HOW TO GUIDE
Walking you through the decisions of life
SPECIAL SECTION

NEW ERA
SFCC hires Jeremy Jackson as next men's basketball coach
SPORTS A6

Cypress Valley Nursery
WINDSOR'S NEWEST GREENHOUSE
38686 Van Slyke Rd.
Monday - Saturday
8 AM - 6 PM

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

Issue 34 • Volume 157 Tuesday, April 29, 2025 SedaliaDemocrat.com • $2

Oldham resigns from Sedalia City Council over "alarming" allegations

By Democrat Staff

City of Sedalia First Ward Councilman Tom Oldham has submitted his resignation, the City announced in a press release on Friday, April 25.

The resignation was made after allegations were brought against Oldham on Thursday, April 24. In its release, the City of Sedalia states "these allegations are deeply alarming and disheartening."

The City is not involved in the investigation or the matter. Jurisdiction and all related proceedings fall under the authority of Pettis County officials.

The Democrat reached out to Sheriff Brad Anders, who said the case is open and active and he has little ability to comment further.

"It's going to take time," Anders said. "Because the techniques utilized are extensive to extract data."

As of press time Monday, April 28, there have been no charges filed.

Anders said he cannot comment on the nature of the allegations due to it being an ongoing investigation.

"There is no answer available at this time," Anders said. "No."

The City did not offer further comment when contacted by the Democrat, referring to the initial press release.

"I am shocked to hear the news," Mayor Andrew Dawson said in a statement. "We understand the Public's concern and take these matters seriously. Our thoughts are with everyone affected as this situation unfolds. We remain committed to transparency and integrity in local government. I accepted Tom's resignation from the city council last night."



City of Sedalia First Ward Councilperson Tom Oldham resigned from his position late Thursday, April 26. He was sworn in for a third term on Monday, April 21.
FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Sedalia will begin the process of filling the vacant First Ward seat in accordance with municipal procedures. Procedures state a successor to the vacant office shall be selected by appointment by the mayor with the advice and consent of a majority of the remaining members of the council. The person would serve until the April 2026 Municipal election.

Oldham was first elected to the Council in 2019, and was sworn into his third term on Monday, April 21. He received 312 votes (56.32%) compared to Albert Reine Jr.'s 236 (42.6%).

Reine told the Democrat he was also upset by the allegations.

See **OLDHAM,** Page 5A

Katy Trail celebrates Founders Day with tree plantings and cleanup

By Chris Howell
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

Dozens of Edward Jones Investments employees and Missouri State parks representatives gathered at the Sedalia Depot on Saturday, April 26, to celebrate the Katy Trail and the efforts of Edward "Ted" Jones and his wife Pat's dream of making the rail trail a reality.

Joe Eddy is a financial advisor and regional leader for Edward Jones. Eddy and other guests visited Sedalia to pick up litter and plant trees in the memory of Ted and Pat.

"The Katy Trail is near and dear to Edward Jones," Eddy said. "Our second managing partner was Edward D. Jones Jr, we know him as Ted. Ted had a vision for this trail after seeing one in Wisconsin that was similar."

Jones went from door to door, farm to farm, convincing landowners along the abandoned tracks to buy into the idea of a trail spanning Missouri. He even spent $2.2 million of his own money to make it a reality back in 1990.

"It's tremendous, not just for Sedalia but all those communities along the trail," Eddy said. "A lot of them have been revitalized. I live in Rocheport, and there's Bed and Breakfasts, there's bike shops and restaurants and it really revitalized those communities after the MKT railroad left."

With the final 12-mile stretch completed in 2011, the Katy Trail features 26 trailheads and four restored train depots along its gravel path. The founding of the longest State park in Missouri owes much of its origin to Ted and Pat Jones.

"They would have been 100 years old this year," Eddy said. "Ted and his wife Pat met on a bike ride when they were in their youth. They were always lovers of nature and would have been 100 years old this year and it coincides with the 35th anniversary of the Katy Trail. We'll be planting some trees, picking up some litter, just celebrating the founding of the trail and having some fun."



Joe Eddy with Edward Jones Investment is ready to plant a tree as Daniel Brigman with Missouri State Parks finishes digging the hole Saturday, April 26, at the Katy Depot.
PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

Daniel Brigman is the deputy regional director of the Missouri State Parks of the northern region.

Brigman told the Democrat this Founders Day event has become a new tradition for the trail and the people who love it.

"We have been doing Founders Day," Brigman said. "This will be the third celebration of the creation of the Katy Trail. This is the 35th anniversary of the opening of the Katy Trail, it opened in Apr. 1990."

With a live band to provide musical accompaniment, the volunteers grabbed shovels, trees and mulch and began planting trees by the Depot.

"It's also the 100th birthday of Ted and Pat Jones," Brigman said. "We're just having a big celebration because of the importance of the Katy Trail and the collaborative effort that it's taken over all those years to get this awesome, world famous, rails to trail open and accessible to whomever wants to come out." The 30 different varieties of oak trees provided by MO State Parks and planted by Edwards Jones employees may look small now, but with time and encouragement they will eventually provide shade and beauty to those visiting the trail.



Representatives of Missouri State Parks, Edwards Jones Investments employees and friends of the Katy Trail gathered at Sedalia's Katy Depot to celebrate founder's day and the 100th birthdays of Ted and Pat Jones, who were instrumental in the trail's creation.
PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

"I just encourage everybody to come out and check out the Katy Trail if they've never been on it before," Brigman said. "It's one of the most world-renowned rails to trail, and an awesome opportunity to get outdoors as well as to visit places like the Sedalia Depot that's on the National Register of historic places, that's a gem of the Katy Trail as a whole."

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146



Sedalia/Pettis County NAACP guest speaker Evangelist Evelyn Elmore, on the left of Higginsville, poses for a photo with NAACP President Alona Boggess-Reid on Saturday, April 25. Elmore spoke during the annual Freedom Fund Banquet hosted at Best Western State Fair Inn.
PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

Sedalia/Pettis County NAACP hosts annual Freedom Banquet

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocra.com

The Sedalia/Pettis County Chapter of the NAACP hosted its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Saturday, April 25, at Best Western State Fair Inn. This year's theme was "Don't worry, God's Got Your Back."

Opening the event was Mistress of Ceremonies Carmen Taylor, who told the crowd that "darkness cannot drive out darkness, hate cannot drive out hate, but only love can do that. And for times such as this, we need love." Afterward, Bishop Paul Jones gave a scripture and prayer, quoting the scripture, "Let not your heart be troubled," from John 14:1.

Mayor Pro Tem Tina Boggess, Second Ward Councilwoman, read an official city proclamation. She also introduced local and state dignitaries: Sedalia First Ward Councilman Jack Robinson, Sedalia Third Ward Councilman Bob Cross, Sedalia Police Chief David Woolery, interim CIty Administrator Matt Wirt, Judge Paul Beard, and Rep. Brad Pollitt, R-Sedalia.

Rhonda Chalfant provided information on the local NAACP Education and Growth. She also spoke about parents' responsibilities and the fact that they should teach their children the laws of God. She added that they should also teach respect for others and history.

See **NAACP,** Page 5A

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DEATH NOTICES

Johnson

Dennis P. "Denny" Johnson, 75, of Knob Noster, passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025 at his home.

Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 .m.Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at Heckart Funeral Home.

Memorial service will be 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at Heckart Funeral Home.

Burial will follow at 3:00 p.m. at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Higginsville with full military honors.

Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Roberts

Juanita Lea Roberts, 76, of Fortuna, MO, passed away Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Rest Haven Nursing Home in Sedalia.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until service time on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home with burial to follow in the Moreau Cemetery near Tipton. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Moreau Cemetery.

Tullis

Dr. Gregory "Greg" E. Tullis, 67, passed away on April 23, 2025, in Sedalia, Missouri.

A celebration of Greg's life will be held at noon on Sunday, May 4 at the Clearfork Shelter in Knob Noster State Park.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Jane Coffin Childs Fund for Medical Research.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Uptegrove

James Omar Uptegrove, 71, of Cole Camp, passed away Sunday, April 27, 2025. Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Stover Cemetery in Stover under the direction of the Fox Funeral Home in Cole Camp.

FUNERALS

Marguerite Ellis

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

Dennis P. "Denny" Johnson

11 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home in Tipton. Arrangements are under the direction of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home.

James Omar Uptegrove

1 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Stover Cemetery in Stover. Arrangements are under the direction of Fox Funeral Home.

Dr. Gregory "Greg" E. Tullis

Noon Sunday, May 4, at the Clearfork Shelter in Knob Noster State Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

Dennis P. "Denny" Johnson

12:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Heckart Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

John K. Fravel

Noon Friday, May 16, at Calvary Baptist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

DEMOCRAT SALUTES



The Sedalia Lions Club began their highway clean-up Saturday April 26. The group collected 21 bags of trash, plus a broken chair, large wood pieces and metal pipes. For seven years, the group has started at the stop-lights on West Highway 50 by Steak 'n Shake, and moved west 1.25 miles covering both sides of the highway. The Lions Club will conduct cleanup every five weeks until October. From left: Lions Scott Matz, Tim Berube, Jacqueline Russell, Mel Garrett and Matt Boatwright. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF WINMANN

Photo Submissions

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

Check out our E-Editions to find what you're looking for!
Sedalia Democrat
www.sedaliademocrat.com

CRASH REPORTS

Two killed in Benton County head on accident

A Clinton woman, 44, was killed, and a Clinton man, 26, was killed at 8:45 p.m. Friday, April 25, in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the crash occurred as the woman was driving a 2012 Dodge Avenger south on Missouri Highway 7 on the Mile Long Bridge and crossed into the path of a 2013 Chevrolet Tahoe driven north by the man. The Avenger struck the Tahoe head-on, then hit the bridge and went into the water.

Neither driver was wearing a seat belt. They were pronounced dead on scene by Benton County Corner Weston Miller and transported to the County Coroner's Office.

Two teens hurt in Henry County accident

A 15-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl from Warrensburg suffered minor injuries at 4:10 p.m. Friday, April 25, in a Henry County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the crash occurred as a 2017 Chevrolet Malibu driven by the girl south on Missouri Highway 13 stopped to turn and a 2015 GMC Sierra driven south by a 52-year-old man from Montrose failed to slow, overtook and struck the vehicle in the rear.

Everyone was wearing a seatbelt.

The boy and girl were transported to Golden Valley Hospital by Golden Valley Ambulance District.

Centerview woman hurt in Johnson County accident

A Centerview woman, 66, suffered minor injuries at 10:22 p.m. Friday, April 25, in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, she was driving a 2006 Ford F-150 west on Highway 50, east of NW 631 Road, when she left the roadway and struck some trees.

It is unknown if the driver was wearing a seat belt, she was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg by Johnson County Ambulance District.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

POLICE REPORTS

Arrests

April 20

8:37 p.m.: Elizabeth Annabel Carver, 32, was arrested after a traffic stop for an expired tag near East 17th Street and South Washington Avenue. Carver was intoxicated and was issued a uniform traffic ticket for DWI.

April 24

8:42 a.m.: Adam Hill, 47, was arrested after officers were dispatched to Woods East, 701 East Broadway Blvd. in reference to the theft of a bottle of alcohol. Officers got a direction of travel and a description and Hill was located near 11th Street and Washington Avenue. He was released on scene with a city summons for shoplifting. The stolen property was recovered and returned to the store.

6:58 p.m.: Stephanie Sorrells, 36, was arrested after a vehicle stop for expired plates in the 1400 block of South Limit Avenue. The driver did not have a valid license and was released on scene with a citation.

April 25

2:16 a.m.: Justin Lee Beckman, 28, was arrested after a traffic stop near Air Center Circle. The driver was found to have a suspended license and was issued a summons.

1:46 p.m.: Freddy Lopez Lopez, 40, was arrested after officers traveling East on Clinton Road noticed the vehicle traveling west failing to maintain its half of the roadway. The driver was determined to be revoked and was arrested, booked and released.

