment in the spotlight may have peaked with the fist pump



Barbara Shelly
Guest Columnist

Everything is all Trump, all the time. His overwhelming presence has blotted out the sun.

But I still like to keep an eye on the lesser lights. And so, in this consequential moment, I've been looking for news on the senior U.S. senator from Missouri.

Four years ago, Josh Hawley played a starring role in Donald Trump's attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. He objected to certifying Joe Biden's legitimate electoral victory and he encouraged insurrectionists outside of the U.S. Capitol with a fist pump that was captured in a viral photo.

His actions were ignominious then, and I believe history will remember them that way. Hawley is proud of himself, however, and had the fist-pump photo engraved on coffee mugs.

For this latest transition of power, the senator has had to settle for being just another Trump sycophant.

He scored some interviews in MAGA medialand by calling for pardons for people who had barricaded an abortion clinic in defiance of federal law, which the president granted. And he helped halt a federal investigation into a Texas doctor who was charged with illegally obtaining and leaking information on minors receiving transgender care.

But those triumphs were largely lost in the flood of eye popping inauguration week developments.

Hawley joined in the chorus of ridicule after Bishop Mariann E. Budde capped off a sermon in the Washington National Cathedral by appealing directly to Trump to show mercy to people such as immigrants and transgender children — groups that Jesus might have referred to as "the least of these."

"Hahaha," Hawley jeered in a post on X. If the bishop had wanted to speak truth to power, he said, she should have "called out the child abusers who want to permanently sterilize and butcher children in the name of 'gender affirming care.'"

That response validates what I tell people when they marvel about Hawley's evolution from a revered history student at Stanford University and a constitutional law whiz at Yale Law School to a strident MAGA clone. The biggest educational waste, I say, is his tenure at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, a Jesuit Catholic high school that traditionally has focused on social justice.

Hawley's alma maters all emphasize critical thinking — a concept he seems to have tossed by the wayside.

Before Trump's inauguration, Hawley supported presidential clemency for some of the people involved in the 2021 insurrection, but he drew the line at rioters who assaulted police officers.

"I'm against it for people who assaulted cops, threw stuff at cops, broke down doors, broke windows," he told USA Today.

Trump, as it turned out, was for it. He granted clemency to all of the rioters, including those who were filmed brutalizing cops.

According to Hawley, that was Trump keeping a promise. An admirable trait.

"He said he was going to do this during the campaign and he did exactly what he said he was going to do," Hawley told the Kansas City Star.

Except that Trump did not exactly promise to do what he did. He pledged to grant clemency for some people who were at the Capitol. He said nothing about pardons for people who assaulted police officers. In fact, Vice President J.D. Vance had indicated that Trump would not be pardoning people who committed violent acts.

Unwilling to stand on principle and criticize the pardons, as some of his Republican colleagues did, Hawley pivoted to baseless Trump adulation.

He's revealing the same blind devotion in the Senate's confirmation process for Trump's cabinet nominees.

Four years ago, Hawley grilled Joe Biden's nominees fiercely and voted against 19 of 21 picks for cabinet posts. This year, he's pretty much said he'll vote to confirm anyone Trump puts forth, and damn the consequences for the nation.

Hawley is now an avowed Christian nationalist. So perhaps one explanation for his unapologetic hypocrisy is that he thinks a full-bore embrace of Trump and the MAGA movement will move America closer to his vision of a nation where legal abortion doesn't happen, transgender people shrink into the shadows and so-called wokeism is replaced forever with old-time religion.

Another possibility is he's riding on the hope that Trump and his devotees will anoint him as their chosen successor in four years, or eight years, or sometime down the road.

But Hawley is hardly alone in that ambition. Vance, for one, would seem to have an edge at the moment. And Hawley's vaunted animosity toward Big Tech is suddenly out of fashion now that the tech magnates have joined Team Trump.

Maybe Hawley will find his niche. Maybe one of his causes — rescuing masculinity, for example — will catch America's imagination.

But it seems more likely that Hawley will exist as just another MAGA Republican in Trump's shadow — too compromised and too beholden to the leader to find an identity going forward.

This feels strange to say, but Hawley's moment in the spotlight may have peaked with the fist pump.

Barbara Shelly is a journalist in Kansas City. She was a reporter and opinion writer for the Kansas City Star and now contributes to various outlets as a writer and editor.

Weekly Report: The Commission approves naming of three private drives

By Democrat Staff

During daily meetings from Jan. 27 to Jan.31, the Pettis County Commission completed the following:

Monday, Jan. 27: A staff meeting was held. Present were, 911 Joint Communications Director Dannelle Lauder, Building and Grounds Director Chris Hoke, EMA Director Trisha Rooda, GIS/Grants Director James Theisen, IT Director Brett Denomme, Road and Bridge Superintendent James Hill, and HR and Payroll Specialist Marie Kringle.

The Commission had a conference call with Henry County Presiding Commissioner Jim Stone regarding the possible environmental contamination in their county and to offer any assistance. Also present were, EMA Director Trisha Rooda.

Western Commissioner Mark Edwards and Rooda attended the public hearing in Henry County regarding possible environmental contamination.

Tuesday, Jan. 28: The Commission approved the naming of three private drives, Aspen Road, Maddox Drive, and Frances Drive, as presented by Theisen.

Rooda visited the Commission to provide departmental updates.

Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza attended Governor Mike Kehoe's State of the State Address.

Wednesday, Jan. 29: Baeza attended the Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission (PTRPC) Board meeting in Concordia.

Thursday, Jan. 30: The Courthouse Centennial Celebration Committee meeting was held in the Commission Chambers. Present were, Chair Marsha Boeschen, and members, Edwards, Baeza, and City of Sedalia Planner/Downtown Specialist Joleigh Cornine. Also present were, Hoke, Sedalia Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Carolyn Crooker, and Sedalia Area Tourism Commission Chairman Kyle Herrick.

Friday, Jan. 31: Hill spoke to the Commission regarding departmental updates.

Eastern Commissioner Baeza attended a conference call with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The Commission attended the retirement reception of County Clerk Chief of Staff Maurice Robinson.

Sedalia Motorcycle Association announces Show-Me Bike Show winners

The Sedalia Motorcycle Association has hosted the Show-Me Bike Show for over 25 years and once again had some of the most beautiful motorcycles showing off their paint and chrome.

Vendors from Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and locally sold jackets, aprons, jewelry and clothing.

Old friends told stories about motorcycles trips or racing and everyone made new friends. Mark your calendar for February 7, 2026. A special thanks to our sponsors, judges, vendors and volunteers who help make this event a success.

Results

Best of Show – Steve Jones, El Dorado Springs, MO

Class 1 – American Sport Cruiser – 1st Jon Sack, Eldon, MO

Class 2 – American Cruiser Stock – 1st Frank Rouchka, Sedalia, MO; 2nd Matt Long, Sedalia, MO

Class 3 – American Cruiser Mild Custom – 1st Bob Hartline, Belleville, IL; 2nd Brian McDonough, Independence, MO; 3rd Rick Goalder, Sedalia, MO

Class 4 – Sport Dresser Stock – 1st Dan Guier, Sedalia, MO; 2nd Darrin Goodson, Sedalia, MO; 3rd Matt Long, Sedalia, MO

Class 5 – Sport Dresser Mild Custom – 1st James & Missie Phillips, Marshall, MO

Class 6 – Dresser All Brands – 1st David Cachero, Smithton, MO

Class 7 – Radical Bagger – 1st Steve Jones, El Dorado Springs, MO; 2nd Gavin Arnold, Malta Bend, MO; 3rd Jason Nelson, California, MO

Class 8 – Custom Vintage – 1st Shane Madison, Pierce City, MO; 2nd Thad Williams, Bates, MO; 3rd Rod Freeman of Strip Club Choppers, Madrid, IA

Class 9 – Metric & European – 1st Warren Martin, Otterville, MO; 2nd Amber Madison, Pierce City, MO; 3rd Ricky Rios, Warsaw, MO

Class 10 – Sport Bike – 1st Mac McActeer, Sedalia, MO; 2nd Mark Waller, Kansas City, MO

Class 11 – Chopper – 1st John Benscoter, Sedalia, MO; 2nd David Cachero, Smithton, MO; 3rd Brian Norris, William, MO; 4th Nick Parcel, Eldon, MO

Class 12 – Trike/Side Car – 1st Terry McVey, Troy, MO; 2nd Brett Kennedy, St. Joseph, MO; 3rd Thomas Gage, Ionia, MO

Class 13 – Vintage 1900-1994 (500 cc & Larger) – 1st Reo Haynes, Hurdland, MO; 2nd Herman Fortman, Pilot Grove, MO; 3rd Reo Haynes, Hurdland, MO

Class 14 – Vintage 1900-1994 (499 cc & Smaller) – 1st Michelle Haynes, Hurdland, MO; 2nd Mark & Stormey Allen, Sedalia, MO; 3rd Al Hofer, Clinton, MO

Class 16 – Special Construction – 1st Lou Atkinson, Warrensburg, MO; 2nd Don Henke, Warsaw, MO

Class 18 – Competition Bike – 1st Mike Gallup, Warrensburg, MO; 2nd Chad Beckley, Fair Grove, MO

Class 19 – Adventure – 1st Travis Sartain, Otterville, MO

Release courtesy of the Sedalia Motorcycle Association.

CASA

From Page A1

Allard noted some students not engaging in her dating violence speeches and so she decided to come to them in a character from Harry Potter who would capture their imaginations.

"I will come dressed up in full Ravenclaw costume and we do an activity." Allard said. "That's my job; if I can go in looking as ridiculous as possible and make it as fun and engaging as possible, maybe the information will sink in better."

The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence had their conference this past November and asked Allard be a speaker because of her Harry Potter-themed presentation.

Allard sees the communication barrier in teens initially coming to CASA.

"I get kids not wanting to talk to their parents and they're being a communication barrier," Allard said. "Not only because they don't want to tell their parents because of the shame and the stigma and stuff but they don't know how because they don't have the language to express it."

Teens are sharing their intimate details with friends and people that they're texting at night but are not necessarily sharing it with their parents.

"They can always call CASA's hotline and remain anonymous, and we can help problem solve any of those issues they might be experiencing," Allard said. "Even maybe role play how they can feel comfortable talking to trusted people because sometimes maybe their parents or caregivers aren't the safest person to talk to."

For more information on CASA Sedalia can be found at www.casa-sedalia.org, on Facebook, or by calling the 24-hour hotline is 660-827-5555.

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

Donald Trump punts on big tariffs against Canada, Mexico

By Shauneen Miranda
States Newsroom

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday punted for one month his plans to impose sweeping tariffs against Mexico and Canada after both countries agreed to act on his demands to curb drug trafficking and illegal immigration into the United States.

The pauses came as Trump signed a trio of executive orders over the weekend that would kickstart a 25% tariff on Mexico, a 25% tariff on most goods from Canada and a 10% tariff on imports from China, beginning early Tuesday. The tariff against China remained in place Monday night.

Many economists have warned about the negative effects such broad tariffs could have on consumers.

Trump imposed the tariffs — a tax on goods that come into the country — in an effort to hold the three countries "accountable to their promises of halting illegal immigration and stopping poisonous fentanyl and other drugs from flowing into our country," according to a White House fact sheet.

Mexico, Canada and China are the United States' top trading partners. The three countries had responded to Trump's plans with their own retaliatory measures.

Two calls with Trudeau

In a post on social media, Trump said "Canada has agreed to ensure we have a secure Northern Border, and to finally end the deadly scourge of drugs like Fentanyl that have been pouring into our Country, killing hundreds of thousands of Americans, while destroying their families and communities all across our Country."

Trump held two calls Monday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

After his second call with Trump, Trudeau said in a social media post that "Canada is implementing our $1.3 billion border plan — reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl."

He said nearly "10,000 frontline personnel are and will be working on protecting the border" and that the country would make new commitments to appoint a "Fentanyl Czar."

Canada will also "list cartels as terrorists, ensure 24/7 eyes on the border" and "launch a Canada- U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat organized crime, fentanyl and money laundering," Trudeau said.

"I have also signed a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl and we will be backing it with $200 million," he said.

Negotiations with Mexico

In a social media post on Monday, Trump said he had a "very friendly conversation" with Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum and that the two agreed to "immediately pause the anticipated tariffs for a one month period."

Negotiations led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary nominee Howard Lutnick and "high-level" Mexico representatives would take place during that time, Trump said.

Sheinbaum also agreed to "immediately supply" 10,000 troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in an effort to curb illegal immigration to the United States, in addition to fentanyl smuggling.

Senate Dems on tariff impacts

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats — including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York; Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota; Ron Wyden of Oregon; Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire; and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland — underscored how Trump's tariff plans could hit Americans' pocketbooks.

"Trump is yet again rigging the same game for his billionaire friends while doing nothing to lower costs for American families," Schumer said.

"These nonsense tariffs equate to a tax increase on the American people, and the president isn't just randomly slapping on tariffs — he's slapping consumers right where it hurts: their wallets," he added.

Asked about any legislation the Senate Democrats were contemplating, Wyden said "everything is on the table at this point."

"No president has ever used this particular statute to impose a tariff, and we've already got legislation from several Democrats to make sure that it can't be used as a blank check for the president," the Oregon Democrat said.

The senators also brought in Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale, which has conducted its own analysis on the economic and fiscal effects of Trump's tariff plans regarding Mexico, Canada and China.

"We found that the average price increase was the equivalent of about $1,250 per household in America," Tedeschi said.

"Now bear in mind that that's just an average — tariffs are not an equitable tax — they pinch the middle class more than they pinch upper-income households."





SOBER

From Page A1

"Offering to let them have their families come with them I feel like that's important," Adams said. "We're going to do crafts with the kids, so it'll be a family environment where they can enjoy this occasion. We're going to have food, snacks and we're going to do Valentine's crafts for the kids."

The certified peer specialists know the temptation involved and the ever-present risk of a relapse.

"All it takes is just being in that kind of celebratory environment one time," Briscoe said. "You're around people who are having a good time, and you want to experience a good time with them. You think, 'hey, I could just have one.' From my personal experience sometimes just having one is all it takes."

The party is a chance to look at social interaction in a new way, setting the norm for future party temptations.

"We're reconstructing the perspective of how people normally would interact during an event like a Super Bowl party," Briscoe said. "Prior to this sober Super Bowl party drinking or any type of drug use might have been something that was normalized, but now they're getting able to have the chance to repurpose their experience."

With sober parents setting the example for responsible behavior for their kids, sober Super Bowls parties may become as common as Patrick Mahomes touchdowns.

"The kids are around, too, so they're able to be that model for their children as well, and really just have a good time," Briscoe said. "Recovery isn't something that should be seen as stripped of fun, you could have a lot of fun in recovery, I have a lot of fun in recovery."

Recovery Lighthouse's uper Bowl Bash will be held at the Beacon of Hope Recovery Community Center, 910 W. Main St.

For information call Recovery Lighthouse at 660-827-4357.

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





Sarah Tippie receives the 2025 Sacred Heart School Teacher of the Year Award from SHS Principal Suzann Jenkins on Friday, Jan. 31. Fr. Joe Corel and SHS President Nikki Howell are looking on.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT



Also, on Friday, Jan. 31, Sacred Heart juniors Anthony Sierra and Cassidy Bentch received the Class of 2026 American Youth Foundation's "I Dare You" National Leadership Award.



Beverly Rollings, Sacred Heart School Foundation treasurer, speaks on Friday, Jan. 31, as SHS President Nikki Howell holds a plaque representing an SHS student, the late Zach Parsons. The American Youth Foundation's "I Dare You" National Leadership Award is given each year in Parsons's honor.

AWARD

From Page A1

She added that Saint Anne is the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, and her example of raising Mary with love and virtue reminds everyone of the vital role parents and educators play in shaping children's faith and character.

"Together, these saints inspire our teachers to integrate faith with learning, making them the perfect namesakes for this award," Jenkins said. "This year's recipient has family ties dating back to when these very statues were installed — 143 years ago. Throughout those generations, her family has been deeply involved in the life of our church and school. She carries forward the ideals of those who came before her while also making her own mark among her colleagues, who have proudly named her Teacher of the Year."

Jenkins cited the comments Sacred Heart staff made about Tippie, noting that many thought of her as compassionate and kind. She is also described as someone who can always be depended on and who works tirelessly for the good of the school. Others noted that Tippie could always be trusted and is an invaluable member of Sacred Heart's team.

Jenkins said Tippie has been an educator for 12 years, 10 of which have been dedicated to Sacred Heart.

"She earned her first bachelor's degree in psychology at Missouri State University, and her second bachelor's degree was in special education from St. Louis University," Jenkins said. "She has served in multiple roles within our school — beginning as a student herself. She is a calming presence with a fierce love for her students and school. She treats every student with respect and dignity, always finding creative ways to help them succeed."

Jenkins added it was her honor to present the award to Tippie.

"Her favorite flower is also her middle name, and when she's around, everything's coming up roses," Jenkins said. "And while in 1998, her classmates voted her 'Best Hair' and 'Worst Driver,' in 2025, we're voting for her to let that fabulous hair down and celebrate this moment."

Tippie came to the front in tears. After hugging Fr. Joe Corel, Jenkins, and Sacred Heart President Nikki Howell, she noted she had spent her entire life at SHS.

"I was a student, a parent, a teacher, and now a counselor," Tippie said. "Through all these stages of life it has grounded me. I'm so blessed; I appreciate it— thank you."

Cassidy Bentch and Anthony Sierra were selected as the Class of 2026 recipients of the American Youth Foundation's "I Dare You" National Leadership Award. Beverly Rollings, Sacred Heart School Foundation Treasurer, presented the award.

Information supplied by Sacred Heart said the school administration nominated them. The award recognizes two youths (a boy and a girl) in 11th grade who strive to be their best and make a positive difference in their communities. Recipients distinguished themselves through their actions and leadership potential.

Sacred Heart instituted this award to honor the life of Zach Parsons. Parsons was a recipient of this award and a "remarkable student at Sacred Heart" from his 2013 freshman year until his death in a car accident in 2016, at 17.

Jeannine Dove, Sherry Walker, Sharon Dey, Ted Meyer, Kevin Gerke, and the 2009-2012 Golf Teams were also recognized. Howell inducted them into the 2025 Sacred Heart Hall of Fame.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at faithb@sedaliademocrat.com.

THE WEATHER

AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
42 / 33	51 / 32	48 / 31	43 / 39	49 / 26	39 / 22	40 / 23
Mostly cloudy, cooler; p.m. mist	Showers and a heavier thunderstorm	Plenty of sun	Rain and drizzle in the afternoon	Partly sunny and breezy	Mostly sunny and colder	Increasing cloudiness

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Boonville	43/32/sh	49/34/r	50/30/s	43/36/sh	47/21/sh	37/22/s	38/21/pc
Branson	55/45/sh	68/56/r	62/42/pc	57/56/c	71/27/sh	42/23/s	41/22/c
Cape Girardeau	54/42/c	57/54/r	65/39/r	50/46/c	70/32/r	43/26/s	42/29/c
Carthage	50/46/sh	65/46/r	50/39/s	56/52/sh	62/25/s	41/24/s	42/25/c
Columbia	44/33/sh	50/36/r	50/30/s	41/37/r	49/22/pc	38/22/s	38/23/pc
El Dorado Spgs	45/41/sh	58/36/r	47/35/s	51/46/sh	55/23/r	40/22/s	41/25/pc
Excelsior Springs	38/30/sh	43/31/r	47/28/s	41/33/c	45/20/pc	39/20/s	41/18/pc
Falls City	33/24/c	35/26/i	41/20/s	41/28/c	43/20/r	39/18/s	37/17/pc
Fayetteville	68/55/sh	72/62/r	69/47/c	67/64/c	70/32/r	47/29/pc	45/30/c
Florissant	45/32/c	49/44/r	52/29/s	46/37/r	58/28/s	40/26/s	39/26/c
Fulton	43/31/sh	48/34/r	50/30/s	42/38/r	48/21/pc	36/22/s	37/21/pc
Grandview	38/33/sh	44/31/r	48/30/s	42/38/r	48/24/pc	38/24/s	39/22/pc
Jefferson City	46/35/sh	53/36/r	52/31/s	45/39/sh	51/25/sh	41/23/s	40/26/pc
Joplin	49/46/sh	66/46/r	54/40/s	58/53/sh	63/25/pc	43/25/s	42/26/c
Kansas City, KS	38/32/sh	42/30/r	47/29/s	42/37/c	47/23/pc	40/23/s	41/22/pc
Kansas City, MO	37/31/sh	43/30/r	45/27/s	39/33/c	47/22/pc	39/21/s	39/22/pc
Kennett	54/47/pc	65/64/sh	71/41/r	55/53/r	74/37/t	43/31/pc	45/31/c
Kirksville	36/25/c	38/28/i	44/21/s	39/29/c	43/21/pc	36/19/s	35/16/pc
Lawrence	36/30/sh	41/25/r	47/26/s	43/33/pc	45/23/pc	39/21/s	40/23/pc
Marshall	41/31/sh	45/31/r	45/27/s	44/35/r	45/23/pc	37/22/s	37/20/pc
Moberly	39/28/c	41/30/i	48/26/s	43/32/c	44/22/r	37/19/s	38/18/pc
Mountain Home	56/43/sh	67/60/r	66/43/r	55/53/c	73/30/r	43/26/i	41/25/c
Paducah	55/43/pc	60/58/r	68/40/r	54/50/c	71/35/r	43/28/pc	42/29/c
Poplar Bluff	52/42/c	58/56/r	65/41/r	53/48/c	73/33/t	44/28/pc	42/27/c
Rolla	47/38/sh	58/47/r	51/34/s	47/41/sh	57/23/r	40/23/s	38/24/pc
St. Joseph	35/28/c	38/25/r	43/21/s	40/31/c	44/20/pc	39/19/s	40/18/pc
St. Louis	46/34/c	50/44/r	53/30/s	43/38/r	58/29/sh	40/27/s	41/26/c
Sedalia	42/33/sh	51/32/r	48/31/s	43/39/r	49/26/pc	39/22/s	40/23/pc
Springfield, IL	39/27/c	41/35/i	44/21/pc	39/32/c	48/25/r	37/22/s	36/19/s
Springfield, MO	55/47/sh	65/47/r	52/39/s	53/50/sh	60/25/t	40/26/s	39/24/c
Tipton	43/34/sh	53/34/r	50/31/s	43/37/r	51/21/r	38/19/s	39/20/pc
Topeka	36/30/c	42/29/r	46/25/s	44/32/pc	46/23/pc	44/22/s	42/21/pc
Tulsa	48/44/sh	73/53/pc	58/41/pc	67/57/pc	63/27/pc	48/28/s	43/29/c
Versailles	42/35/sh	55/36/r	49/32/s	44/41/r	52/23/r	39/21/s	40/22/pc
Warrensburg	40/32/sh	48/30/r	47/30/s	43/38/r	51/23/r	39/21/s	40/20/pc

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

SUN AND MOON

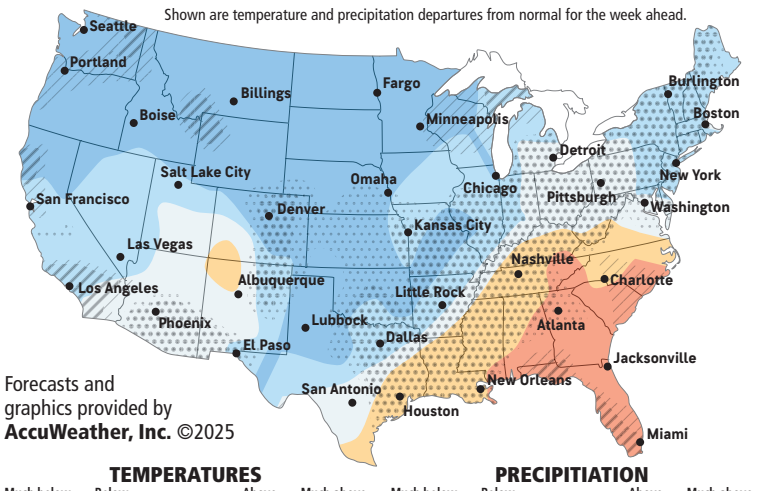
	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Sunrise	7:16 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:14 a.m.	7:13 a.m.	7:12 a.m.	7:11 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Sunset	5:38 p.m.	5:39 p.m.	5:41 p.m.	5:42 p.m.	5:43 p.m.	5:44 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
Moonrise	10:33 a.m.	11:07 a.m.	11:48 a.m.	12:37 p.m.	1:36 p.m.	2:42 p.m.	3:51 p.m.
Moonset	none	1:10 a.m.	2:24 a.m.	3:35 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	5:35 a.m.	6:19 a.m.

