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SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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SedaliaDemocrat.com • \$2

2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Franklin, Hoffert running to represent Fourth Ward on Sedalia City Council

Two people are running to represent the Fourth Ward on the Sedalia City Council in the Tuesday, April 8 Municipal Election.

Newcomers Michelle Franklin and Harry Hoffert are running for one open seat.

Each candidate was asked to fill out a questionnaire. Answers were limited to 150 words and candidates are listed alphabetically by last name. The candidates' responses have only been lightly edited for grammar and length.

Why are you running for office?

Franklin: I am running for city council to shape a future that reflects our shared values. Born and raised in this community, I left to attend college, and spent 15 years working in higher education, libraries and archives—gaining firsthand experience in community service, access to information, and building meaningful connections. Over a decade ago, my family and I moved back home, and I have been grateful to see our city grow and evolve. I bring a fresh perspective while honoring the traditions that make our city special. My vision is for an inclusive, accessible and thriving community, where everyone has a voice and a stake in shaping our future.

Hoffert: It's not for recognition or a lack of things to do. I was born and raised in Sedalia and returned home after serving in the U.S. Air Force. I remember a time when this town was growing with pride, but today, it's heading in the wrong direction. As both a resident and a business owner, I can't sit back and watch the city council make decisions that threaten the legacy our parents and grandparents built. I believe in transparency, common sense, and compassion—not division or neglect. Our seniors, veterans, and all citizens, no matter where they live or come from, deserve leadership that truly looks out for them. It's time to take back our city and steer it toward the future it deserves.

What are your qualifications?

Franklin: As a librarian that worked in both public and academic settings, I have gained extensive experience. My role has dealt with budget man-



Michelle Franklin



Harry Hoffert

agement, master planning and overseeing projects—all essential skills for serving on the city council. I understand how to analyze financial reports, allocate resources efficiently and make tough decisions to ensure that priorities align with the community needs. I have served on numerous committees, where I collaborated with others to find solutions to pressing challenges. My experience dealing with accreditation issues has strengthened my ability to navigate regulations, ensure compliance and uphold high standards—all of which are crucial when shaping policies for our city. I know how to prioritize issues as new challenges arise. I am skilled in balancing multiple interests while keeping the bigger picture in mind. My track record proves I can work through complex problems, listen to different perspectives and deliver results that benefit the community.

Hoffert: I am a lifelong resident of Sedalia. I was born here and attended school in Sedalia, Green Ridge and Nixa. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, I returned home to build my life, raise my family, and contribute to my community. I've worked hard my entire life—putting in 40+ hours a week in maintenance at local companies and successfully owning and growing our family business for over 16 years ... I understand the everyday struggles people face. I've seen my grandparents and friends succeed here, but I've also watched Sedalia decline ... We need fresh perspectives, new ideas and leaders who aren't afraid to challenge the status quo. Right now, our city council is made up of like-minded individuals who seem to agree on everything without real debate ... If we want to rebuild this city, we need leaders who listen, ask tough questions and consider different viewpoints.

See **COUNCIL**, Page A6

Lt. Gov. David Wasinger speaks at Scouting America breakfast

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Scouting America's Great Rivers Council held its annual breakfast Friday, March 28 at the Fox Theater in Sedalia.

After the Presentation of Colors by members of Troop 54 and Troop 61, Executive Director John Fabsits addressed Scouting America's new name.

"If you haven't heard it, yes, the organization did change our name back in February," Fabsits said. "That's all that changed, just the name. Our values, our principles, our duty to God, our patriotism, the program, all those things and just the name changes."

Fabsits noted one thing worse than facing change; becoming irrelevant.

"Sometimes we have to evolve, change a bit," Fabsits said. "Currently we are proud to welcome that 21% of our membership that is female."

Lt. Gov. David Wasinger was the featured speaker at the breakfast and networking meeting sponsored by Nucor.

The 2025 Patron Event is the marquee event of the year and allows scouts and troop leaders to share their scouting experience with corporate sponsors and donors.

"I'm new to politics, I ran as a conservative outsider," Wasinger said. "I come from a small town, Hannibal, Missouri, and I'm trying to bring those small-town values; hard work, family and faith to the Lieutenant Governor's office."

Wasinger recalled times he flipped burgers at the Hannibal Hardee's, carried the Hannibal Courier-Post, and was a member of the local Scout troop. Wasinger said was only a



Scouting America's Great Rivers Council held their annual breakfast Friday, March 28 at the Fox Theater in Sedalia. Lt. Gov. David Wasinger, a former scout and proud father of two Eagle Scouts, spoke on the important values learned through the program.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

scout for two years, but he is the proud father of two Eagle Scouts.

"As we mentioned only 4% of Scouts become Eagle Scouts," Wasinger said. "It is heavy duty to become an Eagle Scout, so you should be proud of yourselves."

Wasinger attended Mizzou and majored in accounting, went to law school at Vanderbilt and met his wife Colleen, a native Missourian.

He credited his family as the motivating factor for him entering politics.

"That's really the reason I ran for Lieutenant Governor," Wasinger said. "Because of kids, grandkids. I just did not like the direction of the country, of the state. I've never held elective office before so

I jumped into this Lieutenant Governor's race to shake things up in Jefferson City."

Wasinger is Missouri's 49th Lieutenant Governor and said he is committed to a conservative agenda and providing a voice for smaller communities, and protecting the unborn.

"But I'm here today because the Scouts have such a near and dear place in my heart and it's an honor to be here," Wasinger said. "Not only are our two boys Eagle Scouts, I currently serve on the board of the Boy Scouts of Greater St Louis."

Wasinger noted the many scouts from Sedalia and the numerous merit badges they wore.

"It really develops character, leadership, and

a sense of responsibility that is really going to last a lifetime," Wasinger added. "Most employers, if they get a resume that says Eagle Scout on there, you're going to get an interview."

The Lt. Gov then praised Scouting America for raising our country's future leaders.

"Scouts Law is not just a collection of words, they're really a guide to how all of us should live our lives," Wasinger said. "Think about it, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverent. Those are qualities of a good scout, they're qualities of a good citizen, a good friend and a brave leader."

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146

La Monte Career Fair provides a 'reality check' for students

By Chris Howell
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Students at La Monte Junior High and La Monte High School participated in the district's fourth annual Career Day on Friday, March 28.

"This is our Fourth Annual Career Fair and there are two components to it," La Monte High School Principal Todd Misenhelter said. "The first part that we're going through is the Reality Check activity where each kid has a career, and they have to visit each table and basically set their budget."

Tough choices make students weigh their choices from housing to cars and living expenses.

"Am I making enough

money for all the things that I want," Misenhelter said. "Did I make wise investments or choices with the level of car that I tried to get? The level of housing that I tried to get? Do I need to adjust anything, downsize or make other choices, because that's something that happens in the real world. A painful lesson before it's actually painful, learn now so we don't make those mistakes later."

Grades 9-12 had the opportunity to sink or swim financially in a safe environment before learning life's lessons the hard way, by overspending and racking up debt.

"We're trying to give them that information," Misenhelter said. "That



La Monte Senior Ivy Elwell is one of the 9-12th graders attending the Career Fair Friday, March 28. Elwell got a 'Reality Check' when visiting the Central Bank table and finding her paycheck was quickly eaten by expenses.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

knowledge now so over the next four years, even if they're freshmen, they can figure out if they want to take certain classes or if they want to go to a certain direction."

The principal said the Career Fair was organized by Community Healthcare Liaison Alexis Spencer and PK-12 Counselor Lindsay Bunch.

See **CHECK**, Page A6



A News / Sports
Obituaries A2
Opinion A4
Sports
Calendar A8
Horoscopes A9
Comics A10

B Living / Classified
Heartland Chronicles B5
Classifieds B7-8



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OBITUARIES

Zach Schwenk

Zach Schwenk, 42, of Liberty, MO, passed away March 11, 2025, alongside his beloved dog, Bean. He lived a life marked with quiet strength, resilience, and loyalty-to his country, his family, the Chiefs and his closest companion. Zachary graduated from Blue Springs North in 2002 and later on Central Missouri State.



spirit, and an undefeated record in tennis against his brother-some-thing he never let him forget. Through it all, his dog, Bean was always by his side. The two were inseparable, and it's only fitting they remained together until the end. He is survived by his Mother Denise, his Father Kurt and his younger brother Jeremy. His unfortunate passing will serve as a daily to them and hopefully to others to live life and your family to the fullest.

Love in your heart, fortune in your steps -J.
To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Zach Schwenk please visit our flower store.

Paul D. Albin

Paul D. Albin, 89, of Sedalia, MO, passed away on March 26, 2025, at E. W. Thompson Health and Rehabilitation Center in Sedalia. He was born on March 25, 1936, in California, MO, the son of Arthur Benjamin Albin and Rosa (Murray) Albin, who preceded him in death.



ations learning the Auto Upholstery Trade. Paul was active in the West Central Missouri Vintage Car Club and won various trophies with his collection of classic cars. He also loved to dance with his wife Connie and they won numerous dance competitions at the Missouri State Fair along with dancing on television on the Club Dance show and Wild Horse Saloon show.

One of his highlights was being able to spend 17 winters in Texas with Connie where they spent time with friends and would venture into Mexico. Paul also loved to play golf and had several holes in one.

Connie was the love of his life. They would always walk hand in hand and now they will be walking together hand in hand again.

In addition to his wife and parents, Paul was preceded in death by a sister, Norma Inman, and her children, Barbara Rose Henderson and Stephan Mark Inman.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Rea Funeral Chapel with Brad Rea officiating.

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

A private burial will be at Memorial Park Cemetery, Sedalia, MO at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Open Door Ministries in the care of Rea Funeral Chapel.

LaVerne Katherine Glenn

LaVerne Katherine Glenn passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Mt. Hulda



Lutheran Church near Cole Camp Burial will be in Mt. Hulda Lutheran Cemetery near Cole Camp. Arrangements by Fox Funeral Home, Cole Camp.

DEATH NOTICE

Cramer

Ronald E. Cramer, 70, of Centralia, formerly of Sedalia, passed away Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

A celebration of life will be held 4pm-6pm, Sunday, April 13, 2025 at Holy Spirit Multipurpose Building, 418 S Rollins, Centralia, for all who loved him.

The family wishes to direct memorials to establish the Click Welding Scholarship in honor of Ronald "Click" E. Cramer at State Fair Community College. Please mail memorials to SFCC Foundation 3201 West 16th Street Sedalia, MO 65301. To make a donation online, follow the link to make an online gift with

a credit card. Please type "Cramer Memorial" in the note section which is the last line on the right-hand column. <https://www.sfccmo.edu/foundation-alumni/foundation/ways-to-give/>.

Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Thomas

Janice Kay Thomas, 77 of Hughesville, passed away Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Bothwell Regional Health Center.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. until service time on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on

Wednesday at the funeral home with burial to follow in the Houstonia Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the donor's choice.

Beaman

John Prentice Beaman, III, 45, of Sedalia, passed away, Saturday, March 29, 2025, at his home.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until service time on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Memorial services will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the family. (Checks can be made to Christie Thierfelder and may be left in the care of the funeral home.)

FUNERALS

Jimmie Charles Wise

11 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

Harold Carl Schroeder

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

LaVerne Katherine Glenn

11 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church near Cole Camp. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral

Home.

Janice Kay Thomas

2 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

John Prentice Beaman, III

6 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Paul D. Albin

2 pm. Saturday, April 5, at Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel.

POLICE REPORTS

Sedalia Police Department Arrests March 20

4:19 p.m.: Roger K. Ketchum, 59, was arrested after officers were dispatched to an accident in the 2100 block of West Broadway Boulevard. They made contact with both parties involved and discovered Ketchum was driving while revoked. He was released on scene with a citation for driving while revoked.

March 24

12:43 a.m.: Edilberto Quetzecua Rubio, 27, was arrested after an officer was dispatched to Katy Park for a vehicle check with a driver who had passed out with the vehicle running. It was determined the driver was intoxicated and a meth pipe was located during a search of the vehicle. Rubio was transported to the police department then the Pettis County Jail pending charges of DWI alcohol and possession of drug paraphernalia.

March 27

9:30 p.m.: Trina Lynn Harvey, 43, was arrested after officers conducted a subject check in the 700 block of East Boonville Street. Harvey was walking in the roadway and when contacted became argumentative. Officers gave her a lawful order to dump out the open alcohol bottle she was carrying but she refused. Due to her level of intoxication Harvey was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 12-hour hold for safekeeping.

March 28

1:14 a.m.: Kenneth Shumate, 36, was arrested after a traffic stop for vehicle with expired registration near East Broadway Boulevard and South Hancock Avenue. The driver had a suspended driving status and was transported to the Pettis County Jail pending a charge of DWS.

7:52 a.m.: Shawn William Miller, 49, was

arrested after officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of South Osage Avenue for a report of a protective order violation. They gathered information and located the suspect violating the order still on the protectant's property.

1:27 p.m.: Dustin G. Mahan, 35, was arrested after an ongoing investigation for leaving the scene of an accident. He arrived at the police department and was placed under arrest and transported to the Pettis County Jail for 24 hours pending charges of leaving the scene of an accident and first-degree property damage.

2:39 p.m.: Lynn Marie Bentley, 40, was arrested after officers responded to the police department lobby for a female subject who was seen physically assaulting a man on camera. Officers arrested Bentley and transported her to the Pettis County Jail where she was placed on a 24-hour hold pending a charge of fourth-degree domestic assault.

10:50 p.m.: Jesus Ubaldo Torres, 46, was arrested after a vehicle stop for drifting in and out of lanes without signaling near East Broadway Boulevard and South Ohio Avenue. The driver had no license and was issued a Municipal summons for that and another for improper lane usage.

March 29

12:44 a.m.: Cassandra Dion Hundtoft, 27, was arrested after police responded to the 1800 block of South Barrett Avenue for a disturbance with a weapon. It was determined a verbal physical altercation had taken place and during this altercation Hundtoft attempted to assault a female victim. She was transported to the Pettis County Jail pending charges of second-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon and armed criminal action.

8:35 p.m.: Jamie Lucas,

53, was arrested after a vehicle stop near North Broadway Boulevard and North Missouri Avenue for improper lane usage and no plate lights. Passenger William Earl Lucas, 51, was arrested for an open container of alcohol and another passenger was arrested for meth possession and drug paraphernalia.

9:14 p.m.: Amy Irene Clark, 46, was arrested after a vehicle stop near South Limit Avenue and West Fifth Street for failing to maintain a lane and having a partially obstructed rear plate. Clark was intoxicated and was processed for DWI pending release to a sober person at the Pettis County Jail.

March 30

12:59 a.m.: Laynee JoLea Rene Baldrige, 23, was arrested after a traffic stop for failing to stop prior to the stop line at North Engineer Avenue and East Saline Street, and for having an expired temporary tag. The driver was impaired by a combination of alcohol and drugs and was arrested for DWI, processed and released with a municipal summons.

2:40 a.m.: Lino Ubaldo Romero, 34, was arrested after a vehicle stopped near West Broadway Boulevard and South Stewart Avenue for improper lane usage and suspicion of DWI. Romero was intoxicated and was processed and released with municipal citations for DWI driving without a license, improper lane usage and two counts of no child restraints.

Incidents

March 25

7:22 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of East Third Street for a report of property damage. They gathered information, documented the damages and completed a report.

March 26

9:15 a.m.: Officers were called to the 3200 block

of West 10th Street for a burglary. They gathered information and generated a report.

March 27

7:23 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1300 block of West 16th Street in reference to a property damage report. sometime in the overnight hours the victim's side mirror was damaged.

2:26 p.m.: Officers were called to the police department lobby for a theft report from the 1700 block of East 28th Street. They gathered information.

6:42 p.m.: Officers responded to the 700 block of East 17th Street for a fraud report. The complainant said they sent money for a house rental deposit on a house owned by the suspect. The investigation is ongoing.

March 28

11:38 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of South Park Avenue for a reported burglary. They spoke with the victim who said they did not know who was in the house and took their items or when it occurred. There's currently no information on a suspect.

2:38 p.m.: An officer performed a traffic stop at South Ingram Avenue and East 19th Street for speeding in the Sedalia Middle School zone. The driver had a revoked driver's license and was unable to produce valid insurance. State charges of no insurance and driving while revoked have been submitted to the state prosecutor's office.

March 29

6:23 p.m.: A call came in from Buffalo Wild Wings, 4400 Wisconsin Ave, regarding a past assault that had occurred. The suspect had already fled the area. After gathering statements from victims and witnesses, charges are pending through the Pettis County prosecutor.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

CRASH REPORTS

Warsaw man seriously injured in ATV accident

A Warsaw man, 83, suffered serious injuries at 11:28 a.m. Saturday, March 29, in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the man was driving a 2009 Kawasaki Mule north in the 31000 block of Branch Avenue and was attempting to turn around in the roadway when he traveled

down a steep embankment and overturned.

He was not wearing a safety device and was transported by a Warsaw Lincoln EMS Ambulance District to Lake Regional Medical Center in Osage Beach.

Kingsville motorcyclist suffers serious injuries in Benton County mishap

A Kingsville man, 53, suffered serious injuries at 11:30 a.m. Saturday,

March 29, in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the man was driving a 2006 Harley Davidson east on Highway BB and Woodland Road when he traveled off the right side of the roadway, struck a sign and overturned.

He was not wearing a helmet, and was transported by Life Flight to University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia.

Warrensburg teen injured in Johnson County accident

A 16-year-old male from Warrensburg suffered moderate injuries at 10:46 p.m. Friday, March 28, in a Johnson County accident.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the crash occurred as a Chevrolet Colorado failed to negotiate a curve on private property near 801 Road, drove off an embankment

and overturned.

The teen was wearing a seat belt, and was transported by Johnson County Ambulance District to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

Knob Noster man injured in Pettis motorcycle accident

A Knob Noster man, 32, suffered moderate injuries at 10:48 p.m. Friday, March 28, in a Pettis County accident.

According to a Mis-

souri State Highway Patrol report, the man was driving a 2009 Kawasaki H2 south on 65 Highway south of Missouri Route 765 when he failed to negotiate a curve, ran off the roadway and was ejected.

He was wearing a helmet, and was transported by Pettis County Ambulance District to University Health Medical Center in Kansas City.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

Sedalia Cadet Squadron fundraising for trip to Washington DC

Civil Air Patrol NCR-MO-009 Sedalia Cadet Flight Civil Air Patrol is holding a fundraiser to raise funds to defray costs for its team of cadets to participate in the world's largest rocketry competition.

This competition is called the American Rocketry Challenge. The Sedalia Cadet Flight is competing against over 1,000 teams nationwide.

Fifteen teams are participating from the state of Missouri. The top 100 teams are selected for a national final contest outside Washington DC.

The top 10 teams split a prize pool of approximately \$100,000 split between team members and their school/organization. The team that achieves First Place will represent the USA at the Paris Air Show in Paris

France in the summer of 2025 against the winning teams representing the United Kingdom, France, and Japan.