8:45 p.m.: Dylan James Nelson, 24, was arrested after officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near East 16th Street and South Washington Avenue for defective license plate lights. The driver stated he had no driver's license and after a computer check it was confirmed he had a revoked driver's license. The driver was arrested and released on scene with a court summons.

9:03 p.m.: Efrain Rubio, 38, was arrested after a vehicle stop in the 400 block of North Prospect Avenue after being observed recklessly driving and disobeying a signal light. The driver was intoxicated and had a revoked driver's license. He was arrested and released to a sober person pending charges of DWI - prior offender, driving while suspended and resisting arrest.

10:33 p.m.: Andres Carlos Romero, 46, was arrested after Police stopped a vehicle at East 15th Street and South Summit Avenue for a moving violation. The operator was given a ticket for no driver's license.

April 26

1:08 a.m.: Jacob W. Slayden, 27, was arrested after a traffic stop in the 4100 block of West Broadway Blvd. The driver was arrested for driving while suspended, transported to the police department, processed and released with a court summons.

9:50 p.m.: Christopher Nicholas Steck, 34, was arrested after the Sedalia Police Department's K-9 Unit stopped a motor vehicle at East Sixth Street and South Montgomery Avenue for a moving violation and knowledge the operator was suspended. During the traffic stop the passenger was placed under arrest for drug possession and transported to the Pettis County Jail for processing.

10:19 p.m.: Juan Nicholas Rubio, 33, was arrested after a traffic stop near South Moniteau Avenue and West 16th Street. The driver did not have a valid driver's license, was transported to the police department and issued a ticket.

11:02 p.m.: Gonzalo Lucas Medina, 39, was arrested after being observed in a vehicle driven by a revoked driver. A traffic stop near South Vermont Avenue and South Wilkerson Street found the driver was also intoxicated. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail and placed on a 24-hour hold on state charges of DWI persistent offender and driving while revoked.

April 27

1:33 a.m.: Jose Luis Blas Herrera, 35, was arrested after a vehicle stop near East Broadway Boulevard and South New York Avenue for driving without lights. The driver was intoxicated and had no license. He was placed on the 24-hour hold at the Pettis County Jail on state charges of DWI and driving without a license.

7:05 p.m.: Henry Choc Quix, 20, was arrested after a traffic stop on a vehicle that failed to yield to a stop sign near West 16th Street and South Moniteau Avenue. Officers gave the driver citations for driving while suspended and failure to yield. Quix was released on scene.

9:14 p.m.: David S. Harden, 45, was arrested after an officer responded to a business in the 3300 block of West Broadway Blvd. for the report of an assault. The victim and witnesses claimed an impaired subject had caused a disturbance within the business and then threw water on the victim. The suspect was arrested for assault and transported to the police department.

April 28

1:54 a.m.: Robert L Haynes, 44, was arrested after a traffic stop on a vehicle at the intersection of State Fair Boulevard and West Broadway Blvd. The driver had a suspended license and was transported to the police department and released.

Incidents

April 17

4:25 p.m.: A subject was seen dumping several bags of residential trash into the dumpster at Centennial Park. The suspect was identified and charges are pending.

April 23

135 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 300 block of West Fourth Street for a domestic disturbance that was no longer in process. The victim said her ex-boyfriend broke into her house and assaulted her. She said the suspect also slashed two of her tires. Charges will be submitted for second-degree domestic assault and property damage.

April 24

1:32 a.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1600 block of East Fifth Street in reference to property damage. The caller wanted to report damage to her vehicle and a general information report was generated.

7:35 a.m.: Officers responded to the 1800 block of South Grand Avenue in reference to a theft. The victim said her cell phone was stolen and the suspect was calling her husband and harassing him. An investigation is ongoing.

April 25

7:23 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the intersection of West Broadway Boulevard and South Limit Avenue for a damaged road sign. They cleared the obstruction, notified MoDOT and completed a property damage report.

10:23 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 3700 block of South Limit Avenue in reference to a vehicle theft. They collected information and submitted a report.

12:01 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to Walmart for a reported theft. They gathered the needed information for a report and charges were submitted to the prosecuting attorney's office.

11:58 p.m.: Officers responded to Menards, 4400 Wisconsin Ave, in reference to a previous theft. Approximately $140 in merchandise was stolen from the business. A suspect has not been identified and a report was made of the incident.

April 26

7:09 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 2000 block of South Lamine Avenue in reference to an abandoned vehicle on private property. The vehicle was located and appeared to have crashed and the driver fled. A report was submitted.

11:34 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the police department lobby for a found stop sign. They submitted it to found property.

3:55 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to Liberty Park for a reported harassment. They gathered information, completed a report and filed the charges through the state.

5:29 p.m.: Police took a found property report in the 100 block of East 20th Street.

April 27

1:15 a.m.: Officers responded to Casey's store, 1601 East Broadway Blvd, for a property damage report. Information for the report was collected and documented.

1:29 p.m.: Officers conducted a traffic stop on a red Chevy truck pulling a camper with a stolen Missouri plate on the camper. The plate was recovered and a report was taken.

7:40 p.m.: Officers were called to the 1800 block of South Sneed Avenue for a report of theft. They gathered information and created a report.

Pettis County Sheriff's Office

Incidents

April 26

2:40 a.m.: While on patrol near East Broadway Boulevard and South Hancock Avenue a Pettis detective observed a car traveling westbound on Broadway with no front plate. A traffic stop found the female driver did not have a driver's license and had several warrants for her arrest out of Neosho County. She was arrested for driving while revoked, transported to the Pettis County Jail, booked and released.

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Arrests

April 25

1:48 a.m.: Ginamarie E. Marengo, 26, of Odessa was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated and speeding. She was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

11:33 p.m.: Justin S. Lange, 44, of Sedalia was arrested in Moniteau county for DWI - alcohol. He was released on summons.

April 26

1:08 a.m.: Deborah L. Spore, 66, of Centerview was arrested for felony driving while intoxicating causing injury, failure to register a motor vehicle and failure to drive on the right side of the road resulting in a crash. She was transported to the Western Missouri medical center and released.

1:51 a.m.: Santu Inek, 29, of Marshall was arrested in Pettis County for driving while intoxicated, no valid driver's license, and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was transported to the Pettis County Jail.

10:46 p.m.: Austin D. Ethington, 26, of Concordia was arrested in Johnson County for felony fleeing, speeding and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway. He was transported to the Johnson County Detention Center.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

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Sumner Insurance Services bids farewell to longtime agent

This month, Sumner Insurance will bid a heartfelt farewell to a cherished member of our team, Wilma Hicks, as she retires, marking the end of an extraordinary career that has spanned over four decades in both banking and insurance.

Hicks' professional journey began in 1977 at Third National Bank, where she dedicated over 33 years to the banwwking industry and a total of 47 years in financial services. As a personal banker, she handled everything from annuities and bonds to customer service, always putting people first. "I've been in the financial field my whole life," she shared. "Helping people has always been at the heart of what I do."

Her transition into the insurance world came unexpectedly. After retiring from banking, she wasn't looking for a new job. However, conversations with Sherry Sumner and a phone call from Keith Sumner changed everything. "The next thing I knew, I was working at Sumner Insurance," she recalled with a smile. "Keith wanted me to be an agent and help expand the financial side of insurance."

Hicks then worked from the Sedalia office and via a Satellite office in Morgan County during Medicare Enrollment.

"I made so many friends and clients. It's the people I'll miss the most."

Over the past decade at Sumner Insurance, Hicks continued to grow and adapt, mastering new areas such as Medicare, life and health insurance, as well as still offering her expertise with annuities.

"Every day is a learning experience," she reflected. "I never did any of that at the bank, and the growth I experienced here has been incredible."

When asked about the most rewarding part of her career, she didn't hesitate.

"The personal connections," Hicks said. "My clients weren't just clients; they became friends. When I see them at the store,it's like running into an old friend. I'll miss that terribly."

She witnessed immense change throughout her career, particularly with technology.

"Everything is electronic now, whereas it used to be all paper," Hicks said. "I survived the transition, but it hasn't been easy. The younger generation here is so talented, and they've been a tremendous help. It's one of the reasons I know it's time to pass the torch."

Reflecting on her dual careers in banking and insurance, Hicks said, "Both careers made me a better, more competent person. I've been able to help so many along the way, and that's what mattered most. I hope my clients remember that I truly cared, that I took the time to listen and understand their needs."

As she steps into retirement, Hicks' plans are simple but fulfilling: "Sleeping late in the mornings, spending more time with my grandkids, and taking some fun day trips. I'll take it one day at a time."

She leaves behind words of wisdom for those starting out in the insurance industry: "Hang in there. It's hard at first, but once you build your customer base, you'll look forward to every day. It gets better."

She expresses her deepest gratitude to the entire Sumner family and her colleagues: "The Sumner family, both generations, and all my fellow employees have made this journey unforgettable."

As Hicks puts it, "I want my clients to know they're in good hands. Everyone here is more than capable of stepping in and taking great care of them. I never planned to be at Sumner Insurance for 10 years. I came back thinking I'd help out for a year or two, but I just couldn't leave. The Sumner family and the clients kept me here and will be what I miss the most."

Sumner Insurance celebrates her incredible career and thanks her for her years of dedication, compassion, and hard work. She has left a lasting legacy that will be felt for years to come.

Release courtesy of Sumner Insurance.

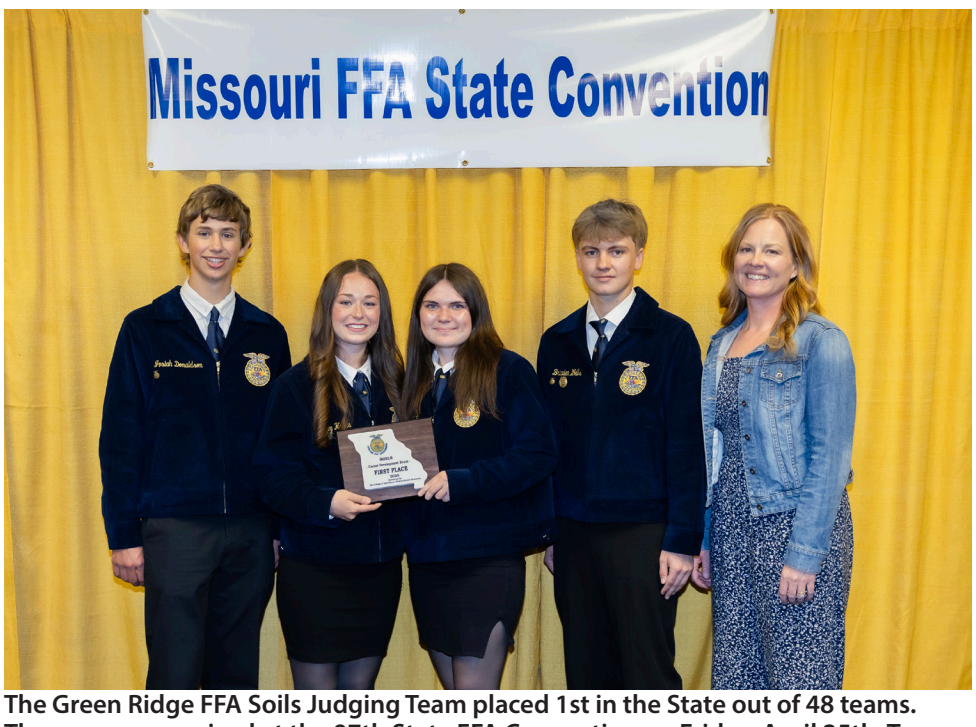


Wilma Hicks will retire from Sumner Insurance this month. Hicks' professional journey began in 1977 at Third National Bank, where she dedicated over 33 years to the banking industry and a total of 47 years in financial services. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMNER INSURANCE

Green Ridge FFA captures two state championships



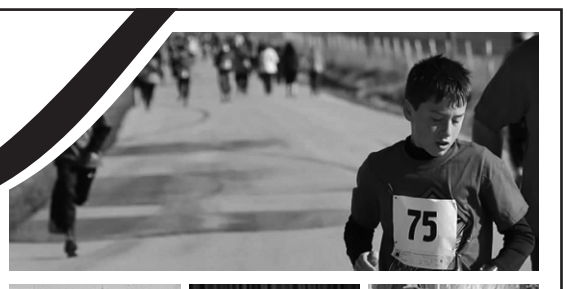
The Green Ridge FFA Poultry Judging Team placed 1st in the State out of 48 teams. They were recognized at the 97th State FFA Convention on Friday, April 25th. Team members are: Elliott Cooley placing 2nd individually out of 183 participants, Mallory Reed placed 4th, Elyse Cooley finished 7th and Maggie Reed received a gold rating. The team has been practicing and attending practice contests since January. They will compete at Nationals during the 2025 National FFA Convention held in October. Pictured from left to right are: Elyse Cooley, Elliott Cooley, Mallory Reed, Maggie Reed, and Laura Cooley, FFA Advisor. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA COOLEY



The Green Ridge FFA Soils Judging Team placed 1st in the State out of 48 teams. They were recognized at the 97th State FFA Convention on Friday, April 25th. Team members are: Kate Berry who placed 2nd out of 189 individuals, Brayden Wells placed 4th, Miley Hayes finished 26th and Josiah Donaldson ranked 31st. This team travels to El Reno, Oklahoma this week to compete at Nationals. Pictured from left to right are Josiah Donaldson, Miley Hayes, Kate Berry, Brayden Wells and Laura Cooley, FFA Advisor.