MOON PHASES

FIRST	FULL	LAST	NEW
Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 20	Feb 27

NATIONAL WEATHER THIS WEEK

Shown are temperature and precipitation departures from normal for the week ahead.



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2025

TEMPERATURES: Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal

PRECIPITATION: Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal

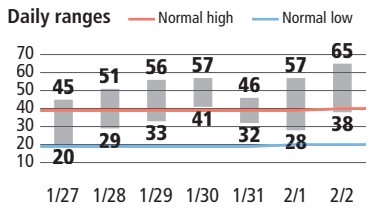
City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	69/38/s	69/34/s	64/37/s	65/37/pc	65/36/s	55/36/pc	54/34/c
Atlanta	75/56/s	70/58/c	72/61/sh	77/60/c	76/59/r	71/44/sh	62/46/r
Billings	2/-5/c	9/6/c	25/5/c	13/3/sn	29/10/s	29/7/s	11/-7/sn
Boise	52/34/c	42/28/pc	39/31/sf	35/20/sn	37/19/s	36/17/s	33/15/s
Charlotte	76/48/pc	55/43/c	71/58/sh	73/53/sh	69/61/c	72/43/r	55/38/r
Chicago	30/25/pc	34/30/sn	39/19/pc	31/26/c	34/24/i	31/18/c	29/12/s
Dallas	77/65/pc	81/66/pc	83/61/s	81/65/pc	82/43/pc	54/38/pc	50/37/c
Denver	54/34/pc	66/33/pc	56/30/s	63/27/s	42/21/c	38/20/s	34/17/c
Detroit	31/19/pc	29/25/c	42/20/r	31/23/c	32/26/sn	32/21/c	30/19/pc
El Paso	80/47/s	80/43/s	79/44/s	79/50/s	80/49/s	70/45/pc	68/42/pc
Houston	80/66/c	79/68/pc	82/66/c	81/68/sh	82/66/pc	75/53/c	67/49/pc
Jacksonville	80/49/pc	78/60/pc	84/57/s	81/55/pc	83/56/pc	83/58/pc	80/56/c
Las Vegas	76/56/pc	72/49/pc	70/55/s	68/41/s	62/40/s	60/38/pc	60/37/c
Little Rock	62/54/pc	75/68/r	75/52/r	68/65/pc	81/44/pc	51/37/pc	50/35/c
Los Angeles	65/54/pc	63/54/r	60/54/r	64/46/r	69/47/s	68/48/pc	67/47/pc
Miami	82/69/s	83/70/pc	82/69/pc	83/70/s	82/70/pc	84/68/pc	83/69/sh
Minneapolis	11/8/c	27/13/sn	19/5/pc	22/15/c	23/9/sn	19/5/pc	14/0/s
Nashville	61/49/pc	69/65/sh	73/48/r	59/55/c	75/44/c	52/32/pc	46/35/c
New Orleans	75/59/c	76/66/sh	80/63/sh	79/66/pc	84/65/pc	80/63/sh	69/59/c
Omaha	30/19/c	31/21/i	38/18/pc	39/24/c	36/16/pc	37/16/s	33/13/pc
Phoenix	86/53/s	79/54/s	78/54/pc	77/56/s	76/50/s	74/53/pc	73/47/c
Pittsburgh	39/22/c	35/31/sn	60/27/r	38/26/pc	47/30/i	38/24/c	37/22/pc
Portland, OR	44/33/pc	41/33/c	41/32/pc	41/35/pc	45/33/pc	46/32/pc	42/32/sn
Salt Lake City	66/50/c	58/33/pc	53/39/c	45/26/sn	34/19/pc	38/19/s	39/20/pc
San Francisco	59/44/r	56/49/pc	57/46/r	55/41/s	56/40/s	57/41/pc	58/41/s
Seattle	41/29/pc	39/31/pc	41/29/pc	39/31/s	41/33/c	42/29/c	41/30/sn
Washington, DC	58/32/pc	40/33/sn	57/42/r	55/30/c	44/39/r	50/29/c	43/30/sn

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport through 2/2

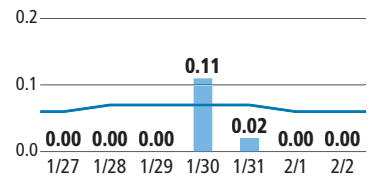
TEMPERATURES

Daily ranges — Normal high — Normal low



PRECIPITATION (inches)

Daily totals — Normal



Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.12"
Year to date	0.98"
Normal year to date	2.04"

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

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

For the week ending 2/2	154
Month to date	35
Season to date	2612
Normal season to date	3247
Last season to date	2590

WEATHER HISTORY

Pacific winds usually regulate San Francisco's climate. On Feb. 4, 1887, however, 4 inches of snow accumulated. Excited residents staged a massive snowball fight.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What is the record low temperature for the lower 48 states in February?

A: -66(F) at West Yellowstone, Mont., on Feb. 9, 1933.



Windsor boys down Smithton in overtime, advance in Kaysinger Tourney

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

An extra four minutes was needed to decide a winner between Windsor and Smithton boys basketball Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Greyhounds were the ones who came out on top after sophomore Ryan Millington scored a layup with 7.9 seconds remaining in the overtime period to help No. 4 Windsor defeat No. 5 Smithton 71-67 in the first round of the Kaysinger Conference Tournament at State Fair Community College.

"That's a play we like to run where we can get the ball in Ryan's hands and he has the option to go to the rim or kick to Rowan [Cox] or Jude [Burkhart] for a three," Windsor co-head coach David Hesse said. "He had the crease and made a nice play."

The teams entered the overtime period tied at 59 after Smithton senior Ryan Pond hit a 3-pointer with about 35 seconds to go in regulation.

Smithton senior Sam Bray gave the Tigers an early advantage in the extra frame when he converted a basket-and-one to put Smithton up 62-59.

Windsor sophomore Rowan Cox answered with a basket-and-one of his own to tie the game once again.

Bray came back with a layup on the other end before junior Conner Barnes responded with a bucket for the Greyhounds to keep the game tied at 64 apiece.

Millington drained a 3-pointer with about 52 seconds remaining to give Windsor a three-point cushion, but Smithton senior Logan Williams knotted the game back up with a triple at about the 33-second mark.

See **WINDSOR**, Page A12



Windsor sophomore Ryan Millington shoots a 3-pointer during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament game against Smithton on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College. Millington scored 29 points and made five 3-pointers in the Greyhounds' 71-67 overtime win.
PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT



Stover senior Ashlyn Pinzke (10) dribbles the ball during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament first round game against Sacred Heart on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College. Pinzke broke Stover girls baksetball's all-time scoring record Thursday, Jan. 30, when she had 23 points in the Lady Bulldogs' 64-43 win over Cole Camp.
PHOTOS BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

Pinzke surpasses Stover girls basketball's all-time scoring mark

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

Whether it be for volleyball or basketball, Stover senior Ashlyn Pinzke is going to score whenever she is on the court.

Pinzke, who holds Stover volleyball's all-time kills record, broke Stover girls basketball's all-time scoring record Thursday, Jan. 30, in the Lady Bulldogs' 64-43 win over Cole Camp.

"It's so great," Pinzke said. "It's really great to know that my name's up there with some of the great players of Stover."

Pinzke finished Thursday's contest with 23 points, scoring the record-setting bucket on a fast break layup with about 3:30 to go in the game.

The basket gave Pinzke her 1,543rd career point, surpassing the record previously held by current head volleyball coach Candace Bauer.



Stover senior Ashlyn Pinzke shoots a 3-pointer during the game against Northwest on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Stover Dome. Pinzke surpassed 1,500 career points during the contest.

After breaking the record, Stover head coach Jake Reardon called a timeout to give everybody in the Stover Dome a chance to celebrate.

"It meant so much," Pinzke said about the celebration. "Knowing that I've worked hard my entire career and knowing that I get to be up on that list with the greatest players of Stover. It was just a great feeling."

Pinzke was also recognized for surpassing the 1,500 career point mark — something she did Tuesday, Jan. 28, when she had 26 points in the Lady Bulldogs' 46-30 win over Northwest.

See **PINZKE**, Page A12

Cole Camp girls upset Lincoln in Kaysinger Tournament opener

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

It did not take long for the Kaysinger Conference Tournament to see its first upset.

In the first game of action Saturday, Feb. 1, No. 6 Cole Camp overcame a 20-11 halftime deficit to beat No. 3 Lincoln 35-27 at State Fair Community College.

The Lady Bluebirds hit five 3-pointers in the second half while holding the Lady Cardinals to just seven second-half points.

"I think we just kind of challenged them [at halftime]," Cole Camp head coach Derald Henderson said. "I just didn't think they were as focused as what we would like them to be. These early games, obviously, always present some challenges, so I don't know if we were still waking up or what, but we tried to turn the button on a little bit."



Cole Camp junior Payten Shoemaker (1) shoots a 3-pointer during the game against Lincoln on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College.
PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

The Lady Bluebirds' (4-13, 1-4 Kaysinger Conference) nine-point deficit turned into an 11-point margin in the opening seconds of the third quarter after Lincoln junior Rebekah Helland hit a floater to give the Lady Cardinals (8-9, 2-2 Kaysinger Conference) a 22-11 lead.

Lincoln would not score again until the 3:33 mark of the fourth quarter.

Henderson said the Lady Bluebirds did a nice job of slowing down Lincoln's No. 1 scoring threat, senior Alyssa Mellen, in the second half.

See **GIRLS**, Page A11

Northwest boys stifle Green Ridge in upset win

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

The top priority on Northwest boys basketball's game plan against Green Ridge was to limit the production of star players Jack Hoos and Wyatt Crawford.

The Mustangs made that plan a reality, holding the Tigers' scoring duo to just nine points in a 40-29 victory during the first round of the Kaysinger Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College.

"We wouldn't let their two best shooters shoot," Northwest head coach Rick Mills said. "No. 10 [Hoos] and No. 20 [Crawford] are great players and they hit one field goal from three. We just wouldn't let them shoot. When you cut the head off the snake, the snake will die. And like I said, 10 and 20 are great players, so I just did not want to get beat by great players. We wanted their secondary players to have to shoot the ball."

See **BOYS**, Page A11



Northwest senior Tanner Johnson dribbles the ball as he scans the defense during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament game against Green Ridge on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Commnunity College. PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

SPORTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb. 4
KAYSINGER CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
6 p.m. — No. 1 Lincoln vs. No. 4 Windsor
9 p.m. — No. 2 Sacred Heart vs. No. 6 Northwest
KAYSINGER CONFERENCE GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
4:30 p.m. — No. 1 Stover vs. No. 5 Windsor
7:30 p.m. — No. 2 Northwest vs. No. 6 Cole Camp
BOYS BASKETBALL
7:45 p.m. — Harrisburg at Tipton
GIRLS BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m. — Harrisburg at Tipton
7 p.m. — Battle at Smith-Cotton
Wednesday, Feb. 5
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
5:30 p.m. — Three Rivers Community College at State Fair Community College (Women)
7:30 p.m. — Three Rivers Community College at State Fair Community College (Men)
WRESTLING
6 p.m. — Warrensburg at Smith-Cotton
TBD — Cole Camp at Sherwood Tri
TBD — Tipton at Summit Christian Tri
GIRLS SWIM AND DIVE
4 p.m. — Smith-Cotton at CMAC Championships
Thursday, Feb. 6
KAYSINGER CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
6 p.m. — No. 9 Stover vs. No. 5 Smithton/No. 10 La Monte
9 p.m. — No. 7 Otterville vs. No. 3 Green Ridge/No. 8 Cole Camp
KAYSINGER CONFERENCE GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
4:30 p.m. — No. 8 Sacred Heart vs. No. 4 Smithton
7:30 p.m. — No. 3 Lincoln vs. No. 7 Green Ridge/No. 9 La Monte
GIRLS BASKETBALL
6 p.m. — Skyline at Tipton
7 p.m. — California at Smith-Cotton
WRESTLING
5:30 p.m. — Windsor at Lexington
6 p.m. — Smith-Cotton at Marshall
TBD — Stover at Versailles Quad



Smith-Cotton junior Dax Wiskur shoots a jumper during the game against Blair Oaks on Friday, Dec. 13.
FILE PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

AREA ROUNDUP

SMITH-COTTON BOYS EARN SILVER AT ELDON TOURNAMENT

By Democrat Staff

Smith-Cotton boys basketball placed second at the Eldon Invitational Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, following a 74-45 loss to Eugene in the championship game.

Eugene ranks No. 2 in Class 2, according to the latest poll by the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association.

"Our defense was not good tonight," Smith-Cotton head coach Brennan Scanlon said in a statement. "A lot of that had to do with Eugene, who is ranked second in the state. Our focus needs to be on the big game on Friday versus Warrensburg."

Junior Dax Wiskur led the Tigers (12-6) in scoring against Eugene with 12 points, while senior Malaki Reed had 10.

Smith-Cotton reached the championship game by beating Camdenton 80-47 in the semifinals Thursday, Jan. 30.

In that game, Reed, senior Jaevion Dye and sophomore Drew Berry all had 15 points. Freshman Jaquios Bennett added 14 points, while Wiskur and sophomore Simon Gladush each finished with 10 points.

"We played one of our best games of the year," Scanlon said in a statement. "Defense was lock down and we shared the ball with six guys in double figures."

The Tigers won their first round game against Eldon 68-40 on Monday, Jan. 27. Wiskur had 24 points in that game, while Dye had 12.

Smith-Cotton hosts Warrensburg (1-7) at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7.

Area wrestlers compete in Lafayette County Tournament

Windsor junior Chase Hampton placed first at the Highway 13 Boys Throwdown in Higginsville on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Wrestling at 120 pounds, Hampton received a bye in the first round and then beat Carrollton's Colson Kipping with a pinfall in 1:36.

In the semifinals, Hampton pinned Sylas Fletcher of El Dorado Springs in 1:30 to advance to the championship.

Hampton then won the title with a 6-0 decision over Lafayette County's Evan Chrisco.

Tipton senior Dalton Doss also placed first in Higginsville, taking the gold in the 138-pound weight class.

Doss received a bye in his first-round match and then defeated Sherwood's Dalton McKenzie with a 17-2 technical fall in 1:02.

In the semifinals, Doss defeated Penney's Carson Bretz with a 25-second pinfall to advance to the first-place match.

Doss pinned Macon's Emerson Young in 30 seconds to clinch the title.

Sophomore Paxton Pyle placed second for the Cardinals in the 165-pound weight class, while sophomore Evan Ragsdale and junior Lee Fulks placed third in the 175-pound and 190-pound divisions, respectively.

As a team, Tipton placed ninth with 89 points, while Windsor came in 12th with 42 points.

In the Highway 13 Girls Throwdown on Friday, Jan. 31, Windsor freshman Kimber Drenon placed first in the 100-pound weight class.

Drenon won her first match against Richmond's Abigail Smith with a pinfall in 48 seconds.

Then, Drenon beat Genavieve Ceja of Marshall in the semifinals with a pinfall in 1:59.

Drenon earned first place by beating J Colbert of Belton with a pinfall in 1:43 during the championship bout.

Coaches, please send scores and stats to jackd@sedaliademocrat.com.

Central Missouri men grind out win over Fort Hays State

By Star-Journal Staff

Defense was the story of Central Missouri men's basketball's 41-31 win against Fort Hays State on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

The Mules (11-10, 6-6 MIAA) limited Fort Hays State to 12% shooting in the first half. UCM opened the game on a 11-2 run in the first five minutes through the combinations of junior Josh Nwankwo and graduate student Elijah Farr.

Fort Hays State (13-7, 6-5 MIAA) did not cross into double-digit scoring until the final three minutes of the first half. UCM led 26-11 at halftime.

Fort Hays outscored UCM 20-15 in the second half. The Mules had the shooting advantage game-wide however, making 35% (14-of-40), including 26.3% (5-of-19) from deep. Hays sank 20% (10-of-50) of its shots, 6.7% (1-of-15) from deep.

Farr paced the Mules with 13 points while senior DeAirius Barker had 11, Nwankwo had 10, senior KJ Lee had three, senior Jack Chapman had two and freshman Jake Fritz had two.

UCM led the rebounding margin 36-33, anchored by eight each from Nwankwo and Chapman. Farr had five.

Sophomore Kyle Grill led Hays with 10 points. The Mules held graduate student Kaleb Hammeke, who averages 14.6 points per game, to seven points. He was 1-for-11 from the field.

Nebraska-Kearney 57, Central Missouri 52

Central Missouri lost to Nebraska-Kearney 57-52 on Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

The Mules led 52-48 with 2:48 left, but proceeded to turn the ball over twice, miss two free-throws and miss two 3-point attempts.

Kearney (7-12, 5-6 MIAA) went on a 9-0 run, making 5-of-6 free-throws and two layups.

Central Missouri and Nebraska-Kearney exchanged the lead three times and were tied on another three occasions.

The Mules trailed 29-19 with 2:49 remaining in the first half, but used three threes from sophomore Tim Jordan Jr., and a jumper from freshman Kyran Tilley to take a 30-29 heading into halftime.

Central Missouri did not lead by more than six points in the game. UCM made 35.7% (20-of-56) shots from the field, and was 6-for-12 at the free-throw line.

UNK sank 37.5% (18-of-48) of its shots. The Lopers were 18-for-23 at the free-throw line.

Barker paced UCM with 15 points while Jordan had 14, Tilley had eight, Chapman had five, Farr had four, Nwankwo had four and freshman Kyree Polk had two.

UNK was led by redshirt senior Chase Thompson's 16. Kearney outrebounded UCM 39-32. Chapman led the Mules with even rebounds.

Central Missouri moves on to travel to Washburn on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Central Missouri women's basketball falls to No. 8 Fort Hays

By Star-Journal Staff

Central Missouri women's basketball lost to No. 8 Fort Hays State 74-64 on Saturday Feb. 1, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

The Jennies (13-10, 5-7 MIAA) fell behind 11-4 in the first five minutes, only scoring through free-throws from freshman Taylor Weishaar and sophomore Rylee Vierthaler. By the end of the frame they were down 22-10.

Central Missouri opened the second quarter on a 8-2 run, through three baskets from junior Reese Schaaf and one from Weishaar.

UCM came within three points with 1:45 left in the second quarter, though Hays was able to expand its lead back to six following a free-throw and layup from senior Kate Disalver.

The Tigers (18-2, 9-2 MIAA) led 33-27 at halftime. Their advantage expanded to 57-47 at the end of the third quarter.

UCM turned the ball over 15 times, leading to 23 additional points for Hays.

Central Missouri made 45.3% (24-of-53) of its shots, compared to Fort Hays' 30-of-65 (46.2%).

Weishaar paced UCM with 17 points while Schaaf had 16, redshirt senior Allie Clevenger had 11, redshirt senior Lauren Frost had seven, Vierthaler had six, junior Cierra Smith had four and freshman Jolie Bonderer had three.

UCM won the rebounding margin 34-31, led by Schaaf's seven, Weishaar's five and Bonderer's five.

Graduate student Katie Wagner paced Fort Hays State with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

Central Missouri 62, Nebraska-Kearney 54

Central Missouri women's basketball beat Nebraska-Kearney 62-54 on Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

The Jennies led 16-14 at the end of the first quarter, 32-24 at halftime and 41-37 at the end of the third quarter.