Each flight costs approximately \$25 per flight to cover the cost of the motor and sometimes the replacement of parachutes and repair for parts damaged on landing or motor malfunction. The organization's goal is to raise \$2,500 to

cover the costs of materials to build, fly, and travel to the national competition if selected.

Sedalia Cadet Flight Cadet members C/Msgt Isaiah Groshart, C/CMSgt Jeremiah Harner, C/SMSgt Caleb Mallardi, C/Amn Hannah Mallardi, and C/MSGT Leah Mallardi have designed, built and tested rockets to carry two eggs to an altitude of 790 feet and

recover them undamaged in an elapsed time between 41 and 44 seconds. The goal of the unit is to raise \$2,500 to cover the costs of building materials, electronics (altimeters), launch equipment, motors and transportation to the national finals in The Plains, VA in May 2025.

The fundraiser runs until May 15.

Please mail a check

or Money Order (NO CASH) to:

Missouri Wing Headquarters

PO Box 5044

Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

Please put "NCR-MO-009 Sedalia Cadet Flt. in the ATTN/Purpose space.

Release courtesy of Sedalia Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol.

Bill regulating video gambling faces hazy future with weeks left in Missouri’s legislative session

By Rudi Keller

Missouri Independent

A bill to authorize video gambling machines commissioned by the Missouri Lottery got off to a fast start in the Missouri House, clearing a committee just 12 days after it was introduced in late January.

The bill then stalled on the next step, and a month passed before the House Rules-Legislative Committee approved it for placement on the calendar for debate. Now, as April is about to begin and lawmakers have only seven weeks to complete their work, it is uncertain whether that debate will take place.

The bill has the backing of House Speaker Jon Patterson of Lee's Summit, but he's not sure the rest of the GOP caucus is ready to follow him.

"It's a matter of, do we have a majority of the people in the chamber that feel the same way?" Patterson said Thursday at the weekly House Republican news conference. "That I don't know."

For more than five years there have been legislative efforts, ultimately unsuccessful, to expand legal gambling through video lottery games and sports wagering — and to shut down unregulated

games offering cash prizes that can be found in bars, truck stops and convenience stores across the state.

The proliferation of what are called gray market machines is one of the best arguments for authorizing video lottery games, Patterson said.

"If people are doing it, I would rather have them regulated and taxed and to make sure that kids aren't doing it," he said. "So I'm in favor of the bill itself."

The legislation sponsored by state Rep. Bill Hardwick, a Republican from Dixon, has been revised since it was introduced and another major revision is awaiting action on the House floor. To win votes, an amendment Hardwick intends to propose would cut the number of machines allowed at each location to eight and add provisions allowing local governments — cities for incorporated areas, counties for unincorporated locations — to conduct votes on whether to allow video lottery terminals.

He also removed all provisions of the bill that would have eliminated the gray market machines. Instead of phasing them out six months after video lottery is launched, retailers could keep them if they prefer

rather than become lottery outlets.

They could not have both. Last week, Hardwick had a pad of lined paper in hand, going from member to member on the floor to see if he had enough votes.

"I think that we can pass it out of the House," Hardwick said. "I think that we should pass it out of the House."

The best argument he has for the bill, Hardwick said, is its potential to produce revenue for state education programs. Gov. Mike Kehoe didn't recommend a \$300 million increase in the state public school formula that would fully fund the program, calling it too expensive.

According to the fiscal note, video lottery would produce \$112 million in the first year and almost \$350 million a year when fully operational.

There is a substantial surplus currently in the state general revenue fund, but revenues are not growing and the Republican majority wants to cut state income taxes.

"A lot of my members are thinking about the fact that the state's going to have some tough budget times ahead, and by making a few regulatory and structural changes, we could change revenues

without raising taxes on people," Hardwick said.

For several years, the issue of gambling was a triangular debate.

Casino companies and professional sports teams eager for the revenue from sports wagering opposed the video game vendors pushing for the new form of lottery game. Both were opposed at times by lobbyists for Torch Electronics, the largest of the gray market operators and a prolific political giver.

Torch didn't want any bill that would make the law clear on the legality of its games.

It has been active both in the legislative halls and the courtroom, where it unsuccessfully sued the Missouri State Highway Patrol to block criminal investigations of its machines.

A representative of Torch declined to comment on the revised bill.

A campaign organized by major sports teams and bankrolled by online betting platforms in November won approval of sports betting for Missouri. While that issue is off the table, casinos aren't backing down from their opposition to video lottery games.

The number of people visiting Missouri's 13 casinos in the final six months of

2024 was down 25% from the same period of 2019, which is about the time the unregulated machines were making their debut. The remaining casino gamblers are each losing more, on average, and net winnings for the casinos have gone up 8% in that same period.

What the figures say is that small-dollar players are choosing to play the unregulated machines, said Michael Winter of the Missouri Gaming Association.

The association considers the unregulated machines to be criminal gambling devices and the proposal for video lottery to be unconstitutional. The only place slot machines are legal, he said, is in the 13 casinos licensed by the Missouri Gaming Commission.

"I don't think the market has stopped growing when you look at either illegals or the potential that putting in more slot machines than every location around the state could have on our properties," Winter said. "So we think there's still more downside and revenue we could lose if bills like this are passed."

The bill's controls on improper play, such as by people under 21, are too loose, Winter said.

"They don't have set aside

rooms," he said. "They don't have licensed personnel overseeing the machine. You've got a person at the counter who's in charge of making sure that only 21-year-olds play the machines."

The changes in Hardwick's proposed amendment are essential to winning passage, said Andy Arnold, a lobbyist for J & J Ventures, a vendor for video lottery games.

He thinks a bipartisan majority of the House can be assembled to pass the bill, but it would be close. To get to the Senate, a bill must win 82 votes from the 163-member House.

A provision that requires the games to be in a place "distinct and divided from the primary business operation area" was important to calming fears that minors may be playing the games.

Arnold has been working to get video lottery legalized for 10 years. The arguments from the casinos are more about market share than legality, he said.

"It's just a matter of time before people see through and see that it's nothing more than competition," Arnold said. "They don't want the competition. But they've already got the competition from the illegal machines."



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My name is

ALBERT REINE,

and by writing this,

I hope to clarify

some things.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Yes, I milked cows for 50 years.

No, I have never been the president of any clubs.

No, I have never been on Facebook, eBay or any social media.

No, I have never run for any office.

So, why is my name plastered on billboards and yard signs throughout Sedalia?

I do not know why.

Maybe the man's name on the signs you want to vote for belongs to Albert Reine, JR.

So, please do not vote for me. Know who you are voting for.

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THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Mind shift over burnt ends

Let me set the scene. We were at a restaurant with the whole family, including my mom, all three of our college kids, plus two roommates brought home by our 20-year-old son Jack, who was in town for spring break. His roommates were both born and raised in Michigan, and this was their first trip to a city in the South. We were on a culinary mission to show them the best Southern cuisine has to offer.

With plates loaded with barbecue brisket, ribs, green beans, burnt ends, and mac and cheese, we navigated through the bustling barbecue joint to the enclosed patio out back. We settled down at a long picnic-style table, and I couldn't wait to see the boys' reaction to what would undoubtedly be the best barbecue they'd ever had.

That's when a middle-aged guy sitting two tables over started singing. His loud snippets of an unidentifiable song clashed with the background music. He wasn't crooning. He was caterwauling. And it kept going on and on, separated only by brief pauses. The guy's back was to me, but I watched the people at his table as I tried to figure out what was happening. Was this a birthday party? Was he drunk? The people at his table seemed amused.

But I wasn't laughing. I was bothered. What started as mild annoyance was ramping up into anger. Doesn't this guy know how rude it is to be so loud and disruptive in a restaurant? Why wasn't he stopping? Why weren't his friends asking him to stop? How did they think it was okay to interrupt dinner for other paying customers who'd come for a meal and conversation – not an off-key mashup of noise and nuisance.

I aimed a few pointed, pleading stares in their direction. But my furrowed brows were no match for the chaos at their table. I considered finding a manager and asking if they would tell the guy to dial down the distraction. But I didn't want to make things worse. I just wanted our out-of-town guests to have a good time and a good meal.

I glanced down the long table at the five college kids we'd brought with us. They were elbow-deep in barbecue sauce – eating, talking, and laughing. If they'd noticed the guy causing a scene, they didn't seem bothered by it. And that's when a connection formed in my brain that helped me go from furious back down to fine.

Earlier that day, I'd



Gwen Rockwood
Syndicated Columnist

started listening to a popular audiobook titled "Let Them Theory" by Mel Robbins. I was only a few chapters in, but I was beginning to get the gist, which is this: Let people be who they are and do what they do without becoming obsessed with fixing or changing it. (Usually, you don't have the power to change it anyway.) After the "let them" part of the formula, you're supposed to say, "Let me" and focus on yourself and what you can control (which is typically your own reaction).

As one book reviewer put it, it's about "learning how to protect your peace without needing to change what others do." Easy to say, but often hard to do.

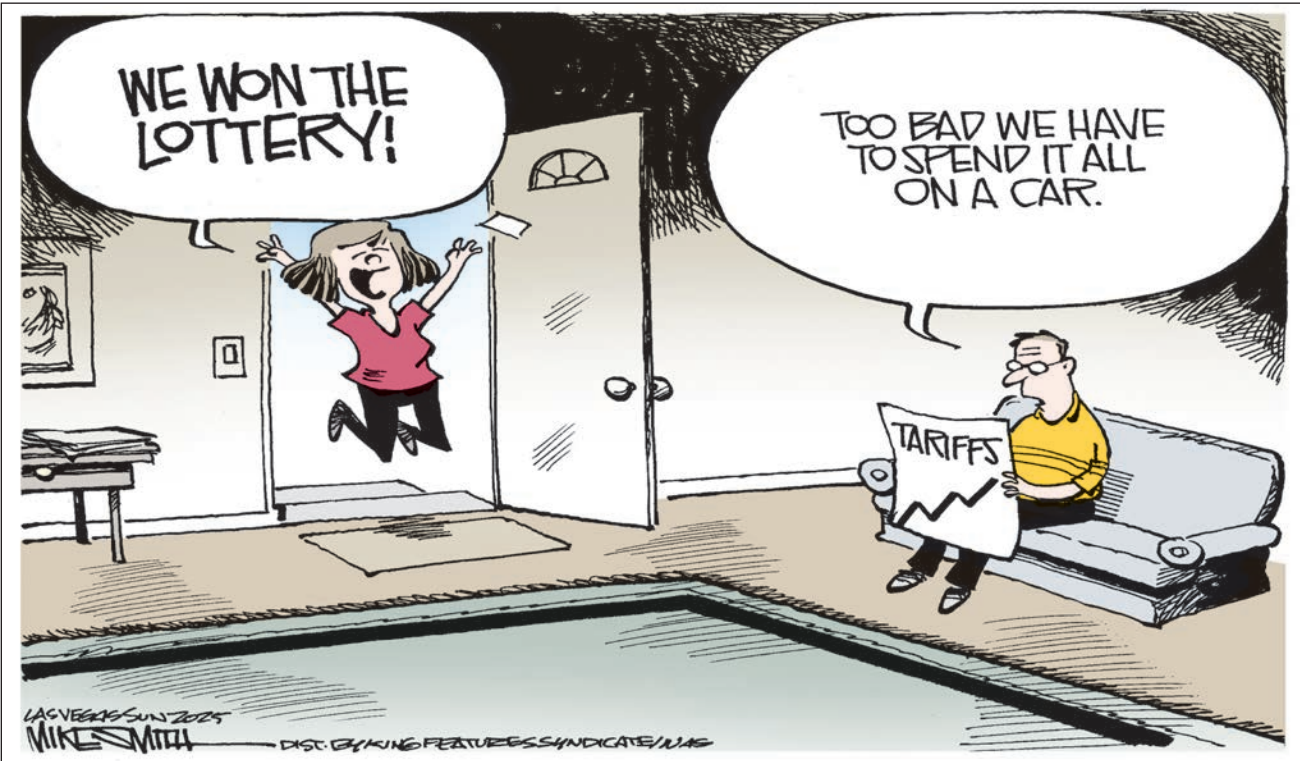
But something clicked in that moment. I realized the loud and obnoxious guy wasn't "making" me mad. I was choosing to be mad. I had the option of focusing only on our table. I didn't have to stew. I didn't have to go to war, even inside my own mind. I didn't want to spend that dinner feeling frustrated, and I realized I could stop – even if the rude guy didn't.

So that's what I did. I protected my peace. It turns out that having control over a situation is not a prerequisite for having peace. Try it the next time something or someone is driving you nuts.

In the weeks since my barbecue epiphany, I've thought more about the guy from that night. Maybe he was just a jerk, or maybe not. I remember how my dad, who suffered from dementia in the last decade of his life, sometimes said and did loud or inappropriate things in public. Medical and mental conditions don't always play by the rules of polite society. And I have no idea what that man and his friends or family might be learning to live with. But I do know I wish them peace, whatever it is.

As for my own peace, from now on I'll try to be more responsible for that, too.

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

The continuing saga of Brick Pomeroy, final chapter

In 1885 when Brick Pomeroy lost control of the Atlantic-Pacific Railway Tunnel Company that was digging a railroad tunnel under the Continental Divide, he left Denver and returned to New York City.

According to Wild West magazine, control of the tunnel project passed to Diamond Joe Reynolds, owner of the lucrative Diamond Joe Mine.

Pomeroy, however, had not left Denver permanently.

In January 1887, he returned to Denver claiming to have acquired \$1 million from British financiers. He took control of the tunnel company again.

No work was done on the tunnel until March 1888, when the tunnel company hired Allen and Nankivell to work on the eastern end of the tunnel.

The company hired workers from Cornwall, Great Britain, to work in two shifts digging the tunnel by hand. Men from Cornwall were known to be excellent miners. According to Wilderness England, many came to North America after Cornish copper mining stopped in 1866.

Work stopped in August 1888 when the company ran out of money. Work resumed briefly in the fall, but completely stopped in the winter of 1888.

Pomeroy returned to Britain to secure additional money.



Rhonda Chalfant
Contributing Columnist

In early 1889, he returned to Denver and built "lavish new company offices."

By December 1889, work on the eastern end of the tunnel was at 2100 feet. Pomeroy announced the tunnel would be completed by 1893.

Pomeroy regularly noted that the tunnel workers were striking "rich veins of silver ore," yet the Courier, the Georgetown, Colorado, newspaper, questioned why the samples of ore were shipped out of state for analysis.

In 1890, work resumed on the western end of the tunnel which was badly out of alignment with the eastern end of the tunnel.

In 1891, the Courier questioned whether the "zigzag gopher hole" was really a tunnel or a pretense for a mining operation that would enrich Pomeroy.

Workers used steam powered Ingersoll drills fired by wood. A lack of wood caused work to stop in December and January 1891.

In May 1891, a powder explosion killed four men digging the tunnel. The explosion gathered attention to what was considered a "rapidly failing project."

Pomeroy again returned to New York City, rented offices in the Pulitzer building, and began to solicit money.

He returned to Denver in the spring of 1892 insisting the "coming season will be the busiest and most important of all yet passed since work has begun."

That was not the case. The tunnel's small dimensions, five feet by seven feet, the out of alignment western end of the tunnel, and the lack of any attempt to connect the tunnel to existing railroad lines caused the stockholders to vote to cancel the tunnel project and concentrate on mining.

In the spring of 1893, the company built a stone portal at the eastern end of the tunnel and sold six thousand tons of silver ore. The nation experienced a "panic" or depression in 1893. Silver prices dropped drastically.

Pomeroy again retreated to New York City, never to return to Denver.

His home became an orphanage, the Belle Lennox Home for Children.

The abandoned tunnel sold for delinquent taxes.

Pomeroy died in Brooklyn in 1896, setting in

motion a set of "complex legal maneuvers." Work on the tunnel stalled until 1899, when the properties, already sold for delinquent taxes, were to be sold under foreclosure.

The company, which had reorganized in 1900 as the Denver-Salt Lake Tunnel Company, stated it would continue the tunnel, correct the western end's misalignment, and thus shorten the length of the tunnel by seven thousand feet. No work was done.

In March 1918, Henry Persse of Denver bought the property, but was killed in a street car accident in August, so work on the tunnel never resumed.

The eastern portal was eventually closed with a steel gate.

In 1927, David Moffat completed a Continental Divide Tunnel under Rollins Pass, twenty miles north of Pomeroy's site. The tunnel cost \$18 million; nineteen men died while working on the tunnel.

Brick Pomeroy succeeded only in enriching and then impoverishing himself. He likely impoverished many of his stockholders as well.

His reputation as a con man of the worst ilk remains intact.

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

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Those were the days



Jack Miller
Contributing Columnist

As someone who likes to write nostalgia stories, I am always looking and listening for something that will shake loose a memory I can share.

A memory will sometimes come to me when I drive through my old neighborhood on East 5th Street, or when I am woken up in the middle of the night by a train whistle as a train goes through town, reminding me of train rides I have taken in the past.

This time, it was an old song I heard on the radio. The song was about the days of youth, when plans for the future were still in the wishful stage. The song "Those Were the Days" is about a man who stops by an old tavern where he and his friends used to meet when they were young to have a drink or two and talk about their futures. I am sure many of us had a place like that where we

met with our friends when we were young to talk about life and our hopes and dreams of the future.

While the song is about a tavern as the meeting place for the singer and his friends, my friends and I were too young to map out our future while we had a beer in a tavern. One of the places my friends and I would have met as we grew up was Washington Park, a two-block square of green and grassy ground that had tall and beautiful

trees; the space is now occupied by concrete and the East Side Shopping Center. When I talk to young people about Washington Park today, I see a look of confusion on their faces, because it was gone before they were born.

For me, the old park still exists in my memory. I still remember the kids I called my friends in those days, and while I may not remember all the things we talked about after all this time, I know some of the time it had to be about our dreams of the future we each wished. I am sure I would have shared my dream of joining the Navy there as I rode the Merry-Go-Round, or swung on the swings.

I remember in those days, we were sure we would be forever young, and our lives would unfold just as we wished. I always look forward to running into old friends

with whom I shared my dreams all those years ago, something that happens less and less as I age, which makes it all the more special when it happens. When I am fortunate enough to meet an old friend today, it seems like we never left those days for a while, and when I leave them I can't help thinking, like the old song says, "Those Were the Days."

P.S. If you would like to know more about Washington Park, which was opened in 1879, and while I could not find a date for its closing, I believe it was in the late 1960s or early 70s. You can find my memory about the park in an article I wrote in 2017 in the Sedalia Democrat Archives by typing in "The Story of Washington Park."

Jack Miller is a longtime Sedalia resident and former radio news reporter.

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.

Weekly Report :Commission has a meeting pertaining to traffic issues in Southwest Pettis County

By Democrat Staff

During the daily meetings from March 24 to March 28, the Pettis County Commission completed the following:

Monday, March 24: The 911 call census was 1,863; the jail census were, 229.

Eastern Commissioner Israel Baeza met with Road and Bridge Superintendent James Hill.

The Commission held a Bid Opening for Railroad Tank Car Tank. One bid was received from Erman Corporation, Inc. at \$18,075. The Commission approved marking the bid as received, awaiting recommendation for Road and Hill. Present were, Elections Management Coordinator

Jessi Capkovic.