Devon's Beat



2025
5K RUN/WALK/BIKE





Saturday
May 3rd

Proceeds go toward youth heart screenings

QUESTIONS?
Call 660-287-2888

devonsbeat.com

This year's event is our 13th annual and we are changing things up a bit with an afternoon run! Best dressed prize will be awarded so dress Fun!!!!!

- Youth heart screenings 9am-3pm at Lincoln R2, sign up at myheartcheck.org
- Registration 5pm at Lincoln Baptist Church, Foster Hall
- 5k run walk and bike 5:30pm
- Dance and Auction featuring Borderline Band at Lincoln VFW 5925 doors open at 6:30 band starts at 7:30 free will donation cover fee.
- This year if you complete the 5k you will get one free adult beverage at the VFW (ages 21 and older) and a free pop or water (under 21)
- 5k Winners will be announced at 7pm at the Lincoln VFW
- Lots of great auction items, including gift certificates, kc chiefs and royals memorabilia, loads of rock, a gun, smoked meat and much much more.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

How to stop an anxiety spiral



Gwen Rockwood
Syndicated Columnist

A windsock shaped like a hot air balloon with a spiral tail is suspended above our backyard deck. When the wind blows, the balloon spins, and the spiral twirls below it, catching my eye when I walk past the window.

Maybe I notice that spiraling tail because the windsock isn't the only thing around here that spins. I do it, too, except my version isn't nearly as pretty. Unlike the windsock, my spiral is powered by thoughts — random ones, weird ones, and scary ones.

Here's an example of how it happens. The other day, I was folding a warm load of towels I'd just scooped out of the dryer. Just a normal chore on a normal day full of mostly normal thoughts. But then one thought went rogue and offered up a disturbing "what if." I don't even remember the specifics of it now, but in the moment, it was so bad that my brain latched on and ran with it. I imagined the shock, the fallout and the grief. Within moments, my throat tightened, my stomach felt sick, and tears were in my eyes.

If my husband had walked into the room then, he would've said, "What happened?" And the truthful answer would've been this: In reality, absolutely nothing. Inside my mind, soul-crushing tragedy.

A few minutes in, I noticed the absurdity of it. Then I went from miserable straight to mad. Why do I do this to myself? How is it possible that one crazy thought, like a sudden gust of wind, can send me on an anxiety spiral so intense that my body reacts as if that imagined scenario were actually happening?

I decided to look into it. I figured if I better understood how anxiety works in the brain, I might get better at stopping the spiral before it picks up speed. I consulted a new book written by Martha Beck called "Beyond Anxiety." Beck is an American sociologist, life coach, and a person Oprah Winfrey once called "one of the smartest women I know."

In a CNN interview about her book, Beck explained the difference between fear and anxiety. "Healthy fear is a response to something dangerous that we experience as an intense burst of energy that subsides almost immediately when the danger passes. Anxiety is a response to our thoughts. We feel fear responses to things that are not present, may not have happened, may never happen. The feelings can linger even when we're completely safe. Anxiety is like being haunted."

The word "haunted" feels particularly accurate to me. But why does this happen? Beck says it's because the human brain has a "negativity bias," which means we're constantly looking for potential threats. She illustrates it by saying that if you walk into a room where there are 15 puppies and 1 cobra, your attention will shoot straight toward that cobra. We pay attention to what scares us.

But sometimes, that cobra is just a random thought that slithers across your mind. Or an elaborate "what if." Beck says, "...humans are the only animal that can take an imagined fear and turn it into a consistent, sustained experience of anxiety."

So, how do we sidestep the anxiety spiral? That's a longer story than one column can explain, so I'll let the book do the teaching. But here are three important things I learned from reading it.

1. You can't horsewhip your anxiety into submission. Self-criticism won't work. Researchers estimate that we have more than 6,000 thoughts per day. A few of them are bound to be startling, but we can choose not to feed those thoughts more of our attention and time.

2. Try treating anxiety the same way you'd treat a small, frightened kitten who showed up on your doorstep during a thunderstorm. Keep in mind that this kitten has just been fully freaked out by a cobra. Use a calm, gentle voice. Slow movements. Kind words. Deep breaths. Give it time and space. Tell her she's safe.

3. Finally, remember that anxiety is produced in the left hemisphere of the brain (which thinks it's correct about everything even when it's not.) So, do something that forces your brain to use the right hemisphere, which likes to solve problems using creativity and inventiveness. The human brain turns off anxiety when it turns on creativity. Artistic masterpieces aren't necessary here. Just use your hands to make something (even a sandwich and a jigsaw puzzle would work). It'll help your right brain work its magic while your anxious left brain backs off to let you rest and reset.

From one cobra tamer to another, may we all be kind to our wild and precious minds. As author and former world champion athlete Dan Millman once said, "You don't have to control your thoughts. You just have to stop letting them control you."

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Sedalia Democrat welcomes letters from its readers on topics of general public interest.Persons with questions concerning Letters to the Editor may contact the Democrat at 660-826-1000 during regular business hours. Please note the following guidelines for letters and their submission:

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

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



CONTRIBUTING COLUMN

Jimmie Thompson arrested in Mexico



Rhonda Chalfant
Contributing Columnist

Jimmie Thompson, former cashier of the First National Bank accused of embezzling funds and forcing the closure of the bank, was arrested in Mexico City, where he had fled after leaving Sedalia in May 1894. The U.S. asked that Thompson be extradited to be tried in Missouri.

The process was fraught with delays and problems.

Pettis County Prosecutor Hoffman told the Sedalia Democrat how the arrest came to be made.

Hoffman wrote to the State Department in Washington, D.C. about extradition procedures.

The State Department suggested that an indictment was advisable. Hoffman met with the Grand Jury at the next sitting of the Criminal Court in November 1894.

Because an election of county officials had occurred, the current county clerk left office and a new county clerk came into office. As a result the indictment papers charging Thompson with forgery and larceny were not available until February 22, 1895.

Hoffman gave the documents to the Sheriff Porter, who delivered them to Missouri Governor William Stone, who forwarded them to the State Department along with a request for extradition.

The proper documents arrived in Sedalia in early May 1895. Sheriff Porter could not immediately go to Mexico City, however, for he had to appear in the Circuit Court's sitting of the Criminal Court In Boonville.

Porter finally left for Mexico City on May 17, first taking a train to Kansas City, then going on to Mexico City.

An article in the St. Louis Globe Democrat and reprinted in the Sedalia Democrat noted that Porter arrived in Mexico City and gave the indictment papers to the American Legation and Department of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Government.

Sheriff Porter was told he could arrest Thompson.

Thompson and his adult son Collins Thompson, who had joined his father in Mexico City, were walking to their boarding house when Porter arrested Thompson and requested he be extradited to the U.S. for a trial in Missouri.

Thompson was placed in the Belem Prison in a room in the "department of distinction."

When Thompson had first arrived in Mexico City, he met with U.S. Counsel General Thomas Crittenden, an old friend of the Thompson family and former governor of Missouri.

Collins Thompson became employed as a secretary and stenographer in Crittenden's office.

Thompson and his son had lived "exemplary lives" in Mexico City. They visited the Y.M.C.A. and attended churches.

Thompson was planning to go work with a mining company in Gurrero, Mexico.

"Very few people," the newspaper reported, knew why Thompson and his son came to Mexico City.

Crittenden and his friends, the Globe-Democrat reported, provided Thompson with sympathy and "as much cooperation as [was] deemed proper."

After his arrest, Thompson contacted his attorney in Mexico City, the highly respected Don Francisco Alfaro, who asked for a copy of the arrest paperwork.

The Mexican government ultimately refused to extradite Thomson, citing the extradition treaty between the U.S. and Mexico.

The treaty identified forgery only in connection with making counterfeit currency or using counterfeit currency. It defined larceny as "[stealing] goods …of a value of $25 or more when the crime is committed within the frontier states or territories."

Extradition was refused. The court believed there was a lack of evidence of forgery. According to the wording of the treaty, the court was correct. The crime of larceny had happened in Missouri. Again, according to the language of the treaty, the court was correct.

In addition to the badly worded treaty, another reason for the refusal to extradite existed.

The Mexican government was angry with U.S. President Grover Cleveland, who served from 1885-1889 and from 1893-1897.

Cleveland had refused to extradite a U.S. citizen accused of murder in Mexico. Cleveland believed Mexican authorities wanted to prosecute the American on charges of political involvement, so he refused extradition.

It was an "open secret" in Mexico City, according to the Globe Democrat, that "things would be evened up when the opportunity offered," and Mexico would refuse extradition in cases involving the U.S.

For whatever reason—the badly worded treaty or revenge against Cleveland, Thompson was not extradited. He remained in Mexico City, where he was visited by friends from Sedalia.

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

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Ready for warmer weather



Jack Miller
Guest Columnist

Like many people my age, I do not like cold weather, and I have looked forward to the warmer temperatures of April for what has seemed like a never-ending Winter.

According to my wife, I gripe too much about being cold, and I start looking for signs of warmer weather like Robins as early as January. I have also been known to curse Punxsutawney Phil because he always seems to see his shadow on Groundhog Day.

After hearing the furnace cycling on and off all winter, I was more than ready for the silence at night as it takes its seasonal break. I know it won't be long before the air conditioner starts its noise again, but for just a little while, I will enjoy sleeping in the silence.

I also like that I can go outside without a heavy coat now that the days have become warmer. I wasn't always this tender in the cold weather. I remember how the ice and snow of Winter were even enjoyable to me as a kid, but now that I am many decades past that stage of life, my body prefers the warm sunny days of Spring and Summer.

I don't even mind the April showers that I know will make the grass grow faster, and that means I will have to mow more often. The warmer weather and the rains also mean it is garden time again, and while my gardens are smaller now than they were when I was younger and could still bend over far enough to tend a garden, I always enjoy the smaller harvest just as much as the larger ones I used to plant.

I also look forward to the flowers that come up each year, some that my children and grandchildren planted for my wife and I, and some that were on the property when we moved here.

There are also Wildflowers, including Bachelor Buttons, that come up outside my back fence each year. I have tried to bring them into my yard, but the Wildflowers do not survive, no matter what I do. This poem was written after I decided to enjoy the Wildflowers wherever they wish to grow.

The wildflower

The wildflower is an independent plant It needs no help from man
It grows and blooms where others can't And does so in dirt or sand
But the wildflower dies Or will refuse to thrive
When I try to lend a hand

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

NAACP

Continued from Page A1

"We need as Americans to know the accurate history of all the groups of people who make up the United States," Chalfant said. "Remember, we are a nation of immigrants. Accurate Black history is especially important."

During the event, Dynisha Hawkins read a passage from the Bible, Psalms 91:2-15 and Pastor Ron Tooley of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Marshall sang.