UCM and UNK (15-5, 8-3 MIAA) were tied 47-47 with 5:33 left. The Jennies proceeded to go on a 8-2 run through two triples from Clevenger and a jumper from Weishaar.

UNK briefly brought it down to a three-point difference with 24 seconds left, though Schaaf and Weishaar proceeded to close out the win, going a combined 5-for-6 at the line.

UCM hit 38.3% (23-of-60) of its shots from the field, while UNK made 34.4% (22-of-64). UCM went 11-of-14 at the free-throw line while Hays went 5-for-11.

Schaaf led UCM with 18 points while Weishaar had 14, Clevenger had 12, Vierthaler had eight, Frost had four, Bonderer had two, Smith had two and redshirt senior Nicole Davis had two.

Redshirt junior Jillian Aschoff led UNK with 15 points.

Central Missouri travels to Washburn on Saturday, Feb. 8.





Nine Smith-Cotton girl wrestlers come together to celebrate winning medals at the Central Missouri Activities Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Jefferson City High School. Five Lady Tigers placed first in their respective weight classes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMITH-COTTON WRESTLING

Lady Tigers finish second at CMAC Wrestling Tournament; boys fifth

By Daniel Pyle
Special to the Democrat

Smith-Cotton girls wrestling took second place at the Central Missouri Activities Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, in Jefferson City.

The Lady Tigers had good position in the point standings throughout the day, finishing with 162.5 points, but fell just eight points shy of champion Jefferson City, which put up 170.5 points.

While the end result wasn't what Smith-Cotton was hoping for, the Lady Tigers were still able to come away with five individual champions and nine total medalists.

"Overall, I'm really proud of all the girls' accomplishments," Lady Tigers head coach Nicki Renfrow said. "They did really good."

Among the winners, sophomore Sarah Davis was the champion of the 100-pound weight class. Davis received two byes before facing Jefferson City's Makinze Hayes in the first-place match, where she won by way of a 20-3 technical fall in 4:52.

In the 105-pound weight class, freshman Stella Davis received a bye in the opening round and then beat Parker Distler of Capital City with a pin in 1:57 to advance to the first-place match.

The championship bout saw Stella Davis go up against Jefferson City's Mya Davis and win via another pin in 1:49.

At 115 pounds, junior Katherine Madrid finished first in a tournament for the first time in her wrestling career.

"She wrestled the tournament of her life," Renfrow said. "She's really turned it on here the last couple weeks."

Madrid drew a bye in the opening round, but then won in the semifinal round after Camdenton's Kenleigh Virtue was unable to continue the match due to an injury.

In the title bout, Madrid defeated Battle's Reagynn Childs with a 3-1 decision.

Senior Jazlyn Smith-Freeman won the 120-pound weight class. Smith-Freeman received a bye in the opening round before winning the next two matches with pinfalls.

Smith-Freeman recorded a 47-second pin against Camdenton's Camila Morley in the semifinal round and then claimed victory over Capital City's Keylee Jones in the championship match with a pin in 4:41.

Senior Jasmine Wolfe needed a little over three minutes to record two pins after receiving a bye in the first round of the 125-pound weight class.

Wolfe pinned Dani Williams of Jefferson City in the semifinals in 1:35 and Camdenton's Addison Lawhead in the championship match in 1:42.

Freshman Alivia Washington earned a second-place finish in the 145-pound weight division, going 1-1 on the day. Washington received a bye in round one, but then pinned Kaylee Holt of Battle in 1:55.

Washington then lost to Jefferson City's Alex Dunwiddie in the title match by way of pinfall.

Senior Miloney Kikku also earned a second-place finish. She received a bye in the opening round of the 190-pound bracket, but then recorded a pin against Kennedy Wright of Camdenton in 1:06.

Kikku lost the title match to Jefferson City's Caroline Bell by way of pinfall.

Sophomore Kylie Guerrero placed third in the 140-pound weight class. Guerrero received a bye in the opening round, but then was beaten in the semifinals by Capital City's Athena Anderson via pin in 2:29.

Guerrero received another bye in the consolation semifinals before winning by pin against Jefferson City's Echo Foss in 1:57.

Freshman Shelby Woolery also placed third in the 130-pound weight class. Woolery lost her only match of the day in the semifinal round to Battle's Raffy Cedeno in 4:59 via pin, but was still able to place in her weight class because of a limited number of participants.

Sophomore Kylie Jones recorded fourth-place finish in the 110-pound weight class. Freshman Riley Comfort also placed fourth in the 135-pound division.

On the boys side, Smith-Cotton finished fifth out of eight teams. The Tigers finished with 97 points on the day.

Columbia Hickman was the champion with 234 points.

Smith-Cotton didn't come away with any first-place finishes, but several wrestlers still had a good showing on the mat.

"This young crew is hungry," Tigers head coach Joe Hulsey said. "They're really starting to peak as we go into postseason."

Junior Adarein Hawkins picked up dominant wins in his first two matches of the 126-pound bracket.

In the quarterfinal round, Hawkins won by way of technical fall against Jefferson City's Kamdin Horne by a score of 18-1 in 2:36.

Then, in the semifinal round, he defeated Alex Wieberg of Helias Catholic with a 20-8 major decision.

Hawkins fell in the championship match, though, as he was defeated via a 15-0 technical fall in 3:18 by Hickman's Hank Benter.

Sophomore Xadrian McGruder also placed second in the 150-pound division. After receiving a bye in the quarterfinal round, he won a close match against Jefferson City's Nicholas Redcay via a 9-6 decision.

McGruder advanced to wrestle in the finals, but lost via technical fall to Taryn Nichols of Hickman.

Senior Luis Juarez finished second in the 285-pound weight class. Juarez received a bye in the first round and then beat Jefferson City's Jacob Wade with a 12-8 decision.

In the finals match, Helias Catholic's Zyan Knollmeyer defeated Juarez with a 7-0 decision.

Freshman Ethan Snyder placed third in the 120-pound division, defeating Gerald Wright of Camdenton with a 15-0 technical fall in 5:59 during his first match.

Then, Snyder lost to Jefferson City's Makoa Castillo via pin in 3:27.

Snyder won in the consolation semifinal match with a 13-0 major decision win over Ayden Duncan of Helias Catholic.

Snyder claimed the third-place medal after beating Mervin Allen of Battle by a 17-0 technical fall.

Junior Hunter Langdon also captured third place in the 132-pound weight class.

Langdon pinned Battle's Jyson Walker in the quarterfinal round in 5:37 before being bested by Hickman's Quincey Crawford by way of a 21-5 technical fall in 2:35.

In the consolation semifinal match, Langdon pinned Battle's A.J. Maxwell in 0:43.

Langdon ended up having to wrestle Walker again in the third-place match and defeated him by pin, however, the match lasted only 1:17 this time around.

Freshman Michael Martin, freshman Ayden Hawkins and sophomore Avery Skutnick all placed fourth for Smith-Cotton.

Both Smith-Cotton wrestling teams will now prepare for the last home dual of the season when they host Warrensburg for senior night on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

State Fair men fall to Mineral Area

By Democrat Staff

State Fair Community College men's basketball lost on the road to Mineral Area College 84-60 Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Roadrunners couldn't keep pace with the Cardinals, as they were outscored 50-32 in the second half after trailing just 34-28 at halftime.

State Fair (16-7, 2-4 Region 16 DI) did not have a box score available before press deadline Monday, Feb. 3.

Mineral Area (14-9, 3-4 Region 16 DI) made 50.0% (29-of-58) of its shots from the field, 46.7% (7-of-15) of its shots from 3-point range and 70.4% (19-of-27) of its free throws.

Sophomore Preston Turner led the Cardinals with 20 points, freshman Marcelous Phillips had 17 and freshman Joseph Scott had 15.

State Fair hosts Three Rivers Community College at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The Roadrunners lost to the Raiders 72-61 on Jan. 18.

Looking for an old article? Check out our E-Editions at
www.SedaliaDemocrat.com



HOROSCOPES

These horoscopes are for the week of Feb. 3, 2025

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

All that flattery and fawning shouldn't affect any decision you have to make. Keep your focus on the facts and ignore all the hyperbole, especially if it gets uncomfortably personal.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Your Bovine instincts are on the mark about a "favor" that you're being asked to do. Agree to nothing unless you get a full explanation, which you would check out first, of course.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

A somewhat-unsettled recent period should give way to a smoother time going through the week. Use this quieter time to catch up on matters that you might have had to let slide.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Feeling a little confused is understandable with all those mixed messages. Take time to list the questions you have. Then present them and insist on answers that make sense.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Cupid can be very helpful for Lions seeking a love connection. The chubby cherub also brings warm and fuzzy feelings to paired Leos and Leonas who already share a special love line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Travel is favored this week, whether you'll be globe-trotting or taking a trip to a nearby getaway. You might be surprised (or maybe not) by the person who wants to be your traveling companion.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Getting advice on your next business-related move is a good idea but only if your advisers are trustworthy. Get references you can check out before you make any decisions.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

Getting a boost in your self-esteem is one benefit that comes with a job well-done. There are other plusses as well, including being noticed by all the right people. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

Make time to deal with family matters, especially where they concern your elderly kinfolk. Being there for them from the start can help resolve problems sooner rather than later.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

Getting a project started can often be difficult, but the good news is that you won't want for lack of assistance from colleagues who would like to work with you. So, let them!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

A lot of work-related issues might be raised this week, and you need to be prepared for whatever comes along. Things should be easier when it comes to matters in your private life.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

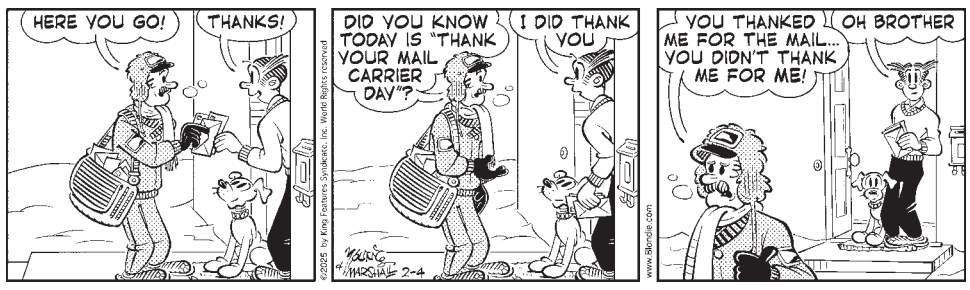
What might appear to be a very much unwanted change in your life right now could turn out to be a very welcome event after all. Give yourself a chance to see where it might take you.

BORN THIS WEEK

You exercise your strong leadership qualities well, which is why people believe in you and feel reassured by you.

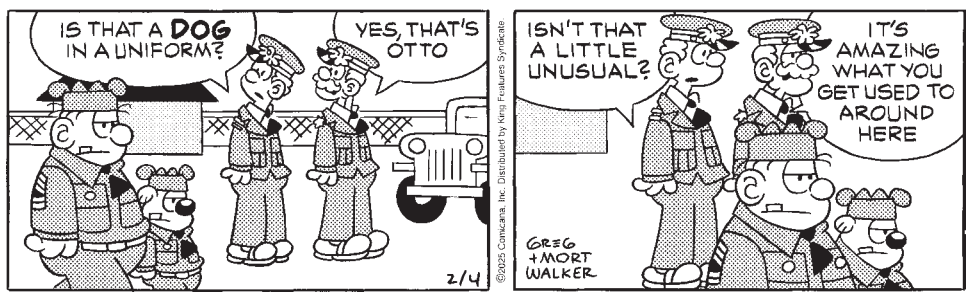
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



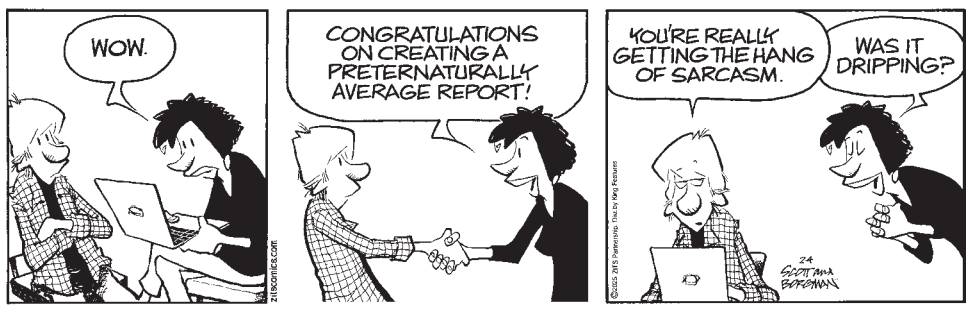
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



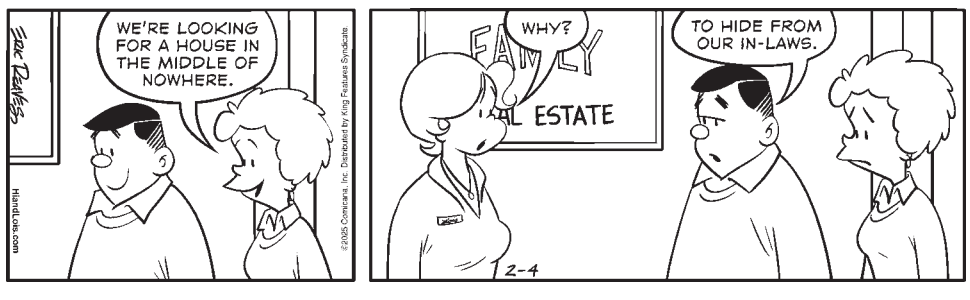
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



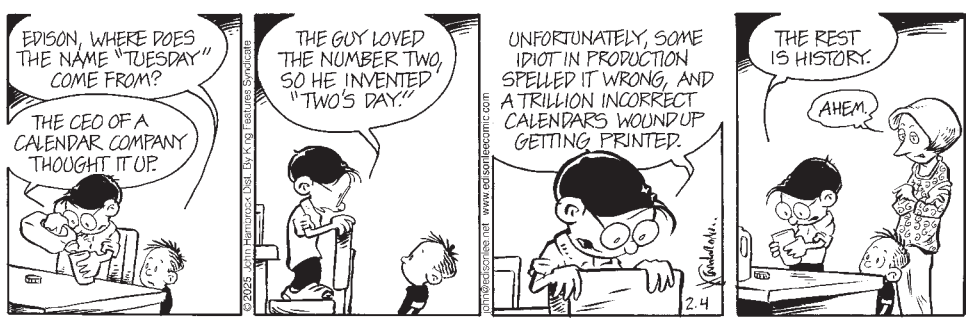
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



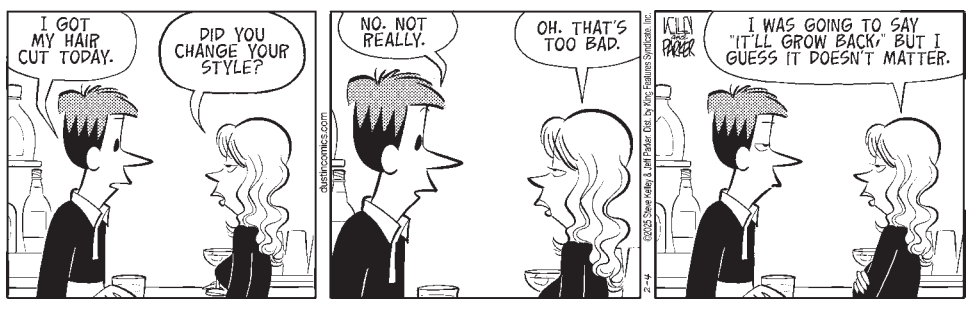
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



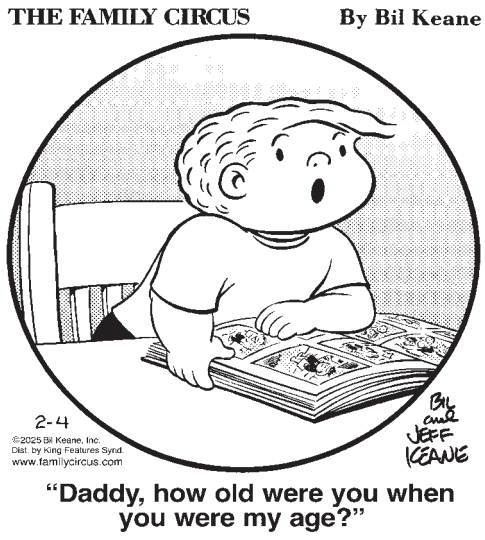
DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Place
7 Deceptive talk
11 "Hold on ..."
12 Verdi piece
13 Do some police work
15 Super-market buys
16 File stand-in
18 Intent look
21 Freshener target
22 Potpourri bits
24 Card symbol
25 End-of-proof letters
26 Deep hole
27 Even chance
29 Neuter
30 Self-referential
31 Neptune's domain
32 Block-heads
34 Cover all bases
40 "Got it"
41 2014's "Godzilla," for one
42 Wagers
43 Bent

DOWN

1 De-pressed
2 Not — dare
3 Animation frame
4 Request
5 Admit
6 Canyon sound
7 Pokes
8 Anger
9 By way of
10 Stop fasting
14 Defeated, but barely
16 Figure of speech
17 Small grove
19 Rocker Frank
20 Inventor Howe
21 Make a choice
22 Vitality
23 Pig's place
25 Put an end to
28 Declares
29 Tahini base
31 Jason of "Shrinking"
33 Feudal farmer
34 Vault part
35 Purpose
36 Court divider
37 Upper limit
38 Luau instru-ment
39 Slugger Williams

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

2-4

Friday's answer

T	A	B	L	E	■	P	R	E	P	S
A	T	R	I	A	■	B	A	Y	O	U
B	E	A	N	S	■	S	M	E	L	L
■	■	V	E	T	S	■	B	L	E	U
A	M	E	N	■	K	A	L	E	■	■
J	O	N	■	D	I	G	E	S	T	S
A	R	E	N	A	■	E	D	S	E	L
R	E	W	A	R	D	S	■	I	R	A
■	■	W	I	N	E	■	K	N	I	T
M	O	O	R	■	F	L	A	G	■	■
A	P	R	O	N	■	A	R	A	B	S
M	E	L	B	A	■	Y	A	Z	O	O
E	N	D	I	T	■	S	T	A	G	Y

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



BIZARRO

BY DAN PIRARO



King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★ 2/4

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 1/31

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GIRLS

From Page A7

"I mean, the Mellen girl had nine points and probably four assists at halftime," Henderson said. "She was our No. 1 piece on the scouting report. So, we just talked about staying in front of her and making that harder. I think Marilyn Hesse was guarding her and really, really took it about herself to try and make that a harder thing for her. She did a great job. We left her out there for a long time and she just had to go play."

Cole Camp took advantage of Lincoln's rut by closing out the third quarter on a 10-0 run, a stretch that included seven points from freshman Madilynn Ogle.

Junior Payten Shoemaker gave the Lady Bluebirds their first lead of the game at 24-22 after drilling a 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter.

Mellen tied the game back up at 24 after she made a basket and drew a foul, but missed the free throw.

Ogle answered for Cole Camp with a 3-pointer and a free throw to put the Lady Bluebirds up four with about 1:50 left to play.

Mellen then went 1-of-2 from the line to cut the deficit back down to three with 1:18 remaining, but Cole Camp responded with a 7-0 run to extend the lead to 10.

Senior Emma Thayer hit a 3-point jumper and then a 2-point jumper before freshman Leah Moore-Allison sank a pair of free throws to make it a 35-25 game with 18.2 seconds left.

"Our kids are amazing," Henderson said. "We have great humans, and that's what I kept telling them. They're very capable. I mean, we have awesome kids. We expect great things from them. What they are as humans, I think they showed that on the floor today."

Lincoln senior Adisyn Pennell scored a basket in the final seconds of the game to add the last points to the scoreboard.

Ogle paced Cole Camp with 11 points, all coming in the second half. She also led the team with two makes from deep.

Thayer and Hesse each had five, while Shoemaker and senior MacKenzie Moellman both had four.

Mellen led Lincoln with 11 points, while Helland had eight.

The Lady Cardinals established a 13-6 lead by the end of the first quarter thanks to a 3-pointer by Mellen and a lay-in by sophomore Skylar Arbuckle.

Cole Camp trimmed the deficit to four at 15-11 in the second quarter through back-to-back buckets from Moellman and a free throw by Shoemaker.

Lincoln answered with a 5-0 spurt to close the half and take a 20-11 lead into the locker room.

With the victory, the Lady Bluebirds advance to the semifinals where they will face No. 2 Northwest at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Henderson said an upset win like this one is huge for the team's momentum going forward.

"We've been talking about just sticking it out and finding ways to win," Henderson said. "This is an example of we're in there late and we find a way to just win and that's it. I think it's a skill the girls and players learn over time."

Lincoln will play the winner of the consolation bracket play-in game between No. 7 Green Ridge and No. 9 La Monte at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. Green Ridge and La Monte played each other Monday, Feb. 3, after press deadline.



Cole Camp freshman Madilynn Ogle lines up a free throw during the game against Lincoln on Saturday, Feb. 1.
PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

No. 5 Windsor 44, No. 4 Smithton 31

Windsor sophomore Taylor Luetjen sank five of the Lady Greyhounds' seven 3-pointers in a 44-31 win over No. 4 Smithton on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College.

No. 5 Windsor (7-9, 2-1 Kaysinger Conference) trailed 8-5 after the first eight minutes of play, but used a 12-3 second quarter to take a 17-11 lead into halftime.

Luetjen hit two of her 3-pointers in the second quarter and then made two more in the third quarter to extend the Lady Greyhounds' lead to 35-19 heading to the fourth quarter.

Freshman Nevaeh Blythe scored five points in the final frame to help put the game away.

Luetjen led Windsor with 15 points, while Blythe had 12. Senior Dani Ashby added nine points.