The Commission had a follow-up meeting with citizens pertaining to traffic issues in Southwest Sedalia/ Pettis County. Present were, Citizens Ron Toellner, Jim Callis, Rhonda Ahern, Sue Heckart, and Joe Fischer, Sedalia 200 Superintendent Todd Fraley, and former Western Commissioner Jim Marcum.

Auditor Beverly Dillon discussed budget lines in Incode software.

Election Clerk Jeff Lockington visited the Commission.

Tuesday, March 25: County Clerk Megan Page received approval for Bill Pay dated March 25th, 2025 from the Commission.

Wednesday, March 26:

Baeza attended the Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission Board meeting.

The Commission had a meeting with Sedalia Job Center Program Manager Laura Kempf.

The Commission had a meeting with Keystone KC and reviewed the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan. Present were, GIS/Grants Director James Theisen, Keystone KC Owner and Engineer Eric Strack, and Senior Engineer Gary Strack.

Presiding Commissioner Bill Taylor attended the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) Agriculture/Environment Steering Committee virtual meeting.

Thursday, March 27: The Commission approved Yearly Rebids that were opened on March 13, 2025, as recommended by Sheriff Brad Anders and Hill, respectively. Present was Page.

The Commission approved the bid from Erman Corporation Inc. for Railroad Tank Car Tank for the Road and Bridge Department, as recommended by Road and Bridge Superintendent James Hill. Present were, Dillon and Page.

Road and Bridge Department employee Tony Kratzer visited the Commission.

The Commission approved a Buildings and Grounds Reservation Form for the Pettis County Ministerial Association National

Day of Prayers Service at noon on May 1, waiving the fee due to the event taking place during Courthouse hours.

The Commission held a Bid Opening for transport vans for the jail and for law enforcement/tactical equipment. One bid was received for law enforcement/tactical equipment from Speartac Solutions, LLC dba ABM Supply. No bids were received for transport vans for the jail. The Commission approved marking the bid as received, awaiting recommendation Anders. Present were Page, Major Tollie Rowe, and Jail Administrator Captain Skyler Viebrock.

Citizens Allen and Marjorie Spratley visited the

Commission and reported illegal dumping on South Grand Avenue.

Building and Grounds Director Chris Hoke and Collector Marsha Boesch discussed courthouse tours for the Courthouse Centennial Celebration Event on May 10.

Theisen visited the Commission.

Friday, March 28: Taylor and Baeza attended the Scouting America Patron Event with featured speaker Lt. Governor David Wasinger.

Citizen Linda Myers discussed road inquiries with the Commission.

Former Western Commissioner Jim Marcum visited the Commission.

Ballot language for Missouri anti-abortion amendment doesn’t mention abortion ban

By Anna Spoeerle

Missouri Independent

A revamped constitutional amendment moving forward in the Missouri House would ban nearly all abortions in Missouri. But most voters likely wouldn't know that just by reading the drafted ballot language.

The Republican-backed amendment, if passed out of the legislature and approved by voters, would outlaw abortion with limited exceptions for medical emergencies and survivors of rape and incest prior to 12 weeks gestation.

The amendment seeks to overturn an abortion-rights amendment approved by voters in November that legalize abortions up until the point of fetal viability. This made Missouri the first state to overturn an abortion ban after lawmakers enacted a trigger law in 2022 that banned the procedure with exceptions only for medical emergencies.

While the proposed ballot language would ask voters if they want to repeal Article I, Section 36 of the constitution —the current abortion-rights amendment — it does not directly ask voters if they want to ban or outlaw most abortions.

Instead, it would ask voters if they want to “guarantee access to care for medical emergencies, ectopic pregnancies, and miscarriages,” a right that is already guaranteed under the current constitutional amendment.

Missourians would also be asked if they want to “ensure women's safety during abortion,” “ensure parental consent for minors,” allow abortions for medical emergencies, fetal anomalies, rape and incest” and “protect children from gender transitions.”

If approved by both the House and Senate, Missourians could be asked to weigh in on reinstating an abortion ban as soon as a special election the governor could call this year, or during the 2026 midterm election.

The legislation approved by a House committee Monday, is the second iteration of legislation filed by state Rep. Melanie Stinnett, a Republican from Springfield.

Stinnett's initial language included a criticized police reporting requirement for survivors of sexual violence. Two out of every three sexual assaults are not reported to police, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

That requirement was removed in Monday's version.

On Thursday, House Speaker Jon Patterson, a Republican from Lee's Summit, said while he anticipates the GOP will continue to refine the exact language to put before voters, he doesn't foresee the rape and incest exceptions being cut out in later debate.

“That's something that the people spoke on,” Patterson said. “That's

something that all the legislators recognize is something that we have to keep.”

The new legislation, like its predecessor, proposes a ban on gender-affirming health care for minors. It also seeks to reinstate state regulations on abortion providers and facilities, including admitting privileges at a local hospital, licensing requirements and inspections.

The amendment would allow abortions in cases of fetal anomaly, which the legislation defines as “a structural or functional abnormality in the unborn child's gestational development that would make life outside the womb impossible.”

The bill specifies that this would include ectopic pregnancies but exclude a fetal diagnosis of a disability.

State Rep. Raychel Proudie, a Democrat from Ferguson, raised concerns with this language on Monday. She questioned how the amendment would apply to a fetal diagnosis where a newborn could survive birth, but would die shortly after, including in cases of anencephaly, a fetal birth defect in which part of the brain or skull don't develop properly.

The new proposal also looks to require that any legal challenges to the state law around reproductive health care be heard in Cole County.

After the abortion-rights amendment passed in November,

Planned Parenthood and the ACLU of Missouri sued the state, arguing several abortion regulations on the books were now unconstitutional. That case is being tried in Jackson County, where one of the state's several Planned Parenthood clinics is located.

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey has been unable to convince the judge to move the case to Cole County, where a judge last year attempted to remove the abortion-rights amendment from the ballot.

During Monday's hearing, state Rep. Pattie Mansur, a Democrat from Kansas City, said she found it noteworthy that in Missouri, a 17-year-old girl could be legally married but would still need permission from her parents for an abortion.

The House Committee on Children and Families previously spent four hours debating the initial bill, including testimony from Missourians who accused lawmakers of attempting to overturn the will of the people.

Republicans have continued to defend their decision to spend much of the legislative session on an abortion amendment by arguing that Missourians were misinformed on what they were voting on in November — a reasoning that continues to draw fury from abortion-right supporters both in the legislature and in their districts.

“The most disappoint-

ing piece of that is the Republican's consistent insistence on defying the will of the voters in this state,” House Minority Leader Ashley Aune, a Democrat from Kansas City, told reporters last week. “Whether it's on abortion or paid sick leave and minimum wage, the first order of business this year has been to undo what Missourians went to the ballot box to vote for.”

Aune also took notice of how late into session the proposed amendment was making its way out of committee.

“It seems to me that the reason this has been slow rolled is that there simply is not consensus on the other side of the aisle on what language to end up with, how far to go or not, what they think that they can get passed by the voters or not,” Aune said Thursday. “That is likely causing a lot of contention in their caucus right now, and I'm not mad about that.”

But there didn't seem to be much disagreement come Monday between GOP members of the House Committee on Children and Families who passed the revised language after just a few minutes of discussion.

“It was time to get this moving,” state Rep. Holly Jones, a Republican from Eureka who chairs the committee, told her colleagues Monday.

The Senate version of the legislation, sponsored by state Sen. Adam

Schnelting, a Republican from St Charles, passed out of committee in early March but has yet to be heard on the Senate floor.

Abortion within the state remains out of reach for many Missourians, despite voters in November codifying the right to reproductive health care in the state constitution.

This includes the most common type of abortion. Medication abortions remain inaccessible through Planned Parenthood in Missouri after the state rejected complication plans submitted by the clinics outlining continued care for patients in the case they had any adverse effects from the medication.

The rejection notice sent by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services was based on criteria set in an emergency rule published Thursday by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office that included a requirement that clinics must provide the names of any physicians who prescribe abortion medication.

In response, Planned Parenthood on Friday filed a motion asking that a Jackson County judge block the state statute that requires the clinics submit an abortion medication plan. As of Monday, three Planned Parenthood clinics — in Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis — had started seeing some patients for procedural abortions again.



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COUNCIL

From Page A1

What would be your top priorities in office?

Franklin: A government that listens — I will ensure residents are heard through social media, community outreach, and direct conversations. Transparency and accountability will be my foundation. Investing in infrastructure— Improving roads, sidewalks, parks, and public transit to create a modern, sustainable, and accessible city. Supporting Local Businesses— Small businesses drive our economy. I’ll foster an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive. Education & Youth Engagement—I’ll advocate for stronger school resources and programs that expand opportunities beyond the classroom. Public Safety & Well-Being—Building

a safer community through partnerships between residents and law enforcement, expanded mental health services, and crime prevention initiatives.

Hoffert: My list of priorities is long, but one of the most important—and one that requires no funding—is restoring respect and accountability at city council meetings. Right now, when citizens step up to voice concerns or ask questions, they are often met with council members who appear disengaged—some are distracted, looking away or even falling asleep. That is unacceptable and disrespectful to the people who take the time to participate in their local government. The first change we need to make is ensuring that council members actively listen and respond to citizens. There should be no policies or advisors telling council members to remain silent for fear

of “getting in trouble.” People deserve real answers, real engagement, and real leadership. Simply acknowledging and addressing concerns in a meaningful way will go a long way toward rebuilding trust. Beyond that, we need to refocus on serving the entire community—every ward, every neighborhood—without favoritism.

What goals do you have for office if you are elected?

Franklin: Of course, my goal is to put action behind my priorities and work with others to find solutions. Collaboration is key—I’m committed to working with leaders, nonprofits and residents to create lasting change.

Hoffert: My first goal is to get to the root of the problems facing our city, and I believe those problems start at the top. Our leadership has failed us, and instead of relying on local or rural legal counsel that understands

the values of Sedalia, we are being guided by a big-city law firm that doesn’t share our community’s interests ... Our priority should be taking care of our citizens — not making decisions that hurt them. That means helping residents secure grants to improve their properties instead of simply taking their homes and ensuring that when we fix our streets, we also develop a plan to maintain them properly. Another goal is increasing transparency. Right now, getting basic information about what’s happening in the city requires filing a Sunshine Law request and paying for access to public records. That’s unacceptable ... Leadership should be guided by integrity, conscience and compassion.

Why should people vote for you?

Franklin: People should vote for me because I am deeply

committed to our community and bring the experience, leadership, and vision needed to create meaningful change. I understand the challenges we face and have the skills to navigate them effectively—whether it’s budgeting, policy-making, or community engagement. My track record proves that I can listen, collaborate, and take action to get results. I will be a voice for all residents, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in our local government. Together, we can build a city that is not only thriving and sustainable but also reflective of our shared values and aspirations. I’m ready to serve, and I ask for your support to make our community stronger, more connected, and better for everyone.

Hoffert: People should vote for me because I’m not afraid to speak my mind, ask tough ques-

tions, or stand up for what’s right. I won’t be a follower who simply goes along with the status quo, doing what I’m told and voting the way I’m expected to. I will challenge decisions, even if it makes people uncomfortable. I know that everyone won’t agree with every vote I cast, but I believe more people will support the issues I fight against—because right now, our leadership is failing us ... For example, the corporation set up by the city to buy properties should never have been allowed to happen ... We have much bigger issues to focus on: the rise of meth and opioid abuse, the mental health crisis, and the heartbreaking reality that we lose friends/family to suicide. ... Can I fix everything? No. But will I fight for you? Absolutely.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

CHECK

From Page A1

“Last year’s career fair we had people in classrooms, and it was really hands-on,” Bunch said. “We had building and trades doing things, we’re not doing it that way this year because it’s more of a student type of career fair.”

This year to get more student involvement

a Google form was sent to students asking which businesses should be represented.

Around 30 businesses from bankers to tattoo artists arrived and had tables where they could easily interact with interested students.

“We have a pharmacist that’s coming,” Bunch said. “All different types of careers that are going to be here. I get a lot of

the vendors and things like that, and but it’s a collaborative effort.”

Senior Ivy Elwell was one of the students excited to be involved in the Career Fair and Reality Check.

“It’s very good to see how your money balances out at the end of each month so that you know what it’s going to be like in the real world,” Elwell said. “When you come

through, you’ll get a paper at random; they’ll give you a random job, a random marital status and a random child status.”

Each student then goes table to table and gets the reality check of seeing what seemed like a big enough paycheck being swiftly devoured by expenses.

“You’ll get housing, you’ll get cars, you’ll get

everything that you need to start your life,” Elwell said. “Then you will balance it out on this sheet they assigned to you, I was assigned cosmetologist, and I make \$51,000 a year.”

The experience made Elwell want to look at her career plan more closely and make sure she understands all her financial obligations before she makes them.

“It makes me want to make sure that I have a really good balance and a really good budget for when I go out,” Elwell said. “I’m going to go to school to become a teacher, so I want to make sure that I am able to afford everything.”

La Monte R-IV made a point of thanking the participating businesses.

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

THE WEATHER

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TUESDAY



64
61

Breezy; showers around in the p.m.

WEDNESDAY



77
49

A shower and t-storm in the morning

THURSDAY



57
47

Cloudy and cooler with a shower

FRIDAY



59
46

Some rain and a t-storm in the p.m.

SATURDAY



49
37

Chilly with periods of rain

SUNDAY



52
30

A little a.m. rain; clearing, cool

MONDAY



50
30

Plenty of sun

REGIONAL CITIES

	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Boonville	63/59/sh	76/48/t	60/48/sh	59/47/r	51/39/r	53/31/r	50/30/s
Branson	71/63/pc	78/50/t	56/51/r	64/54/r	64/41/r	54/30/c	53/31/s
Cape Girardeau	67/58/pc	77/59/t	63/55/r	67/63/t	69/49/r	58/35/c	56/32/s
Carthage	72/65/pc	73/49/t	58/49/r	59/47/r	56/39/r	54/29/r	51/32/s
Columbia	65/58/t	77/48/t	56/48/r	59/49/r	52/38/r	53/33/r	51/32/s
El Dorado Spgs	69/64/t	75/47/t	58/48/r	60/48/r	55/38/r	54/28/pc	50/31/s
Excelsior Springs	62/57/sh	69/44/t	59/47/c	54/44/sh	50/32/r	53/25/pc	51/28/s
Falls City	62/52/t	62/38/pc	59/43/c	53/41/sh	48/32/sh	53/25/pc	53/28/s
Fayetteville	73/66/pc	78/51/t	61/51/t	66/58/r	65/44/r	54/33/pc	55/31/s
Florissant	60/57/c	73/47/t	59/49/r	60/53/r	59/45/r	53/35/r	51/33/s
Fulton	62/58/t	76/48/t	56/46/r	59/49/r	50/37/r	51/31/r	48/29/s
Grandview	63/60/sh	67/45/pc	59/47/c	54/44/sh	50/35/r	53/31/r	51/32/s
Jefferson City	66/62/pc	78/48/t	57/50/r	61/50/r	54/40/r	55/33/r	52/32/s
Joplin	72/66/pc	76/50/t	59/48/r	60/48/r	57/39/r	54/29/pc	53/33/s
Kansas City, KS	63/60/c	67/47/c	59/47/c	54/43/sh	51/35/r	54/29/pc	52/32/s
Kansas City, MO	63/59/c	67/43/pc	58/46/c	54/43/sh	50/35/r	53/28/pc	50/31/s
Kennett	70/61/pc	83/56/t	64/56/r	72/64/t	71/51/r	62/38/pc	57/37/s
Kirksville	56/52/sh	71/41/t	59/42/c	53/41/sh	48/31/r	51/26/sh	49/27/s
Lawrence	65/58/c	69/43/pc	59/45/c	57/43/c	50/34/r	53/29/pc	51/30/s
Marshall	61/58/sh	74/45/t	60/47/c	57/44/r	48/36/r	52/29/r	48/28/s
Moberly	59/55/sh	72/44/t	58/45/c	53/43/r	49/35/r	50/30/r	49/29/s
Mountain Home	69/63/pc	75/51/t	58/50/t	63/58/r	64/45/r	55/33/c	54/32/s
Paducah	69/59/pc	81/61/t	67/59/r	71/67/t	71/52/r	58/36/c	55/32/s
Poplar Bluff	68/60/pc	77/59/t	62/55/r	67/62/t	68/50/r	57/38/pc	55/34/s
Rolla	64/60/pc	75/46/t	57/46/r	60/50/r	57/41/r	52/31/r	51/31/s
St. Joseph	63/58/c	68/40/pc	60/45/c	54/43/c	48/33/r	52/26/pc	52/28/s
St. Louis	62/58/c	74/50/t	60/50/r	63/53/r	58/42/r	54/35/r	52/36/s
Sedalia	64/61/sh	77/49/t	57/47/c	59/46/r	49/37/r	52/30/r	50/30/s
Springfield, IL	57/52/c	73/43/t	57/43/r	60/47/r	59/38/r	51/29/r	49/30/s
Springfield, MO	70/60/pc	75/49/t	59/49/r	62/51/r	60/40/r	53/29/r	50/31/s
Tipton	64/59/sh	76/49/t	58/47/r	59/48/r	51/36/r	53/30/r	50/29/s
Topeka	67/57/c	69/42/pc	59/46/c	55/45/c	50/35/r	53/29/pc	55/30/s
Tulsa	76/66/pc	76/52/t	66/48/sh	63/50/r	60/40/r	56/33/pc	60/36/s
Versailles	65/60/t	76/48/t	56/48/r	60/48/r	53/41/r	54/31/r	51/32/s
Warrensburg	63/60/sh	73/47/t	60/46/c	59/45/r	53/35/r	54/28/r	52/28/s

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

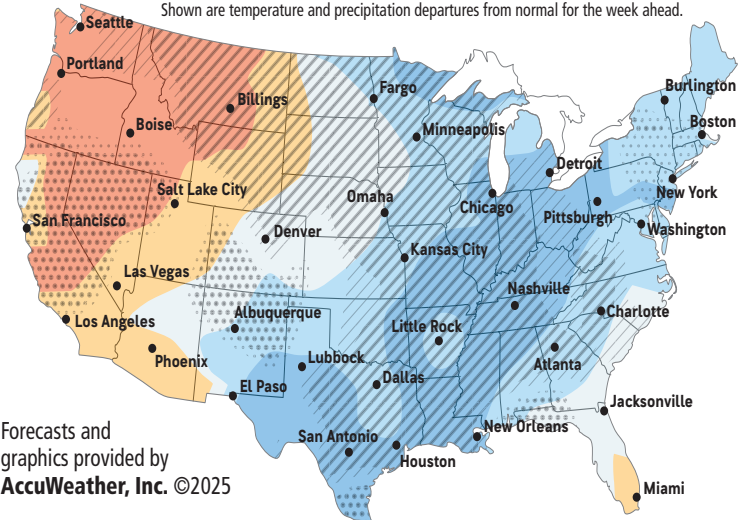
SUN AND MOON

	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Sunrise	6:58 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	6:54 a.m.	6:53 a.m.	6:51 a.m.	6:50 a.m.	6:48 a.m.
Sunset	7:37 p.m.	7:37 p.m.	7:38 p.m.	7:39 p.m.	7:40 p.m.	7:41 p.m.	7:42 p.m.
Moonrise	8:42 a.m.	9:28 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	11:26 a.m.	12:33 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	2:47 p.m.
Moonset	none	12:13 a.m.	1:25 a.m.	2:28 a.m.	3:19 a.m.	3:59 a.m.	4:31 a.m.