Sedalia/Pettis County NAACP President Alona Boggess-Reid introduced the event's special guest speaker, Evangelist Evelyn Elmore of Higginsville. Boggess-Reid added that the crowd was in for a "real treat." She had previously heard Elmore speak at Burn Free Will Chapel in Sedalia.

"It was this lady who brought the message," Boggess-Reid said. "She is a minister, at the New Beginnings Love Ministry Church."

Evelyn Elmore also brought her husband of 56 years, Glen Elmore, who is also a minister, with her. Evelyn Elmore is known for presenting her message through comedy, anecdotes, and jokes as Sister Liedell. During the event, she wore an elaborate pink hat but soon whipped out a black hat to represent her role as the church announcement clerk and then a crown-like hat to represent wearing a crown in heaven.

"When they called me to speak tonight, I said, "Do you want me to come as a comedian, or do you want me to preach?" Evelyn Elmore said. "They said bring both. So, I'm bringing Sister Liedell, the church lady, and Reverand Evangelist Evelyn Elmore, the preacher."

Evelyn Elmore smiled and told the crowd she was "a survivor of the wooden spoon, lead paint, no baby car seat, no seat belt, (and) no bike helmet."

"I survived riding in the back of a pick-up truck and drinking out of a water hose," she added. "Oh, don't forget I survived getting my own switch — do y'all remember that?"

With songs like "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," bluesy lyrics like "hell is hot, there ain't no water there, no ice, no tea, no lemonade ..." and her own rendition of "How Great Thou Art," she had the crowd laughing, but she also offered a pertinent message inside the comedy.



The Rev. Evelyn Elmore, the speaker at the Sedalia/Pettis County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, entertained guests with comedy surrounded by a spiritual message. Also known as Sister Liedell for her comedy routine, she wore many hats during her message.
PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

On a serious note, she told the crowd to "live your best life."

"I'm living my life so I can live again," Evelyn Elmore said. "I'm trusting God, my Savior ...."

She added God gives everyone a choice.

"Don't worry God's got your back," Evelyn Elmore said. "God's timing is never early or too late. God's timing is in control of everything and everyone. When we know God is in control, we wait differently. There are three 'Cs' in life: choice, chance, and change. You must make the choice to take a chance if you want anything in your life to change."

Evelyn Elmore noted no matter how many possessions you have, loneliness and happiness remain the same.

"As you mature and grow in grace, you realize your true inner happiness does not come from material things of this world," she noted. "Educate your children to be happy ...."

She added God can change anyone and "make a way out of no way."

"I'm going to end with this: don't worry, don't worry. He's got us," Evelyn Elmore said.



Dynisha Hawkins reads a passage from the Bible, Psalms 91:2-15 during the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet hosted Saturday, April 25, at Best Western State Fair Inn.



Pastor Ron Tooley, on the left, of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Marshall, sings during the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on Saturday, April 25, at Best Western State Fair Inn.

Sedalia/Pettis County NAACP Treasurer Steve Boggs closed the event with music.

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

OLDHAM

Continued from Page A1

"This is a difficult time for many people," Reine told the Democrat. "I believe the mayor will take the time needed to consider the best path forward for First Ward. If there's a way I can be of service to the community I would be honored to help. For now I'm simply standing by and respecting the process."

The Sedalia Firefighters Local 103, which endorsed Oldham during the 2025 election, issued a statement Friday afternoon.

"We are shocked, hurt and deeply disappointed by the recent serious allegations made against Councilman Tom Oldham," the statement said. "He sought and received our endorsement during his campaign and to now learn of these troubling accusations is both heartbreaking and infuriating. We endorsed Mr. Oldham in good faith, based on his past support of firefighters. To discover that he may have betrayed not only our trust but the trust of the community is devastating. While we do not know the full details, we believe that anyone potentially harmed in this situation deserves support, compassion and to be heard."

Democrat Reporter Chris Howell and Managing Editor Joe Andrews contributed to this report.

THE WEATHER

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TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
66 / 56	69 / 60	70 / 51	68 / 47	74 / 54	74 / 57	78 / 61
Couple of thunderstorms	Occasional rain and a thunderstorm	Rain; breezy in the afternoon	Sunny; breezy in the afternoon	Nice with plenty of sun	A couple of afternoon thunderstorms	Partly sunny, showers around; humid

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Boonville	68/57/t	71/60/r	71/49/r	69/47/s	73/52/s	76/56/t	79/59/sh
Branson	75/61/t	77/61/r	73/55/t	73/48/pc	76/51/s	78/53/t	82/54/sh
Cape Girardeau	78/62/t	79/67/t	75/57/t	73/49/pc	73/50/s	77/56/pc	82/57/pc
Carthage	67/59/r	70/58/r	71/50/t	69/48/pc	77/57/s	77/61/t	80/64/t
Columbia	68/58/t	73/59/t	71/52/r	70/49/s	73/55/s	75/57/t	80/61/sh
El Dorado Spgs	66/58/r	70/59/r	72/50/r	69/49/pc	74/54/s	75/58/t	78/61/r
Excelsior Springs	68/56/t	69/58/r	70/48/r	67/46/s	74/52/s	72/54/t	78/58/sh
Falls City	69/54/s	67/52/t	69/47/pc	70/44/s	77/55/s	73/59/t	77/59/sh
Fayetteville	75/64/t	76/60/t	74/55/t	70/47/pc	75/57/s	77/58/t	80/63/c
Florissant	74/58/t	73/65/t	69/52/t	71/49/s	74/51/s	75/55/c	81/60/sh
Fulton	68/56/t	71/60/t	69/51/r	70/46/s	70/51/s	72/54/c	78/58/sh
Grandview	64/57/t	68/58/r	71/50/r	68/51/s	74/56/s	73/59/t	79/62/sh
Jefferson City	71/59/t	73/62/t	71/53/r	72/48/s	76/55/s	77/57/pc	83/61/sh
Joplin	67/60/r	70/60/r	72/52/t	71/49/pc	76/57/s	77/61/t	78/64/t
Kansas City, KS	67/57/t	68/58/r	69/50/r	69/51/s	75/56/s	75/60/t	80/62/sh
Kansas City, MO	66/56/t	67/58/r	70/47/r	68/48/s	75/54/s	72/58/t	78/60/sh
Kennett	82/63/t	84/64/t	81/60/t	75/53/pc	77/54/s	80/60/pc	86/63/c
Kirksville	67/52/t	69/58/t	66/46/r	64/41/sh	72/50/s	73/52/t	76/56/pc
Lawrence	66/56/t	69/56/r	71/46/c	70/44/s	74/56/s	72/61/t	76/62/sh
Marshall	66/56/t	69/58/r	68/48/r	66/46/s	73/51/s	73/55/t	77/58/sh
Moberly	66/55/t	70/59/r	66/47/r	65/43/s	72/53/s	73/54/t	76/58/pc
Mountain Home	76/63/t	79/62/t	76/56/t	73/50/pc	74/54/s	76/56/sh	79/57/sh
Paducah	81/64/t	81/69/t	76/58/t	75/49/pc	73/48/s	77/56/pc	81/58/pc
Poplar Bluff	76/63/t	81/64/t	74/57/t	75/51/pc	76/52/s	77/57/pc	82/58/sh
Rolla	70/58/t	75/62/r	70/52/t	70/44/s	74/53/s	75/56/pc	79/60/sh
St. Joseph	70/55/t	69/56/t	69/46/sh	70/44/s	77/54/s	75/59/t	76/60/sh
St. Louis	75/60/t	77/66/t	69/56/t	70/51/s	75/54/s	77/58/c	83/63/sh
Sedalia	66/56/t	69/60/r	70/51/r	68/47/s	74/54/s	74/57/t	78/61/sh
Springfield, IL	73/55/t	72/63/t	68/50/t	68/43/s	71/48/s	74/55/c	80/57/sh
Springfield, MO	68/60/r	74/60/r	69/53/t	70/47/c	73/55/s	74/57/t	79/61/sh
Tipton	67/57/t	71/60/t	68/50/r	69/48/s	72/52/s	74/55/t	79/59/sh
Topeka	68/56/t	70/56/r	71/48/sh	73/46/s	77/56/s	75/61/t	79/61/sh
Tulsa	68/61/r	69/60/t	78/57/r	73/53/c	76/58/pc	74/62/t	78/64/t
Versailles	67/58/t	71/61/t	70/49/r	71/47/s	73/56/s	74/58/t	80/62/sh
Warrensburg	64/56/t	67/59/r	70/51/r	69/46/s	74/53/s	75/57/t	80/60/sh

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

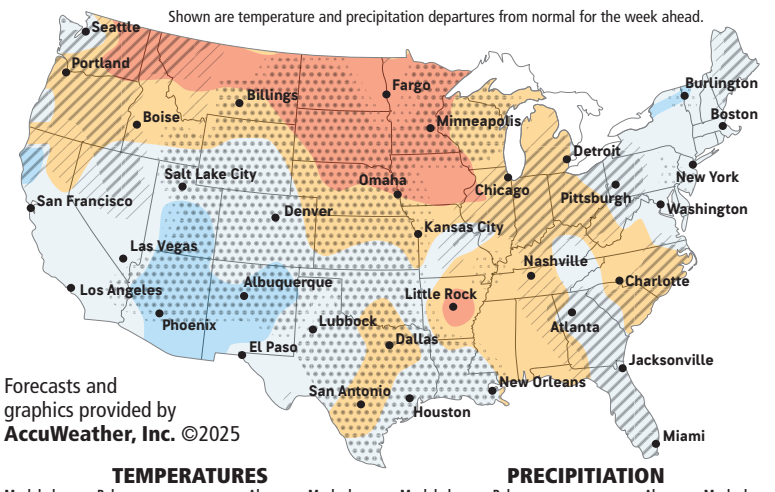
	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Sunrise	6:18 a.m.	6:17 a.m.	6:15 a.m.	6:14 a.m.	6:13 a.m.	6:12 a.m.	6:11 a.m.
Sunset	8:03 p.m.	8:04 p.m.	8:05 p.m.	8:06 p.m.	8:07 p.m.	8:08 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
Moonrise	7:17 a.m.	8:09 a.m.	9:12 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12:38 p.m.	1:43 p.m.
Moonset	11:04 p.m.	none	12:14 a.m.	1:12 a.m.	1:57 a.m.	2:33 a.m.	3:02 a.m.