Senior Kenna Simmons led the way for Smithton (3-14, 1-2 Kaysinger Conference) with 19 points. Sophomore Callie Goss had 10 points and freshman Riley Green had two.

Windsor will play No. 1 Stover in the semifinals at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at State Fair Community College. Smithton will face No. 8 Sacred Heart in a consolation game at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

No. 2 Northwest 52, No. 7 Green Ridge 32

After leading by just three points at halftime, No. 2 Northwest girls basketball sparked a 15-1 run in the third quarter to help it beat No. 7 Green Ridge 52-32 on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College.

Juniors Gabby Meyer and Mary Walker each had seven points in the third quarter for the Lady Mustangs (16-4, 4-1 Kaysinger Conference). Meyer continued to stay hot in the fourth quarter as well, scoring eight more points.

Green Ridge (4-13, 2-2 Kaysinger Conference) led 12-9 after the first quarter thanks to two 3-point makes from junior Santana Rivas.

Senior Mikensey DeVorss added a 3-pointer in the second quarter for the Lady Tigers, but Meyer and junior Elaina Buckley both hit 3-pointers as well to help the Lady Mustangs take a 24-21 advantage into the locker room.

Meyer led Northwest with 23 points, while Walker had 10. Senior Jazzy Butts had seven.

Freshman Elyse Cooley paced Green Ridge with 10 points, while Rivas had eight. Junior Kayden Box finished with six.

No. 1 Stover 62, No. 8 Sacred Heart 14

No. 1 Stover girls basketball crushed No. 8 Sacred Heart 62-14 on Saturday, Feb. 1, at State Fair Community College.

The Lady Bulldogs (18-1, 5-0 Kaysinger Conference) led 26-0 after the first quarter, 36-8 at halftime and 60-12 at the end of the third quarter.

Senior Ashlyn Pinzke led Stover in scoring with 12 points, while senior Nevaeh Conklin had 11 on three 3-point makes.

Sacred Heart (2-5, 1-4 Kaysinger Conference) was led by freshman Maggie Van Leer, who scored six points.

Sports editor Jack Denebeim can be reached at 660-530-0142.

BOYS

From Page A7

No. 6 Northwest (7-13, 3-3 Kaysinger Conference) used its defense to establish an 11-3 lead in the first eight minutes of play.

Junior Elliot Nieters drilled a 3-pointer, senior Owen Oehrke nailed a floater and senior Tanner Johnson converted an and-one to close out the period.

Johnson extended the Mustangs' lead to 12 at 17-5 after scoring three consecutive baskets to open the second quarter.

After that, however, No. 3 Green Ridge (7-9, 2-3 Kaysinger Conference) came alive, sparking a 10-3 run to cut its deficit to 20-15 at halftime.

The teams opened the second half cold, combining for just six points in the third quarter.

Crawford scored Green Ridge's only basket of the period around the 5:30 mark, while Johnson scored Northwest's first points of the second half on a pair of free throws at the 1:40 mark of the third quarter.

Nieters added a layup with under ten seconds to go in the third to give the Mustangs a 24-17 lead heading to the fourth.

"We got cold because we turned the ball over," Mills said. "I mean, it was just foolish mistakes, but I thought the kids really handled themselves well, especially in the game. We ran our delay game, they doubled high and took time off the clock and then we'd get into the offense and that was nice because it kind of calmed us down. We made good passes, got in and got layups…Elliot made the big basket of the game on that driving shot for a layup."

Northwest extended its lead to as much as eight early in the fourth quarter before junior Elliot Cooley hit a 3-pointer to give the Tigers a spark.

Senior Abrahm Rivas made it a four-point game by going 1-of-2 from the free-throw line, but that was as close as Green Ridge would get for the rest of the contest, as the Mustangs closed out the game on a 11-4 run.

Northwest went 7-of-8 from the free-throw line during the stretch.

"Our offense has been up and down all year long," Mills said. "That's just the way we are and that's something that we're going to live with. But, our defense needs to be consistent and consistent with good, and we are really hitting that. We're playing a combo defense. We play a little bit of zone, a little bit of man, but all in all, we really go after the best players and try not to let them beat us. That's been our philosophy."

Johnson led the Mustangs with 12 points on 4-for-5 shooting from the stripe. Nieters had 10 points, five of which came from the stripe. Oehrke finished with nine, while freshman Hayden Meyer and sophomore Connor Thorp each added four.

Cooley paced Green Ridge with 10 points on two makes from deep. Hoos finished with six, while Crawford, Rivas and freshman Levi Lentz all had three.



Northwest senior Owen Oehrke rises up for a jumper during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament game against Green Ridge on Saturday, Feb. 1. PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

Green Ridge played No. 8 Cole Camp in a consolation bracket play-in game after press deadline Monday, Feb. 3. The winner plays No. 7 Otterville at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

Northwest moves on to play No. 2 Sacred Heart in the semifinals at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4.

All games will be played at State Fair Community College.

No. 2 Sacred Heart 63, No. 7 Otterville 45

No. 2 Sacred Heart boys basketball defeated No. 7 Otterville 63-45 Saturday, Feb. 1, thanks in large part to a 14-3 second quarter.

The Gremlins (13-4, 5-0 Kaysinger Conference) led just 15-13 after the first quarter, but made three 3-pointers in the second to take a 29-16 lead into halftime.

Sacred Heart made three more shots from deep in the third quarter to extend its lead to 49-33 heading to the fourth.

Otterville (8-10, 2-4 Kaysinger Conference) cut the deficit to single digits midway through the fourth quarter after junior Dane Palmer made a 3-pointer, but the Gremlins closed out the game on an 11-2 run.

Freshman Cash Conardy led Sacred Heart with 14 points, including four makes from deep. Senior Conner Brown also had 14 points, while junior Max Van Leer had 11 and sophomore Miles Johnson had nine.

Senior Braedyn Eads led Otterville with 13 points, while junior Gabe Berry had 10 and Palmer had nine.

Sports editor Jack Denebeim can be reached at 660-530-0142.

PINZKE

From Page A7

Reardon said the accomplishments and recognition are well-deserved.

"She works hard and spends a lot of extra time at it," Reardon said. "I tell the kids all the time, the two hours a day at practice ain't going to make you a player. It's the time after and before and when no one's watching. She puts that time in."

Pinzke said she has been playing basketball since fourth grade, but it wasn't her first love.

"Basketball definitely wasn't my first pick growing up, especially in middle school it was always volleyball," Pinzke said. "My freshman year, volleyball was still my main."

It wasn't until her sophomore year that Pinzke realized she could be a special player on the basketball court as well.

"Reardon moved in my sophomore year and it just kind of put something in perspective how good of a player I can be," Pinzke said. "Especially with him behind me and cheering me on all the time. That's kind of when it got set into motion that I could be on this list of all-time greats at Stover."

Throughout her basketball career, Pinzke has been named an All-District player twice and was the Class 3 District 8 Player of the Year last season.

In volleyball, Pinzke has been named an All-State player twice, once after her junior season in 2023 and once after her senior season this past fall.

Pinzke said having the school record for most career points in basketball and the school record for most career kills in volleyball is something she never could have dreamed of.

"It's great," Pinzke said. "I mean, knowing that I did both of those [records] and that I was able to accomplish both, it's just really great to be able to leave my mark there."

Pinzke hopes to one day continue her athletic career at the college level, but for now she is motivated simply by her love for sports.

"I love it so much," Pinzke said. "I don't know where I'd be without it. My family does such a great job of keeping me motivated and in love with the game, and providing me with a lot of things too, so that I can be able to keep playing."

Pinzke added 12 more points to her career total Saturday, Feb. 1, when Stover defeated Sacred Heart 62-14 in the opening round of the Kaysinger Conference Tournament. The top-seeded Lady Bulldogs will play No. 5 Windsor in the semifinals at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at State Fair Community College.



Stover senior Ashlyn Pinzke lays the ball in during the game against Northwest on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Stover Dome. PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

The win Saturday was Stover's 15th straight, as the Lady Bulldogs sit at 18-1 on the season.

Reardon said Pinzke is a big reason why the team has had so much success this year.

"We all have jobs and we all do our thing," Reardon said. "Her job is to do a lot of the heavy lifting for this team. If she has a bad game, chances are we aren't playing well. She comes out, plays well and is on fire, we seem to be clicking pretty good and everybody kind of tees off that."

With the record secured, Pinzke said she is now focused on helping the Lady Bulldogs accomplish everything they want to achieve this season.

"We definitely want to win this conference tournament, win conference," Pinzke said. "We're going to go into districts strong, hoping to come out with our first district championship in a while and just keep that winning streak rolling."

Sports editor Jack Denebeim can be reached at 660-530-0142.

WINDSOR

From Page A7

Following a timeout, Millington scored on his layup to give the Greyhounds (7-10, 3-2 Kaysinger Conference) the lead with under 10 seconds to go.

"I didn't think it was over yet," Hesse said. "I didn't want to celebrate, I was trying to get the boys not to celebrate and get back on defense, but a little bit of weight came off their shoulders as far as we can play at this level."

Smithton head coach Richie Pond called a timeout to draw up a play, but it fell apart when Bray slipped coming up the court and lost the ball out of bounds.

The Tigers (7-11, 4-1 Kaysinger Conference) were forced to foul in order to extend the game, sending Cox to the free-throw line where he went 2-of-2 to close out the game.

"It means a lot," Hesse said. "We really battle with leadership at times. We have one senior and he comes off the bench for us. Our juniors try really, really hard, but you don't give juniors the same stroke that seniors get. So, we struggle sometimes with that winning mentality, but Conner Barnes is our rock, our captain, our leader and he's really kept us grounded in those couple of months. Credit to him and credit to the youngsters for looking at him and doing what needed to be done."

Millington led the Greyhounds with 29 points on five makes from 3-point range. Barnes added 16 points, while Cox had 13. Sophomore Jude Burkhart finished with nine points, while junior Brayden Pipal and junior Reece Heany each had two.

Freshman Carter Riley paced Smithton with 19 points, while Bray finished with 18. Williams added 15, Ryan Pond had 13 and senior Nick Slaughter had two. Riley, Williams and Ryan Pond all hit three 3-pointers.



Windsor junior Conner Barnes (34) boxes out Smithton senior Ryan Pond (24) for a rebound during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament game on Saturday, Feb. 1.
PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

The Greyhounds and Tigers squared off Tuesday, Jan. 28, in a game in which Smithton came out on top 68-59.

Hesse said this game was helpful in preparation for Saturday's matchup.

"I think we actually learned a little bit," Hesse said. "Smithton has some really fast athletes and they really beat us down the court Tuesday. So, we worked and worked and worked on getting back and it showed in this game, just taking away running lanes from those guys. I think it worked a little bit."

The Greyhounds found themselves down four midway through the fourth quarter, but used a 7-0 stretch to regain a three-point lead.

Burkhart hit a three and Barnes made consecutive buckets to put Windsor up 56-53 with about 2:20 to play in regulation.

Riley went 3-of-4 from the stripe to tie the game back up a 56 apiece.

Millington then converted a basket-and-one to give the Greyhounds another three-point advantage with 48.1 seconds remaining before Ryan Pond hit his three to tie the game once again and force overtime.

Smithton held a 13-12 lead after the first quarter, but turned it into a 20-14 lead early in the second quarter after Riley made a basket, Williams hit a three and Ryan Pond made a jumper.

Windsor went on to hold a 30-27 advantage at halftime after Millington had a basket-and-one and two triples in the second period.

Despite four 3-pointers by the Tigers in the third quarter, the Greyhounds maintained a two-point lead heading to the fourth quarter at 46-44. Millington had nine points in the period.

"We absolutely respect and love Coach Pond and his team and everything they're all about," Hesse said of Smithton. "We love playing Smithton and the atmosphere that they bring to the game. I think that it's kind of vice versa. We knew it was going to be a tough game. We knew it was going to be a four-quarter game. We didn't know it was going to be a five-quarter game, but the boys really played well and bounced back from Tuesday's loss to the same Smithton team."

Smithton played No. 10 La Monte in a consolation bracket play-in game after press deadline Monday, Feb. 3. The winner plays No. 9 Stover at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

Windsor advances to the semifinals where it will face No. 1 Lincoln at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4.

All games will be played at State Fair Community College.

No. 1 Lincoln 52, No. 9 Stover 27

No. 1 Lincoln boys basketball defeated No. 9 Stover 52-27 to cap off the first round of action Saturday, Feb. 1.

The game was tied at nine after the first eight minutes of play, but the Cardinals took a 20-12 lead into halftime after junior Ben Eckhoff had four points and junior Braydn Benham hit a 3-pointer in the second quarter.

Lincoln's lead grew to 37-21 after the third quarter following a seven-point period by junior Riley Sanders.

Benham led the Cardinals (15-2, 5-0 Kaysinger Conference) with 12 points, while Sanders finished with 11 and Eckhoff had nine.

Junior Vincent Karstens led the Bulldogs (5-14, 1-4 Kaysinger Conference) with 12 points.

Sports editor Jack Denebeim can be reached at 660-530-0142.

Lady Roadrunners stage comeback to beat Mineral Area

By Democrat Staff

State Fair Community College women's basketball erased a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit against Mineral Area College on Saturday, Feb. 1, earning a 57-53 win on the road.

The Lady Roadrunners trailed 44-32 in the final frame, but finished the game on a 25-9 run.

State Fair's comeback largely came at the free-throw line, as the Lady Roadrunners went 11-for-16 at stripe in the second half. State Fair was 14-of-21 (66.7%) at the line game wide.

Sophomore Madison Johnson, who played all 40 minutes of the game, led State Fair (18-4, 3-3 Region 16 DI) with 23 points on 7-of-10 shooting. Johnson also went 9-of-13 from the free-throw line, while adding six rebounds and four steals.

Sophomore Kimora McClure scored 14 points, five of which came from the line, while freshman Malia Rodgers added 13 points on three makes from 3-point range.

As a unit, the Lady Roadrunners shot 37.3% (19-of-51) from the field and 29.4% (5-of-17) from 3-point range.

Mineral Area (17-7, 2-5 Region 16 DI) shot 36.2% (17-of-47) from the field, 25.0% (5-of-20) from 3-point range and 66.7% (14-of-21) from the free-throw line.

The Lady Cardinals were paced by freshman Ashley Buragas' 15 points.

State Fair led 21-19 after the first quarter, but trailed 31-28 at halftime after scoring just seven points in the second quarter.

The Lady Roadrunners stayed cold in the third quarter, scoring just two points in the period. State Fair trailed 38-30 heading to the fourth.

In the fourth quarter, State Fair outscored Mineral Area 27-15.

Mineral Area outrebounded State Fair 34-33, but State Fair won the turnover battle 17-20. The Lady Roadrunners had 16 steals. Freshman Shae Wright led the team with five.

State Fair hosts Three Rivers Community College at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The Lady Raiders, who rank No. 4 in the country in the latest NJCAA rankings, beat the Lady Roadrunners 72-47 on Jan. 18.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORDS

It feels like spring, but Phil says 'no'



Faith Bemiss-McKinney

Contributing Columnist

The last two days felt like spring, with temperatures in the 60s, and I hoped that spring would soon be on the way.

But much to my chagrin, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and dashed my warm, happy spring dreams with the prediction of six more weeks of winter. I always wondered how that worked since the first day of spring was around March 20.

Anyway, I decided to research this legendary groundhog that is supposedly 139 years old. He's quite the celeb. According to the "The Official Website of Groundhog Day!" the "Punxsutawney Groundhog Club," ole Phil has amassed a large following, and he has fans who "flock" to Gobblers Knob each year to see the furry creature's predictions. If they had hats, I bet they'd throw them in the air with glee. I am sure they would have a nifty logo on them, too.

Looking through Phil's prediction stats, he predicts six more weeks of winter more often than an early spring. It could be cloudier in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, although I heard it's always sunny in Philadelphia.

The Official website offered this word from Phil, himself, to his amazing fans, who were standing, shriving in the 20-degree cold while he wore his warm fur jacket (really Phil!):

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

Now, on this February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil

the seer of seers, the prognosticator of all prognosticators

was awakened from his wintry nap at dawn on Gobbler's Knob

Phil looked to the skies and then, speaking in Groundhogese,

directed the President to the proper scroll, which reads:

'What a way to start a Sunday fun day.

You always said you'd make it here one day.

To this place, barely big enough to contain ya.

To this sweet Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania

We're all here with the elements combined

Where Mother Nature meets Father Time

To hear the truth — Is that a gray sky?

Only I know (you can't trust A.I.)

It's Groundhog Day and maybe life is on a loop

But I miss my burrow, I miss my coop

So, I'm headed back down! There's a shadow up here!

Get ready for 6 more weeks of winter this year!'"

Phil also has an inner circle of the most important dignitaries who help him carry on his predictions. All of these guys wear top hats, bow ties, and tuxedos.

There's a president named Shingle Shaker, a vice president named Moonshine, a secretary, named Big Chill, a treasurer named Frostbit and Phil's handler who's named Rainmaker. Everyone needs a president named Shingle Shaker and vice named Moonshine. Way to go Phil!

Of course, other members have monikers such as Iceman, Thunder Conductor, and O-Zone (I think he must be a naysayer against climate change??) Phil even has a member named Chief Healthman (I'm assuming he's looking out for the CDC, which currently has no website available). Then you have to love the names Downpour, Stormbuilder, Overcast, and Head Huntsman (I'm not sure who he's hunting?).

Anyway, spring will come when it's ready, but Phil makes people smile, and he's a good sport. According to the National Weather Service, in the last 10 years, he's only been accurate about 30% of the time, but that's okay. Everyone loves him, and all his inner circle is always dressed to the T.

As America faces deportations, higher food prices, and a myriad of unseen obstacles, Phil is a staple who will hopefully be around for a while — unless President Shingle Shaker puts him on that Federal Agencies list that bar "Special Observances." Well, Phil we'll keep our fingers crossed for you. Stay chill.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at faithb@sedaliademocrat.com.



Adam Swanson, the 2025 Scott Joplin International Ragtime artist-in-residence, gives his first performance of the week on Monday, Feb. 3, at Dresden R-XII School District. This week, Swanson, of Durango, Colorado, will perform at local schools and nursing homes. He will also perform publicly at the Katy Depot on Thursday, Feb. 6. PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

Adam Swanson heats up the keys this week

Scott Joplin Artist-in-Residence visits Sedalia

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney

faithb@sedaliademocrat.com



During his performance at Dresden R-XII School, pianist Adam Swanson plays the "Tiger Rag" by Jelly Roll Morton. During the middle of the piece, Swanson encouraged the students to yell, "Hold that tiger."

DRESDEN — 2025 Scott Joplin Artist-in-Residence Adam Swanson entertained Dresden R-XII School District students Monday, Feb. 3, getting their toes tapping, legs jiggling and their fingers playing air piano.

Swanson, 32, of Durango, Colorado, began playing piano at age 10 and has been a regular at the annual Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia for 20 years. This was his first time being selected as the artist-in-residence in Sedalia. Over the next five days, he will visit several schools in the area and nursing homes and host a special public concert at the Katy Dept on Thursday evening, Feb. 6.

Before Monday morning's performance at the school, Swanson spoke to the Democrat about his love for ragtime and all vintage American music.

"Early blues and early jazz were also part of the ragtime era," Swanson said. "That's something that the Scott Joplin Festival has grown to celebrate as well. That's what I do professionally as a living. I'm probably the only person under the age of 55 who makes a good living playing this kind of music."

Swanson, who holds a bachelor's degree in classical piano and a master's degree in musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, said his love for ragtime and vintage American music began as a child of 10 when he began piano lessons.

"I just loved it when I first heard it," Swanson said. "I thought it was very upbeat and joyful music. And I started with ragtime. The first piece of music I ever learned was 'Maple Leaf Rag.' But then, I had to go backward, and I spent almost 14 years in classical piano lessons."

Swanson lectures as a professional musician, but he is primarily a performer at concerts.

"But I have done many programs like I'm doing this week, for schools of all ages," Swanson said. "I have done guest performances and guest lectures at colleges and universities … even Johns Hopkins, where I was at graduate school."

During his week as an artist-in-residence, Swanson will teach others about Scott Joplin and his music and show them the progression from ragtime "to early commercial blues and early jazz."

"I will show them how ragtime was the basis of other types of music," Swanson said. "That's what makes ragtime doubly important and influential. So, it's part performance, part entertainment, and part history and education. I try to do all of the above."



Concert pianist Adam Swanson, 32, who has played vintage American music at the Scott Joplin Festival for 20 years, performs for Dresden R-XII students on Monday, Feb. 3.

During his performance at Dresden, Swanson began with Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag," composed in 1899. He progressed to a folk ragtime piece about a murder in St. Louis in 1899 called "Frankie and Johnny."

He also played an interactive piece "Tiger Rag" by Jelly Roll Morton from New Orleans. During the middle of the piece, he had the students yell, "Hold that, Tiger."

Swanson played another Jelly Roll Morton piece, "King Porter Stomp," an early jazz piece from the Roaring '20s.

He asked the students what improvisation meant and then explained it to them.

See **SWANSON**, Page B7

CLUB NOTES

Beta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa

The Beta Alpha Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, international honorary sorority for women educators, met Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Christ & Trinity Church with 27 members present and via Zoom.

President Mary Beatty called the meeting to order following a "Super Bowl"-themed meal. Three prospective members were in attendance.

The program was presented by Gabriela Paguay, an AFS student from Ecuador, currently attending Smithton High School. She is hosted by the Matt and Karrie Houston family.

Dr. Kristee Lorenz, Chaplain, shared a devotion by Max Lucado.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved, and Andrea Eppenauer presented the treasurer's report, which was accepted. The January altruistic check went to the Smithton Chapter of AFS.

Julie Sobaski reported that applications for scholarships will be sent to school counselors soon.

Approximately 103 persons were served at our Community Café night on Jan. 3.

The Fraternity Education committee presented information on the places/countries to which our money is sent.

The door prize was won by guest Mary Weant.