MOON PHASES

FIRST	FULL	LAST	NEW
Apr 4	Apr 12	Apr 20	Apr 27

NATIONAL WEATHER THIS WEEK

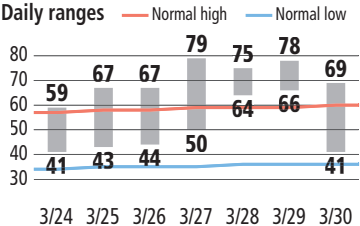


	TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION			
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal
City	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	
Albuquerque	67/33/pc	54/35/pc	56/41/s	53/38/sh	51/33/r	51/35/pc	54/37/s	
Atlanta	80/60/s	82/66/pc	86/65/pc	88/67/pc	87/65/pc	77/52/r	65/45/c	
Billings	44/31/sh	43/28/r	48/26/c	38/22/sf	46/29/s	56/36/pc	67/39/s	
Boise	53/31/s	52/31/c	55/31/c	58/36/pc	61/39/pc	67/44/s	68/47/pc	
Charlotte	73/54/c	77/68/pc	84/66/pc	87/67/t	87/67/t	84/59/t	67/46/pc	
Chicago	45/41/pc	70/45/t	60/39/pc	50/40/c	52/35/r	48/31/r	44/29/pc	
Dallas	81/69/pc	86/63/t	78/64/t	72/62/t	66/47/t	58/42/s	62/46/pc	
Denver	55/32/sh	49/26/pc	38/24/pc	44/28/pc	36/24/s	43/28/pc	52/34/s	
Detroit	45/35/pc	64/52/t	66/41/pc	55/37/pc	53/39/r	49/31/c	45/27/pc	
El Paso	83/52/pc	70/50/pc	66/49/pc	64/44/pc	64/40/pc	60/41/pc	65/47/s	
Houston	82/74/t	85/75/pc	88/75/t	86/73/t	81/58/t	68/51/pc	66/47/sh	
Jacksonville	85/67/pc	86/69/sh	89/67/pc	88/66/s	89/65/pc	90/66/pc	78/57/c	
Las Vegas	65/50/s	59/47/pc	64/50/s	69/52/pc	71/52/s	75/53/s	77/57/c	
Little Rock	75/69/pc	80/66/t	71/65/r	76/68/t	71/52/r	62/44/pc	61/41/pc	
Los Angeles	67/48/pc	68/51/pc	64/49/sh	70/50/s	71/54/s	78/57/s	77/56/pc	
Miami	88/76/pc	85/76/pc	87/74/sh	86/73/pc	87/74/s	86/73/r	87/71/s	
Minneapolis	41/33/sn	42/32/r	44/31/c	51/33/c	45/30/c	42/22/s	42/25/pc	
Nashville	70/60/pc	81/68/pc	82/70/t	80/71/t	81/59/c	64/40/sh	56/36/s	
New Orleans	81/74/c	86/76/pc	85/75/pc	85/75/t	87/72/t	73/59/t	70/56/sh	
Omaha	56/49/t	60/32/c	58/38/c	51/36/c	47/31/sh	53/26/pc	51/28/s	
Phoenix	73/53/pc	65/51/pc	71/55/s	73/54/pc	77/58/s	81/58/s	84/60/c	
Pittsburgh	52/40/pc	72/63/sh	74/52/t	61/51/c	62/53/r	59/38/sh	44/29/sh	
Portland, OR	58/43/sh	55/41/sh	58/39/c	68/42/s	72/45/s	71/51/c	68/50/r	
Salt Lake City	46/31/sh	50/32/pc	49/35/pc	52/36/pc	55/35/pc	59/38/s	64/42/s	
San Francisco	57/47/sh	59/47/s	61/46/s	64/49/pc	68/50/s	73/52/pc	65/50/s	
Seattle	55/41/c	52/42/sh	56/39/pc	64/42/s	69/45/s	71/48/pc	64/49/c	
Washington, DC	62/45/s	61/55/pc	80/69/pc	73/56/t	61/55/sh	70/47/t	60/40/pc	

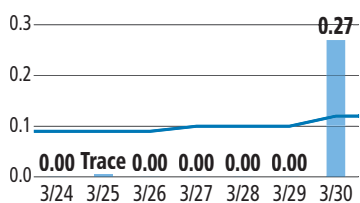
WEEKLY ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport through 3/30

TEMPERATURES



PRECIPITATION (inches)



Month to date	3.13"
Normal month to date	2.65"
Year to date	4.25"
Normal year to date	6.72"

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 3/30	44
Month to date	356
Season to date	3829
Normal season to date	4737
Last season to date	3505

WEATHER HISTORY

The snowiest April ever in New York and New England began on April 1, 1874. Snow fell at Cape Cod, Mass., every Saturday that month. Up to 60 inches of snow accumulated in parts of New Hampshire and Vermont.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: In what part of the world would you find the dreaded snow snake?

A: There is no such thing...April fools!



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State Fair baseball sweeps doubleheader against St. Charles

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

Four strong pitching performances were the key to two victories for State Fair Community College baseball on Saturday, March 29.

The Roadrunners' quartet of sophomore Chase Schnieders, freshman Josh Hagle, sophomore Nate Bartlett and freshman Aiden Morarity combined to allow just five runs on eight hits over 16 innings in a doubleheader sweep over St. Charles Community College 9-3 and 5-2 at Smith-Cotton High School.

"We had two great starts," SFCC head coach Jud Kindle said. "Schnieders, it wasn't necessarily his best start. He had a ton of walks, but he was able to get out of situations. Then, we had a couple timely hits in that first game. In the second game, Bartlett was just lights out... This year, we have a strong bullpen, a bullpen that we feel like we have guys that we can go to in clutch situations to limit that big inning. We also have guys that can come in, throw strikes, dominate the zone and find ways to get us wins. We've been very happy with our bullpen all year long."

Schnieders got the start on the mound in game one and didn't allow a hit over four innings.

Freshman Devin Wassmann provided a jolt to the Roadrunners' offense after he hit a solo home run to left field in the bottom of the fourth inning.

After that, sophomore Jordan Hedrick singled and freshman Collin Ross

walked to put runners at second and first for sophomore Sam Paule.

Paule then laced a double to center field, scoring Hedrick.

"The home run definitely woke the bats up a little bit, but I think the biggest hit was Paule's double," Kindle said. "Paule's double right there kind of seemed like it was the one that really woke our bats up. It was something we needed."

Following Paule's double, Sacred Heart alum Carter Rice stepped to the plate and hit a double of his own down the third-base line to score Ross and Paule.

One batter later, sophomore Caleb Briggs singled to bring in Rice, giving SFCC (18-11, 14-8 Region 16 DI) a 5-0 lead.

Schnieders walked the bases loaded to begin the top of the fifth inning, forcing Kindle to go to the bullpen and bring in Hagle.

Hagle allowed a two-run single against the first batter he faced, but struck out the next three to get out of the jam.

An error by the Roadrunners in the top of sixth scored another run for St. Charles (14-20, 12-10 Region 16 DI), making it a 5-3 game.

SFCC loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning following singles by Briggs and freshman Peyton Cooper, bringing sophomore Dayne Wimberly to the plate.

Wimberly crushed the first pitch he saw to right field for a grand slam, putting the Roadrunners up 9-3.

"It was a tight game all the way through," Kindle said. "He took a quality



State Fair Community College sophomore Sam Paule pumps his fist as he rounds third during the first game of a doubleheader against St. Charles Community College on Saturday, March 29, at Smith-Cotton High School.

PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

at-bat and he put one over the wall, which gave us a little breathing room there at the end. That was a good feeling."

Hagle allowed two hits and a walk in the top of the seventh, but a double play and a groundout helped him close out the game.

Schnieders pitched four innings, allowed two runs on no hits and 10 walks, and struck out four. Hagle tossed three innings, allowed no runs on three hits and struck out four.

Wimberly, Briggs and Cooper each had two hits. Wimberly had four RBIs thanks to his grand slam.

In the second game of the doubleheader, sophomore Nate Bartlett got the start and only allowed one hit over the first five innings.

See **BASEBALL**, Page A12



State Fair Community College sophomore Nate Bartlett pitches the ball during the second game of a doubleheader against St. Charles Community College on Saturday, March 29, at Smith-Cotton High School. Bartlett pitched seven innings and struck out nine batters.

PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT



Smith-Cotton junior Kennedi Ditzfeld dribbles the ball during the game against Nixa on Friday, March 28, at the Susie Ditzfeld Memorial Soccer Field on the campus of Smith-Cotton High School.

PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

Smith-Cotton girls soccer drops tight match against Nixa

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

Smith-Cotton girls soccer faced the toughest test of its young season on Friday, March 28.

The Lady Tigers may not have passed on the scoreboard, but the eyeball test told a different story. S-C fell to Nixa, an eight-time district champion over

the last 12 years, 3-2 at the Susie Ditzfeld Memorial Soccer Field on the campus of Smith-Cotton High School.

"We knew they were going to be tough and physical and skilled," Smith-Cotton head coach Meredith Brick said. "Their only losses last season were against some of our district opponents, and they play Blue Springs South [Saturday]. I feel like

we stacked up against them. We matched their toughness, we matched their pace and that was what I was really proud of."

Smith-Cotton (2-1) fell behind 1-0 after Nixa sophomore Izzy Benscoter scored a goal in the 32nd minute.

The Lady Eagles (2-0) maintained that lead through halftime.

See **SOCCER**, Page A12

AREA ROUNDUP

NORTHWEST SOFTBALL WINS SANTA FE SNOWFLAKE CLASSIC

By Democrat Staff

Northwest softball brought home the Santa Fe Snowflake Classic championship on Saturday, March 29.

The Lady Mustangs outscored their opponents 40-0 throughout the tournament, finishing with a 6-0 win over Tipton in the title game.

Junior Elaina Buckley played a crucial role in the win as she was the winning pitcher and the main spark plug at the plate for Northwest.

In the pitching circle, Buckley

tossed six innings, allowed just one hit and one walk, and struck out six batters.

At the plate, Buckley went 1-for-3 with three RBIs.

Buckley provided Northwest (6-1) with its first run of the championship game when she drove in a run off a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the first inning.

Buckley then drove in two more runs in the bottom of the third inning with a single that scored junior Zannah Butts and junior Mary Walker.

See **ROUNDUP**, Page A12



The Northwest softball team celebrates winning the Santa Fe Snowflake Classic on Saturday, March 29. The Lady Mustangs outscored their opponents 40-0 over four games to claim the title.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDY JOHNSTON

SPORTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 1
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
5 p.m. — Rock Bridge at Smith-Cotton
5 p.m. — Santa Fe at Lincoln
5 p.m. — Christian Fellowship Sr. at Otterville
5 p.m. — Kingsville at Sacred Heart
5 p.m. — Stover at Macks Creek
5 p.m. — Tipton at Harrisburg
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
4:30 p.m. — Windsor at Butler
5 p.m. — Warsaw at Green Ridge
5 p.m. — La Monte/Smithton at St. Paul Lutheran
5 p.m. — Santa Fe at Lincoln
5 p.m. — Kingsville at Northwest
5 p.m. — Adrian at Stover
COLLEGE BASEBALL
Noon — Highland Community College at State Fair Community College
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
2 p.m. — Three Rivers Community College at State Fair Community College
4 p.m. — Three Rivers Community College at State Fair Community College
GIRLS SOCCER
5 p.m. — Camdenton at Smith-Cotton
5 p.m. — Smithton at Moberly
TRACK AND FIELD
4 p.m. — Smith-Cotton at Warrensburg Invitational
TBD — Cole Camp, Tipton at California Open
TBD — Stover at NC Early Invite
BOYS GOLF
4 p.m. — Sacred Heart, Green Ridge at Windsor

Quad
TBD — Stover at Versailles Quad
Wednesday, April 2
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
4:30 p.m. — Northwest at Leeton
5 p.m. — Smith-Cotton at Rock Bridge
5 p.m. — Concordia at Cole Camp
5 p.m. — Sweet Springs at Green Ridge/La Monte
5 p.m. — Warsaw at Lincoln
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
5 p.m. — Sweet Springs at Green Ridge
5 p.m. — Northwest at Otterville/Bunceton
5 p.m. — Leeton at Tipton
5 p.m. — Kingsville at Windsor
6 p.m. — Cole Camp at Versailles
GIRLS SOCCER
5 p.m. — Kickapoo at Smith-Cotton
5:30 p.m. — Sacred Heart/La Monte at Blair Oaks
BOYS GOLF
10 a.m. — Smith-Cotton vs. Rock Bridge/Father Tolton/Battle
TBD — Stover, Tipton at Russellville Tournament
BOYS TENNIS
4:30 p.m. — Capital City at Smith-Cotton
Thursday, April 3
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
4:30 p.m. — Harrisonville at Windsor
5 p.m. — Green Ridge/La Monte at Christian Fellowship Sr.
5 p.m. — Smithton at Lincoln
5 p.m. — Northwest at Sacred Heart
5 p.m. — Otterville at Stover

5 p.m. — Tipton at Iberia
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
5 p.m. — Cole Camp at La Monte/Smithton
5 p.m. — Windsor at Green Ridge
5 p.m. — St. Paul Lutheran at Lincoln
5 p.m. — Otterville/Bunceton at Stover
COLLEGE BASEBALL
1 p.m. — St. Louis Community College at State Fair Community College
4 p.m. — St. Louis Community College at State Fair Community College
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
2 p.m. — State Fair Community College at East Central College
4 p.m. — State Fair Community College at East Central College
GIRLS SOCCER
5 p.m. — Christian Fellowship Sr. at Stover/Cole Camp
5:30 p.m. — Smithton at Fatima
TRACK AND FIELD
TBD — Cole Camp at Adrian Invitational
TBD — Green Ridge at Windsor HS/JH Open
TBD — Northwest at Concordia Invitational
TBD — Smithton at Fayette Relays
TBD — Stover at Eugene Open Meet
TBD — Tipton at New Bloomfield Invitational
BOYS GOLF
TBD — Cole Camp at Benton County Cup
BOYS TENNIS
4:30 p.m. — Camdenton at Smith-Cotton

Auburn completes sweep of No. 1 seeds in Final Four

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Johni Broome held his injured right arm through most of Auburn’s Elite Eight postgame celebration. That didn’t keep the star forward from climb-

ing a ladder to cut down the net he then wore around his neck. Broome had 25 points and 14 rebounds and Auburn took command with 17 unanswered points in the first half to beat Michigan State 70-64 on Sunday and complete a sweep of No. 1 seeds advancing to the Final Four. “You talk about delivering again at the biggest moments,” Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said of Broome.

Auburn (32-5) earned its second Final Four trip, while Michigan State (30-7) fell short in its bid to send coach Tom Izzo to his ninth national semifinal. Pearl also led Auburn to its only previous Final Four appearance, in 2019. The South Region champion Tigers, the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, became the last of the No. 1 seeds to advance to the Final Four — joining Florida, Duke and Houston.

Auburn will face Florida, which beat Texas Tech 84-79 in the West Region final, in an all-Southeastern Conference semifinal on Saturday in San Antonio. “Unfortunately there will only be one SEC team playing for the national championship,” Pearl said, also wearing a net around his neck. Jaxon Kohler led the Spartans with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Jaden Akins had 15 points. Broome fell on his right arm while attempting to block a shot with 10:37 remaining and left the game. He was escorted to the locker room for a quick examination. Broome, the Associated Press SEC player of the year and a first-team All-America selection, appeared to hurt his right elbow on the fall. Broome returned with 5:29 remaining, drawing an immediate ovation from Auburn fans. He had the elbow wrapped and sank a 3-pointer less than a minute later. He also grabbed a rebound with one hand. “It was a scary moment,” Broome said. “I went down but my team had my back.” Broome said he was told by a team doctor



Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl celebrates with a net after the Elite Eight of the NCAA college basketball tournament against Michigan State, Sunday, March 30, 2025, in Atlanta. PHOTO BY BRYNN ANDERSON | AP PHOTO

“nothing serious” was wrong with the elbow, which appeared to bend at an ugly angle on his fall. “I bet he’ll be sore tomorrow,” Pearl said. Broome made 10 of 13 shots from the field, including each of his two 3-pointers. “That’s why he’s an All-American,” Izzo said. “That’s why he’s a player of the year candidate. Did a hell of a job. ... We did most of the things we wanted to do except guard Broome a little better.” Auburn was the only Elite Eight team to win each of its first three March Madness games by double digits, including its 78-65 Sweet 16 victory over Michigan. Michigan State rallied

for a 73-70 win over Mississippi in the Sweet 16. The Spartans led 8-6 before the Tigers took command with the 17-0 run. The Spartans were held scoreless for 5:46 while missing 10 consecutive shots during the Auburn run. A 3-pointer by Broome capped the run for a 23-8 lead. Auburn led 33-24 at halftime. The Spartans pulled within five points at 35-30 early in the second half but got no closer. **Top seeds — and selection committee — shine** It’s the first time all top seeds have reached the Final Four since 2008, which was the only previous year of all No.

1-seeded semifinalists since seeding began in 1979. And higher-seeded teams went 12-0 in regional semifinals and finals for the first time since the tournament expanded in 1985. “That means the people that get the criticism ... the selection committee, must have done a damn good job,” Izzo said. Added Pearl: “I think the four teams that advanced are the four best teams in the country and that doesn’t always happen.” Auburn will play West Region champ Florida at 5:09 p.m. Saturday, April

5, on CBS. Florida defeated Texas Tech 84-79 in its Elight Eight game. On the other side of the bracket, Duke will play Houston at 7:49 p.m. Saturday on CBS. Duke reached the Final Four by defeating Alabama 85-65, while Houston made the Final Four by beating Tennessee 69-50. The National Championship Game will be played on Monday, April 7, on CBS. A time for tipoff is to be determined. All games will be played in San Antonio, Texas.

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MARKET REPORT

3/26/25

1854 Receipts. 8% cows.

Compared to last week, steers and heifers sold mostly steady to 5 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to 2 higher.