MOON PHASES

FIRST	FULL	LAST	NEW
May 4	May 12	May 20	May 26

NATIONAL WEATHER THIS WEEK

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



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

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

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

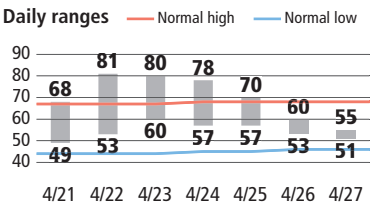
City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	Mon. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	72/45/c	72/50/pc	77/53/c	70/50/pc	76/53/pc	79/46/s	63/46/pc
Atlanta	81/65/pc	83/64/t	83/63/pc	82/60/t	79/57/pc	80/61/pc	81/62/pc
Billings	70/44/pc	59/42/sh	65/41/pc	77/48/s	81/50/s	76/47/pc	60/43/r
Boise	66/43/c	70/45/s	74/50/s	83/55/s	62/42/c	57/40/r	70/46/pc
Charlotte	81/63/c	85/66/pc	84/66/pc	80/63/t	81/57/s	80/58/s	78/60/pc
Chicago	73/44/t	59/53/c	70/48/r	61/44/sh	64/48/s	74/56/pc	78/59/pc
Dallas	85/69/pc	73/66/t	87/66/s	74/62/t	75/64/t	79/67/t	81/69/t
Denver	64/41/pc	68/41/s	53/40/r	70/45/c	74/48/t	82/48/pc	62/42/pc
Detroit	84/40/t	61/49/pc	71/52/t	64/40/sh	59/42/s	71/49/s	73/53/pc
El Paso	84/59/s	84/56/s	89/61/s	86/60/s	86/62/s	91/61/pc	80/57/pc
Houston	85/73/pc	84/72/t	87/72/t	86/67/t	81/68/c	82/71/sh	83/73/pc
Jacksonville	82/60/pc	82/62/s	86/66/pc	90/65/pc	86/64/t	82/63/pc	80/64/s
Las Vegas	82/64/s	86/64/c	81/64/c	86/68/s	82/55/pc	65/51/pc	74/59/c
Little Rock	87/68/c	88/65/t	83/62/t	79/57/pc	81/60/pc	79/62/t	85/66/pc
Los Angeles	74/56/s	70/55/pc	71/58/s	70/59/pc	68/53/pc	67/54/pc	70/55/pc
Miami	83/73/pc	83/73/pc	83/74/pc	84/72/pc	86/73/pc	87/72/s	86/71/sh
Minneapolis	61/43/c	66/48/s	62/43/sh	61/45/pc	74/57/s	76/60/t	79/62/t
Nashville	85/67/t	84/69/t	84/65/t	79/53/pc	73/51/s	79/58/pc	84/62/c
New Orleans	87/72/pc	86/73/pc	86/69/t	86/70/c	81/69/t	84/71/pc	83/72/pc
Omaha	67/48/pc	67/50/t	70/45/pc	69/45/s	76/54/s	75/59/t	76/60/c
Phoenix	88/65/s	93/68/s	94/67/s	94/69/s	94/63/s	74/55/pc	80/62/s
Pittsburgh	83/48/t	69/55/pc	80/63/t	70/48/sh	59/40/pc	69/46/s	73/52/c
Portland, OR	67/44/sh	70/48/c	82/52/s	69/50/pc	63/46/sh	63/46/pc	63/51/pc
Salt Lake City	68/49/pc	60/47/sh	69/49/s	77/57/s	75/50/pc	60/46/r	62/44/r
San Francisco	67/52/pc	67/52/pc	64/52/pc	63/51/pc	60/50/pc	62/49/s	67/52/s
Seattle	61/44/c	64/46/pc	74/51/s	67/48/sh	55/43/r	61/45/pc	59/49/pc
Washington, DC	84/68/pc	84/62/t	81/69/t	85/62/t	75/53/s	73/56/s	76/56/c

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport through 4/27

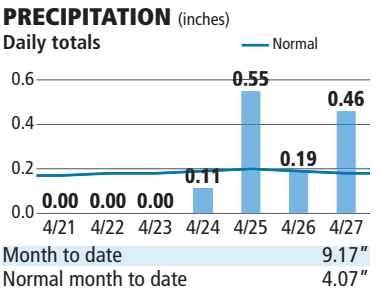
TEMPERATURES

Daily ranges — Normal high — Normal low



PRECIPITATION (inches)

Daily totals — Normal



Month to date	9.17"
Normal month to date	4.07"
Year to date	13.42"
Normal year to date	10.90"

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

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

For the week ending 4/27	10
Month to date	19
Year to date	44
Normal year to date	18
Last year to date	51

WEATHER HISTORY

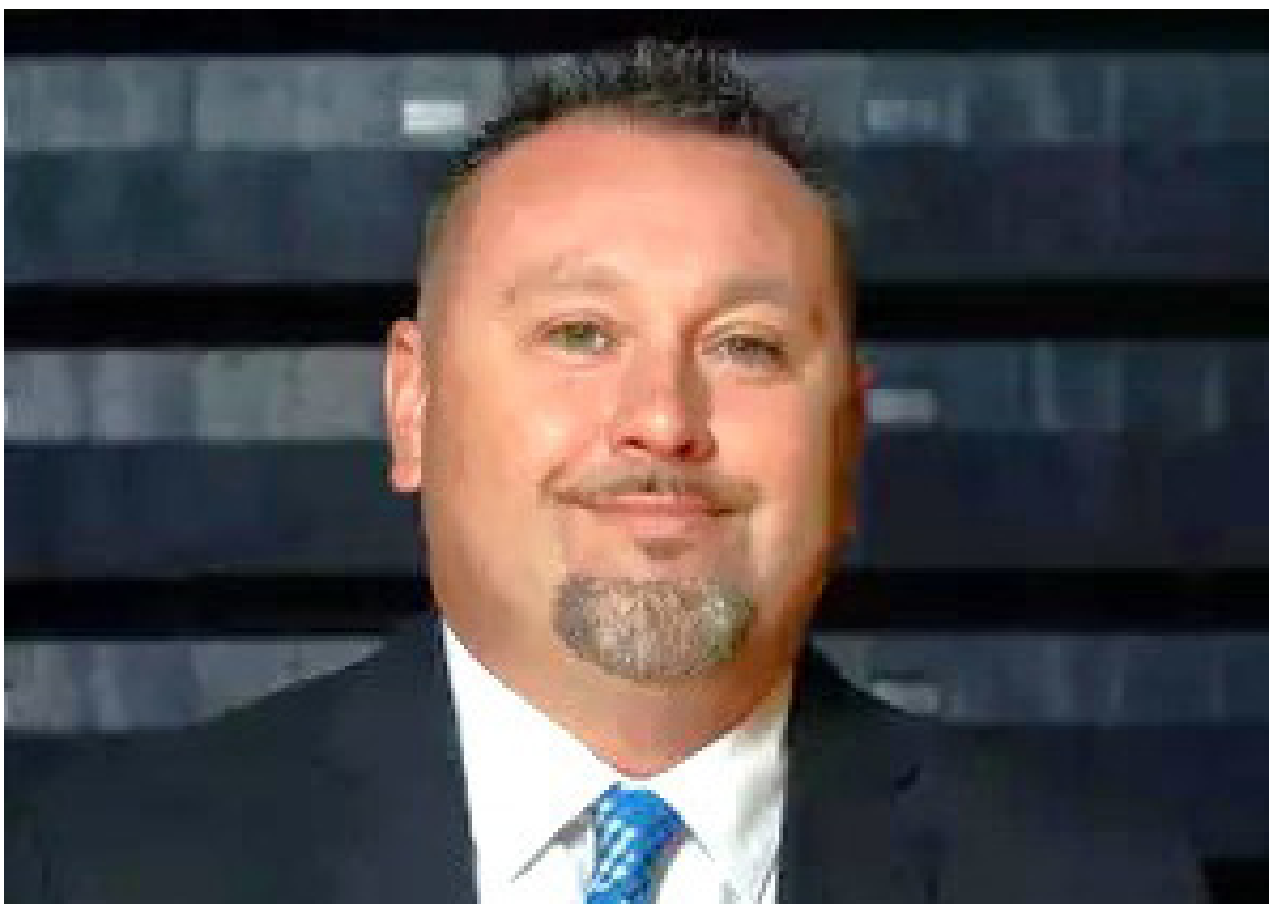
A late-season cold snap on April 29, 1874, brought 0.50 of an inch of snow to New York City, its latest measurable snowfall on record.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What type of cloud often resembles a big fluffy pillow?

A: A Cumulus cloud





Jeremy Jackson was named the next head coach for State Fair Community College men's basketball on Friday, April 25. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE ATHLETICS

SFCC names Jackson as next men's basketball coach

By Jack Denebeim
jackd@sedaliademocrat.com

Jeremy Jackson believes in the untapped potential surrounding State Fair Community College men's basketball.

Jackson will now look to extract that potential after he was named the program's new head coach on Friday, April 25.

"I'm honored," Jackson said. "I think the program is a sleeping giant there waiting to take off on the national scene on the men's basketball side. I think there's a lot of great people there supporting the program and I just can't wait to get started in building this thing, putting a solid foundation on it and watching it grow."

According to a press release from SFCC, Jackson was selected from a pool of over 90 applicants, making him the seventh head coach in program history.

"It was a two-way street," SFCC athletic director Darren Pannier said. "He pursued us. We pursued him. We want somebody that wants to be here for a while and his track record has been very successful with student-athletes moving on, student-athletes graduating, retention, and that works right into our ath-

See **COACH,** Page 8A

SFCC baseball uses clutch plays to down Jefferson College

By Jack Denebeim
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State Fair Community College baseball delivered when it mattered most against Jefferson College.

The Roadrunners trailed late in both games of the doubleheader Saturday, April 26, but came back in the final innings to win the first game 3-2 and the second game 5-3 at Smith-Cotton High School.

"That's something we've done all season," SFCC head coach Jud Kindle said. "We're a pretty resilient team, so I've been very happy with our performance, especially in the late innings, which are the innings that you need to be clutch. We've been able to do that."

In the first game, SFCC (29-15) trailed 2-1 and was down to its final strike before sophomore Dayne Wimberly blasted a two-run home run to right field for the walk-off win.

"I was excited for him," Kindle said. "[Wimberly]'s a great hitter. He's done a lot of great things for our program over the last two years. There was one earlier this season that was really close, like right down the line, but they ended up calling it foul. I'm just happy for the kid. To see him walk off a win is awesome."

Sophomore Caleb Briggs reached on an error with one out in the bottom of the seventh to bring the winning run to the plate for the Roadrunners.

Sophomore Jordan Hedrick popped out to set the stage for Wimberly.

Wimberly swung and missed at the first two pitches he saw before sending the next one deep.

Wimberly finished the first game

See **BASEBALL,** Page 8A

Young falls in UFC debut

By Jack Denebeim
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Sedalia-native Gauge Young lost his UFC debut to Evan Elder by way of unanimous decision on Saturday, April 26, at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City.

All three judges scored the lightweight bout 30-27 in favor of Elder.

Young, 24, made his UFC debut on short notice after Ahmad Hassanzada was dropped from the fight card due to him being arrested for alleged child sex

See **UFC,** Page 8A

Kaysinger Tournament Roundup: Killion fans 17 to help Northwest advance to Monday's semis

By Democrat Staff

Northwest senior Gage Killion struck out 17 batters in the No. 3 Mustangs' 4-0 win over No. 6 Green Ridge with La Monte during the first round of the Kaysinger Conference Tournament on Saturday, April 26, in Cole Camp.

The 17 strikeouts are a single-game Northwest school record and helped Killion earn his 100th career strikeout.

Killion pitched all seven innings of the contest, allowed no runs on five hits and walked none as well.

The Mustangs (9-9, 4-2 Kaysinger Conference) scored one run in the bottom of the third, one run in the bottom of the fifth and two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Junior Elliot Nieters was 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Sophomore Connor Throp and senior Blaine Arnett were each 1-for-3 with an RBI.

Sophomore Max Tylar led the Tigers/Vikings (7-7, 3-3 Kaysinger Conference) at the plate and on the mound. Tylar went 2-for-3 batting and pitched six innings, allowed four runs on seven hits, walked three and struck out one.

Green Ridge with La Monte fell to the consolation bracket where it faced Smithton after press deadline.

Northwest moved on to face Otterville in the semifinals after press deadline Monday.

Check sedaliademocrat.com Tuesday, April 29, for an update on all the games.

Sacred Heart takes down Lincoln to advance to semis

No. 5 Sacred Heart baseball defeated No. 4 Lincoln 12-3 in the first round of the tournament Saturday in Lincoln.

The game was tied 3-3 after three innings, but the Gremlins erupted for nine runs in the final four innings to secure the win.

Sacred Heart had runners on the corners with one out in the top of the fourth inning. Sophomore Miles Johnson reached on an error by the Cardinals, which scored the go-ahead run.

Freshman Cash Conardy reached on an error as well, bringing in another run.

One batter later, junior Noah Damlo hit a two-RBIs single to put the Gremlins (6-9, 2-2 Kaysinger Conference) up 7-3.

A dropped third strike by Lincoln (9-11, 3-2 Kaysinger Conference) scored freshman Colt Conardy in the top of the fifth inning to make it an 8-3 game.

Sacred Heart recorded five hits in the top of the sixth inning, including RBI singles from Colt Conardy and sophomore Wyatt Damlo.

A bases-loaded walk drawn by freshman Jayden Pruitt in the top of the seventh added the final run of the game.