Dresden 4-H Club

Dresden 4-H Club held their meeting, Sunday, Feb. 2, at LaMonte Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by Rhett Sneed, president at 5:02 p.m. with twelve members, twelve parents and two leaders were present.

American and 4-H pledges were led by Damion Close and Parker Vickrey.

Membership Roll Call: "What is a Healthy Food we can eat and why is it healthy?"

Jan. 12, 2025, minutes were read by Reagan Sneed, secretary. Minutes were approved as read. Treasurer's report was given by Kinze Wilbanks, treasurer and approved as presented.

Under Old Business:

Members gave reports on what they had been doing with their projects and other activities. Beef Weigh-In is Saturday, Feb. 15 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Taylor Wood Barn on Missouri State Fairgrounds. Eli and Samuel Dehan helped serve and clear tables at the Central MO Ag Club Pie Auction and dinner and Brooke Rieckhoff attended. Sharon Bruner had the Grand Champion Pie which sold for $10,000! It was bought by Central Bank of Sedalia and BASF. Central Missouri Ag Club does a lot for the 4-H/FFA programs, which is much appreciated.

Under New Business:

Robotic Program will be held second Tuesday of February, March, April, Many and June, Jule Carpenter will be the leader. Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in Room 1 at the Central Missouri Ag Expo on the Fairgrounds, Dr. Hertzog from Mo Department of Agriculture will be given an Overview for Exhibitors Rules Changes for 2025 Livestock which affects our county show. March 9t meeting will be our 4-H Feeding Missouri Service Project. 4-H'ers are asked to bring items like food, toilet paper, Kleenexes, oil, salt & pepper, tea bags, coffee, sugar, flour, crackers are some different kinds of items not usually given buy would be appreciated. SMQA testing for those with animal projects must be completed by June 1. 4-H Day at the Capitol is March 26 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. There were other important dates for 4-H'ers to put on their calendars, please look at the agenda.

Next meeting March 9, 2025, at LaMonte Methodist Church at 5 p.m. with Close and Wilbanks families bringing snacks and Danion Close, Kora Cowen and Grady and Kinze Wilbanks doing demonstrations.

Isabella Cornine did a demonstration on "How to Make Magnetic Slime". Reagan and Rhett Sneed gave a talk on their trip to Italy.

Theo Schuber made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ada Anne Carter. Motion carried.

Samuel Dehan, Dresden 4-H Club Reporter



Andrea Eppenauer, left, presents ADK's monthly altruistic check to Karen Lauer, Smithton High School's student AFS Chapter advisor. On the right is Gabriela Paguay, AFS participant from Ecuador. PHOTO COURTESY OF BETA ALPHA CHAPTER OF ALPHA DELTA KAPPA

Educator, Writer Michelle Taylor to speak on Feb. 12 at UCM

WARRENSBURG – Michelle Taylor, Ph.D., an educator, writer, public speaker, community activist and social worker, will speak about building community at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the University of Central Missouri (UCM).

Doors will open for the "Harnessing the Power of Community" program at 6:30 p.m. in Nahm Auditorium in the W.C. Morris Science Building on campus.

One of the biggest lessons Taylor learned as a social worker is that nothing changes when people fight; positive changes only occur when we all work together. Taylor will share practical tips on how to build a sense of community and belonging with others and explain why it matters so much.

Taylor's visit, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Center for Multiculturalism and Inclusivity, the Office of Student Experience and Engagement and the Office of the Provost. It is part of the Distinguished Speaker Series at UCM, which was started in 2022 to bring new perspectives on a broad range of topics and issues to the campus and Warrensburg communities.

Twice named one of the 100 most influential people in Philadelphia and named one of the top 50 feminists in the world, Taylor is passionate about education, advocacy and social justice.

Taylor has a Ph.D. in Africology and African American Studies from Temple University, an M.S.W. in Organizational Leadership and Management from CUNY-Hunter College, and a B.A. in African American Studies and Sociology of Deviance and Law from the University of Pennsylvania. She is certified in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Executive Leadership in Social Impact Strategy, and Online Teaching.

Known on social media as Feminista Jones, she operates her own subscription-based platform and contributes to various publications as a freelancer and commissioned writer. Since 2013, Taylor has presented and lectured at colleges, universities and major conferences across the country.

In 2019, Taylor joined two of her closest friends to create "Black Girl Missing," a true-crime podcast that focuses on the stories of missing African American girls in the United States. They have collaborated with Lifetime Network to raise awareness about missing Black women and girls.

In 2020, Taylor founded Sankofa Summer School. This annual academy offers a series of classes and workshops designed to educate people about the lives and work of Africana people throughout history. Instructors are scholars, activists and community leaders, and students are from all over the world.

Through her many personal and professional endeavors, Taylor is on a mission to promote educational accessibility, empower marginalized populations and advocate for social justice and equality on a global scale.

For more information, contact UCM Student Experience and Engagement at experience@ucmo.edu.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.



Michelle Taylor, Ph.D., an educator, writer, public speaker, community activist and social worker, will present "Harnessing the Power of Community" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the University of Central Missouri. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI, WARRENSBURG

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Old Drum Open Mic scheduled for Thursday

Old Drum Open Mic (ODOM) kicks off with music, stories, poetry and essays for its next program – Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Java Junction, 118 N Holden Street, in downtown Warrensburg.

Old Drum Open Mic produces its showcase event the first Thursday night of each month from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Java Junction in downtown Warrensburg.

Prospective presenters can schedule appearances through the Old Drum Open Mic web page at facebook.com/Old-Drum-Open-Mic-446574305430560.

Old Drum Open Mic programs are designed to provide a venue for the presentation of original and creative works. The programs are free and open to the public.

President's gala headlines UCM Music's Spring 2025 season

WARRENSBURG – The Division of Music at the University of Central Missouri School of Visual and Performing Arts announces upcoming events for the Spring 2025 season. Exciting highlights this season include the internationally acclaimed MOXsonic Festival and the President's Gala, a showcase of inspiring student work.

The season opens with "Brahms and Beyond" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 in Hart Recital Hall, featuring UCM Clarinet Professor Elisabeth Stimpert, Piano Professor Mia Kim, Music Technology and Composition Professor Jeff Kaiser and Saxophone Instructor Aislinn Jakary. The 47th annual UCM Jazz Festival on Feb. 22, student degree recitals, and the Quistorff Opera Aria competition will round out February events.

The Missouri Experimental Sonic Arts Festival (MOXsonic) returns for its sixth year on March 19-21 at venues throughout UCM's Warrensburg campus. The festival features concerts, research presentations, workshops, installations and conversations, bringing a global following of academic and independent artists to UCM to explore sonic possibilities and community. For more information, visit moxsonic.org.

UCM Choirs, which celebrated an international tour and its selection to perform as the featured ensemble at the MMEA State Conference in January, will present the annual Masterworks Concert on Tuesday, March 4. The ensembles will perform John Rutter's moving "Requiem," written in 1985 on Latin and English texts.

The Claude T. Smith Band Festival, taking place all day on Monday, March 31, welcomes Ukrainian-Australian composer Catherine Likhuta to Warrensburg as its composer-in-residence. UCM's Wind Ensemble and select students from regional high school bands will present their festival finale concert at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Hall. A dynamic Percussion Studio Recital and more student degree recitals will bring March to a close.

The UCM Faculty-Student Chamber Ensemble returns in April for its second year with a family concert featuring Camille Saint-Saens's beloved "Carnival of the Animals," narrated by UCM Music Theory Professor John Check and Music History Professor Allison Robbins. The April calendar also includes the ever-popular Spring Clarinet Studio Recital, a percussion faculty recital by Ian McClaflin, and guest artist percussion and jazz recitals by Kevin Jones and Arthur Lipner.

The season highlight is the 2025 President's Gala, which will take place Tuesday, April 22 at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City. With its theme of "Illumination," the gala will showcase students' work from the School of Visual and Performing Arts' three areas of study — Music, Art and Design, and Theatre and Dance — separately and in unison throughout the performance.

The gala will feature guest artist Jan Kraybill, one of Kansas City's most accomplished performers and Grammy-nominated conservator of the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant pipe organ in Helzberg Hall. Kraybill will perform several works with UCM students and faculty on this internationally renowned instrument.

For more information about the gala and to learn how to become a sponsor of the arts at UCM, visit ucmo.edu/gala.

All Music events are free and open to the public except for the Gala, which requires a ticket. To learn more about upcoming performers and events, become a Concert Insider by texting CONCERT to 660-248-0496.

For more information, visit ucmo.edu/music, email musicoffice@ucmo.edu or call 660-543-4530.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.

Excellence in

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

JUSTIN SCHRODER

SMITHTON MATH TEACHER LOOKS FOR THE 'AHA!' MOMENT

By Chris Howell | chrish@sedaliademocrat.com



Justin Schroder teaches math at Smithton High School; Geometry, Algebra 2, and Precalculus. The Smithton teacher tries to foster skills he sees his students develop and see the potential career options their math skills could bring.
PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Justin Schroder teaches math at Smithton High School; Geometry, Algebra 2, and Precalculus.

"I went to school in Stover, I live in Florence, just 15 minutes from here," Schroder said. "I had some really good math teachers when I was in school, and just good teachers in general and it feels like half my family are teachers, so it sort of just came naturally."

Schroder had a natural aptitude for math that was noticed and encouraged by his teachers.

"I remember when I was in junior high my math teacher was sick one day," Schroder said. "She had me go up and teach the whole class how to do the other half of the homework because I'd already completed it."

Schroder distinctly noted the feeling he got explaining a difficult math concept to others.

"This is something pretty cool, I really enjoyed that," Schroder said. "She hadn't even taught me that, it just clicked. It was junior high math and math clicked for me. It was interesting to just be able to answer people's questions and be able to help them."

One math mentor, Mrs. Langford, spent extra time helping Schroder work through problems through an old-school method.

"She had me sit at her old projector," Schroder said. "She had the clear sheets so I would write the problem out and I had worked out a couple for them to do and then they were to do the rest."

Schroder attended State Fair Community College and got an Associate of Science and Engineering.

"I went on to Central Methodist University and got a bachelor's in math and then after that I got hired here and got certified to teach mathematics for high school." Schroeder said. "Not every kid likes math, so that can be difficult."

Schroder tries to make a connection with the kids because he understands most of them do not really want to be there.

"They don't love math just for the sake of math," Schroder said. "But it's really rewarding to teach a problem, see the students struggle for a little bit and then they have kind of a 'Aha' moment of like, now everything's clicking, sometimes that takes five minutes, sometimes that takes two weeks."

The Smithton teacher tries to foster skills he sees his students develop and see the potential career options their math skills could bring. Developing his students' love for learning is a way for Schroder to acknowledge the dedicated people who helped him along the way.

"I would like to thank my parents," Schroder said. "They always put education first for me as a child. My brother and sister, they inspired me a lot; they're both teachers and then I would like to thank my librarian she was a big influence when I was a kid and junior high and high school math teachers."

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

US to resume beef imports from Mexico following temporary ban

By Jack Payne
Special to the Democrat

WARRENSBURG — The United States will allow the resumption of beef imports from Mexico following a temporary suspension enacted last November due to concerns over the presence of New World screwworm in Mexico.

The decision, announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, comes after extensive discussions between officials from both nations and an evaluation of mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of the parasite.

The temporary suspension, which affected a significant portion of Mexico's beef exports to the U.S., was implemented as a precautionary measure after cases of New World screwworm were detected in cattle along Mexico's southern regions. The parasite, which can cause severe infestations in livestock, had raised concerns among American agricultural and public health officials over potential risks to the U.S. cattle industry.

Following weeks of negotiations and a review of enhanced screening procedures, officials determined that sufficient safeguards had been established to minimize risks associated with the reintroduction of Mexican beef into the U.S. market.

These measures include increased surveillance at border inspection facilities, strengthened veterinary protocols, and cooperative efforts between Mexico's agriculture ministry and U.S. regulatory agencies.

The suspension had temporarily disrupted Mexico's beef exports, which account for a significant share of the meat supply chain in the United States. Industry analysts noted that the restrictions led to fluctuations in beef prices, particularly in sectors reliant on Mexican imports. The resumption of trade is expected to stabilize the market and restore supply chains that the ban had impacted.

U.S. importers and meat processing companies have prepared for the return of Mexican beef shipments, with industry leaders emphasizing the need for continued vigilance in maintaining health standards.

Federal agencies will continue monitoring imports to ensure compliance with the updated guidelines, aiming to prevent any future outbreaks linked to livestock diseases.

According to the USDA, "Cattle and bison will be inspected and treated for screwworm by trained and authorized veterinarians prior to entering the pre-export inspection pens, where they will again undergo inspection by Mexican officials before proceeding to final APHIS inspection then crossing at the Santa Teresa and Douglas Ports of Entry, respectively".

The resumption of Mexican beef imports is expected to bring relief to U.S. meat processors and retailers, who had experienced supply chain challenges since the suspension took effect. With Americans dealing with the tolls of inflation, particularly at the grocery store, the hope is that this move can help alleviate some of the sticker shock on beef prices.

"I hope that this can help make the price of lower quality beef products, like ground beef, more affordable", said Taylor Guinn, a student at the University of Central Missouri. "I feel like every time I go to the store, the prices rise faster than my paycheck can keep up with".

As trade resumes, both governments are expected to maintain ongoing dialogue to ensure adherence to biosecurity measures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Mexico's agriculture ministry have committed to continued collaboration, including joint inspections and shared data on livestock health, to mitigate any potential risks associated with future outbreaks.

The timeline for the resumption of imports has not been formally announced, but officials have indicated that shipments will begin in the coming weeks as final procedural checks are completed. Stakeholders in the meat industry, including ranchers and distributors, are preparing for the transition as Mexican beef gradually returns to U.S. markets.

The decision to reinstate the cattle trade with Mexico comes on the heels of President Donald Trump announcing sweeping tariffs against Mexico, Canada, and China. It is unclear if live cattle will also be affected by these tariffs.

A protein at the heart of heart disease

By Brian Consiglio
consigliob@missouri.edu

Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) — commonly known as bad cholesterol — have long been on scientists' radar as a major contributor to heart disease. But these microscopic troublemakers have hidden their inner workings behind a maze of complexity. That is, until now.

In a new study published in Nature, University of Missouri researchers have, for the first time, revealed the specific shape and structure of one of the body's most important yet complicated proteins: ApoB100. Acting as a kind of molecular exoskeleton, this protein wraps around LDL particles, allowing them to travel through the bloodstream, researchers found.

The discovery may one day lead to the design of new drugs that target LDL, providing more precise treatments for high cholesterol and heart disease and potentially reducing the side effects of widely prescribed medications such as statin drugs.

Major tools for a microscopic protein

Researchers Zachary Berndsen and Keith Cassidy were recruited to Mizzou because of their knowledge of cryo-electron microscopy, a technique that uses electrons to determine the 3D structure of biological molecules.

That expertise, combined with significant infrastructure investments at Mizzou — particularly in the Electron Microscopy Core at the Roy Blunt NextGen Precision Health building — made their latest finding possible.

"These cryo-electron microscopes allow us to see things at a much higher resolution than the traditional microscopes familiar to most of us," said Berndsen, an assistant professor in the MU School of Medicine. "Instead of just seeing a cell's shape, for instance, these tools allow us to now see what individual proteins are shaped like, which are thousands of times smaller than a typical cell, and that is how we made our recent discovery. What this technology means for scientific advancement is incredible, and we are thankful Mizzou invested in both us and our research."

After Berndsen, a biochemist, used the nearly two-story tall cryo-electron microscope to discover how ApoB100 was structured, his co-author, Cassidy, a physicist in the College of Arts and Science, painted an even more detailed picture of the protein using a combination of artificial intelligence and Mizzou's collection of high-powered supercomputers called Hellbender, which allows researchers to process huge amounts of data at record speeds.

"We often think of cholesterol as purely bad, but in general it is actually a very useful and beneficial molecule involved in numerous important processes throughout the body, such as building hormones and maintaining cell membrane fluidity," Cassidy, an assistant professor of biological physics, said. "By integrating an AI neural network called AlphaFold with the cryo-electron microscopy images, we were able to get an even more detailed and higher-resolution picture of the structure of ApoB100. Ideally, this can lead to more targeted treatments that reduce heart disease-related risks without interfering with all the benefits cholesterol brings throughout the body."



Mizzou's Keith Cassidy and Zachary Berndsen are studying a protein at the heart of heart disease.
PHOTO BY ABBIE LANKITUS | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Basic science, big-picture impact

The discovery not only helps researchers better understand fundamental aspects of fat and cholesterol metabolism, but it could also lead to the development of better, more specific testing and treatment for "bad" cholesterol, Berndsen said.

"The most common ways of testing for cholesterol levels are currently not very specific," he said. "Going forward, if we can test for how many copies of this ApoB100 are in your blood, that would be a more accurate indicator of risk for heart disease."

Both Berndsen and Cassidy have a family history of heart disease — the leading cause of death worldwide — so their research is personal.

"We are trying to bridge the gap between the basic science we are doing now and the applied health benefits down the road," Berndsen said. "Our work can help benefit the health of the general public, so it is very rewarding to do what we do."

"The structure of apolipoprotein B100 from human low-density lipoprotein" was published in Nature.

Flowering bulbs brighten spring gardens

Few things thaw feelings of winter's cold more than spring flowering bulbs, says University of Missouri Extension field horticulturist Katie Kammler.

Spring bulbs are Nature's way of rewarding gardeners for their work in fall, providing early color and blooms before most annuals and perennials.

While spring is their time to shine, bulbs need cool weather to flower. They require a chilling period after being planted in the fall to bloom in spring.

Some popular spring flowering bulbs include daffodils, crocus, snowdrops, tulips, Dutch iris and hyacinths.

Spring flowering bulbs grow and give a lot of color for little effort, says Kammler. They thrive in most soils with good drainage. They need sunlight to bloom year after year. But since most of their growth is completed before trees leaf out, they can be planted under deciduous trees.

They are suitable for shrub borders, perennial beds and groundcovers. Plant individual varieties in groups of 3-12 bulbs for a mass showing. Space bulbs 6-12 inches apart and 6 inches deep. This spacing allows room for the bulb to divide and spread.

Kammler says mulching helps to keep the soil temperature uniform, reduces weed problems and prevents soil from splashing onto the flowers. Like many garden plants, they need adequate moisture to flower. If there is not enough rainfall, water bulbs well after planting and continue if needed so bulbs can develop good root systems.

After establishment, little care is needed. Fertilize lightly each spring with garden or bulb fertilizer.

After flowering, do not cut or tie off leaves in a bundle. Leaves manufacture food that is stored in the bulb to produce next year's flowers.

Let foliage remain for eight weeks after blooming. Then, remove foliage by hand. Using a knife or scissors can spread virus diseases, says Kammler. Mix spring bulbs with other plants such as daylilies or ferns to hide the spent foliage but still allow it to produce food for the bulb.

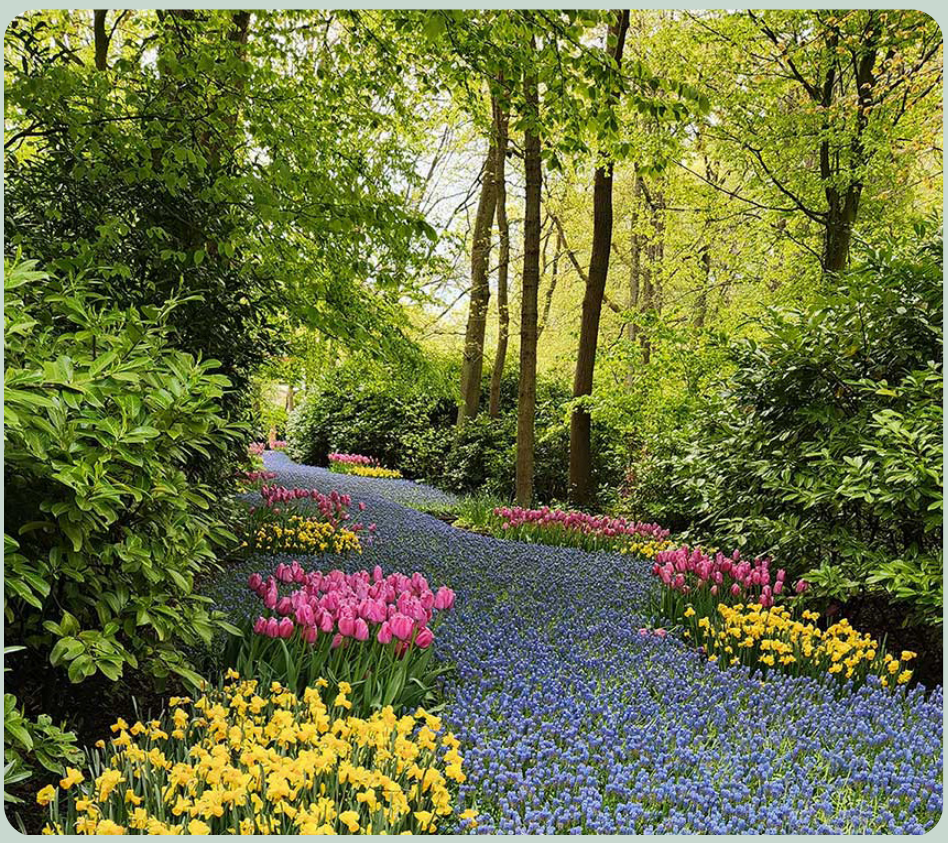
Dig and divide bulbs every 5-10 years if bulbs are not planted too closely together. When flowering is reduced or flower size is smaller, it is usually time to divide bulbs, she says.

Dig bulbs when the foliage is dying and can still be seen so bulbs can be located. Dig with a fork spade to prevent bruising. Remove loose soil and spread out to dry, but not in direct hot sun.

After bulbs dry, the offsets may be removed from the mother bulb. Also remove old, dried skins and roots. Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area until planting time in fall.

Daffodils are showy and easy to care for, but gardeners may enjoy adding some minor bulbs for more blooms and interest.