Steers Med & Large

Frame #

300-400 lbs....\$365-\$445

400-500 lbs.....\$358-\$410

500-600 lbs....\$338-\$401

600-700 lbs....\$300-\$354

700-800 lbs....\$270-\$320

800-900 lbs....\$240-\$285

Small Frame or Fleshy Steers & Bulls

400-700 lbs.....\$175-\$290

Heifers Med & Large

Frame #1

300-400 lbs....\$335-\$390

400-500 lbs....\$324-\$370

500-600 lbs....\$290-\$343

600-700 lbs. \$254-\$329²⁵

700-800 lbs....\$242-\$276

800-900 lbs....\$225-\$266

Small Frame or Fleshy Heifers

400-700 lbs....\$120-\$263

Weigh Cows Bulk..\$135-\$148

High Dressing ...\$150-\$157

Low Dressing ...\$106

Back Bulls Bulk\$172-\$192

RepSalesSteers

22 mx strs 677\$329.00

Ld blk/rd strs 706 ..\$320.00

14 blk strs 774\$320.00

Ld blk htrs 615\$329.50

36 mx htrs 651\$315.00

Ld blk htrs 677\$307.00

15 bbwf htrs 685....\$307.50

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2010 lbs.....192

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Mike Treatson

Breed: Shepherd / Retriever, Labrador

Sex: Male • Weight: 45 lbs • Age: 0Y/9M/0W

Animal ID: SED-A-18033 • Location: Dog Adoption

Adopt Me

Jake Paul

Breed: Retriever, Yellow Labrador / Pyrenees, Great

Sex: Male • Age: 2Y/10M/0W

Animal ID: SED-A-18032 • Location: Dog Adoption

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250 Hours — Water Bottle

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Paper Towels, Dawn Dish Soap, Leashes,

Grooming Supplies & Toys

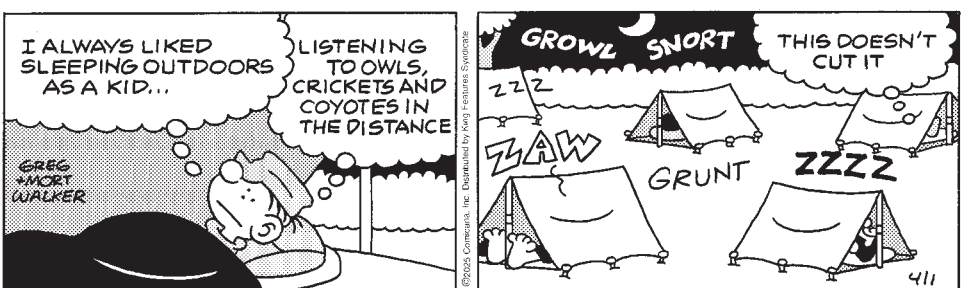
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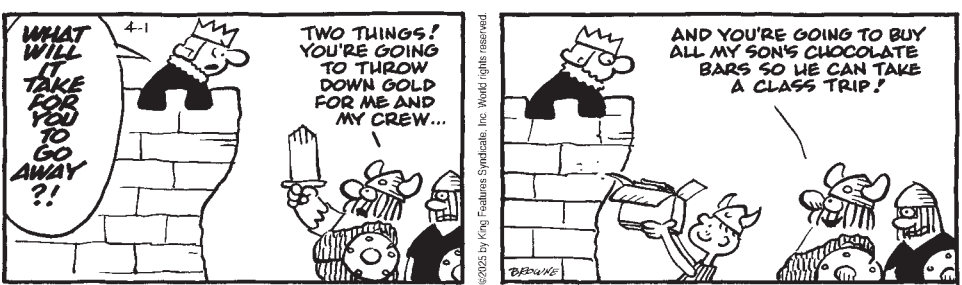
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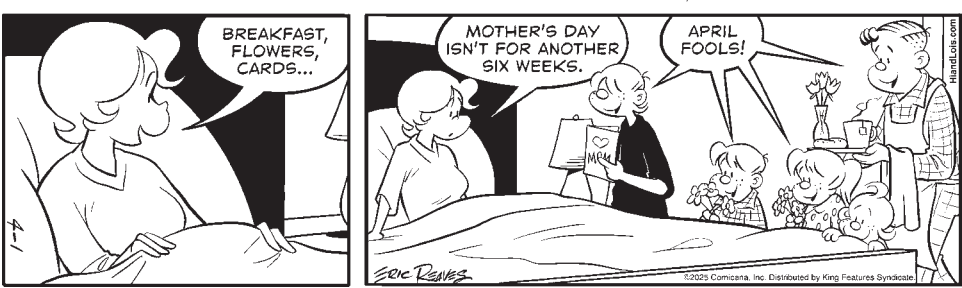
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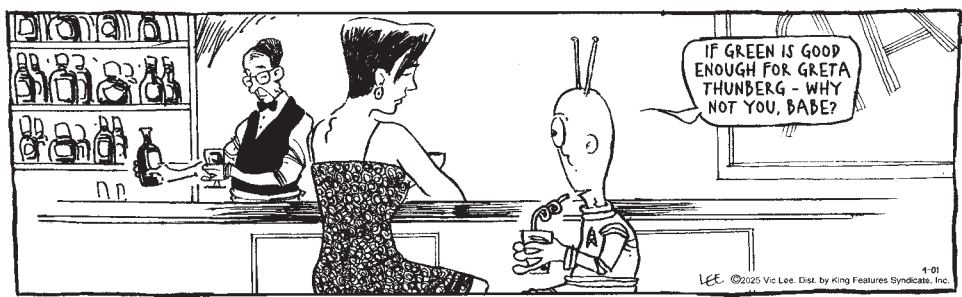
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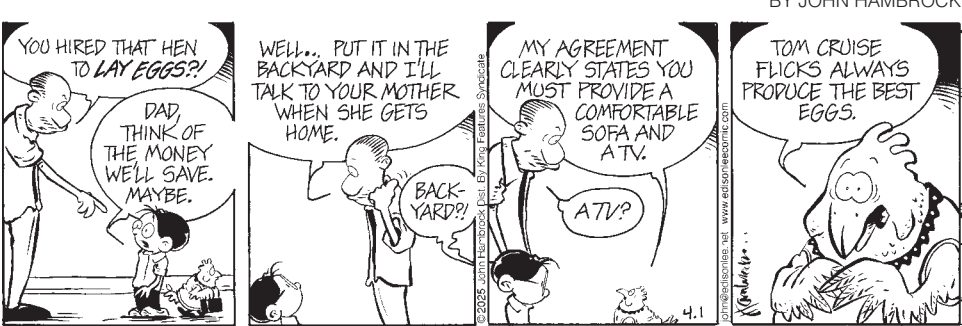
PARDON MY PLANET



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



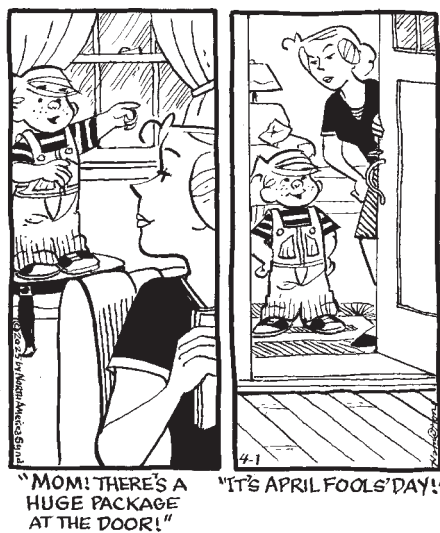
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE



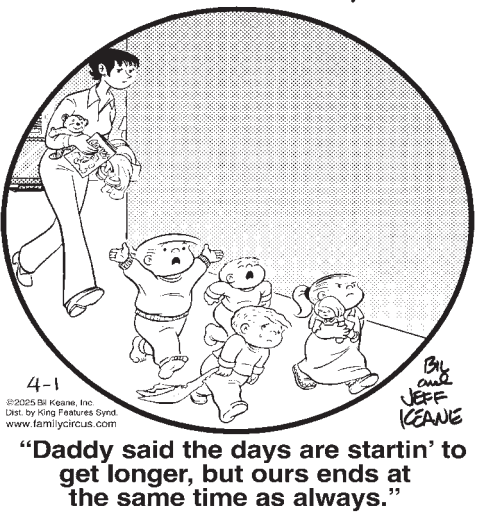
DUSTIN



DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Choose
- 7 Spice from nutmeg
- 11 Incite
- 12 Stratford's river
- 13 Task guaranteed to fail
- 15 Kind of pool
- 16 Oxford, e.g.
- 18 Moves swiftly
- 21 Come together
- 22 Soon-to-be grad
- 24 Caribou's kin
- 25 Passing craze
- 26 Status —
- 27 Busy
- 29 Supply with cash
- 30 Oil container
- 31 Downhill glider
- 32 Basil-based sauce
- 34 1971 James Stewart film
- 40 Script unit
- 41 Napoli's nation
- 42 Trebek of "Jeopardy!" fame
- 43 Bank worker

DOWN

- 1 Clumsy one
- 2 Old hand
- 3 Overly
- 4 Steamboat pioneer
- 5 Davis of "Do the Right Thing"
- 6 Clarinet part
- 7 Swordfish's kin
- 8 Gardner of movies
- 9 Swindle
- 10 Put a stop to
- 14 Tore down
- 16 Not flimsy
- 17 Trail follower
- 19 Irritated state
- 20 Wide inlet
- 21 Fast plane
- 22 Easy victim
- 23 Baton
- 25 Is furious
- 28 Two-level apartment
- 29 Like some wallpaper

P	U	T	T	S		H	A	S	T	O
U	N	H	I	T		A	V	O	I	D
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S	T	E	E	R		A	G	R	E	E
C	O	R	N	Y		H	O	S	T	S

Friday's answer

- 31 Declare
- 33 Rotisserie part
- 34 Ga. neighbor
- 35 Pipe-line flow
- 36 Binary digit
- 37 Maximum amount
- 38 Game cube
- 39 Corn spike

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
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	16	17				18		19	20	
21					22					23
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27			28				29			
	30					31				
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40						41				
42						43				

4-1

MARVIN



BIZARRO



King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

4/1

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

3/28

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No. 3 Central Missouri wins series with No. 24 Fort Hays State

By Joe Andrews
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — No. 3 Central Missouri baseball clinched a series victory against No. 24 Fort Hays State with a 11-4 win Sunday, March 30, at Crane Stadium.

The Mules (22-7, 13-4 MIAA) never trailed, going up 1-0 in the top of the first following a sacrifice fly RBI from senior Jacob Steele.

Freshman Cole Kreisel laid down a two-RBIs double in the bottom of the second before freshman Kaleb Ceola tallied a RBI single and Steele had a RBI sacrifice bunt.

Fort Hays State (21-8, 16-4 MIAA) cut it to 5-2 in the top of the fourth. Freshman Grant Hollister had a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth.

Hays had a homer of its own in the seventh before Hollister delivered an RBI double in the seventh making it a 7-4 game.

Kreisel had a RBI single making it 8-4 in the eighth, while Ceola had a RBI double and redshirt senior Dayvin Johnson had a two-RBIs double making it 11-4.

UCM tallied 14 hits, anchored by a 3-for-4 game from Hollister, a 3-for-3 game from Kreisel, a 2-for-3 game from Ceola and a 2-for-4 game from Johnson.

The Mules had five doubles, one triple and two homers.

Sophomore Jack Scott earned the win, throwing five innings while allowing two runs on seven hits, two walks and two strikeouts.

Redshirt senior Jake Wilson threw the next 2 1/3 innings, allowing two runs on four hits, one walk and three strikeouts.

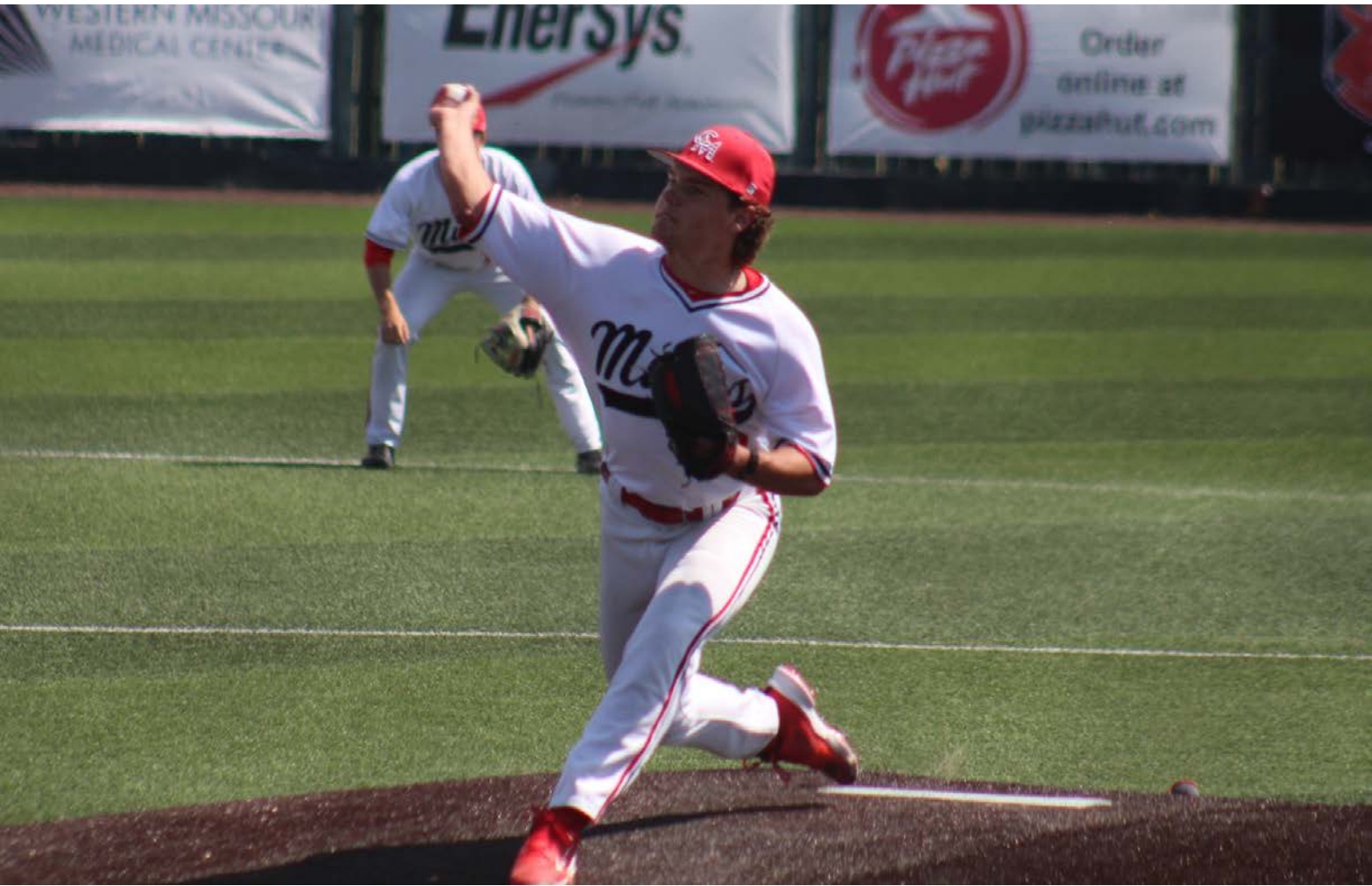
Sophomore Sam Wyrick earned the save, allowing no runs on one hit, one walk and two strikeouts through 1 2/3 innings pitched.

Fort Hays State 9, Central Missouri 4

Whenever Fort Hays State scored three runs off of Central Missouri sophomore Jack Kreisman in the first inning, there was not much to be concerned over.

And when Kreisman left the mound in the top of the seventh, the Mules were still in a good position.

Fort Hays State beat up on sophomore Chris Massey throughout the next 2 2/3



Central Missouri sophomore Jack Kreisman throws a pitch against Fort Hays State on Saturday, March 29, at Crane Stadium. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

innings, while Central Missouri's bats struggled, leading to a 9-4 loss Saturday, March 29, at Crane Stadium.

"I thought Kreisman gave us a great star," Central Missouri head coach Kyle Crookes said. "It was a rough first inning with a lot of pitches, but man he did a great job from the second through the sixth, which led us to giving him an opportunity to go out there in the seventh, what he really wanted. Unfortunately, it didn't work out."

Kreisman finished with four allowed runs on four hits, one walk and four strikeouts through six innings pitched.

Three out of the four hits arrived in the first inning, which began with a leadoff hit by pitch.

Senior Trey DeGarmo had a two-RBIs double while junior Derek Woolwine had a RBI single to make it 3-0.

The Mules answered in the bottom of the first. After Johnson struck out in the first at-bat of the frame, Steele singled, redshirt junior Vance Tobol singled and junior Chase Wilcox recorded a two-RBIs double.

Steele, Tobol and Wilcox accounted for seven of UCM's eight hits in the game. Red-shirt junior Brett Grupe had

the other. Grupe and junior Cody Moore also each reached through a walk.

"Good for those guys at the top," Crookes said of Steele, Tobol and Wilcox. "But, you got to do it with everybody. They'll tell you the same thing. You can't just win with one or two hitters or three hitters. You gotta win with everybody, all nine of them and they're all capable. We gotta be better from it."

The 3-2 Mules deficit stuck until the top of the fifth, when Tobol tallied an RBI double to tie the game.

The 3-3 score remained until the top of the seventh, when freshman Tony Moore tallied a two-RBIs triple off Massey to make it 5-3.

An RBI single from DeGarmo also followed in the inning.

By the time his outing ended, Massey had given up five runs on six hits, one walk and three strikeouts.

"We didn't really back it up out of the pen very well," Crookes said. "We got close. Giving up a double makes it tough, pitching out of trouble that way. JD [McReynolds] did a great job of it [Friday], but it's not a recipe for success really. Chris, we believe in him com-

pletely. He just wasn't able to finish the deal there."

The Mules tallied an RBI groundout from Tobol in the bottom of the seventh to make it 6-5.

Tobol was the last UCM batter to take the basepath with a runner on.

Fort Hays went on to score off a two-RBIs homer from senior Elliott Herrmann in the top of the eighth and an RBI single from Brady Kreutzer in the top of the ninth.

"They kept tacking on runs," Crookes said. "That's a good team. They recognize the situation. And at the end of the game, in the last three innings, they were better than we were. We have to internalize that, come to grips with that, understand it and try to rectify it the best we can."

Sophomore Brandon Chavez earned the win for Hays, throwing 4 2/3 innings while giving up one run on two hits and four strikeouts.

Central Missouri 7, Fort Hays 2

The Mules opened the series with a 7-2 win Friday, March 28.

The win gave Crookes his 419th career win, surpassing former Central Missouri head

coach Brad Hill for the most career victories in program history.

UCM fell behind 2-0 in the top of the first. The Mules evened the game with an RBI single from Steele and an RBI groundout from Hollister in the bottom of the third.

A throwing error allowed Tobol to score in the fifth while Kreisel had an RBI single and Steele had a two-RBIs double in the eighth.

UCM was led at the plate by a 3-for-5 game from Steele, a 2-for-5 game from Tobol and a 2-for-5 game from redshirt senior Isaiah Keller.

Wilcox reached via walk four times.

Redshirt junior Evan O'Toole earned the win, throwing seven innings while allowing two runs on four hits, one walk and four strikeouts.

Senior JD McReynolds closed out the game, earning a save by allowing one hit, walking one and striking out five through two innings pitched.

Central Missouri closes its series against Hays at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 30.