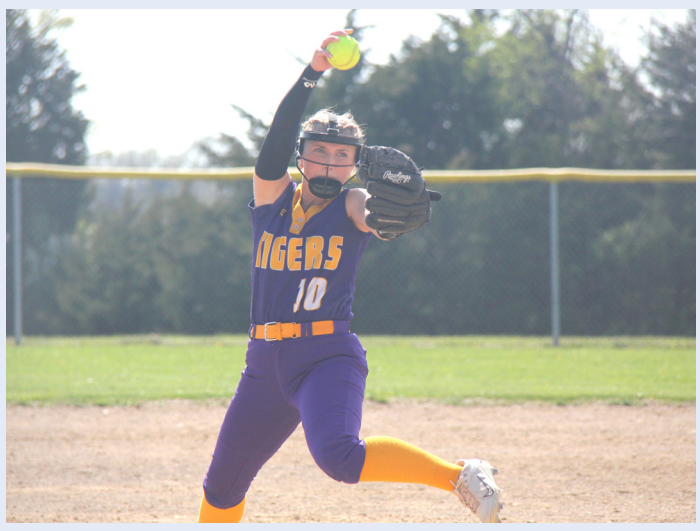
Pruitt went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored. Two of his RBIs came on a two-RBIs single he hit in the top of the first inning.

Colt Conardy also finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Noah Damlo was 2-for-5 with two

See **TOURNAMENT,** Page 8A

DeVorss breaks Green Ridge softball's career strikeouts record

By Jack Denebeim
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Green Ridge senior Mikensey DeVorss pitches the ball during the Kaysinger Conference Tournament championship game on April 12 in Lincoln. DeVorss broke Green Ridge softball's career strikeouts record on Wednesday, April 23. FILE PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

For the past week, the number 406 has been on the mind of senior Mikensey DeVorss.

That mark represents the Green Ridge softball career strikeouts record, a milestone DeVorss achieved during the Lady Tigers' 8-7 win over Windsor on Wednesday, April 23, in Green Ridge.

"I was definitely happy [to reach the record]," DeVorss said. "It was something that I was thinking about, worried about and it just felt good to know that it was accomplished."

DeVorss needed nine strikeouts against Windsor to break the record. She reached that mark with her first strikeout in the top of the seventh inning, but in a close game, there was no time to celebrate.

"I was happy. I was smiling, but we didn't stop the game just yet," DeVorss said. "We wanted to go ahead and finish it out and then celebrate after."

DeVorss struck out the next two batters to bring her total for the game up to 11 and secure the win for the Lady Tigers.

"I was getting pretty tired, but I feel like the adrenaline from what was going on and it being my 406th strikeout, it gave me more energy than I would have," DeVorss said. "I was just thinking about getting that strikeout — just throw a strike and hope for the best. It ended up working out for me."

After the game, DeVorss' teammates and coaches presented her with a banner, signs and the ball she broke the record with.

"I'm just proud," Green Ridge softball head coach Kaylee Schaberg said. "I can take very little credit for what Kensey has done in high school, but I'm just really proud. I mean, it's really exciting to see all that she has done behind the scenes pay off."

DeVorss broke the record of 405 career strikeouts previously held by Samantha Unkel, which stood for roughly a decade.

"It really just makes me feel like all my hard work amounted to something that people can go look back on," DeVorss said. "I can go and look back and be able to say, 'I did this.' I'm proud of myself for being able to accomplish it."

Along with her 11-strikeout outing against Windsor, DeVorss pitched four no-hit innings and had seven strikeouts in a 20-1 win over Santa Fe on April 7. She also went 4-for-5 with three triples, a double and six RBIs at the plate in that game.

DeVorss threw five innings, allowed just one hit and struck out seven in an 8-0 shutout of Stover on April 11.

In a 4-2 upset win over Northwest in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament semifinals, DeVorss tossed five innings, allowed two runs

See **DEVORSS,** Page 8A

Holiway, Gray earn conference titles at CMAC Championships



Smith-Cotton sophomore Elijah Holiway races around the track during the Smith-Cotton Quad on March 21. Holiway placed first in the 1600-meter run at the CMAC Championships on Saturday, April 26. FILE PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

By Democrat Staff

Two Smith-Cotton athletes were crowned conference champions during the Central Missouri Activities Conference Track and Field Championships on Saturday, April 26, in Columbia.

Sophomore Elijah Holiway was the conference champion of the 1600-meter run, while senior Beau Gray won the conference title in the 110-meter hurdles race.

Holiway clocked in with a time of 4:28.19, while Gray finished at 14.86.

The boys 4x200-meter relay team of Gray, junior Giovanni Alicea, junior Keegan Clark and freshman Asher Cason set the school's record with a time of 1:29.59, helping them finish second in the event.

Senior Dalton Perry broke his own school record in the javelin throw, finishing with a mark of 50.65 (166 feet, 2 inches). He placed fourth in the event.

As a unit, the boys team placed fifth with 86 points. The girls team placed eighth with 36 points.

Rock Bridge won the team title on the boys side with 135 points, while Helias Catholic won on the girls side with 186 points.

Among other notable finishes for Smith-Cotton, Gray placed second in the 300-meter hurdles race with a time of 41.55.

Senior Luis Juarez placed second in the shot put with a mark of 13.85 meters (45-5.25). Senior Rashawn Umbles placed third in the same event with a mark of 13.75 meters (45-1.50).

Holiway placed third in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:59.31.

Alicea placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.98. He also placed fifth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.12.

Clark placed fourth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.82.

Sophomore Cirilo Romero finished sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:04.47.

Senior Landon Gemes earned sixth place in the discus throw with a mark of 40.05 meters (131-5). Umbles finished ninth with a mark of 36.20 meters (118-9).

Senior Jose Lorenzo came in eighth during the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.88.

Freshman Beckett Eisenmenger came in ninth during the 3200-meter run, finishing with a time of 11:01.03.

Senior Kyren Staten finished 10th in the 200-meter dash, coming in with a time of 23.47.

Sophomore Miles Haney placed 10th in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:05.27.

The boys 4x100-meter relay team placed fourth (46.91), the 4x400-meter relay team placed fifth (3:50.66) and the 4x800-meter relay team placed fifth (8:55.12).

On the girls side, freshman Alivia Washington was the conference runner-up in the long jump, finishing with a mark of 5.14 meters (16-10.50).

Washington also placed ninth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.41.

Freshman Bella Blackaby placed third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.21. She also placed fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.40.

Senior Daniela Gonzalez placed fifth in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:34.06.

Freshman Kayleigh Winfrey placed seventh in the 800-meter run, finishing with a time of 2:41.16.

Freshman Shelby Woolery placed seventh in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.71. Senior Eleanor Holiway placed 10th with a time of 21.51.

Junior Addison Washington placed seventh in the discus throw with a mark of 27.13 meters (89-0). She also placed ninth in the shot put with a mark of 9.04 meters (29-8).

Senior Julie Kuehner placed eighth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:59.81.

Eleanor Holiway placed 10th in the javelin throw with a mark of 23.37 meters (76-8).

The girls 4x800-meter relay team placed fifth (11:14.68), the 4x100-meter relay team placed sixth (51.03) and the 4x200-meter relay team placed seventh (2:10.24).

The top-three finishers in each event received all-conference honors: First-place finishers made the first team, second-place finishers made the second team and third-place finishers were honorable mentions.

The Tigers host the Smith-Cotton Invitational at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 29.

State Fair softball ends season at sub-region tournament

By Democrat Staff

State Fair Community College softball's season came to a close Saturday, April 26, after St. Charles Community College swept the Lady Roadrunners in the best-of-three sub-region tournament in St. Charles.

SFCC lost the first game 3-1 and the second game 6-5.

St. Charles opened the first game up 2-0 after scoring twice in the first inning. That score remained until the sixth inning.

The Lady Roadrunners tacked on a run in the top of the sixth inning through a solo home run hit by sophomore Danika Sickle.

The Lady Cougars answered with a run in the bottom half of the sixth to bring the game to its final score.

Sickle and freshman Jenna Herald had the only two hits for State Fair in the game. Herald recorded a double.

Freshman Elana Clark pitched six innings, allowed three runs on seven hits, walked three and struck out six.

In the second game, St. Charles scored three runs in the top of the first inning, but SFCC responded with four runs in the bottom half of the frame to take a 4-3 lead. Sophomore Emily Burke had an RBI single, Sickle scored on an error and sophomore Myla Inman hit a two-RBIs double in the inning.

St. Charles tied the game at 4-4 with a run in the top of the third inning.

The Lady Roadrunners regained the advantage after sophomore Bailey Haselhorst hit an RBI sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The Lady Cougars scored two runs in the top of the fifth to go ahead 6-5.

SFCC had multiple runners on base in each of the last two innings, but couldn't bring them across the plate.

Burke went 3-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored in this game. Inman was 1-for-4 with two RBIs.

Herald pitched six innings, allowed six runs (three earned) on seven hits and walked two. Sophomore Kiara Sodini pitched one inning, allowed no runs on one hit and walked one.

The Lady Roadrunners finish the season with a 16-34 record.

Among the team's stat leaders, sophomore Jordan Crooks, who appeared in all 50 games, led the team at the plate with a .368 batting average. Crooks had 56 hits on the season, including eight doubles and three homers. She also had 14 RBIs.

Haselhorst and Sickle tied for the team lead in home runs with seven apiece.

Haselhorst was the RBI leader with 31.

Clark led the team in innings pitched with 87 1/3. She appeared in 19 games and started 14.

Herald had the best earned run average on the team with a 3.67 ERA.

Freshman Zoe Donahue led the team in strikeouts, recording 54.

Black sets Stover girls soccer's single-season goals record

By Democrat Staff

Stover senior Brooklyn Black scored her 18th goal of the season Saturday, April 26, making her the Lady Bulldogs' top single-season scorer of all time.

Black notched the record-breaking goal in a 6-0 win over Fair Grove during the Marshfield Round Robin Tournament in Marshfield.

Throughout the entirety of the tournament, Black scored four goals and recorded an assist.

Along with her goals in the tournament, Black scored five goals in the Lady Bulldogs' 8-0 win over Fair Grove to open the season on March 21.

She also had a five-goal game against Dixon on March 31, helping Stover with Cole Camp win 8-0.

With Black leading the way, the Lady Bulldogs were able to place second at the Marshfield Tournament.

Stover with Cole Camp lost its first game of the tournament 4-1 to Marshfield on Friday, April 25, but then beat Sikeston 1-0 in its second game of the tournament on Saturday.

Senior Nevaeh Conklin and junior Payten Shoemaker each added two goals. Conklin also had two assists, while Shoemaker had one.

Junior Casey Dills recorded 33 saves in the goal as well as two shutout victories.

Stover with Cole Camp played Blair Oaks on Monday, April 28, after press deadline.

The Lady Bulldogs (6-7) host Lone Jack on Tuesday, April 29.



HOROSCOPES

THESE HOROSCOPES ARE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2025.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

A seemingly stalled romantic situation could benefit from your reassurance that you want this relationship to work. And if you do, use a tad more of your irresistible Arian charm!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Going to new places and meeting new people appeals to both the Taurean's romantic and practical side. After all, you never can tell where these new contacts will take you, right?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

A career-changing opportunity that didn't work out when you first considered it could come up again. But this time, remember that you have more to offer and act accordingly.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

There could be some tensions in relationships -- domestic or workaday. But a calm approach that doesn't raise anger levels and a frank discussion will soon resolve the problem.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

It's a good idea to begin preparing for a career change that you've been thinking about for a while. Start to sharpen your skills and expand your background to be ready when it calls.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Bless the VIRGO skepticism that has kept you from falling into traps that others seem to rush into. But you might want to give a new possibility the benefit of the doubt, at least on a trial basis.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Traveling- and career-related energy is strong in your aspect. Perhaps your job will take you to someplace exotic, or you might be setting up meetings with potential clients or employers. Whatever it is, good luck!

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

Someone might use deception to try to push you into making a decision that you're not fully comfortable with. But your keen SCORPIO senses should keep you alert to any such attempt.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

Romance dominates this week when Cupid shafts the Archer for a change. Positive things are also happening in the workplace. Expect important news to arrive by the week's end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

Anyone trying to bully the Sea Goat -- whether it involves a personal or professional matter -- will learn a painful lesson. Others will also benefit from the Goat's strong example.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

Congratulations! With things going the way they are, you should be able to spare some time and take a break from your hectic schedule for some well-earned fun and games.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

Your sharp Piscean intuition should be able to uncover the true agendas of those who might be trying to catch the Fish in one of their schemes.