Crocuses come in shades of yellow, purple and white and are among the first bulbs to bloom in late winter. They are low-growing and open in mass during the day, making a beautiful display, says Kammler.



Careful planning of flower bulbs can provide colorful aesthetics. Spring flowering bulbs provide years of enjoyment.
PHOTO BY KATIE KAMMLER | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Another spring favorite is glory-of-the-snow. Its small blue flowers have pale blue to white centers. They naturalize well and make a great mass display.

Snowdrops are another minor bulb that can bloom though snow. They have white drooping flowers with green crescents at the tip. They also naturalize.

Grape hyacinths look like clusters of tiny grapes on a stem. "These childhood favorites of mine naturalize and look awesome in combination with other bulbs," says Kammler.

Netted or Dutch iris comes in many colors. This dwarf iris grows under a foot tall and forms true bulbs.

Release courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension.

Heartland Chronicles

Focusing on Henry, Benton and Morgan County news.

Healing Hands: Brittany Mullins brings Reiki to the Heartland

By Vanessa Schardan
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COLE CAMP — Cole Camp resident Brittany Mullins is embarking on a new journey — one that focuses on healing through energy and restoring balance to the mind, body and spirit.

As a newly certified Level 2 Reiki practitioner, Mullins is opening the doors to Healing House, offering sessions to those seeking an alternative path to wellness.

A Personal Path to Healing

Mullins's interest in alternative medicine wasn't something she sought out—it found her during one of the most challenging times of her life.

"When my daughter was born three months early, my mental health was up and down," Mullins said. "I tried conventional treatments, but I wasn't seeing the progress I hoped for. Then, by chance, one of my husband's coworkers introduced me to Reiki. I had no idea what to expect, but after my first session, something clicked. It was life-changing."

That experience set her on a path of discovery. Wanting to understand Reiki on a deeper level, she began training in the practice. Reiki consists of three levels of training, with the final stage being Reiki Master. Mullins is currently certified at Level 2, which allows her to offer healing sessions, though she is not yet certified to teach.

Now, she's taking the next step—bringing Reiki to her community.

What is Reiki?

Reiki, which translates to "universal life energy," is an ancient healing practice based on the idea that the body has seven energy centers, or chakras. When these energy pathways become blocked, it can lead to stress, anxiety, or even physical discomfort. Reiki aims to reopen these pathways, restoring energy flow and promoting relaxation.

"Reiki isn't just about physical healing," Mullins said. "It incorporates emotional, mental, and spiritual wellness, too. The goal is to bring balance back to all areas of life."

A typical Reiki session with Mullins lasts about an hour and costs $60. Clients lay on a massage table in a peaceful setting, complete with calming music and aromatherapy. Using gentle hand placements, she moves through each chakra, starting at the head and working down.

"Some people feel warmth, tingling, or a deep sense of relaxation," she says. "Others may even get emotional and start to cry. It's different for everyone, but the process is all about releasing stored energy and finding a sense of peace."

Starting a New Practice & Overcoming Skepticism

Because Reiki is a relatively new offering in the Heartland, Mullins knows she will encounter skepticism.

Some people hear 'energy healing' and assume it's something mystical or taboo," she laughs. "But that's just a misunderstanding. Reiki is simply a natural way to help the body and mind relax and heal."

Rather than argue with skeptics, Mullins takes an educational approach.

"I try to explain what Reiki is and how it works," Mullins said. "Most doubts come from a lack of knowledge, and once people understand, they're usually more open to trying it."

She also emphasizes that Reiki is not meant to replace traditional medicine—it's a complementary practice that supports overall well-being.

A Growing Interest in Alternative Medicine

As Mullins begins offering sessions, she's optimistic about the future of Reiki in Cole Camp and the surrounding communities.



Cole Camp resident Brittany Mullins has opened Healing House, offering Level 2 Reiki, in Cole Camp
PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITTANY MULLINS

"I think people are becoming more open to alternative medicine, especially when they see how much stress and anxiety affect their health," Mulllins said. "Reiki is just one tool that can help, and I'm excited to share it with people who are looking for something different."

For those interested in learning more or booking a session, Mullins's new practice, Healing House, can be found on Facebook. She can also be reached directly at 660-596-8034.

"This is just the beginning," she says. "Reiki helped me when I needed it most, and now, I want to help others experience that same sense of healing and peace."

Vanessa Schardan is an advertising consultant for the Sedalia Democrat and the Plainsman. She primarily helps customers in Pettis, Benton and Morgan counties.

The Prom Dress Store helps dreams come true

By Vanessa Schardan
vanessa@sedaliademocrat.com

For many high school students, prom is a magical evening—a night to dress up, dance, and create lasting memories. However, for some, the financial burden of purchasing a dress can overshadow the excitement.

That's where The Prom Dress Store steps in, ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to feel beautiful on prom night without the stress of a hefty price tag.

A Vision to Help More Students

Founded by Cassie Wilhelm, The Prom Dress Store, located in Versailles, started with a simple yet powerful realization.

"Last year, I sponsored two seniors for prom, covering their dresses, shoes, and hair and makeup. I spent almost $1,000 per girl, and I thought to myself—this is insane. I could be helping so many more girls with this money," Wilhelm said. "That moment sparked her initiative to collect dresses through purchases and donations, making formal wear accessible to anyone in need.

Growing to Meet Community Needs

Now in its second year, The Prom Dress Store has expanded beyond its initial outreach.

"Last year, I worked directly with school counselors to find students in need," Wilhelm said. "This year, with a larger inventory, I've opened it up to anyone and everyone—any school or town is welcome." Though located in Versailles, the dresses are available to all local kids, not just those in Versailles.

The mission behind the store is simple yet impactful: "To help every girl feel beautiful at prom and wear the dress of their dreams! The price tag should never stop a girl from her dream dress."

How It Works

Wilhelm sources dresses in two ways—by purchasing brand-new gowns at discounted prices from stores and online and by accepting gently used donations.

"People have been great about donating, but as more find out about us, I find myself online shopping a lot," Wilhelm said.

While accessories such as shoes and jewelry are not currently available due to storage limitations, Wilhelm offers an exciting drawing for girls who find a dress at the store. Prizes include a free prom hair updo, a set of nails, or a boutonniere and corsage set.

Accessible to All

One of the best aspects of The Prom Dress Store is that there are no eligibility restrictions. "Anyone can get a dress," Wilhelm said. "The process is simple—if a student finds a dress, they provide a $20 deposit. When the dress is returned in good condition, they get their deposit back.

Impacting Lives

In just the first nine days of this season, The Prom Dress Store has already provided 47 dresses for various events, including proms, homecomings, and winter formals. Wilhelm shared a story about one student who wasn't planning to attend prom because she couldn't afford a dress and didn't want to feel out of place.

"We arranged for her to come in at a private time, and she found exactly what she wanted," Wilhelm said. "She was so happy

Challenges and Support

While the response has been overwhelmingly positive, maintaining inventory remains the biggest challenge.

To support the initiative, donations are accepted every Monday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5. p.m. at 100 N Fischer Street in Versailles.

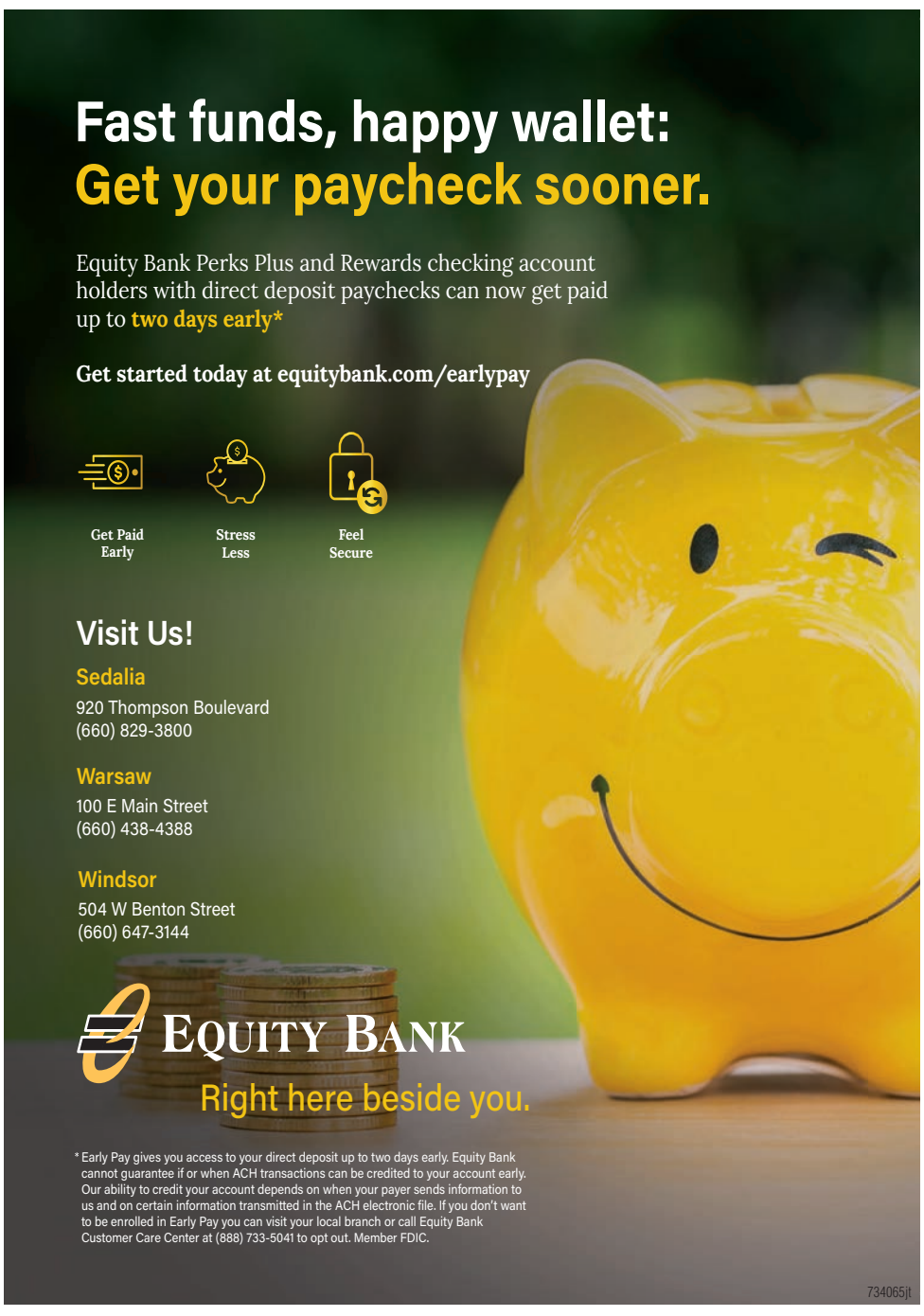
"If that doesn't work for some people, they can contact me directly, and I can open anytime to suit them," Wilhelm said.

Although she does not currently host fundraisers, Wilhelm relies on social media and school announcements to spread the word.

"Counselors have been great about letting students know we're here to help," Wilhelm said..

Vanessa Schardan is an advertising consultant for the Sedalia Democrat and the Plainsman. She primarily helps customers in Pettis, Benton and Morgan counties.







Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, handlers say, predicting 6 more weeks of wintry weather

By Tassanee Vejpongsa and Mark Scolforo
Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow Sunday and predicted six more weeks of wintry weather, his top-hatted handlers announced to a raucus, record-sized crowd at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania.

Phil was welcomed with chants of "Phil, Phil, Phil," and pulled from a hatch on his tree stump shortly after sunrise before a member of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club read from a scroll in which he boasted: "Only I know — you can't trust A.I."

The woodchuck's weather forecast is an annual ritual that goes back more than a century in western Pennsylvania, with far older roots in European folklore, but it took Bill Murray's 1993 "Groundhog Day" movie to transform the event into what it is today, with tens of thousands of revelers at the scene and imitators scattered around the United States and beyond.

When Phil is deemed to have not seen his shadow, that is said to usher in an early spring. When he does see it, there will be six more weeks of winter.

The crowd was treated to a fireworks show, confetti and live music that ranged from the Ramones to "Pennsylvania Polka" as they awaited sunrise and Phil's emergence. Gov. Josh Shapiro, local and state elected officials and a pair of pageant winners were among the dignitaries at the scene.

Self-employed New York gingerbread artist Jon Lovitch has attended the event for 33 years.

"I like the cold, you know, and this is probably the best and biggest midwinter party in the entire world," Lovitch said in Punxsutawney. "And it's just a really good time."

Phil has predicted a longer winter far more often than an early spring, and one effort to track his accuracy concluded he was right less than half the time. What six more weeks of winter means is subjective.

Tom Dunkel, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, says there are two types of people who make the trek to Gobbler's Knob: the faithful seeking to validate their beliefs and the doubters who want to confirm their skepticism.

Phil communicated his forecast to Dunkel through "Groundhog-ese" with the help of a special cane that Dunkel has inherited as the club's leader. It's not as if he speaks in English words.

"He'll like wink, he'll purr, he'll chatter, he'll — you know — nod," Dunkel said.

Attendance is free but it cost $5 to take a bus and avoid a 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) trek from the middle of town to the stage where the prediction was made, some 80 miles (123 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh. The need for so many buses is why the local schools, where the sports mascot is the Chucks, close when Groundhog Day falls on a weekday.

Keith Post, his wife and a friend have watched the "Groundhog Day" movie in each of the past five years and decided this was the time to make the trip from Ohio to witness the event.

"We booked rooms almost a year in advance and we're here," Post said. "We're doing it."

A new welcome center opened four years ago and the club is working on an elaborate second living space for Phil and family so they can split time between Gobbler's Knob and Phil's longtime home at the town library. The club also put up large video screens and more powerful speakers this year to help attendees in the back of the crowd follow the proceedings.

"It's a holiday where you don't really owe anyone anything," said A.J. Dereume, who among the club's 15-member inner circle serves as Phil's handler and held him up to loud cheers on Sunday. "You're grasping onto the belief, you know, in something that's just fun to believe in."

Jackie Handley agreed a year ago to visit Punxsutawney for the first time to help a friend check off an item on their bucket list. They were ready for the subfreezing temperatures.

"It's once in a lifetime — we're probably not going to come back. And we have tons of warm clothes," said Handley, who lives in Falls Church, Virginia.

After the forecast was made, club members and Phil posed for photos with people from the crowd.

Phil has a wife, Punxsutawney Phyllis, and two pups born this spring, Shadow and Sunny, although his family did not join him on stage for the big event. The groundhog family eats fruits and vegetables, get daily visits from Dereume and sees a veterinarian at least once a year.

The club's lore is that Phil is the same woodchuck who has been issuing weather forecasts for the past century, thanks to an "elixir of life" that keeps him immortal.

"There's only one Phil, and it's not something that can be handed down," Dunkel said. "Just like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, there's only one."



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 139th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.
PHOTO BY BARRY REEGER | AP

There have been Groundhog Day events in at least 28 U.S. states and Canadian provinces. In Pennsylvania, groundhogs predicted more winter Sunday in Mount Joy, Dover, York, Lebanon County and Lancaster County's Manheim Township. But at the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge in Quarryville, Octoraro Orphie was said to predict spring is on the way.

In Georgia, about 50 miles (81 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta in Jackson, a groundhog named "General Beauregard Lee" saw his shadow, his handlers declared, meaning six more weeks of winter. It was said that Shubenacadie Sam at a wildlife park in Nova Scotia, Canada, also saw her shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter.

'Dog Man' bites off $36 million, taking No. 1 at box office

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — DreamWorks Animation's "Dog Man" fetched $36 million in ticket sales at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday, making it the biggest debut yet in 2025.

It was a big opening for the Universal Pictures release adapted from the popular graphic novel series by author Dav Pilkey. The big-screen launch for the cartoon canine was produced for a modest $40 million, meaning it will easily coast through a profitable run. Audiences gave it an "A" CinemaScore.

Only one animated film before has had a better January launch: 2016's "Kung Fu Panda 3." "Dog Man," though, was soft overseas, collecting $4.2 million from 29 international markets. The voice cast of the Peter Hastings-directed movie is led by Pete Davidson, Lil Rel Howery and Isla Fisher.

Family movies last year buoyed the box office, with PG-rated films accounting for $2.9 billion, or 33% of all ticket revenue, according to data firm Comscore. So far, they're lifting 2025, too. The Walt Disney Co.'s December release "Mufasa: The Lion King" topped the weekend box office three times in January. In its seventh week of release, "Mufasa" held in third place with another $6.1 million, bringing its global tally to $653 million.

"The PG animation family film wave that was so prevalent in '24 continues in '25," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore.

The horror comedy "Companion," from Warner Bros. and New Line, also opened well, with $9.5 million in 3,285 locations. Drew Hancock's sci-fi tinged film set in the near future is about a group of friends on a weekend lakeside getaway.

"Companion," starring Sophie Thatcher ("Heretic"), was lightly marketed and made for just $10 million. It will depend on glowing reviews (94% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and strong word of mouth (a "B+" CinemaScore) to keep drawing moviegoers in the coming weeks.

Last week's top film, Mel Gibson's "Flight Risk," dropped steeply in its second weekend. The action thriller starring Mark Wahlberg fell to fifth place with $5.6 million. Domestically, it has collected $20.9 million for Lionsgate.

One of the early year's standout successes has been Sony Pictures' "One of Them Days," the R-rated comedy starring Keke Palmer and SZA. Though comedies have had a hard time in theaters in recent years, "One of Them Days" has proven a exception. The well-reviewed movie earned $5.6 million over the weekend, bringing its three-week total to $34.5 million – a stellar result for a movie that cost $14 million to make.

Final domestic figures will be released Monday. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Dog Man," $36 million.

2. "Companion," $9.5 million.

3. "Mufasa," $6.1 million.

4. "One of Them Days," $6 million.

5. "Flight Risk" $5.6 million.

6. "Sonic the Hedgehog 3," $3.2 million.

7. "Moana 2," $2.8 million.

8. "A Complete Unknown," $2.2 million.

9. "The Brutalist," $1.9 million.

10. "Den of Thieves: Pantera," $1.6 million.

Beyoncé wins album of the year at the 2025 Grammys for 'Cowboy Carter'

By Maria Sherman
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES — Beyoncé won album of the year for "Cowboy Carter" at Sunday's Grammys, delivering her — at last — the show's elusive top award.

The superstar, who is both the most awarded and nominated artist in Grammys history, has been up for the category four times before and many feel she has been snubbed by its top honors.

In winning album of the year with "Cowboy Carter," Beyoncé has become the first Black woman to win the top prize in the 21st century. The last was Lauryn Hill with "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" 26 years ago. Before her was Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston. That means Beyoncé is only the fourth Black woman to win album of the year at the Grammys.

Members of the Los Angeles Fire Department presented Beyoncé with the trophy, one of several times the show reflected the recent wildfires that burned thousands of homes.

"It's been many, many years," Beyoncé said in her speech. "I want to dedicate this to Ms. Martell," she said, referencing Linda Martell, the performer who became the first Black woman to play the Grand Ole Opry.

"We finally saw it happen, everyone," host Trevor Noah said, nodding to the long overdue achievement for one of music's transcendent artists.

Kendrick Lamar won song and record of the year for his diss track "Not Like Us," taking home two of the night's most prestigious awards.

"We're gonna dedicate this one to the city," Lamar said before shouting out Los Angeles area neighborhoods.

It is the second hip-hop single to ever win in the category. The first was Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

The Weeknd mends fences, Chappell Roan challenges music industry

The Weeknd has mended his fractious relationship with the Grammy Awards with a surprise performance of his new single, "Cry For Me" and "Timeless" with Playboi Carti.

His decision is a direct reflection of the changes the Recording Academy has made to diversify its voting body, CEO Harvey Mason jr. said in his introduction. The Weeknd has been openly critical of the Grammys organization, dating back to 2020 when he wrote on Twitter: "The Grammys remain corrupt."

It was just one of many pleasant surprises Sunday night. Chappell Roan was named best new artist.

She read a speech from a notebook, speaking directly to major labels and the music industry, instructing them to "offer a living wage and healthcare, especially to developing artists." She described getting signed as a minor, getting dropped and entering the workforce during COVID-19 with no work experience and no health care. She asked them to treat artists like "valuable employees."

"Labels, we got you," she concluded her speech. "But do you got us?"

Beyoncé and Chappell Roan give Grammys a country theme

In one of the biggest moments of the evening so far, Taylor Swift presented the award for best country album to Beyoncé. She became the first Black woman to ever win in the category.

"Genre is a cold word to keep us in our place as artists," she said in her speech. "I'm still in shock. Thank you so much for this honor."

Beyoncé entered the night as the leading nominee.

A little bit of the wild west, a little bit of West Hollywood. Roan brought a rocking version of her "Pink Pony Club" to the Grammy stage. Joined by a posse of dancing clown cowboys, she sang from atop a giant pink horse.

Los Angeles on the mind

In incorporating the wildfires throughout the show, the Grammys put the spotlight on the city's resiliency.

Noah's opening speech was dedicated to those affected by the fires, promising a show that not only celebrates them, but one that also celebrates "the city that brought us so much of that music." The Grammys have also allotted ad time to be used by local businesses affected by the fires.

As the show neared its end, Noah announced that viewers had contributed $7 million to relief efforts Sunday night so far.

On a stage set up to look like the mountains of Los Angeles, the LA born-and-raised Billie Eilish and her brother/collaborator Finneas performed her hit "Birds of a Feather." It was one of a number of ways the show seeks to salute the city. "We love you LA," she told the crowd at the end of the set.

The show kicked off with a powerful opening performance of Randy Newman's "I Love L.A." by Dawes — whose members were directly affected by the Eaton fire — backed by John Legend, Brad Paisley, Sheryl Crow, Brittany Howard and St. Vincent.

A Super Bowl in New Orleans is a great excuse to make shrimp po'boy sandwiches

By Katie Workman
Associated Press

If you're throwing a watch party for Super Bowl LIX, you couldn't ask for a better backdrop and inspiration than the game's host city, New Orleans.