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

State Fair softball beats MSUWP in doubleheader

By Democrat Staff

State Fair Community College softball swept a doubleheader against Missouri State University — West Plains 8-2 and 9-4 on Saturday, March 29, in West Plains.

In the first game, the game was tied 1-1 after four innings, but the Lady Roadrunners scored four runs in the top of the fifth, one run in the top of the sixth and two runs in the top of the seventh to take an 8-1 lead.

Sophomore Jordan Crooks led off the fifth inning with a solo home run to put State Fair (8-20) up 2-1.

Freshman Jenna Herald then walked and stole second, setting up an RBI double by sophomore Bailey Haselhorst.

Two batters later, sophomore Kiara Sodini hit a two-run home run to make it a 5-1 game.

Herald had an RBI on

a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning to make it 6-1.

Sodini and sophomore Emily Burke hit back-to-back RBI singles in the seventh to give the Lady Roadrunners a seven-run lead.

MSUWP (5-29) tacked on a run in the bottom of the seventh to bring the game to its final score.

Crooks was 3-for-4 with an RBI in the game. Sodini was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and scored two runs, while Burke was 2-for-4 and scored one run.

Freshman Zoe Donahue pitched six innings, allowed one run on four hits and struck out five batters. Herald pitched one inning and allowed one run on two hits.

In the second game, sophomore Danika Sickie hit two home runs to help the Lady Roadrunners get the win.

Sickie gave SFCC a 1-0 lead when she led off the second inning with a solo home run to left field.

Sickie then hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning to bring the game to its final score.

Along with Sickie's dingers, Haselhorst had an RBI single in the third inning, Crooks drew a bases-loaded walk and Herald hit a three-run double in the fourth inning, and Burke had an RBI sacrifice fly in the fifth inning.

Sickie was 3-for-4 with three RBIs in this game. Herald was 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Crooks and Haselhorst each had two hits as well.

Freshman Valerie Meyer pitched four innings, allowed three runs on two hits and struck out four. Freshman Elana Clark tossed three innings, allowed one run on two hits and struck out one.

State Fair hosts Three Rivers Community College in a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, before heading to Mineral Area College on Wednesday, April 2.

Bubic sparkles in first start since April 2023

By Steve Megargee

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Kris Bubic struck out eight in six shut-out innings in his first start in nearly two years, and the Kansas City Royals spoiled Milwaukee's home opener with an 11-1 victory over the winless Brewers on Monday.

Maikel Garcia and Salvador Perez homered for the Royals. Jonathan India had three hits and drove in two runs one day after he was struck on the left side of his face by a 98.9-mph pitch from Cleveland's Emmanuel Clase.

Bubic (1-0) allowed three hits and walked two in his first start since April 15, 2023. The 27-year-old left-hander had Tommy John surgery later that month, and he filled a relief role in all 27 of his appearances last season, going 1-1 with a 2.67 ERA.

The two-time defending NL Central champion Brewers are 0-4 for the first time since 2015, when they finished 68-94.

Garcia connected for a 428-foot drive to center on a 2-1 fastball from Elvin Rodriguez (0-1) in the second. Perez went deep on a 2-2 slider from Elvis

Peguero in the seventh, sending a 418-foot drive just inside the left-field foul pole.

Brewers associate manager Rickie Weeks was ejected from the game by home plate umpire Brennan Miller after arguing a ball-strike call from the dugout in the seventh.

Key moment

After India and Bobby Witt opened the game with back-to-back singles, Rodriguez retired the next two batters and seemed on the verge of getting out of the inning until Michael Massey ripped a 1-1 fastball that bounced over the left-field wall for a ground-rule RBI double. Hunter Renfroe followed with a two-run single.

Key stat

The Brewers have been outscored 47-15 through their first four games. They opened their season by getting swept in a three-game series at Yankee Stadium.

Up next

Right-hander Michael Lorenzen starts for the Royals as the three-game series continues Tuesday. The Brewers will start right-hander Chad Patrick, who made his major league debut and allowed two runs in one inning of relief in a 20-9 loss to the Yankees on Saturday.

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BASEBALL

From Page A7

During that span, the Roadrunners scored a run in the second, a run in the third and three runs in the fourth to gain a 5-0 advantage.

Bartlett faced trouble in the top of the sixth inning, as he allowed a lead off walk and then a two-run home run to St. Charles' Andrew Pyszka.

The Cougars got runners on first and second with one out, but a fielder's choice and a ground out helped Bartlett get out the inning.

Bartlett got three strikeouts in the top of the seventh to complete a seven-inning, nine-strikeout outing. He allowed two runs on four hits and five walks as well.

"Bartlett's been great his last three outings," Kindle said. "He's almost been untouchable, so I think people are starting to take notice. He dominates the zone with four pitches and he's really confident in himself right now."

Morarity pitched the final two innings and allowed just one hit to secure the win. He also



State Fair Community College head baseball coach Jud Kindle watches the action on the field during the first game of a doubleheader against St. Charles Community College on Saturday, March 29, at Smith-Cotton High School. Kindle recently passed 200 career wins.

struck out three batters.

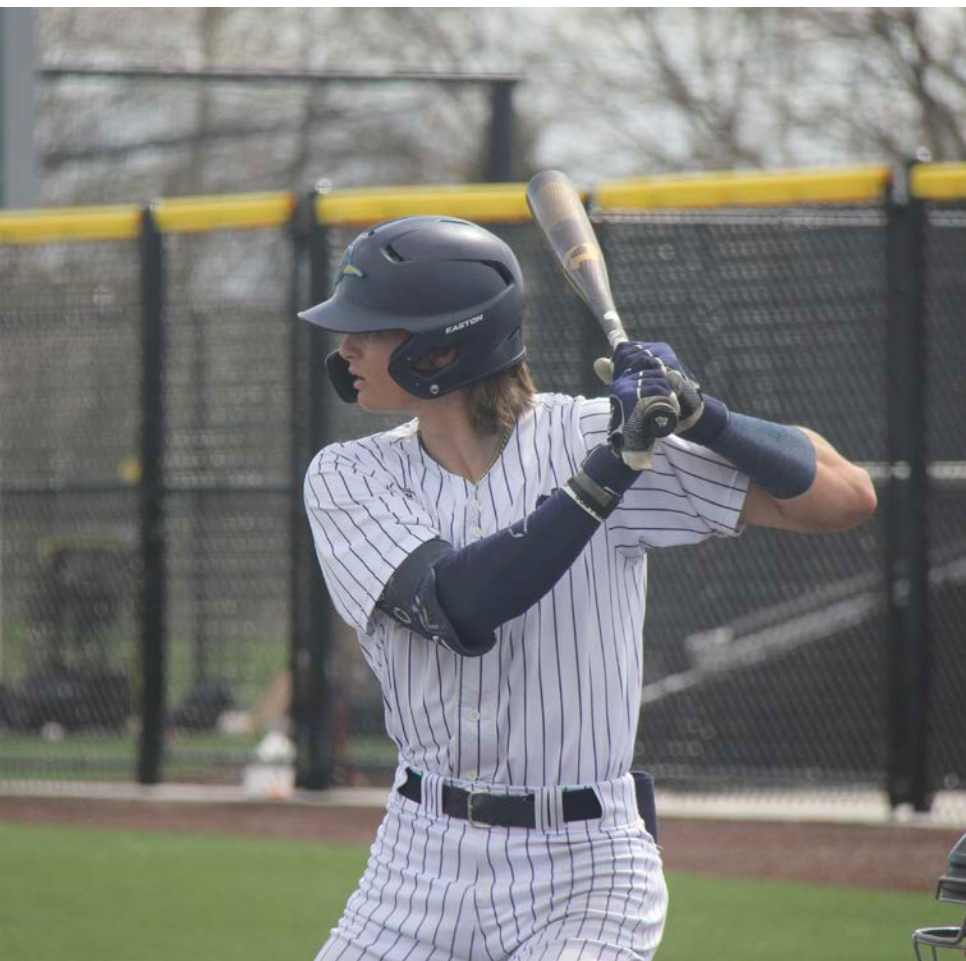
Ross went 2-for-3 with a double, a triple and an RBI during the second game. Wimberly was 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Cooper and redshirt freshman Albert Salguera each had one hit and one RBI as well.

With the two wins Saturday, State Fair takes three games out of the four-game series against St. Charles. The Roadrunners lost 2-1 in the first game of a doubleheader

on Thursday, March 27, but won the second game 6-0.

"Our goal is to tie or win every series," Kindle said. "With everybody fighting for positioning in the region, it was big for us to come out."

Saturday's wins also gave Kindle his 209th and 210th career victories at State Fair. Kindle surpassed the 200-win mark with a 5-1 win over Three Rivers Community College on March 16.



State Fair Community College sophomore Dayne Wimberly awaits a pitch during the first game of a doubleheader against St. Charles Community College on Saturday, March 29, at Smith-Cotton High School. Wimberly hit a grand slam in the first game of the doubleheader. PHOTOS BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to come out and coach good young men," Kindle said. "I absolutely love my job here. I have a good administration behind me and I'm very happy with being able to

do it with this team because this is a great team to do it with."

The Roadrunners host Kansas's Highland Community College for one game at noon Tuesday, April 1.

State Fair then hosts St. Louis Community College in a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 3.

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

ROUNDUP

From Page A7

The Lady Mustangs scored three more runs in the bottom of the fourth thanks to an error, a wild pitch and a passed ball by Tipton (3-3).

Junior Gabby Meyer was 2-for-3 in the game, Walker and senior Jazzy Butts each recorded one hit, and Zannah Butts had an RBI.

In the pool play games, Northwest beat Kingsville 10-0 and Santa Fe 11-0 on Friday, March 28, and then defeated Orrick 13-0 on Saturday.

The Lady Mustangs played Versailles after press deadline Monday, March 31. Northwest returns home to take on Kingsville on Tuesday, April 1.

Northwest baseball takes fourth at Knob Noster Tournament

Northwest baseball lost to Clinton 16-4 in the Knob Noster Tournament third-place game Saturday morning.

Junior Elliot Nieters was 3-for-4 with two RBIs during the third-place game. Senior Timmie Allee also went 3-for-4, while senior Treshaun Allee was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Sophomore Cooper White, sophomore Connor Thorp, senior Tanner Johnson and senior Blaine Arnett each recorded one hit.

Senior Gage Killion started on the mound and pitched four innings, allowed 11 runs on 12 hits and struck out one. White pitched three innings, allowed five runs on four hits and struck out two.

The Mustangs (2-4) defeated Crest Ridge 24-0 in their first-round game on Thursday, March 27, but then lost to Appleton City 7-4 in the semifinals on Friday, March 28.

Against Crest Ridge, Northwest recorded 17 hits. Nieters was 5-for-5 with four RBIs and five runs scored, Thorp was 2-for-3 with four RBIs, Johnson was 2-for-3 with a double, a triple and four RBIs and Treshaun Allee was 1-for-4 with three RBIs.

Nieters was the winning pitcher, tossing 4 ⅓ innings, allowing just one hit and striking out seven.

Northwest played Concordia after press deadline Monday, March 31. The Mustangs travel to Leeton on Wednesday, April 2.

Cole Camp softball walks off against Crest Ridge

Freshman Madilynn Ogle provided the game-winning hit for Cole Camp softball in its 11-10 extra-innings win over Crest Ridge on Friday, March 28.

The game went to extra innings tied at nine, but Crest Ridge scored a run in the top of the eighth to take a 10-9 lead.

Sophomore Andrea Dieckman singled and freshman Madolyn Flores doubled to put two runners in scoring position for Cole Camp in the bottom of the eighth.

An error by the Lady Cougars (2-2) tied the game at 10 and brought Ogle to the plate.

Ogle singled to bring in Flores and walk it off for the Lady Bluebirds (3-0).

Ogle was 4-for-5 with three RBIs in the contest. Flores, senior Emma Thayer and junior Kate Harrison were each 3-for-5. Harrison had two RBIs.

Dieckman, sophomore Riley Raetz and junior Lindsey Vansel each had two hits. Freshman Kristin Carl was 1-for-4 with three RBIs, while Vansel and Raetz each had one RBI.

Cole Camp played Concordia after press deadline on Monday, March 31. The Lady Bluebirds travel to Versailles on Wednesday, April 2.

More results Friday, March 28

Sacred Heart baseball 11, New Franklin 1

Green Ridge with La Monte baseball 14, Santa Fe 13

Lincoln baseball 16, Leeton 1

Lincoln softball 5, Leeton 3

Oterville baseball 9, Jamestown 4

Stover softball 16, Conway 1

Stover baseball 3, Versailles 14

Windsor baseball 10, Smith-Cotton JV 21

Saturday, March 29

Lincoln softball 24, Osceola 3

Lincoln softball 15, Stoutland 5

Oterville baseball 4, Iberia 22

SOCCER

From Page A7

The game flipped in favor of Smith-Cotton about six minutes into the second half when junior Kennedy Ditzfeld and junior Alle Case scored back-to-back goals in the span of about 25 seconds.

Ditzfeld popped the ball over the goalkeeper on her goal, while Case found space in the middle of the field and blasted the ball into the net off an assist from Ditzfeld.

"I'll be honest, I didn't see it because I was looking at something else, so I'm going to have to go back and watch it on film, but I saw the backside of it," Brick said. "Our bench did a great job of staying engaged and letting all of their teammates know they were here and loud. That was something I was proud of, too, just the full team effort. We-over-me tonight."

After Case's goal in the 47th minute, Nixa scored a goal in the 49th minute off a corner kick from junior Sam McClain

to tie the game at two apiece.

Play stopped in the 57th minute after a Smith-Cotton player went down with a leg injury following a collision with a Nixa player. The game remained paused for several minutes until the player was carted off the field by paramedics and taken away in an ambulance.

When play resumed, freshman Avery Case had a shot that was dropped by Nixa's goalkeeper and nearly rolled in, but the keeper was able to recover and save it before it went into the net.

That was Smith-Cotton's best opportunity to score for the remainder of the match.

McClain scored her second goal of the evening in the 61st minute on a long ball that snuck past Smith-Cotton senior goalkeeper Addison Lyles.

"Those were her first varsity minutes," Brick said of Lyles. "It's something we saw in her, where she just seemed to have an ability to track the ball and catch the ball, so we put her in there, and knew that tonight would be a test. She came up with some big

saves and on the ones that they scored on her, some of those, you just have to clap up and say, 'Wow, nice shot.' I thought she did an incredible job, especially with that being her first time in the goal for varsity. I hope she feels proud of herself for her performance."

Despite the loss, Brick said the game was something the Lady Tigers can build off of.

"The results on the board were 2-3, but you know, in sports we have to have results," Brick said. "But really, especially for us and being a part in building throughout the season, it's also off of how we feel we performed. The feeling was really good and the performance all around was good."

Smith-Cotton moves on to face Camdenton at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at home.

The Lady Tigers will then host Kickapoo on Wednesday, April 2, before traveling to St. Michael the Archangel on Friday, April 4.

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



Smith-Cotton junior Kennedy Ditzfeld, center, junior Alle Case, left, and junior Kimbree Pummill celebrate Ditzfeld's goal during the game against Nixa on Friday, March 28, at the Susie Ditzfeld Memorial Soccer Field on the campus of Smith-Cotton High School. PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

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ALL IN A DAY'S WORDS

Music calms the soul and relaxes the mind

I've often thought and still do that music calms the soul and helps us relax and focus on life better; this works for many people besides me.

On Saturday, March 29, I was privileged to attend, for the first time, a chamber recital hosted by the Marshall Philharmonic Orchestra. The Charles Ferguson Memorial Chamber Recital featured Douglas Rioth, on harp, Fr. Ryan Koster on violin, and Zeb Yoko on cello.

I'm very fond of strings, so it was a special treat listening to the expert execution of Rioth as he played the harp. Rioth was born in Marceline and began lessons at age 6. His bio noted that at age 21, after studying the harp for six years, he became the principal harpist for the Indianapolis Symphony. Six years later, he became the principal harpist for the San Francisco Symphony. As a member of the SFS, he had the opportunity to play for Queen Elizabeth of England and with the rock band Metallica. Once retired, he moved back home to Carrollton.

On Saturday, I was able to forget about my worries and immerse myself in Rioth's harp music. On several selections, he was accompanied by Koster, an ordained priest who currently serves as pastor of St. Columbian Parish in Chillicothe, and Yoko, the principal cellist with the Marshall Philharmonic.

Many years ago, I played the piano by ear; I never could master reading music fast enough to play an instrument. I have always been fascinated by musicians' ability to play classical symphony pieces by memory. Rioth, of course, did this with several pieces he played that evening, including works by Bach, Debussy, and Gabriel Faure.

One of the pieces I enjoyed the most was "Meditation from Thaïs" by Jules Massenet, in which Rioth played with Fr. Koster. The piece was very long but full of emotion. This emotional music caused me to look up the piece.

According to the Spartanburg Philharmonic, "Thaïs was written in 1874 and is perhaps the finest of Massenet's reformed-courtesan operas. Set in fourth-century Alexandria, it tells the story of Thaïs, the kingdom's haughtiest, proudest courtesan, and Athanael, an ardent young monk. Athanael sets out to convert the worldly title character and eventually does, but along the way, develops carnal feelings for the beautiful Thaïs with predictably tragic results: this being an opera, everyone dies in the end."

History says Massenet wrote around 33 operas within four decades but wasn't practically religious. The Spartanburg Philharmonic describes the piece as "One of the most dramatic violin solos in all operatic literature; its soaring melodies and pulsating emotion have made it a favorite of violinists and a hugely popular standalone piece ever since. It is, in a word, gorgeous, and perfectly captures what Debussy called its 'composer's' power of pleasing, which, strictly speaking, is a gift."

For me, on Saturday, "Meditation from Thaïs" was indeed a gift.

See **MUSIC**, Page B8



Harpist Douglas Rioth plays "Sarabande from Violin Partita No. 1" by J.S. Bach on Saturday, March 29, during a Marshall Philharmonic-sponsored event at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Marshall. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT



Faith Bemiss-McKinney

Contributing Columnist



The first of two 2025 "Voices of Arrow Rock" theatre performances will be presented at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 5 at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock. "The Great Protector" will highlight Mo'n-Sho'n A-ki-Da Tonka, an early 19th-century Osage leader who shares his perspective of the American Frontier. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARROW ROCK LYCEUM THEATRE

The 'Voices of Arrow Rock' reader's theater to be presented April 5

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney

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The "Voices of Arrow Rock" will present "The Great Protector" for its first performance of the 2025 season on Saturday, April 5, at the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock. The event is free.

The reader's theatre presentation will highlight Mo'n-Sho'n A-ki-Da Tonka, an early 19th-century Osage leader who shares his perspective of the American Frontier. The production features Jerry Wolf, an Osage Nation citizen, Josh LeBrun, and Ed Hanson. The play was written by award-winning author Jimmy Beason, also an Osage Nation citizen.

A release from Arrow Rock said the program uses art to explore history.