BORN THIS WEEK

Your flair for innovative art and design keeps you at least a step ahead of most everyone else. You're a visionary!

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 6A

1-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored.

Briggs was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a double. Freshman Collin Ross, sophomore Sam Paule and redshirt freshman Albert Salguera each had one hit as well.

Jefferson (28-16) took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third inning after redshirt freshman Maloy Heaghney hit a solo home run.

The Vikings doubled that lead in the top of the fifth through an RBI bunt from freshman Brady Creech.

Briggs made it a 2-1 game in the bottom half of the fifth with an RBI single that scored Salguera.

Freshman Josh Hagle was the winning pitcher after he pitched four innings, allowed one run on two hits, walked none and struck out three. Sophomore Nate Bartlett started the game and pitched three innings, allowed one run on two hits, walked one and struck out six.

In the second game, SFCC fell behind 3-2 midway through the seventh inning.

The Roadrunners opened the bottom half of the seventh with back-to-back walks by freshman Carter Rice and freshman Christian Kuchta.



State Fair Community College sophomore Dayne Wimberly hugs sophomore Caleb Briggs (9) after hitting a walk-off two-run home run in the first game of the doubleheader against Jefferson College on Saturday, April 26, at Smith-Cotton High School. PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

A sacrifice bunt by Briggs moved the runners to second and third with one out. Hedrick was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Wimberly hit a double-play ground ball, but Jefferson's first baseman dropped the ball, allowing Wimberly to reach and Rice to score and tie the game.

An error by the Vikings' catcher brought Kuchta to the plate for the go-ahead run. The next pitch was wild, allowing Wimberly to score and make it a 5-3 game.

"We found a way to manufacture runs," Kindle said. "That's how we won Game 2."

The Roadrunners recorded seven hits in the second game. Paule was 1-for-4 with two RBIs after he hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the fourth.

Hedrick was 1-for-3 with a double. Kuchta and Rice were both 1-for-1 with a run scored.

Freshman Aiden Morarity was the winning pitcher in Game 2. He tossed three innings, allowed one unearned run on one hit, walked one and struck out five.

Freshman Jacob Tellman started the game and pitched six innings, allowed two runs on two hits, walked five and struck out 10.

"Both of our starters gave us opportunities to win the game, and that's what you ask of your starters," Kindle said. "Our bullpen was lights out. All season long, we've really been able to play solid defense, have good pitching performances and find ways to manufacture runs."

SFCC celebrated sophomore night on Saturday as well.

"This sophomore group is special," Kindle said. "They're high academic kids. They're always in the community doing community service, which are great things. They deserved to have a good day."

SFCC 15, Jefferson 14

State Fair won the first game of the series with Jefferson College 15-14 on Thursday, April 27, in Hillsboro.

The game was tied 3-3 after three innings.

SFCC took a 6-3 lead after scoring three runs in the top of the fourth inning. An error by the Vikings scored two runs before Ross hit an RBI single to score Wimberly.

The Roadrunners added two more runs in the top of the fifth inning to take an 8-3 lead. Briggs had an RBI sacrifice fly, while Wimberly had an RBI ground out.

Jefferson responded with seven runs in the bottom half of the fifth to take a 10-8 lead. Creech had a two-RBIs double and redshirt freshman Dane Gray hit an RBI single in the frame.

State Fair answered back with a seven-run top of the sixth inning to reclaim a 15-10 advantage. Wimberly highlighted the inning with a grand slam, while Briggs and freshman Peyton Cooper had RBI singles.

The Vikings scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth and one run in the bottom of the seventh, but sophomore Parker Lambeth was able to close out the game on the mound.

Lambeth was the winning pitcher after tossing 2 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on four hits, walking none and striking out four.

Six Roadrunners had multiple hits in the game. Freshman Devin Wassmann led by going 3-for-4 with a home run, a double, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Briggs, Hedrick, Ross, Rice and Cooper each had two hits. Briggs had three RBIs, while Ross had two and Cooper had one.

Wimberly went 1-for-5 with five RBIs and two runs scored.

The second game of Thursday's doubleheader was canceled due to storms in the area.

According to SFCC's schedule, the game against North Central Missouri College scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, has been canceled.

The Roadrunners will host Metropolitan Community College in the best-of-three sub-regional tournament starting Friday, May 2.

"We want to be where we're at right now," Kindle said. "We're hitting our stride at the right time. We know our identity as a team. We play really well together, and if we don't get outside of our approaches we're going to be in good shape."

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

COACH

Continued from Page 6A

letic strategic plan."

Jackson most recently served as the head men's basketball coach and Wellness Center director at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma. During his seven years as head coach, Jackson compiled a 159-53 record.

Throughout his tenure, he guided NEO to four appearances in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament and five Region 2 Conference championships.

Last season, NEO went 24-8 and reached a program-best No. 3 national ranking in the NJCAA top 25.

"To me, there's no substitute for hard work," Jackson said. "You come in and you're going to see the fruits of your labor if you come in and approach it like a business every day and you go in there to get better every day. That's my biggest focus moving forward into the State Fair position — getting these guys on a business-like mentality and competing every day. That's something I've been raised at, I've implemented at NEO and I just want to continue that portion over at State Fair and take it to the next level and build a national championship level program there."

Jackson was an assistant coach at NEO from 2010-2018. In his 14-year career, he helped more than 60 student-athletes continue their academic and athletic careers at four-year schools.

Jackson replaces now-former head coach Matt Brown, who led the Roadrunners since 2017-18.

During his time at State Fair, Brown had a record of 110-123. The Roadrunners finished 18-13 this past winter.

Brown was named the next head men's basketball coach and athletic director for Calvary University in Kansas City on Wednesday, April 23.

"We appreciate Coach Brown and his tenure here at State Fair," Pannier said. "A lot of things went into the decision [to move on]. It wasn't just one thing. It was just time to move in a different direction…We wish Coach Brown the best of luck. He's already landed on his feet, so we're excited about that for him."

Along with all the potential he sees in the program, Jackson, who resides in Webb City, Missouri, with his wife, Natasha, and children, Kameron and Savannah, said there were many other factors that intrigued him about the job at SFCC.

"The program has a great tradition in history, and a lot of great players have come through the program," Jackson said. "That was definitely intriguing, but also the support and great things that I've heard about the administration there. Dr. [Brent] Bates, Coach Pannier were huge in this decision for my family and I. I'm just excited to get up there and get to work for them."

On the court, Jackson said he wants to instill a fast-pace style of play.

"Up-tempo basketball," Jackson said. "Transition basketball, getting out in running lanes, playing with a purpose. I really like to get on the defensive end, get deflections, steals, rebounds and then get out in the open court. Half court wise, we run a spacing offense where we let our guys make plays. We want to recruit basketball players. They're not robots. We want guys to want to come in and be able to make plays for themselves and others and do it together."

Jackson is eager to get started at State Fair, but also made his greater vision for the men's basketball program clear.

"Short-term, [I want] to come in and make an impact right away and bring new life to the Roadrunner family there," Jackson said. "Get excitement in the community and on the campus there to come watch and support the men's basketball side. Coach [Nicole] Collier has done a phenomenal job on the women's side. I just want to come in and learn as much as I can from her, from Coach Pannier and everybody else in the athletic department. Just come in and do some great things right away. Long-term, I want to build this into a national powerhouse that's consistently in the top 25 in the national polls, getting to [the national tournament] on a consistent basis, winning our district, our conference and I think all of those things are definitely on the horizon here."

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

UFC

Continued from Page 6A

crimes on Friday, April 18.

Young (9-3-0) was scheduled to fight in Fighting Alliance Championship 29 on May 2.

"I knew it was coming," Young said in a previous interview with the Democrat. "It was just a surreal feeling. I've been waiting for it for a long time and we kind of knew it was coming. Everything just kind of lined up. I was pretty nervous at first. My anxiety was high, my heart was pounding, but I settled into it and it's been smiles all around."

Fighting for the first time in nine months, Elder (10-2-0), a Hillsboro native, struck well throughout the fight, using kicks to all ranges and some clean punches to consistently stay ahead of Young.

Elder landed 115 strikes compared to Young's 81, according to UFC.com. Young's best round was the third where he landed 36 strikes.

Elder, 28, pushed his UFC record to 3-2, earning his third straight win inside the Octagon.

The two Missouri products showcased their respect for each other throughout the fight, even hugging at the start of Round 3.

Kansas City's David Onama also fought in Saturday's main card, defeating Giga Chikadze by unanimous decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-28).

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

DEVORSS

Continued from Page 6A

on four hits and struck out eight.

"It just feels like a lot of my hard work has paid off," DeVorss said. "Something as big as that just to have with me, feels good. It just feels like a lot of my hard work has paid off for something."

DeVorss said she has been playing softball since she has been able to, enjoying the sport from a young age.

When she was about 12, DeVorss took lessons with players from the University of Central Missouri, which she says still has an impact on her game.

"I got batting and pitching lessons from them, and both of those really helped me in the long run," DeVorss said. "I still think about what they taught me even now. I remember just the little things they helped me with. They helped a lot."

DeVorss said there are a multitude of factors that keep her on the softball field, but her love for the sport tops them all.

"I've gotten into a groove to where it just feels natural," DeVorss said. "I wish I could play all the time, honestly. There's nothing about it I don't like."

DeVorss said she plans to attend State Fair Community College next year and has spoken with the coaches there about the possibility of joining the softball team.

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

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 6A

RBIs and two runs scored.

In total, the Gremlins recorded 14 hits.

Noah Damlo was the winning pitcher after tossing five innings, allowing no runs on four hits, four walks and seven strikeouts.

Senior Camden Everhart and junior Turnner Kreisler led Lincoln by going 2-for-3. Kreisler recorded an RBI.

Junior Riley Sanders was charged with the loss after he pitched five innings, allowed eight runs on seven hits, walked two and struck out 12. Only one of his runs allowed was earned.

Lincoln played Cole Camp in a consolation game on Monday after press deadline.

Sacred Heart took on Windsor in the semifinals after press deadline Monday.

Windsor survives scare from Cole Camp

The top-seeded Greyhounds overcame a four-run deficit to beat No. 8 Cole Camp on Saturday in Cole Camp.

The Bluebirds jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the third inning after senior Joseph Hatfield had an RBI double, freshman Brett Burdick had an RBI sacrifice fly and senior Kolby Bohon had a two-RBIs single.

Windsor (17-3, 6-1) came back with two runs in the bottom half of the third through an RBI single from sophomore Jude Burkhart and an RBI sacrifice fly from senior Carter Miller.

Cole Camp (2-14, 0-5) added a run in the top of the fifth inning to take a 5-2 lead. Burdick hit an RBI single in the frame.



Northwest senior Gage Killion pitches the ball during the game against Sacred Heart on April 3. Killion struck out 17 batters against Green Ridge with La Monte to help the Mustangs advance to the Kaysinger Conference Tournament semifinals. FILE PHOTO BY JACK DENEBEIM | DEMOCRAT

The Greyhounds put up four runs in the bottom of the fifth to take their first lead of the game. Junior Reece Heany had an RBI double, Miller had an RBI single and two wild pitches from the Bluebirds added two runs.

Cole Camp tied the game at 6-6 in the top of the sixth through an RBI single from Hatfield.

Windsor broke the game open in the bottom of the sixth with four more runs. An error by Cole Camp brought in the go-ahead run before sophomore Rowan Cox had an RBI single, Heany had an RBI sacrifice fly and junior Brayden Pipal had an RBI single.

Sophomore Blake Abey had an RBI triple in the top of the seventh to add the Bluebirds' final run.

Heany went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and a run scored, while Miller was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Pipal was the winning pitcher, tossing 1 1/3 innings, allowing one run on two hits, walking one and striking out one.

Hatfield was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Burdick went 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Cole Camp defeated No. 9 Stover 8-3 in the play-in game to advance to play Windsor.