The town is known for enticements, from its music scene to Mardi Gras to distinctive architecture and, ya know, food. There are plenty of traditional Cajun or Creole recipes, like gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, etouffee, muffaletta, beignets. But I'm going to go with the classic Shrimp Po'Boy.

A century-old origin story

Po'boys were invented in New Orleans during a streetcar strike in 1929. The story goes that two brothers, Benny and Clovis Martin, former streetcar workers who had opened a coffee stand, began feeding striking colleagues with big sandwiches stuffed into half loaves of bread. One of the brothers, it's said, would drawl "here comes another poor boy" each time someone approached for a sandwich, but it sounded more like "po'boy." And the name stuck.

What makes po'boys different?

"The key thing about po'boys is the bread. It is the foundation, and it is the thing that differentiates a po'boy from a hoagie, a hero, a sub or any other kind of sandwich," says Ian McNulty, food writer for the news site NOLA.com.

"It's the bread that in New Orleans we call French bread, but which is not even remotely like a baguette," he continues. "It has a crackling crisp, very thin exterior crust and an airy, malty interior (achieved through fermentation). This combination of crisp to puffy textures makes the bed that both cradles all the fillings and stands up to them."

The two main suppliers of New Orleans French bread, McNulty says, are Leidenheimer Baking Co. and the much smaller John Gendusa Bakery. Someone attempting to make a po' boy outside of New Orleans should try to find bread that matches those characteristics.

In a pinch, you can use a baguette instead, or an Italian loaf, but maybe don't tell Ian I told you that was OK.

Once you have the right bread, decide if you want it dressed, and how.

"Fully dressed" means shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, sliced pickles and mayonnaise. Any combination of those is still dressed.

For the filling, roast beef and fried oysters are popular po'boy options, but here I went with plump, crispy, fresh-from-the-pan fried shrimp. Buy shrimp that are not too large nor too small, like 31-40 per pound shrimp.

McNulty advises that the best fried shrimp will fall out the side of the sandwich and constitute their own little side dish to munch outside it.

"The key as always with shrimp is to avoid overcooking," he says. "When you start to wonder if they might be done, they already are. You want a golden crust but you want that fresh pop of the shrimp within."

McNulty's favorite local places for po' boys are Parkway Bakery & Tavern, in the heart of the city, and Domilise's, a small neighborhood shop.

My recipe:

Shrimp Po'Boy

Serves 4

Ingredients:

1 loaf New Orleans French Bread, or French or Italian bread
1 pound medium (31/40 per pound) shrimp
¼ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup cornmeal
2 teaspoons kosher salt, pus more to taste
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
½ teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 large egg
½ cup milk
Vegetable oil for frying

To Dress the Po'Boys:

Remoulade sauce or mayonnaise
Shredded romaine or iceberg lettuce
Sliced pickles
Sliced tomatoes

Directions:

Slice the bread in half horizontally, then slice the loaf into 2 to 4 sections, depending on how big you want each sandwich to be. Scoop out some of the fluffy bread from the middle if you wish; that's a personal choice (but common in the po' boy world of New Orleans).

Combine the flour, cornmeal, salt, pepper, paprika, garlic powder and cayenne pepper in a shallow bowl. Mix the egg with the milk in another bowl and season with a bit more salt and pepper. Place a wire rack on a baking sheet.

A few at a time, dunk the shrimp in the milk mixture, turning them to coat. Using a slotted spoon or your hand, remove the shrimp, allow any excess liquid to drip back into the bowl, then dredge them in the flour mixture, making sure they are well coated. Use one hand for the wet ingredients and another for the dry to keep everything from getting clumpy and messy.

As the shrimp are breaded, place them, without touching each other, on the wire rack. When all of the shrimp are coated, place the baking sheet into the fridge and let the shrimp chill for 15 minutes.

Line a large plate with paper towels. Pour the oil to a depth of 1 inch into a large, heavy, deep skillet. Heat the oil over medium high heat to 365°F. (Tip: If you don't have a candy thermometer, just wait until the oil is shimmering, then add one shrimp. If it starts to gently sizzle and turn golden brown after about 2 minutes, your oil is the perfect temperature.)

In a few batches, add the shrimp, turning them with a slotted spoon as they cook. They should fry for about 2 to 3 minutes total, and become golden brown and crispy. Remove them with a slotted spoon to the paper-towel-lined plate. See if they need another light sprinkle of kosher salt. Continue frying until all of the shrimp are cooked and crispy.

(Tip: You may need to allow the oil to come back up to temperature in between batches of shrimp. Adding too many shrimp at once will lower the temperature of the oil, and the shrimp won't get nicely browned and crunchy.)

Spread some remoulade or mayo on the toasted bread. Add shredded lettuce to the bottom piece, then pile on the warm shrimp, tomatoes and pickles. Add a bit more sauce and lettuce if you like, and then top with the other piece of bread. Serve immediately.



Kathleen Boswell, hosting ragtime performer Adam Swanson, talks to students about his music during a performance at the Dresden R-XII School District on Monday, Feb. 3. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

SWANSON

From Page B1

"What it means is you make it up as you go along," Swanson said. "I'm making up and adding notes in the music that would otherwise not be there. And that's what makes it jazz and not ragtime."

To finish his concert, Swanson played an early blues piece by W.C. Handy, the "St. Louis Blues," with elements of boogie-woogie entwined in the music.

On Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Katy Depot, Swanson will perform a small concert and also perform with a 1920s silent film.

"It will be a comedy-short," Swanson said. "What I'm planning to do is an incredible train chase movie filmed in the 1920s called 'Chasing Choo Choos.' I thought that would be fun because of the Katy Depot. The concert portion will be a variety of ragtime and early blues as well. But, I thought I might play a bunch of the music that was actually written and published here in Sedalia."

Swanson will also be returning to this year's Scott Joplin Festival, which will be hosted from May 28 to 31 in downtown Sedalia. In addition to performing, he will be the director of seminars at the festival. He will be responsible for picking the seminar presenters from around the U.S. and will also present a seminar of his own.

Adam Swanson will perform at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Katy Depot, 600 E. Third St. Tickets are $5, and the event is open to the public. Students get in free with a paying adult. For more information on the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival visit scottjoplin.org.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at faithb@sedaliademocrat.com.



Stars, athletes bring buzz into New Orleans before Super Bowl

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Super Bowl isn't just a game on Sunday. It'll involve a nearly week-long spectacle taking over New Orleans with non-stop entertainment leading up to the big showdown between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles.

While the Chiefs and Eagles gear up for their championship rematch, the Big Easy will be the epicenter for star-studded concerts, exclusive parties, a comedy show and guest lists filled with A-listers. From Post Malone, Cardi B to Shaquille O'Neal, the city will be buzzing long before Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs attempt a monumental three-peat.

"It's going to be fun. It's going to be different than other Super Bowls," said Shaquille O'Neal, who will host his popular carnival-themed Shaq's Fun House on Friday night. It's a hot ticket — starting at $199 — for the NBA legend's over-the-top festival event featuring headline performances from Ludacris, John Summit and O'Neal under his stage name DJ Diesel.

O'Neal's event will feature several attractions including a Ferris wheel, circus performers and premium bar. This will be somewhat of a homecoming week for O'Neal, who played college hoops at Louisiana State University and visits Louisiana about four times a year.

For Flavor Flav, he wants to help lift up morale in New Orleans following the aftermath of the terror attack that killed 14 people on New Year's Day.

"This is going to be special. I'm here to uplift spirits," said Flav, who will perform at Guy Fieri's Flavortown Tailgate along with Diplo and Cowboy Mouth on Sunday afternoon. It's free for general admission with paid upgraded experiences for $49.99 and $349 for a VIP ticket.

"I'm getting on the turntables to make people party and have a good time," he said.

Along with those events, here's a look at some of the invite-only and public events during a busy Super Bowl week:

Fanatics Party

Michael Rubin's Fanatics Super Bowl party is impossible to get into without an invite. The star-studded affair on Saturday afternoon is strictly for the who's who of sports and entertainment.

Rubin, the founder and CEO of Fanatics, will likely be front and center, taking in performances from Post Malone, Travis Scott, Don Tolliver and many more.

The expected attendees include big names such as Kim Kardashian, Justin Bieber, Lil Baby, Tiffany Haddish and Tom Brady.

Madden Bowl

Just like EA Sports' iconic phrase, "It's in the game," Jelly Roll, Chris Stapleton and Shaboozey will literally be in the game at the Madden Bowl.

The trio is set to separately take the stage Friday night, bringing the hype before the some competition kicks off.

"I can't wait to keep this party going," Shaboozey said.

Along with performances, the event will include the Madden NFL 25 Championship Series in front of a live audience — where two of the world's best player will travel to New Orleans for their share of the $1 million prize pool.

Double up for some, Triple duties for Post Malone & Diplo

The Madden Bowl won't be the only stage where Stapleton will showcase his powerhouse vocals. The country star is set to headline the SiriusXM and Pandora concert on Thursday night.

Stapleton's performance will air on SiriusXM's Chris Stapleton Radio, an exclusive channel curated and presented by him and his band. Pandora listeners can access the Chris Stapleton Radio station.

After Ludacris takes the stage at Shaq's Fun House on Friday, the rapper will perform Sunday at On Location's Super Bowl pre-game party. He'll be joined by rock band The Revivalists at the Club 67 and Touchdown Club just outside the Caesars Superdome for One Location — a premium hospitality provider of the NFL.

Post Malone will be making moves too. He's scheduled to perform at three different events. Along with Fanatics, the superstar artist will hit the stage at the Bud Light Backyard Tour on Friday, then he's set to headline the YouTube Tailgate Concert on Sunday near the Superdome.

Diplo will perform at parties for Sports Illustrated and Maxim along with Guy Fieri's tailgate event.

Gospel celebration

Bill Bellamy and Rocsi Diaz will bring some gospel flavor to the Big Easy.

The tandem will host the Super Bowl Soulful Celebration on Wednesday night. The lineup includes some of music's best from The Isley Brothers, Muni Long, Yolanda Adams, Tori Kelly and Jonathan McReynolds.

Other performances include New Orleans natives Master P, Big Freedia, Lucky Daye and Trombone Shorty. The NFL Players Choir will also participate.

"Hosting the Super Bowl Soulful Celebration is like hitting the trifecta: music, faith, and football all in one show," Bellamy said. "I'm excited to bring some laughs, some energy and to be part of this incredible night with an amazing lineup."

Michael Strahan, an NFL Hall of Famer and "Good Morning America" co-anchor, will receive the Lifetime of Inspiration award. He called the honor "truly special."

New Orleans Saints player Cameron Jordan will be given the community award while Los Angeles Rams star rookie Jared Verse will be honored with the rising star award.

Timbaland and Maxim

Super producer Timbaland will bring his massive hits into New Orleans with the help of Maxim.

Timbaland will perform at a special concert at the Maxim Saints & Sinners Big Game Party on Saturday. The show will include performances from DJ Loud Luxury, Plastik Funk, DJ unKommon and former NFL player Le'Veon Bell.

DJ unKommon and Diplo will be featured performers at a pregame party Friday.

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APRI REGISTERED TOY Poodle, female, red. Has had shots and wormer. 10 weeks old. $375. Latham, MO. 660-458-6331.

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PARKING LOT REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT
PWA Project No. 202435
Sealed Bids for Lump Sum Contract will be received by Marshall Housing Authority, 275 South Redman Marshall MO, 65340, no later than ***2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2025***.
PROJECT: MARSHALL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Parking Lot Project
Documents available 01/22/2025 from ADS,
Phone: 573-446-7768;
Fax 573-355-5433 /
www.adsmo.net for $100.00 refundable deposit made payable to Macon Housing Authority. Contract Documents will be on file for review at the office of the Housing Authority of the City of Macon, at the offices of Peckham & Wright Architects, Inc. and ADS. A list for Plan room locations is available by link through the ADS website.

Legal Notice

A pre-bid conference will be held at ***2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2025***, at the Marshall Housing Authority, 275 South Redman Marshall MO, 65340.
Contact for bidding procedural questions: Erik Miller, AIA, Peckham & Wright Architects, Inc., 2120 Forum Blvd Ste 101, Columbia, MO 65203
Phone: 573-449-2863
Fax: 573-442-6213
Email:
emiller@pwarchitects.com
Minority and/or women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.
6x- 1/24,1/28,1/31,2/04,2/07, 2/11/2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Pettis County Commission is requesting sealed bids on the following items necessary for the operation of the County for the term of March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026.
Bid specifications are on file at the County Clerk's Office at the Pettis County Courthouse Annex 215 East 5th St, Sedalia, MO, until the time of opening at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 20, 2025. All sealed bids must be marked on the outside with the item(s) or service(s) being bid for and **MUST** include a digital copy.
If all bids in a category are accepted, each bidder will be contacted for a current price as needed. You must submit a bid to be placed on the approval list. Bids will not be considered "let" until a warrant has been issued. The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
* General office and building supplies, consumable paper products and cleaning supplies. Complete list on website or call Clerk's office.
* Road & Bridge materials, including but not limited to road rock, concrete, salt, oil, grease, lubricants, filters, fuel, tubes, tires & asphalt. Bids for current and forward fuel contracting pricing is requested.
* Sheriff's Office inmate food supplies, patrol, general and special purpose vehicles, general vehicle maintenance and major repairs, fuel, batteries, and tires for vehicles, prisoner extraditions, radio system equipment/repairs, uniforms, law enforcement related equipment/supplies, K-9 supplies/equipment.
3x-2/4, 11, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
For default in the payment of debt and performance of certain obligations secured by a Deed of Trust executed by Terry L. Arnold and Kimi L. Arnold, husband and wife, dated August 3, 2018, and recorded August 7, 2018, as Instrument Number 2018-3797, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County of Pettis, State of Missouri, the undersigned Trustee will, on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (foreclosure sales in Pettis County are customarily held at 2:00 p.m.), at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, in the City of Sedalia, County of Pettis, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate described in said Deed of Trust and situated in the County of Pettis, State of Missouri, to-wit:
Tract 1:
THE WEST 660.0 FEET OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, IN TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, OF RANGE 21 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SEDALIA, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, EXCEPT THAT PART HERETOFORE DEEDED TO STATE OF MISSOURI FOR PART OF STATE HIGHWAY NO. 65; EXCEPT BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65 AND THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, THENCE EAST 400 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 134.33 FEET; THENCE WEST 400 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID U.S. HIGHWAY 65; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID LINE 134.33 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AND EXCEPT BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65, 134.33 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17; THENCE EAST 400 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 365 FEET; THENCE WEST 400 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID U.S. HIGHWAY 65; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID U.S. HIGHWAY 65, 365 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
SUBJECT TO A 25.0 FOOT NON-EXCLUSIVE INGRESS-EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT LYING 12.5 FEET EACH SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTERLINE: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 65, 621.33 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 17 IN TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH OF RANGE 21 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SEDALIA, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, SAID POINT BEING IN THE CENTERLINE OF AN EXISTING 40 FOOT HIGHWAY ENTRANCE; THENCE EAST, 80.0 FEET; THENCE IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION 85.5 FEET TO A POINT 12.5 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH AND 12.5 FEET NORTH OF SAID SOUTH LINE, 458.5 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT 660.0 FEET EAST OF THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND THE TERMINATION OF SAID INGRESS-EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT.
Tract 2:
BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 65, FORTY (40) FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE WEST FIVE (5) ACRES OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION NUMBER SEVENTEEN (17) IN TOWNSHIP NUMBER FORTY FIVE (45) NORTH OF RANGE NUMBER TWENTY ONE (21) WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE COUNTY OF PETTIS AND STATE OF MISSOURI, RUNNING THENCE EAST TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET, THENCE SOUTH TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET, THENCE WEST TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 65; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID HIGHWAY, TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
Tract 3:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF WEST TWENTIETH STREET IN THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, TWO HUNDRED THIRTY (230) FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF BLOCK "F" OF WESTMORELAND PLACE, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI, THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK "F" ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET, THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SAID BLOCK "F" SIX HUNDRED (600) FEET, THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK "F" ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET, THENCE NORTH SIX HUNDRED (600) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

ALSO, A STRIP OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LAND ON THE WEST BEING 300 FEET NORTH AND SOUTH AND 3.3 FEET EAST BY WEST AT THE NORTH CORNER AND 3.0 FEET AT THE SOUTH CORNER
Tract 5:
LOT THIRTY (30) IN WEST WALNUT HILLS SUBDIVISION IN PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.
ALSO, AN EASEMENT OVER THE EAST TWENTY (20) FEET OF THAT PART OF LOT THIRTY TWO (32) IN SAID SUBDIVISION WHICH LIES IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF THE LOT HEREBY CONVEYED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTEES, THEIR HEIRS AND ASSIGNS, HAVING MEANS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM THE LAND HEREBY CONVEYED ACROSS SAID EASEMENT TO AN EASEMENT WHICH SURROUNDS THE LAKE WHICH LIES TO THE EAST OF SAID LOT THIRTY TWO (32) IN SAID SUBDIVISION; SAID EASEMENT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT THIRTY (30) IN WEST WALNUT HILLS, A SUBDIVISION OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE PROLONGATION OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT THIRTY (30), 121.82 FEET TO THE EASTERLY LINE OF LOT THIRTY TWO (32) IN SAID WEST WALNUT HILLS, THENCE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG SAID EASTERLY LINE 18.17 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT THIRTY TWO (32), THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT THIRTY TWO (32) 6.55 FEET, THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE PROLONGATION OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT THIRTY (30) 140.0 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT THIRTY (30), THENCE EAST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 20.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
ALSO, LOT THIRTY ONE (31) IN WEST WALNUT HILLS SUBDIVISION OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND ALL THAT PART OF LOT THIRTY TWO (32) IN SAID SUBDIVISION LYING WEST OF A LINE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT TWENTY NINE (29) OF SAID SUBDIVISION, THENCE IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION TO A POINT WHERE THE WEST LINE OF LOT TWENTY NINE (29) WOULD INTERSECT THE NORTH LINE OF LOT THIRTY TWO (32), IF SAID WEST LINE OF LOT TWENTY NINE (29) WERE EXTENDED NORTH IN THE DIRECTION IT NOW RUNS.
to satisfy said debt and costs.
Randy K. Sparks
Trustee

NOTICE
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a Court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
4x-2/4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

NOTICE- ACCEPTING BIDS
The I.O.O.F Cemetery located in Otterville is now accepting bids for mowing/trimming services for 2025.
Please email your bids to jeffpage6@gmail.com by 2/26/25.
5x-2/4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 2025

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Bryan C. Trick; Liza A. Trick, dated July 30, 2019, and recorded on July 31, 2019, Document No. 2019-3384 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on March 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM, at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:
Lot Number Three (3) and Ten and One-Third (10 1/3) feet in width off the South side of Lot Number Two (2) in Block Number Eleven (11) of MARTHA E. MARTIN AND SARAH E. COTTON'S FOURTH ADDITION to the City of Sedalia, Missouri. Also, all that certain tract or parcel of ground lying between the East line of Moniteau Street, as now established, and the West line of the following described tract, to-wit: Lot Number Three (3) and Ten and One-Third (10 1/3) feet in width off the South side of Lot Number Two (2) in Block Number Eleven (11) of MARTHA E. MARTIN AND SARAH E. COTTON'S FOURTH ADDITION to the City of Sedalia, Missouri, said tract being a tract that was created by the changing of the course of Moniteau Street to its present course, commonly known as 1109 S Moniteau Ave, Sedalia, MO, 65301
subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.
SouthLaw, P.C.
Successor Trustee
First Publication:
February 4, 2025.
For more information,
visit www.southlaw.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 243502-1048340).
4x-2/4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Clay Poynter III a/k/a Clay U. Poynter III, a/k/a Clay Poynter II, a/k/a Clay Pointer, a/k/a Paynter Clay, a/k/a Clay Poynteriii, a/k/a Clay Poyter, a/k/a Clay Poyuter; Heather R Poynter a/k/a Heather Renee Poynter, dated June 23, 1999, and recorded on July 6, 1999, Document No. 1999 5004, in Book No. 23, at Page 367 and re-recorded on July 14, 1999, Document No. 1999 5269, in Book No. 24, at Page 363 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on February 11, 2025, at 9:00 AM, at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:
Beginning at a point Thirty (30) feet North and Seven Hundred Sixty Five (765) feet West of the Southeast corner of Lot Number One (1) of the Southwest Quarter of Section Eighteen (18), Township Forty-five (45) North, of Range Twenty-one (21) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the County of Pettis and State of Missouri, thence North Two Hundred (200) feet, thence West One Hundred Fifty-four and Nine Hundredths (154.09) feet, thence South Two Hundred (200) feet, thence East One Hundred Fifty-four and Nine Hundredths (154.09) feet to the place of beginning., commonly known as 22349 Sacajawea Road, Sedalia, MO, 65301
subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.
South & Associates P.C.
Successor Trustee
First Publication:
January 14, 2025.
For more information,
visit www.southlaw.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 137554-1022804).
4x-1/14, 21, 28, 2/4, 2025

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Seminars

FRIDAY FEB. 7

ROOM 1

9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Applications Class
Travis Harper
2 p.m. — 3 p.m. Farm Different: Creative Ways to Improve Input Cost in 2025
River Valley Ag Exchange
3:30 p.m — 4:30 p.m. Forage, Pastures, Forage Mangement Updates
Gene Schmitz , University of Central Missouri Extension

ROOM 2

9 a.m. — 10 a.m. Moles & Voles
Billie Long, Master Gardener
10:15 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. Planting & Care of Trees
Billie Long, Master Gardener
11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Culinary Herbs
Annie Albright, Master Gardener
12:45 p.m. — 1:45 p.m. Perennial Gardening
Marilyn Danko, Master Gardener
2 p.m. — 3 p.m. Postage Stamp Gardening
Marilyn Danko, Master Gardener

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

ROOM 1

9 a.m. — 10 a.m. Overview for Exhibitors Rules Changes for 2025 Livestock
Dr. David Hertzog Missouri Department of Agriculture
11 a.m. — 3 p.m. Applicators Class
Travis Harper

ROOM 2

9 a.m. — 10 a.m. Living with Wildlife
Wanda Rasa, Master Gardener
10:15 a.m. — 11:15 p.m. Butterflies in the Garden
Wanda Rasa, Master Gardener
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Medicinal Herbs
Annie Albright, Master Gardener
12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m. How to Attract Pollinators
Nancy Heidrich, Master Gardener
2 p.m. — 3 p.m. Weeds of the Lawn and Gardener
Billie Long, Master Gardner

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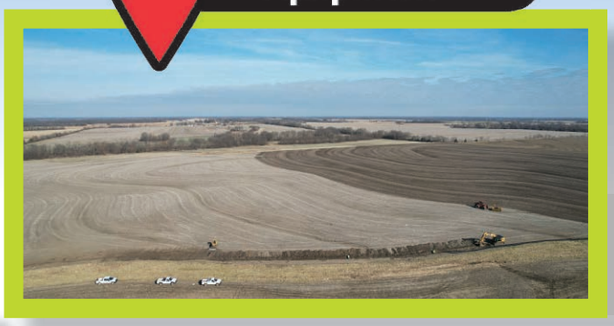
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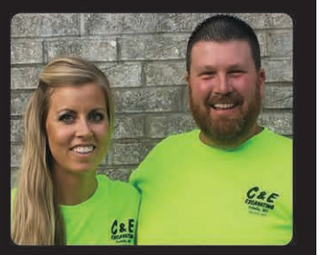
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Ag Expo to be held Feb. 7 — 8 at Missouri State Fairgrounds

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

This week exhibitors are readying their displays for the 2025 Central Missouri Ag Expo at the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

Tractors are being loaded on trailers and soon the exhibit hall will be filled with all manner of equipment designed to make agriculture easier and more cost effective.