"Voices of Arrow Rock" is a reader's theatre series that brings to life lesser-known citizens of Arrow Rock, one of Missouri's most historically significant villages. It is about forgotten and underrepresented people, whose voices span the centuries since Arrow Rock was first mapped by French explorers in the early eighteenth century."

Producer and creator Michael Kateman told the Democrat that this particular episode is the eighth in the series. He added that the Americans called Mo'n-Sho'n A-ki-Da Tonka, which means Great Protector of the Land, Big Soldier.

"The lake at the Arrow Rock Historic Site is named Big Soldier Lake, after him," Kateman said. "Arrow Rock State Historic is the first state historic site in Missouri. It was established in 1926 when the state of Missouri Purchased the J. Houston Tavern."

Jerry Wolf, who recently had a role in Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," will act as Big Soldier. Josh LeBrun, who earned a degree in Theatre Performance at Eastern Oregon University and his MFA in Acting and Directing at the University of Missouri Kansas City, will act as George Sibley. And Ed Hanson, of Columbia and the founder of Talking

Horse Productions, will act as President Thomas Jefferson.

"The Playwright is Jimmy Beason," Kateman said. "And Jimmy is on faculty at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. He's an author and a poet, and what Jimmy has created is a play that I would say is both poignant and very compelling. Big Soldier's voice comes to life, and he shares memories with the audience of his conversations with both Thomas Jefferson and George Sibley. The context for those conversations are two-fold."

He added that in 1805, Big Soldier went to Washington, D.C., and met with Jefferson along with other Osage leaders and tribal leaders. This happened just after the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

"In 1806, Big Soldier led the Osage delegation with Zebulon Pike to find the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers," Kateman said. "Thomas Jefferson in that year also addressed some Osage leaders as well as other tribal leaders."

In both of Jefferson's addresses, he talks about how he wants everyone to live peacefully together.

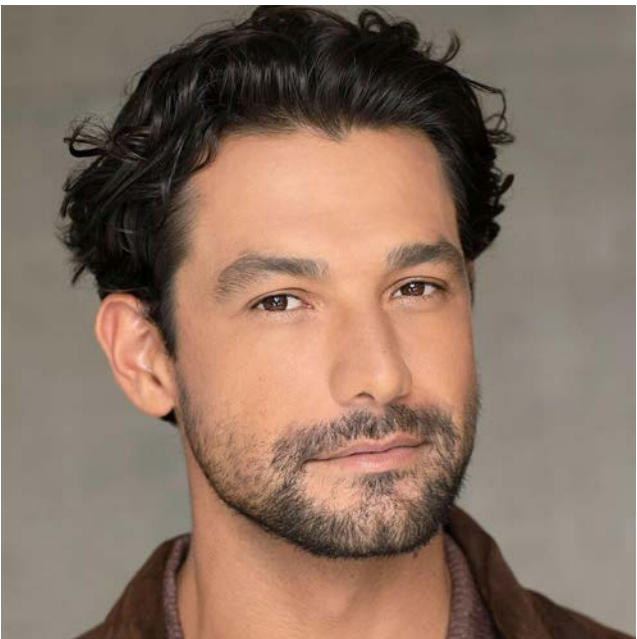
"That we're all one family now, and he makes a lot of promises to the natives," Kateman said "We are going to hear the actor who plays Thomas Jefferson deliver the speech Jefferson gave in 1806."

Kateman said they found Jefferson's speech on the National Park Service Archives website.

"We also have the context of 1813, ... in the midst of the War of 1812," Kateman said. "And because of (the) British presence in Missouri at the time, Fort Osage near Independence, Missouri, was shut down."

He added that George Sibley was the "factor" or agent at Fort Osage. Big Soldier traveled frequently between Arrow Rock and Fort Osage, and many of the Osage lived near the Fort.

"But trading was shut down, because of the fear of the British presence," Kateman said. "And there was fear the Osage would side with the British. The Osage were forced to



Jerry Wolf



Ed Hanson



Josh LeBrun

travel the Missouri River down to St. Louis to trade, and that was unacceptable. So, Mo'n-Sho'n A-ki-Da Tonka and George Sibley created a trading post in

Arrow Rock for the Osage in 1813."

The trading post was the first building built in Arrow Rock.

See **THEATER**, Page B8

CLUB NOTES

No Club Notes were submitted this week. Send your club news to news@sedaliademocrat.com

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



March 6 presenters for Old Drum Open Mic pose for a photo. PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD DRUM OPEN MIC

Old Drum to host Open Mic

Old Drum Open Mic (ODOM) kicks off with music, stories, poetry, and essays for its next program from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at Java Junction, 118 N. Holden St., in downtown Warrensburg.

Old Drum Open Mic produces its showcase event the first Thursday

night of each month. Prospective presenters can schedule appearances through the Old Drum Open Mic web page at <https://www.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.

Missouri youths lead the way at 4-H Day at the Capitol

On March 26, almost 900 Missouri 4-H members, staff, volunteers and parents gathered in Jefferson City for 4-H Day at the Capitol, a day of civic engagement, leadership and advocacy. Gov. Mike Kehoe and First Lady Claudia Kehoe welcomed Missouri 4-H members, recognizing the impact of 4-H in developing confident and capable young leaders. Throughout the day, 4-Hers met with state representatives and senators, sharing their experiences and highlighting the value of University of Missouri Extension's 4-H programs in building skills for life and careers. Through this experience, Missouri 4-Hers are proving they are prepared to lead, serve and shape the future, said Lupita Fabregas, Missouri 4-H senior director. "4-H prepares young people to be engaged citizens,

problem-solvers and future leaders. Events like 4-H Day at the Capitol reinforce that Missouri 4-H youth are 'Beyond Ready' to make an impact in their communities and beyond." A program of University of Missouri Extension, Missouri 4-H equips youths with the tools and experiences needed to thrive in agriculture, STEM, civic engagement and more, Fabregas said. With hands-on learning and mentorship from dedicated volunteers, Missouri 4-H ensures that the next generation is prepared to lead with confidence and purpose, she said. To find out how many local 4-Hers attended or to access additional photos from the event, contact your local MU Extension center. Release courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension.

Celebrate native trees with MDC through Arbor Days in April

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites people to celebrate the value of Missouri trees and forests during Arbor Days in April by planting native trees and practicing proper tree care. Missouri Arbor Day for 2025 is Friday, April 4. Missouri has been observing the state's official Arbor Day on the first Friday in April since 1886 when the General Assembly declared that day be set aside for the appreciation and planting of trees. National Arbor Day is recognized on the last Friday of April, which is April 25. Get information on backyard tree care – including types of trees for urban and other landscapes, selecting the right tree for the right place, planting tips, watering and pruning info, and more – at mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care. The MDC George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking offers a variety of low-cost native tree and shrub seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, and wildlife food and cover. Orders are accepted to April 15. For

more information, visit mdc.mo.gov/seedlings. Learn more about the State Forest Nursery by listening to the March episode of MDC's Nature Boost podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or on the MDC website at mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/nature-boost. Communities around the state also hold local Arbor Day activities. For more information on Arbor Day and Missouri's Tree City USA communities, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at arborday.org/. Missouri forests cover about one-third of the state and provide outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, and watersheds for stream and rivers. Spending time in Missouri forests can provide a natural health benefit, too. Exposure to nature contributes to physical well-being, reducing blood pressure and heart rate, relieving stress, and boosting energy levels. Get more information at mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/forest-care. Release courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

City of Sedalia to host Arbor Day event

The City of Sedalia will host an Arbor Day event at 4 p.m. Friday, April 4, at the Sedalia Animal Shelter, 2420 S. New York Ave. Mayor Andrew

Dawson will issue a Arbor Day proclamation followed by a self-guided walk of the trails used by the shelter to help exercise the animals under its care.

This year the funds obtained from the Missouri Department of Conservation's TRIM grant purchased 25 trees to help add to the urban forest and provide shade

for the animals, workers and volunteers. There will also be tree saplings available at the event. Release courtesy of the City of Sedalia.

Easter lilies toxic to cats

A favorite spring flower, the Easter lily, should be kept away from cats. If ingested, it could kill them. The perennial plant's white, trumpet-like flowers might not sound the warning that all parts of it are highly toxic to felines. Tim Evans, University of Missouri Extension veterinary toxicologist, said even small amounts of Easter lilies can be deadly to cats. Eating the leaves or flowers or licking pollen grains can lead to kidney failure within days. Even water from a vase containing lilies can cause serious adverse effects. Easter lilies are true lilies that grow from bulbs, not tubers. Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) has a single stem with leaves whirling around it. True

lilies bloom for a week or more. "With spring planting, Mother's Day, prom season and graduation ceremonies right around the corner, it is important to know that other members of the *Lilium* genus and daylilies or *Hemerocallis* species also can prove extremely toxic to cats," said Evans. Early signs of poisoning include vomiting, lack of appetite and lethargy. Evans suggests pet owners consult a veterinarian if they suspect poisoning. Veterinarians likely will prescribe medications or give intravenous fluids, he said. Keep cats away from outside areas where lilies grow. "Any evidence of damage to the leaves or flowers of true lilies where cats might be

roaming, the presence of lily pollen on the face of a cat with a guilty look on its face or cat vomitus containing lily parts are all potential causes for concern and require a call to your local veterinarian," Evans said. Easter lilies became popular in American homes after World War I, said MU Extension state horticulturist David Trinklein. They originated in Japan, where they are symbols of hope and purity. Despite a sales window of only two weeks, lilies rank fourth in the wholesale potted plant market in the United States, behind poinsettias, mums and azaleas. Potted Easter lilies can be planted in Missouri as soon as the ground can be worked, said Trinklein.

They will bloom the following June. The Food and Drug Administration lists the following true lilies as dangerous to cats: Asiatic lily, daylily, Easter lily, Japanese show lily, oriental lily, rubrum lily, Stargazer lily, tiger lily and wood lily. Other lilies that are not true lilies, such as lily-of-the-valley and the gloriosa, or flame lily, also may cause health issues. Contact your local veterinarian if you suspect your cat has ingested lily flowers, says Evans. For more tips on emergency care for your pets, go to <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/emergency-care-your-pet>. Release courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension.

Missouri lawmakers hold back on public defender plans for marijuana money

By Rebecca Rivas
Missouri Independent

As Missouri lawmakers debate the \$47.9 billion state budget, they are also deciding how to spend an unexpectedly large chunk of cash from sales taxes collected from marijuana dispensaries. The nearly \$86 million paid by recreational cannabis users is constitutionally required to be divided up evenly between funds benefiting veterans, public defenders and programs that prevent substance use disorders. "Due to a strong cannabis market and effective, efficient regulation of that market," said Amy Moore, director of the Missouri Division of Cannabis Regulation told The Independent this week, "the funds available for the ultimate beneficiaries of the cannabis regulatory program continue to outpace expectations." In February, Moore told the House budget committee that each fund could receive \$28.6 million in the various budget bills debated this spring. So far, the full \$28.6 million has made it into budget legislation for both veterans and substance use disorder programs. Part of it will help fund new partnerships with the state courts, public schools and other providers to support children's mental health and to expand substance use prevention and treatment programs. The Missouri Veterans Commission will receive an additional \$13 million from medical marijuana money as well, and its total \$41.6 million will go towards the operational needs and potential repairs for the state's seven veterans homes.



House Budget Committee Chairman Dirk Deaton, a Republican from Noel, speaks March 3 during debate on the fiscal 2025 supplemental appropriations bill. PHOTO BY TIM BOMMEL | MISSOURI HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

However, the House has approved only \$15.3 million for the public defenders system so far. State lawmakers have the authority to decide whether to withhold the money, even though they can't spend it anywhere else. The public defender's office, for example, had hoped to use some of the cannabis money to increase their attorneys' starting pay from \$65,000 per year to \$70,000. That would align the salary with the attorney general's office entry-level pay. "There's a huge cost to employee turnover," said Mary Fox, director of the Office of Public Defender, during a budget committee hearing last month, "and where we see that employee turnover is in years one through three, which is why that is where I would like to bring them in line with the attorney general salary." That \$2.5 million request was shot down in the House, despite the funds being available. During a budget committee hearing, she also asked for \$4 million to hire 45 full-time social workers to expand the agency's holistic defense

program, which employs social workers to connect clients with community resources. For several years, the system suffered from having long waitlists to get legal representation, which resulted in a successful lawsuit against the state. State Rep. John Voss, a Republican from Cape Girardeau and a budget committee member, pushed to add \$1.6 million for pay raises and \$1.2 million to hire 20 social workers. The \$1.2 million was added, but the pay raises were not. "These attorneys represent the poor in our state, and they deserve the best representation that we can provide to them," said Voss, during a budget committee meeting last month. "In terms of the holistic defense mitigation specialists, I believe that we're actually investing in ways to prevent people from becoming incarcerated again, and we will wind up saving money across the entire state budget." Overall, Voss said part of the reason the public defenders' total allocation is less than the two other funds is because about

\$11.7 million was included in budget legislation that required the funds to be spent by June — and the public defenders weren't poised to do that. That money goes back to a fund in the Missouri Treasury to be appropriated to the public defenders in pending legislation, Senate Committee on Appropriations Chair Lincoln Hough told Independent last month. "The money isn't reallocated," he said. "It stays dedicated to the public defender. The money is still sitting there and will be allocated in the operating bills." After the House votes to approve the bills, likely next week, Hough's committee will debate them. While the House may not have included the public defenders' requests for salary raises, the Senate has the ability to add more money back in before May. "The public defender will be taken care of in the operating bills," Hough said. "It generally takes right up until the constitutional deadline to get these things done. And so we'll have plenty of discussion on this."

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LA MONTE R-IV's

JUSTIN THOMAS

NAMED EMERGING SUPERINTENDENT

By Chris Howell | chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Justin Thomas, Superintendent of La Monte R-IV School District, grew up in northern Pettis County and attended Pettis County R-V in Hughesville.

"I started teaching in the area about 15 years ago, and taught at a few different schools," Thomas said.

"Six years ago, there was a high school principal opening in La Monte."

Thomas was teaching in Warsaw at the time and applied for the La Monte principal's job.

"I was the high school principal for three years and this is my third year Superintendent," Thomas said. "It's great, we have wonderful people, we have a wonderful community, a very supportive community, we have great students, and everybody works together, so it's a great community to be a part of."

Thomas points to recent academic successes in La Monte and credits them to returning to the basics.

"We have put a strong emphasis on improving our in-classroom learning and engaging our students for what they need," Thomas said. "We have slowly improved our testing scores and our student results and this year we finished Fifth and in the conference in academics, that's the highest we've ever finished so, we're trending in that direction."

Thomas is quick to give credit to his staff, teachers and principals.

"I've got a couple of great principals and I've had some time with them," Thomas said. "They have taken the reins and really guided all of our instructions so, I feel like everything's trending in a positive direction."

Last Wednesday, Thomas was recognized with a special award in Jefferson City.

"I was nominated as the emerging Superintendent for

our region for MASA, which is the Missouri Association of School Administrators," Thomas said. "It's for a Superintendent in their second or third year who their peers vote in."

Thomas won the award for emerging superintendent, but graciously acknowledged the hard-work of the people at La Monte Schools for helping him across the finish line.

"That is credit to all the people who work here," Thomas said. "That's who makes this place successful; our teachers and our support staff that are involved and work with our students every day, they're really the ones that make that award exist."

Thomas said his first duty is to the parents of the children in his schools.

"When their student is here, they're going to be cared for and we're going to meet their needs and take care of them," Thomas said. "We're always going to put their students first."

He made a point of thanking his most important supporters, his family.

"My wife Camerin Thomas is always super supportive of me," Thomas said. "She's supportive of me in everything I do. I'm gone a lot for various things, and she was kind of used to that because I was a basketball coach and the football coach for a long time."

Now, instead of being away at games, Thomas is away at meetings.

"But she's always there," Thomas said. "We've got four daughters and they're super supportive of me and I get to go to school with them every day, so that makes it better."

Thomas said his favorite part of the job was having the ability to make a positive impact on the community.

"Being able to positively change our student's lives, our educator's lives and everybody in our community for the better," Thomas said. "That's the rewarding part of it."

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

Tax credits aim to rebuild Missouri’s film industry

By Jake Marszewski
Missouri Independent

For 10 years, Missouri had no incentive for production companies to film in the state. Now, more TV and film sets are coming to Missouri thanks to help from a tax credit established in 2023.

The “Show MO Act” gives up to a 42% tax credit on eligible film productions. Productions initially have the option for a 20% minimum credit but can receive up to four additional 5% credits for meeting certain conditions.

Last year alone, film productions working under the tax credit spent more than \$33.5 million. The tax credit follows programs like Georgia’s long-running film tax incentive in boosting state film industries.

“That damn peach,” Missouri Film Office Director Andrea Sporcic-Klund joked, referencing the orange and green logo that appears in the credits of Georgia productions. “Hopefully you’ll be seeing our Missouri logo there pretty soon.”

Sporcic-Klund coordinates film productions in the state and promotes Missouri’s film industry through the incentive. Last year, four productions with budgets over \$1 million were filmed in Missouri, which Sporcic-Klund says would not have happened without the incentive.

Film in MO, a nonprofit that works to support the tax credits, lobbied at the Missouri Capitol in February. Sporcic-Klund joined Pete Salsich, an entertainment lawyer who is on the board of directors at Film in MO, at the Capitol to promote the incentive to lawmakers.

“If you don’t have the tax credit, most of these films are simply going somewhere else,” Salsich said. “The tax credit becomes sort of your ticket into the conversation, but it’s not enough, because you can use that lots of places.”

The current tax credit is the state’s second attempt at incentivizing filmmakers to work in Missouri. The previous tax credit was repealed in 2013, with the film “Gone Girl” being the last major production in the



A cinematographer shoots a scene for “The Jester 2” at Big Mama’s Cafe in Columbia. The film is currently in production with help from Missouri’s film tax credits.
PHOTO BY NICK LEWIS | COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN VIA THE MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

state to receive a tax credit until the Show MO Act became official.

In the time after the tax credits expired, the state missed out on several opportunities for major film projects. The Netflix series “Ozark” was one of these productions, as the show drew much attention to the Lake of the Ozarks area despite being filmed mostly in Georgia.

“My hope is that we can get back to getting those solid productions that Missouri can be proud of,” said Sporcic-Klund. “I think losing them, like not having as big of a role in ‘Ozark,’ really changed minds.”

Renewed support for motion picture tax credits came to light in 2023, when the Show MO Act was passed. The bill was initially sponsored in the Senate by Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, who says he is looking forward to seeing successful results from the tax credit.

Hoskins explained that about 4,000 to 5,000 college students were graduating from Missouri universities every year with some sort of media or film degree but were going to other states for work.

“One of the points of that bill was to put the right leg forward and build up that industry so those Missouri-

ans can stay here and work in their industry,” Hoskins said.

To be eligible for the credit, each project must meet the minimum spend for the length of their script, employ certain amounts of Missouri registered apprentices and meet the criteria for a “qualified motion media project,” as outlined by the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Film producer Cole Payne worked on his most recent project, the horror film “The Jester 2” under Missouri’s tax credit.

“As a Missourian, it’s nice to be able to stay at home and film,” Payne said.