"This year's Ag Expo will be Friday, Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Ag Expo chairman Kevin Daniel told the Democrat. "There are a lot of vendors of wanting to show their products and they spend a lot of time getting them here and on display."

Visitors this weekend will be able to get up close looks at new farm equipment and speak face to face with vendors including Crown Power & Equipment Co. and River Valley Ag Exchange.

Show in the Lowell Mohler Assembly Hall and Matthewson Exhibition Center is sponsored by Central Bank of Sedalia, Wood & Huston Bank, BTC Bank, FCS Financial, MFA Incorporated, KMZU and Real Radio: KMMO.

"It's a good opportunity to go out and visit with them and find out what they have to offer," Daniel said. "There will be several new vendors there along with some of the same vendors we've had for supporting us since the beginning."

Shutterbugs are also invited to take pictures to be entered into the AgExpoPhotoContest, an amateur-only contest sponsored by the Sedalia Photography Club. Suggested subject matter is the beauty of life on the farm, farmers families and farm life, farm animals and equipment.

"There's always a variety out there, of all kinds of different products and services," Daniel said. "This is just the part of our fundraiser each year that we give back to scholarships. 100% of our funds are reserved for scholarships and promoting youth in agriculture."

Children are invited and there will be seminars and displays geared towards kids in agriculture.

"There's a lot of activity that's not just geared for agriculture," Daniel said. "There's something there for everybody, there's a lot going on. A lot of the area businesses and people are always here to support us, and they have been supporting us for a number of years."

The Central Missouri Agriculture Club was formed to support, promote and recruit agriculture and youth in Central Missouri.

For more information on the 2025 Central Missouri Ag Expo or for photo contest rules visit the Central Mo Ag Club Facebook page.

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

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State Fair Community College students Matthew Richardson, a conservation major, and Isabella Letourneau, a horticulture major, sell plants grown at the college during the Ag Expo on Feb. 2, 2024. FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWEL | DEMOCRAT



Justin Hollrah and Brianna Bachman from Case IH are dwarfed by this self-propelled sprayer on sale for a cool $400,000 on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 at the Central Missouri Agriculture Club's annual Ag Expo in the Mathewson Exhibition Center.
FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWEL | DEMOCRAT



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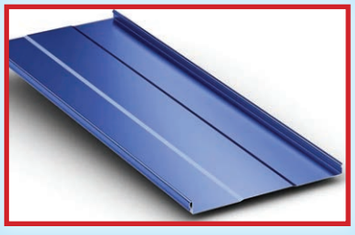
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Ag Club donates to area agriculture efforts



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated $500 to Pettis County Achievement Days. From left, Kay Sparks, Cindy Gerke, Julie Carpenter, Ivy Elwell and Janice Klenke.
PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated $1,000 to the Pettis County Dog Show. From left, Kay Sparks, Todd Great, Julie Carpenter, Amy Gibbs and Janice Klenke, along with dogs Courtlin and Haven.







The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated $2,000 to the Pettis County Horse Show. From left, Mary Holsten, Julie Carpenter, Ivy Elwell, Jessie Elwell, Brad Elwell and Janice Klenke.



The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated $4,000 to the Pettis County Junior Livestock Show. From left, Kay Sparks, Jessie Elwell, David Dick, Cindy Gerke, Julie Carpenter, Brad Elwell, Ivy Elwell and Janice Klenke.

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The Central Missouri Agriculture Club gave $26,700 in scholarships in 2024. From left, Kay Sparks, Kelcy Mullett, Madison Hoehns, Karli Smith, Brenden Morse, Mattilyn Mergen, Shelby Dotson, Autumn Ihajek, Todd Gerld and Janice Klenke. Not pictured are Coby Roads and Tanner Dohrman. PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT

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The Central Missouri Agriculture Club donated $500 to Pettis County Robotics. From left, Kay Sparks, Cindy Gerke, Julie Carpenter and Janice Klenke.

Karli Smith growing the flame of Ag involvement



Karli Smith, the daughter of Arron and Casey Smith of Houstonia, received several agricultural scholarships in 2024 that will assist her in obtaining an ag-business degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. PHOTO COURTESY OF KARLI SMITH

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

Karli Smith, of Houstonia, was honored in May 2024 with agriculture scholarships that will help her achieve a degree in agribusiness management at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Smith, a freshman at MU, is the daughter of Arron and Casey Smith. She received $10,000 from the Central Missouri Ag Club, the Billie Ficken Memorial scholarship through the Ag Club, and the Dennis Klenke Memorial through the Ag Club and American Farmers Association (AFA).

Smith graduated from Northwest High School in 2024. She was also selected to go to an AFA seminar in In November 2024.

Smith said she became interested in agriculture because she grew up on a cattle farm.

"Growing up, we had a small little cattle farm out in the country," Smith said. "So, we were always involved with that. So, I think being involved with that so young is what sparked my love for it growing up. I was always very involved with FFA. That just grew the flame a little more. That's when I decided that I wanted to keep agriculture in





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Shelby Dotson and Karli Smith help pack meals for food insecure students in the county on Feb. 20, 2024. FFA students from Hughesville, La Monte, Green Ridge, and Smithton helped pack 15,000 meals during the second annual event.
FILE PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

my life for the entirety of it. So, that's why I'm going to Mizzou to get an ag-business degree."

While attending high school, Smith was a Pettis County R-V FFA member. She added that she was surprised to learn she received the scholarships at graduation.

"I went into the interview, and it was a little scary if I'm being honest," Smith said. "But I was surprised, but I was also very grateful because going to a big university is kind of intimidating. All the bills and stuff were piling up when I was looking at it all, and I was like, oh my goodness. But receiving that scholarship made me very grateful for this community and all the people in it."

When Smith was in her early teens, she showed her horse for the Missouri State Fair at the 4-H and FFA competitions held in the summer before the Fair begins in August. She has also shown hams and bacon at the MSF.

Once she receives her degree, Smith plans to go into sales, but she wants to remain local and stay based in her hometown.

Smith shared some advice for other youth seeking a career in Ag.

"I would say to just do it," Smith said. "Because there's so much that agriculture can give you. And I've already met so many amazing people in the one semester that I've had at Mizzou. So, I would say, just go for it."

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at faithb@sedaliademocrat.com.





Ag student Shelby Dotson says growth involves risk

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

Living on a family generational farm is one reason Shelby Dotson, Sedalia, enjoys agriculture.

Due to her love for agriculture, Dotson also received scholarships in 2024, which will help her obtain a degree in an agriculture-related field.

Dotson, a freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is the daughter of Allen and Autry Dotson, who own a 300-acre crop and cattle farm in Pettis County.

She received $5,000 from the American Farmers Association and the Central Missouri Ag Club in May 2024. Dotson was also selected to go to an AFA seminar in November 2024.

Dotson graduated from Northwest High School in Hughesville in 2024 and is pursuing a major in agribusiness management and a minor in accounting and animal science.

She became interested in agriculture because her late grandmother, Bonnie Dotson, previously owned the family farm before her parents.

"I went to Sedalia (schools) during elementary school," Dotson said. "Then I went to Dresden and still didn't see a lot of farm people. Then I got to choose my high school. And that's why I went to Northwest because they have an FFA program. And I wanted to be involved in that."

While in high school, Dotson was involved with the Pettis County R-V FFA, where she served as the chapter president last year, and in 2022-2023, she was the area eight parliamentarian.

Although she never showed livestock, she competed in contest teams with the Missouri State FFA, which went to state-level competitions at MU.

"I've been to state three times," Dotson said. "My sophomore year for the Meats' Evaluation; my junior year for Food Science. My junior year for Food Science, we actually won our district contest. Then last year we went to state for Farm Management."

Once she obtains her degrees, she plans to become an accountant, but she is also interested in working for the government, possibly as a loan officer.

"I want to do something ag-related," Dotson said. "Like for the government, I want to work for the Department of Agriculture."

Dotson said her advice to other young people interested in agriculture is to "take all the chances you are offered."

"And even if it makes you uncomfortable, there's no room for growth unless you take a risk," Dotson said.

Faith Bemiss-McKinney can be reached at faithb@sedaliademocrat.com.

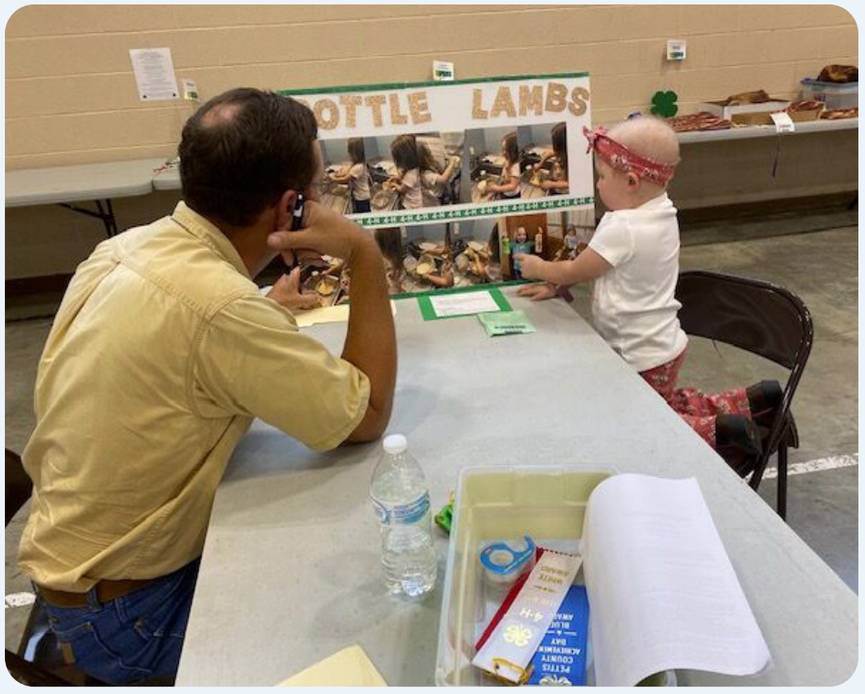


Shelby Dotson, a freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia, received scholarship money in May 2024 to help obtain a degree in agribusiness. She is the daughter of Allen and Autry Dotson, who own a 300-acre crop and cattle farm in Pettis County. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY DOTSON

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Supporting youth in agriculture



Brooke Rieckhoff talking to Clover Kid judge Don Hutcheson, Pettis County Extension Council member, as part of Pettis County Achievement Days, held July 10-11 at Our Savior Lutheran Gym. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION



Grady Wilbanks and Eli Dehan waiting to talk to their judges during Pettis County Achievement Days, held July 10-11 at Our Savior Lutheran Gym.



4-H Clover Kids leading youth in saying the American and 4-H pledges at Achievement Days Pettis County Achievement Days, held July 10-11 at Our Savior Lutheran Gym.



Samuel Dehan, visits with judge, Mary Beatty, about his picture of his dog Bella during Pettis County Achievement Days, held July 10-11 at Our Savior Lutheran Gym.



Samuel Dehan, showing his dog's teeth for judge during the obedience class at the Pettis County Dog Show, held at Mutt, Manners and More in Windsor on July 13.



Bella hurdles a jump with Samuel during the obstacle course class of the Pettis County Dog Show, held at Mutt, Manners and More in Windsor on July 13.

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Clover Kids at Pettis County 4-H Show with their dog project leader, Amy Gibbs at the Pettis County Dog Show.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION



All Pettis County Dog Show participants at Pettis County Dog Show with their dog project leader, Amy Gibbs, on July 13 at Mutt, Manners and More in Windsor.



Pettis County Queen Keely Elwell distributes prizes for Pee Wee class of the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale held July 14 and July 15.



Jackson Gerke talksto judge Matt Boatright during Pee Wee bottle calf show, held as part of the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale July 14 and July 15.



Eli Dehan shakes hands with judge Brain Williams after his heifer was selected Overall Champion Female during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION



Seth Hensley shows his pig during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.

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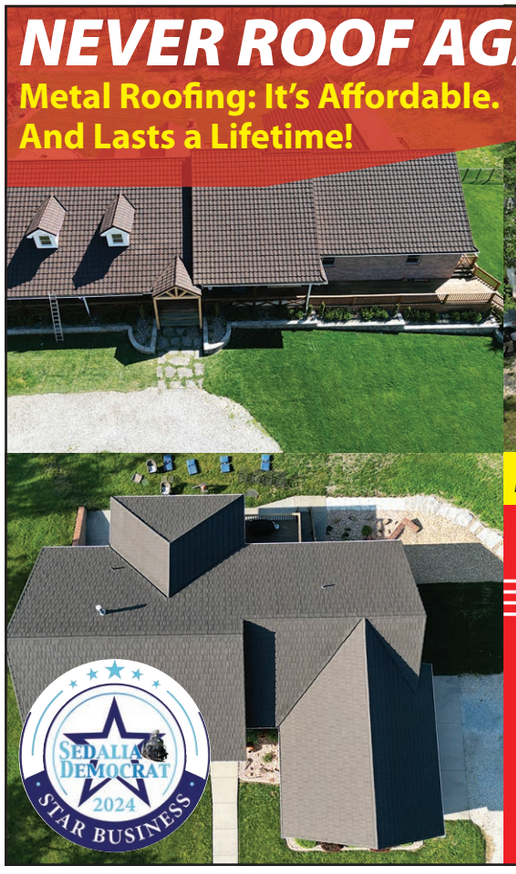
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Brooke Rieckhoff talking to the judge during the sheep Pee Wee class of the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.



Reagan Sneed with her Hereford steer during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.



Rhett Sneed with his Hereford steer during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.



Lary Smith presents the KMMO Youth in Agriculture Award to Ivy Elwell during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.

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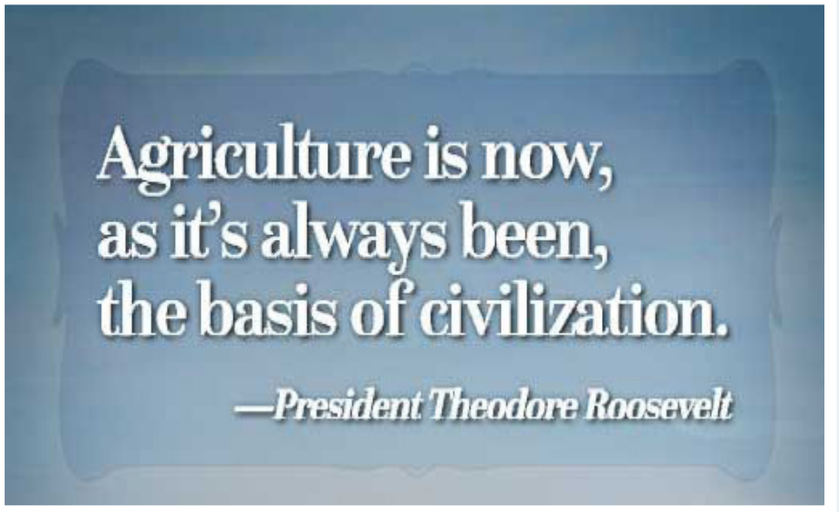
Dylan Deuschle with her Overall Reserve Champion Steer during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.



Beef Showmanship honors were presented by QueenKeely Elwell to Eli Dehan, Jr.; Hunter Arnett, Sr.; Maggie Reed, Sr. and not pictured Isabella Bennett, Jr.during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale, held July 14 and July 15.



Swine Showmanship recognitions were presented to Keely Elwell, Sr.; Seth Hensley, Jr.; Elliott Cooley, Sr; and Elyse Cooley, Jr. during the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show, held July 14 and July 15.



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Central MO AG Club Banquet Pie and Cake Baking Auction



Sharon Bruner baked the Grand Champion pie, a Peanut butter French-meringue pie that sold for $10,000 after a bidding war between Central Bank and Robby Toops with BASF. The bidders agreed to $5000 each for a half of Bruner's Peanut butter French-meringue pie. Bruner's granddaughter Hadley Bruner took Second Place in the Youth Division with her Star-Spangled Pie. PHOTOS BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

The Central Missouri Ag Club Banquet Pie and Cake Baking Auction was held Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Pork Place on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

The auction raised a record amount, totaling $43,100 for kids in agriculture.

Janice Klenke is the chairman of the long-running event.

"It started out as city folks and country folks getting together to appreciate agriculture," Klenke told the Democrat. "It's evolved since then to having a pie contest and raising money for kids for scholarships and 4H and FFA and all kinds of things."

Sponsors like Wood and Huston Bank, FCS Financial, MFA, BTC Bank, Central Bank and others pull together to support the event and the kids who will benefit from the funds raised.

"This community is rooted in agriculture," Central Bank of Sedalia Senior Vice President Erica Petersen said. "To have an event like this where we can give back to the community makes everything happen for us. One of the beauties of the agriculture community is everybody always gives back, and that's what keeps things going; teaching the next generation and being there to support each other."

A hearty dinner and some live music made the banquet a special celebration of the lasting bonds made in the AG community.

"We love being a part of this event, we've been so blessed to be here for several years now, " Petersen said. "For the last few years, we've been the pie people; so, we get to walk around and showcase the pies during the auction. At the end of the day you get a really yummy pie, but you also get to support something that's so vital to our community."

A local grandmother and her granddaughter found approval from the judges for the pies they baked and ended up winning prizes, plaques and commendations.

"I won Grand Champion on my Peanut butter French-meringue pie," Sharon Bruner said. "I was having trouble this morning getting my crust, but other than that it's very simple. It just takes a little time."

Contestants had to bake two pies for Saturday's event, one to be sampled by the judges and one to be raffled off.

"I enjoy cooking to begin with, and it's for a very good cause for the kids. I've been active with 4H for 32 years and I just like doing it," Bruner said. "My son was in 4-H and then I've got two granddaughters in 4=H now, my one granddaughter brought a pie tonight, too. It's in the Youth Division.

11-year-old Hadley Bruner from Warrensburg took the second-place prize for her Star-Spangled pie. Like her grandmother, Sharon, Hadley also had some initial trouble with the crust, but experience gained on projects through 4-H helped her work through problems to ultimate success.

"It was kind of difficult because the crust didn't turn out very well," Hadley admitted. "I do cake decorating, painting, arts and crafts, bacon, ham."

For Central Missouri farmers who are used to banding together to face the rigors of raising crops and livestock, the annual dinner is a chance to now help the next generation get a proper start.

"We do want to thank all our farmers," Danny Young, Central Mo Ag Club President told the gathering. "wW know that it's not an easy life, people don't realize that they're the ones that they sell everything wholesale and they buy retail. Sometimes that's hard way to make a living, but that's what they do. It's a big business now, you must treat it like a big business. It's a different world than it used to be, we recognize that, we're trying to promote that and help the next generation get into agriculture."

Sharon Bruner's Grand Champion pie brought a whopping $10,000 after a bidding war between Central Bank and Robby Toops with BASF. The bidders graciously agreed to $5000 each for a half of Bruner's wonderful Peanut butter French-meringue pie.

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



Mixed medium pie

First: Chocolate chip cookie dough delight, Cheryl Lange. Second: White chocolate macadamia nut pie, Joy Beeman. Third: White chocolate coconut cream pie, July Kuhns.

Meringue

First: Peanut butter crunch pie, Sharon Bruner. Second: chocolate cream pie, Connie Soenker. Third: Mom's coconut cream pie, Jo Beeman.

Double Crust

First: Classic apple pie, Connie Kiburz. Second: Decadent blackberry pie, Jo Beeman. Third: Black n blue gooseberry pie, Sharon Bruner.

Youth

First: Barefoot coconut cream pie Raleigh Williams. Second: Star spangled flag pie, Hadley Bruner.

Cake

First: Mocha chocolate cake, Cheryl Lange. Second: Grandma's angel food cake, Connie Soendker. Third: Dreaming of Spring cake, Julie Carpenter.



The Central Missouri Ag Club Banquet Pie and Cake Baking Auction at the Pork Place on the Missouri State Fairgrounds raised a record amount of $43,100 for kids in agriculture Saturday.




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