The film, which wrapped in 2024 and is currently in post-production, was shot in various locations across Columbia, Rocheport and Boonville. On set, Payne said, everything went smoothly with the help of other Missourians.

“In the town of Rocheport, the mayor came out and supported us. The local restaurants opened up for us, made us dessert and let us use their space at night,” Payne said. “We just hired as many locals as we could.”

More than 30 other states have tax credits for filming. For people who work in Missouri’s film industry like Payne and Salsich, the

credit gives them one way to show off their state.

“The out-of-town folks rave about how supportive and friendly everybody here is,” Salsich said. “When people leave here and have a good experience, they talk about it and they want to come back and do it again.”

Besides affordability and hospitality, Missouri’s geography is also appealing to producers. The state is central, which is important for transporting equipment, and, Payne said, “Missouri can be made to work for so many looks.”

The tax credit is mainly designed to bring positive marketing to the state. One of the additional credits that productions can receive is a 5% credit for filming in “rural or blighted” areas, in hopes of increasing tourism and boosting local economies.

An additional 5% credit can be awarded if a film’s script positively markets a city or region of the state, as determined by the Missouri Office of Economic Development. For some producers, this leads to a creative struggle.

Payne’s film did not receive a bonus for positive marketing of Missouri, despite spending two weeks filming in Rocheport. He disagrees with the state’s interpretation of positive

marketing. “Screenplays aren’t written to say, ‘Hey, we’re in this state, and these things are very great about this state,’” Payne said. “It doesn’t mean it can’t be a positive marketing opportunity for the state or the city that it’s filmed in.”

Other rules that were tacked onto the bill also proved to be another off-set roadblock for Payne. He says that the 100% audit required by the Office of Economic Development was a “surprise” since most audits for businesses are usually samples, which are cheaper.

Payne is currently in production for his second film in the state, which will begin filming at the end of March.

After 10 years without an incentive, Missouri has a lot of work to do to rebuild its film industry. Payne is just one producer working toward that goal.

“There’s a production industry in Missouri that’s broader than just tourism that says ‘Come live here,’” Salsich said. “Invest in a production house. Turn some old warehouses into sound stages. Invest in more infrastructure to enable more support to exist and attract more productions.”

Salsich says that the impact of the credit is very

broad and that it is already being seen through money being spent and jobs being created through productions.

At the film office, Sporcic-Klund is optimistic about this year’s outlook for Missouri films.

“We’ve had two producers bring back second projects already, so the word is good,” she said. “We haven’t made a big push because we know that we lost a lot of infrastructure in those 10 years, so we’re building that back up.”

As the state works to rebuild the film industry, lawmakers have also taken steps to support the Show MO Act. A removal of the program’s expiration was proposed in a recent bill.

“Hopefully we don’t have to keep bringing things in, because we can start building the infrastructure and build brick-and-mortar businesses around this industry,” Payne said. “We will be able to if we can extend or remove the sunset on the bill.”

If the bill passes the House, motion picture tax credits will be ensured for the foreseeable future.

This article originally appeared in the Columbia Missourian. It was republished with permission through the Missouri Independent.

Statham’s ‘A Working Man’ upsets ‘Snow White’ to take No. 1 at the box office

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — In an unexpected upset, the Jason Statham thriller “A Working Man” took No. 1 at the box office, besting the rapidly declining “Snow White,” according to studio estimates Sunday.

Even after a lackluster debut, the Walt Disney Co.’s live-action remake was predicted to remain the top film in U.S. and Canadian theaters over the weekend. Instead, “Snow White,” plagued by bad buzz and backlash, nosedived in its second weekend and dropped 66%.

At the same time, Amazon MGM Studios’ “A Working Man,” directed by David Ayer, beat expectations with a \$15.2 million debut. Co-written by Sylvester Stallone, “A Working Man” reteams Statham and Ayer following last year’s

successful “The Beekeeper” (\$162 million worldwide). This time around, Statham plays a construction worker with an elite military past.

While reviews have been mixed and audiences only gave “A Working Man” a “B” CinemaScore, showing Statham has carved out something rare in the movie industry today: bankability. “A Working Man” opened similarly to “The Beekeeper,” which launched with \$16.5 million.

The bigger headline, though, might have been the fast erosion of ticket buyers’ appetite for “Snow White.” The film, directed by Marc Webb and starring Rachel Zegler, had been hoped to lift movie theaters after a painful start to 2025. Produced for more \$250 million, the film has turned into a poisoned apple, with a two-week

global haul of \$143.1 million.

Next weekend, Warner Bros.’ “A Minecraft Movie,” is expected to win the weekend and will, like “Snow White,” target family audiences.

A trio of newcomers – A24’s “Death of a Unicorn,” Universal and Blumhouse’s “The Woman in the Yard,” and the Fathom’s “Chosen: The Last Supper” – also opened over the weekend, though none made a big impact.

“The Chosen: The Last Supper,” fared the best, with \$11.5 million in 2,235 theaters. The Christian TV series, now in its fifth season, has regularly driven ticket sales before streaming. More episodes will roll out in theaters through April.

“Death of a Unicorn,” a horror comedy starring Jenna Ortega and Paul Rudd, portrays a father and daughter who hit

a unicorn on the road while they’re driving. The movie collected a modest \$5.8 million from 3,050 theaters.

The weekend’s more straightforward horror contender, Blumhouse’s “The Woman in the Yard,” starring Danielle Deadwyler, debuted with \$9.4 million from 2,842 cinemas. In “Black Adam” director Jaume Collet-Serra’s film, a mysterious woman keeps appearing in a family’s front yard. Though it cost little to make, with a production budget of \$12 million, it has been slammed by critics.

One of the weekend’s biggest successes was the 1997 Studio Ghibli classic “Princess Mononoke.” The Hayo Miyazaki film grossed \$4 million across just 347 IMAX screens. Distributor GKids touted that result as a victory for humanity over technology. Earlier in the week, a new ver-

sion of ChatGPT allowed users to render images in Studio Ghibli-like animation.

Sony Pictures Classic’s “The Penguin Lesson,” starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce, opened with \$1.2 million at 1,017 theaters. Coogan plays an Englishman teaching in Argentina in 1976 who rescues a penguin from an oil spill.

With flagging ticket sales overall, Hollywood marked the first quarter of 2025 with a sizeable box-office deficit. Sales are down 11% from the same point in 2024, and nearly 40% from 2019, according to Comscore.

“Hopefully ‘Minecraft’ can help the marketplace level up since after some underwhelming weekends at the box office we need to get some momentum back at the multiplex,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore.

Top 10 movies by do-

- mestic box office
- With final domestic figures due Monday, the following list factors in estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:
1. “A Working Man,” \$15.2 million
 2. “Snow White,” \$14.2 million.
 3. “The Chosen: Last Supper,” \$11.5 million.
 4. “The Woman in the Yard,” \$9.5 million.
 5. “Death of a Unicorn,” \$5.8 million.
 6. “Princess Mononoke,” \$4 million.
 7. “Captain America: Brave New World,” \$2.8 million.
 8. “Black Bag,” \$2.2 million.
 9. “Mickey 17,” \$1.9 million.
 10. “Novocaine,” \$1.5 million.

HeartlandChronicles

Focusing on Henry, Benton and Morgan County news.

Be the Light, Walk to Fight raises \$1,000 for Benton County Youth Coalition

By Vanessa Schardan
vanessa@sedaliademocrat.com

The Be the Light, Walk to Fight event on March 22 at Drake Harbor was an overwhelming success, bringing the community together in support of suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

The event saw over 100 participants in the 5K run/walk, along with many more who came out to enjoy games, face painting, and a special visit from KC Wolf.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of those involved, the event

raised an impressive \$1,000 for the Benton County Youth Coalition. This funding will help support vital programs that provide mental health resources and support for young people in the community.

Organizer Michelle Downing Boyd expressed gratitude for the incredible turnout, noting the significance of raising awareness and fostering conversations about mental health.

“The support from our community was truly heartwarming,” Boyd said. “Every person who showed up, walked, ran, or donated helped make a difference. We couldn’t

have asked for a better outcome.”

With such a strong response, hopes are high for future events that will continue spreading awareness and providing resources for those in need.

For those interested in further supporting the Benton County Youth Coalition or participating in future initiatives, stay connected through local community pages and outreach programs.

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



The Be the Light, Walk to Fight event was held March 22. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BE THE LIGHT, WALK TO FIGHT



The Be the Light, Walk to Fight event raised \$1,000 for the Benton County Youth Coalition.

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2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Cole Camp reminds voters of ballot issue

By Vanessa Schardan
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The Cole Camp R-1 School District is asking voters to approve a no-tax-increase bond measure in the April election.

If passed, this would allow the district to extend its current funding without raising taxes, generating about \$3.5 million for facility improvements.

Superintendent Christina Hess explained that the district’s Strategic Planning Committee set project goals last summer, and the Board of Education approved the plan. If the bond measure passes, the district will move forward with Phase Two of its building

project.

This would include a new facility for industrial arts and shop classes, along with relocating the music program. The addition, which would be around 8,700 square feet, would be built on the west side of the school campus.

Hess noted that the community wants more hands-on career training opportunities for students. The new shop and classroom space would allow for bigger building and construction projects, as well as technical classes for operating modern equipment. The plan includes an 8,400 square foot shop and classroom area, along with remodeling funds.

Moving the music

classes would provide better storage, a more functional space, and help reduce noise disruptions.

“The Board of Education is committed to preparing students for success after graduation,” Hess said. “Using no-tax-increase funds to build these facilities is a big step toward that goal.”

Other possible projects covered by the bond include improving parking lot drainage and resurfacing.

Election day is Tuesday, April 8.

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

Handel Haus expands with new antiques & bakery shop in Cole Camp

By Vanessa Schardan
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COLE CAMP — Exciting growth is happening in downtown Cole Camp as Handel Haus expands into a new location at 100 S Maple St, Cole Camp, MO 65325, bringing even more unique shopping and delicious treats to the community.

The expansion includes the addition of HH Antiques & Curiosities and A Bushel & A Peck Bakery, both of which will open their doors on Saturday, April 5, with a grand opening celebration.

The new space, formerly

known as Wine, Women & Song, will now house HH Antiques & Curiosities, offering antique furniture, vintage finds, eclectic home décor, oddities, books, lamps, and more. This expansion allows Handel Haus to further its tradition of providing one-of-a-kind items for collectors and home decorators alike.

Adding to the excitement, A Bushel & A Peck Bakery will bring a new flavor to downtown with its selection of drip coffees, teas, espressos, pastries, macarons, sourdough breads, and other baked delights.

To celebrate, the grand opening event will feature live music, champagne, appetizers, bakery samples, and giveaway goodie bags, making it a can’t-miss occasion for both long-time customers and new visitors.

The Handel Haus expansion strengthens Cole Camp’s reputation as a charming destination for antique lovers and food enthusiasts.

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

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UCM student from Sedalia spends spring break volunteering in Puerto Rico

While most students were relaxing and enjoying some time off from classes, nine students and two employees from the University of Central Missouri (UCM) spent their spring break in service of others.

The group, including Olivia Smith of Sedalia, spent a week in Aguada, Puerto Rico, as part of UCM's Global Vision scholarship program in partnership with Global Volunteers. The program offers any UCM student the opportunity to travel domestically or internationally while giving back to the community they visit. Selected students receive a scholarship that covers airfare, meals, room and board during their service learning trip.

Global Vision expands the possibilities for those who wouldn't typically consider studying abroad. UCM is the only university offering this scholarship to student travelers. Annual trips take place during spring, winter, and summer breaks.

Students on the 2025 spring break trip were Ariella Allen, Yatish Appanapalli, Jada Boddy, Chloe Majumder, Abiodun Adebola Omoike, Jasmine Outlaw, Caroline Sliger, Olivia Smith and Deaihra Washington. They were accompanied by Katie Jacobs, Ph.D., professor of Psychological Science, and Ed Wirthwein, director of Community Standards and

Support.

During their week-long visit, the UCM group provided more than 250 hours of service at Programa de Apoyo y Enlace Comunitario Inc. (PAEC), Asociación Pro-Bienestar Barrio Marías de Aguada Inc. and Accion Social de PR Inc. The teams helped pack boxes of food to be distributed to families in need, visited with senior citizens in the community and helped remodel a building for one of the organizations. They also had the opportunity to learn about Puerto Rican history and tour the community.

"It was a great trip," Wirthwein said. "Our students represented UCM so well in Puerto Rico. I am so proud of them and the work they did. Our students were amazing in Puerto Rico and they have made an impact."

Many students said their time in Puerto Rico left a lasting impression and encouraged others to apply for the Global Vision scholarship.

Caroline Sliger, a senior Industrial Engineering Technology major from Kirkwood, spent most of her service time filling hundreds of boxes at the food bank. She also visited Acción de Social, a community center for senior citizens. There, a group of women taught her how to play dominoes, and she managed to accumulate the most points possible in her very



Students and employees from the University of Central Missouri and other Global Volunteers representatives pose for a photo during the UCM Global Vision group's visit to Puerto Rico in mid-March.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

first game.

"I will never forget how excited they were to have someone to talk to and play with," Sliger recalled.

Sliger said her time in Puerto Rico helped her understand more about the world, and she left with new perspectives on food insecurity and loneliness.

"What I witnessed in Puerto Rico was amazing, and it opened my eyes to a lot of situations," Sliger said. "Being able to volunteer and witness another culture is something that

everyone should do at least once in their life."

Deaihra Washington, a senior from Kansas City majoring in Health Studies, and Jada Boddy, an Accounting senior from Woodland Park, Colorado, helped organize supplies and paint doors at PAEC, an organization that supports local youth. They also spent time at Acción de Social.

"One of my main highlights from the trip was seeing the smiles on the director and her staff's faces when they saw how

hard we had worked for their facilities," Washington said. "My favorite part of the trip was exploring Aguadilla, Aguada and Rincon with our team lead, Yani."

Boddy applied for the Global Vision scholarship to learn more about other cultures. After a week volunteering in Puerto Rico, she said the experience changed her life and she plans to participate in more service opportunities.

"My favorite part was feeling that I truly im-

pacted the lives of those at the community center," Boddy said. "The workers and participants were extremely grateful, so it felt as if we really contributed. I also loved genuinely making connections with the community and learning about the history of Puerto Rico."

For more information about Global Vision at UCM, visit ucmo.edu/globalvision.

Release courtesy of the University of Central Missouri.

Hundreds protest, march in downtown Warrensburg

By Zach Bott
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WARRENSBURG — The streets of downtown Warrensburg were filled with chants of "Organize, Resist" and "We the People United" as hundreds gathered and marched in opposition to the current administration and its actions on Saturday, March 29.

Signs advocating for a people's democracy, supporting the education and Social Security system and women's and transgender rights flooded the Johnson County Courthouse lawn and up and down Holden Street.

Led by police, the peaceful protesters marched from downtown to the University of Central Missouri quad and stood around the Bill of Rights printed on the university's flagpole, where they heard speeches from local advocates.

Teacher Sarah Carey is in her 18th year of teaching and, like many teachers, disagreed with the distrust of teachers and the dismantling of the Department of Education.

"They're putting us up to be the enemy, and we can't be trusted with their children," Carey said. "We can't be trusted to choose the books for our libraries and take care of our children."

Carey argued that people calling for the removal of federal funds in schools are not realizing the impact and importance of those funds.

"President Donald Trump is destroying everything I love about our

great nation," Carey said during her speech on the UCM quad. "He's brought incompetence, fear and corruption to the White House. He claims to put America first, but he does it by dismantling our foreign aid system, alienating our allies and weakening our position in the world."

Carey said the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, is "clumsily hacking through programs and agencies with a dull machete."

She said cuts made have already hurt American farmers, veterans, national parks and medical research. All the while, the cuts give tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy, which Carey said is not a noble cause.

Recently, the Signal chat leaks between government officials detailing military information of a strike in Yemen caused more concern for national security, according to Carey.

"They put the lives of our military, men and women, at risk," Carey said. "They have broken the trust of the allies to share vital intelligence with us and tarnished the reputation of our country over the convenience of an app and the ability to illegally hide their actions from the American people."

Carey told those in attendance to demand better from their government and elected officials. She advised writing letters demanding accountability and respect for the rule of law.

"Don't turn away. We no longer have the luxury of apathy in America. We cannot give up on Amer-

ica," Carey said. "Keep standing up for your families and your fellow Americans. Keep fighting for our future and the America that we love."

Jackson County First District Legislator and UCM alum Manny Abarca made the drive back to his alma mater because he wanted to support the smaller communities, especially Warrensburg, where he spent a lot of time.

"I can't remember a time when this amount of people gathered for any one progressive issue on campus when I was here," Abarca said. "This is powerful. There are professors here and (other) people who are respected in the community who are sharing that it's time to speak out. I think that message is very loud and clear, whether they spoke or not today."

Abarca said that, even though there would be push back, people must keep fighting and protesting for what they believe in.

"Our government itself is not against us," Abacara said. "The people who run it are. The only way we change that is to vote and run."

Echoing the sentiment of Carey, Abarca said change comes from the people at the ballot boxes.

"Don't let this be the last action you do," Abarca said. "Go home, amplified, charged up and make sure you take a picture of this crowd and share with everyone you know. Tag your city council (members), tag your county commissioners and tell



Steve "Dr. Love" Ciafullo, wearing a "Good Trouble" shirt, leads the protest march on Saturday, March 29, in Warrensburg. The march traveled south on Holden Street to the University of Central Missouri quad.

PHOTO BY ZACH BOTT | STAR-JOURNAL

them you're fed up."

Steve "Dr. Love" Ciafullo protested for the second time in a month and spoke on his beliefs of government corruption.

"We believe in the rule of law, not the law of rulers," Ciafullo said. "The threat to our Constitution does not come from the outside, but it comes within the quarters of the White House and the halls of the current Department of Justice. This is not normal. This is not right. This is not American."

Ciafullo said the attacks against judges and lawyers are unjust and go against the guardrails of democracy. He also said the jailings without due process of law threaten justice and promote an authoritarian society.

"We need to speak up for our marginalized

communities, our workers, our families, our farmers and our government employees," Ciafullo said. "They have declared war on women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, health care, Medicaid, Medicare and the Social Security system. You paid into it. You deserve it. Don't let anybody take it away."

On DEI, which stands for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Ciafullo said the current administration actually stands for "Disorder, Entitlement and Incompetence." Meanwhile, Ciafullo believed DEI is about humanity and its ability to pick each other up and become stronger together.

Ciafullo acknowledged the frustration and disappointment in the crowd and across the country.

He said they must channel their emotions and continue to push forward.

"We're not going to be intimidated by the bullies, by a felon, a fascist, a grifter (or) a traitor," Ciafullo said. "Take to heart the words of Dr. (Martin Luther) King (Jr.) when he told us 'There could be no great disappointment where there is not great love.'"

"It's not going to be a short fight. Fight for that positive change and have the moral courage to stand up," he continued. "Change doesn't start from the top down. Change starts from the bottom up and percolates up. Change happens when ordinary people do extraordinary things, and you're extraordinary people."

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