Otterville routs Smithton to advance

No. 2-seeded Otterville beat No. 7 Smithton 10-0 in six innings Saturday morning in Lincoln.

The Eagles (12-4, 4-1) scored three runs in the bottom of the third, three runs in the bottom of the fifth and four runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Junior Rhyder Millsap went 2-for-4 with three RBIs, junior Gabe Berry went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI and senior Braedyn Eads went 2-for-4 with an RBI and three runs scored.

Berry and Eads combined for six innings pitched, allowing no runs on four hits and 11 strikeouts.

Senior Sam Bray, senior Ryan Pond, senior Aden Criner and senior Cole Bass each had hits for Smithton (4-9, 1-6).

Bray pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowed 10 runs (six earned) on 12 hits, one walk and 11 strikeouts.

Smithton fell to the consolation play-in game, but defeated Stover 12-2 to stay alive in the tournament.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORDS

Tis the season for planting



Faith Bemiss - McKinney
Contributing Columnist

WINDSOR — The weather has finally warmed enough to begin our annual ritual of planting flowers. My husband, Jeff, has a green thumb and has already planted our banana trees and elephant ear bulbs. But we also enjoy heading out to local and regional greenhouses to find flowers for our hanging baskets and planters.

We usually head to Tipton to the Dutch Bakery & Bulk Food Store LLC, which has a wide selection of flowers, tomatoes, and herbs. We also head to Windsor to Mast Greenhouse, but this year, we passed the Four County Produce Auction on state Route WW, located at the turn for Lilac Lane Bulk Foods.

The Auction was in full swing and, like many places on the backroads of Windsor, was run by the Amish community. Driving the gravel roads in the area is to take a step back in time. We knew nothing about the Auction, so we decided to investigate. Horses, buggies, and wagons lined the parking lot, along with modern-day cars and trucks belonging to visitors wishing to grab some great flower deals.

As we looked around, it was quickly decided we wanted to participate, and we came away with five hanging petunia baskets at a nice price of $16 each. I also discovered that the Auction is open from April through October and has sales at 10 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday. We will be back.

Information supplied by the Auction said several local growers organized the idea of selling produce and other items. They saw a need for a "central point for growers and buyers to gather." They had also seen the success of similar auctions among the Mennonite and Amish communities.

Besides flowers, the Auction sells strawberries, tomatoes, sweet corn, cantaloupe, green beans, peppers, cucumbers, watermelon, and zucchini in late spring and into summer. In the fall, you may also find dried flowers, gourds, ornamental corn, and potted mums.

Buying flowers was only part of the therapy of driving along the bucolic countryside in that area. It took us back to a simpler time, a less complicated space. A place where clothing didn't have to be fashionable but functional and where laundry was hung out on the line to dry in the spring sunshine. Transportation along the gravel roads slowed down to a horse's canter, vegetable gardens flourished, and greenhouses were begun months in advance by whole families. We passed several sawmills where stacks of trees waited to be cut into lumber.

I'm not saying I want to give up modern conveniences, but it was a pleasant respite to drive and relax in a simpler environment. During our journeys on Friday and Saturday, we also accidentally found a few other Amish greenhouses, each offering a different take on its wares.

We found a small sign for the Wildflower Greenhouse just past Lilac Lane Bulk Foods on NE 1400 Road. It is run by an Amish family, and we purchased beautiful hanging baskets from young family members who were helping. Then, past Mast Greenhouse, located on SE 1100 Road, we found Muddy Creek Greenhouse, which was abuzz with activity. Muddy Creek had several greenhouses filled with all sorts of flowers, baskets, succulents, and other plants.

See **PLANTING,** Page 7B



It's time to plant flowers, vegetables, and herbs, and one can find an assortment of planting options at the Four County Produce Auction in Windsor at 10 a.m. each Tuesday and Friday. Local greenhouses such as Moore's and State Fair Community College also offer many options. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT



Chance McMullin, now the associate pastor at First Christian Church, is happy to have moved back to Sedalia after pastoring in the Lake of the Ozarks area for four years. McMullin will give the message for the Smith-Cotton High School Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 4. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHANCE MCMULLIN

Coming home to serve God

Minister Chance McMullin to speak at S-C Baccalaureate

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney
faithb@sedaliademocrat.com

A young minister and pastor has returned to Sedalia and First Christian Church, where he and his family are ministering to others.

Chance McMullin, a 2014 Smith-Cotton graduate, is coming full circle and will minister at the SCHS Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 4. He and his wife, Michaela, and children Saige, 6, Sam, 2, and Sawyer, 1, moved back to Sedalia four months ago. McMullin, the son of Pastor Chad McMullin, is now the church's associate minister. He and his family left Sedalia in 2021, and he became the solo pastor of Westlake Christian Church in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

"We did some amazing ministry," Chance McMullin said. "In that first year, we went from 80 members to 160 in worship. We grew so fast …. Sunday mornings were amazing, great. Then we started doing outreach, and we started supporting some missionaries … we were reaching a new group of people on the west side of the Lake, and I heard the Lord calling me back. And as hard as I fought, there's no point in fighting the Lord, right?"

Chance McMullin added he heard the Lord say, "I need you to make an impact without the need to be important." While ministering at the Lake, he practiced discipleship.

"Discipleship is this process where you move towards Christ in different ways," Chance McMullin said. "You're growing into him."

He added that there are five stepping stones along the pathway to discipleship. The first is being someone who isn't interested in God or faith. The next step is being curious, where someone begins to wonder about the existence of a higher power. The third step is moving from being curious to being a believer in God. The next step is helping believers become disciples. Lastly, the fifth step is becoming a disciple-maker.



Chance McMullin, his wife Michaela, and daughters Saige, 6, Sam, 2, and Sawyer, 1, are happy to return to Sedalia and minister at First Christian Church.

Since returning home, Chance McMullin has worked weekly with seven people in different discipleship stages.

"We have three right now who are believers trying to become disciples," Chance McMullin said. "Some of them know the way of Jesus, but they haven't committed their life to the way of Jesus. They haven't taken the leap to change parts of their lives. Some of them are surrendering to the Holy Spirit and experiencing that Spirit in a way they didn't know was possible. We have two who are disciples and trying to become disciple-makers."

Chance McMullin added that everyone is different as they walk the path of discipleship, and it's not a cookie-cutter experience.

"It's organic, authentic," Chance McMullin said. "Then we have a disciple-maker, whom I'm walking with as she makes disciples. People are flocking to her, and it's not that you get up and announce that you're a disciple-maker. She's watching and looking, and she sees all these opportunities to lead people into a deeper relationship with Christ. Then I have one person who is curious and trying to become a believer. That's a big chunk of my ministry, and this church has been amazing in providing an opportunity for me to do that — it bears unbelievable fruit. It's multiplication, not addition to the Kingdom of God."

Chance McMullin added that getting to speak at SCHS Baccalaureate is "special."

"We moved here when I was a sophomore in high school," Chance McMullin said. "I went from a school of 800 kids in every class (in Dallas, Texas) to Sedalia, which felt like a little bitty town, and then I moved to Laurie, Missouri, where there was a population of 900. So, moving back to the big city of Sedalia has been wonderful."

He added that Smith-Cotton is a wonderful school and that he also met his wife there.

"First Christian Church and Smith-Cotton High School both have invested so much into me and my wife, and now my kids," Chance McMullin said. "It's a pleasure to be back and begin investing into this community the way I was invested in."

He added that SCHS Principal Wade Norton was like a mentor to him at S-C and that he's held onto that relationship. He also fondly remembers teachers Mr. Carter and Michael Wright.

Chance McMullin was asked to speak at the Baccalaureate by the Pettis County Ministerial Association.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak," Chance McMullin said. "I remember my dad spoke at my (Baccalaureate), and he spoke on the parable of the talents, and he brought me and Andrew Tilly and Wayne Hagenbush up on stage. He gave us three baggies. (He) taught us the story of the parables, and that we should go out and be good stewards of what God's given us. It's going to be cool to get up there myself."

McMullin will present the Smith-Cotton Baccalaureate message at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. The event will be hosted at the Heckart Performing Arts Center, 2010 Tiger Pride Blvd. It is a community worship service for graduating seniors where "students and ministers offer messages and prayers of hope and achievement."

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

CLUB NOTES

Helen G. Steel Music Club

Helen G. Steele Music Club met for its regular meeting at Heard Memorial Club House on April 23. Treasurer Stacey Beard brought the meeting to order welcoming 17 guests and members.

A signup sheet is available for hostesses for the upcoming year and there is still a need for a Social Chair, who will help manage volunteer hostesses. The Courthouse Centennial Celebration will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the courthouse. The Music Club would like volunteers present to share the history of the establishment of the lady's restroom, and how music club members met there for meetings with a piano present. It was a gathering space and was much larger in those days. Volunteers may contact Cindy Decker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Betty Sue Viterna and stood approved. Board President Marty Graves reported the board has been very busy with two successful fundraisers and another scheduled for May 3. Prom day photos will be taken at the Heard House and will be taken again from 3 to 6 p.m. on May 3. The cost is $5 per person, and is CASH Only. The Heard House now has a set of wicker furniture on the front porch purchased and donated by member Nancy Moss.

Kim Lange reminded members also on May 3, the "Hello Gorgeous" vintage boutique will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sheryl Heisterberg announced the Sedalia Symphony will present its "Spring concert" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 28, at the Heckart Performing Arts Center, at Smith Cotton High School. Guest artist will be Dylan Noble, Jazz band teacher with Belton Highschool, and former student of Smith Cotton, performing Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra by York.

The program was arranged by Katie Beard and Betty Sue Viterna with guest speaker Janalea Hoffman founder of "Rhythmic Medicine" a pioneer in the field of Music Therapy she composes music and creates special techniques at specific rhythms for healing therapy. She is the author of "Music with a Purpose" now in its second printing, and her articles have appeared in "RN," "Prevention" and "Caring" magazines. Her healing power of music has been recognized in the medical community and her techniques are widely used.

Refreshments of sweets and treats were provided by hostesses Sheryl Heisterberg and Jerra Kuchner. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, with the closing luncheon.

Helen G. Steele Music is one of the oldest clubs in the state of Missouri founded in 1893 and generally meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Visitors are always welcome, dues are $40 per year. Heard Memorial Club House, is located at 200 W. Broadway Blvd. in Sedalia.

Community Retired Teachers Association

P.C. Thomas was the guest speaker at the April 16 meeting of the Community Retired Teachers Association. He invited everyone to join Toastmasters to become better listeners as well as speakers. Thomas gave an Easter devotion, "The Walk to Emmaus." Carolyn Hays conducted the business meeting. She reported on the Missouri Retired Teachers Association March 19 meeting. Evelyn Porter gave the treasurer's report and Jeanne Curry read the secretary's minutes which were approved. Members listed volunteer hours and donations. Mary Beatty invited members to the Literacy Council Tea and Auction on Sunday, April 27, at Our Savior Lutheran church. The next meeting will be May 21. All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

Sorosis

April 21, Sorosis members met at the Heard Memorial Club House with First Vice President Robin Blackburn opening the meeting welcoming twenty members and guests. Mallory Graves led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Stacey Beard presented the financial report. The minutes from the previous meeting emailed to members by Secretary Elayne Gordon stood approved. Corresponding Secretary Angela Tallman announced cards sent to ill and absent members. Board President Marty Graves reminded members we are still celebrating the 135th anniversary of "Sorosis" our women's cultural organization and one of the oldest clubs in Missouri still meeting today. An album has been organized for viewing, presenting the past Presidents of Sorosis with their photos and brief biographies. Kim Meyers, committee member of the "Hello Gorgeous" fundraiser boutique, reminded all members to be present on May 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as the Heard Memorial Club House, 200 W. Broadway will be open to the public for the sale.

Program Chair Susan Beard introduced the guest speaker; the Honorable Judge Paul Beard of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri. The probate Division of the Circuit Court is a special Division created to address the issue of disability and death in a community so that citizens have a speedy and streamlined way to seek relief in these areas when the challenges of mortality arise. Videos of programs are posted on the "Heard House" Facebook page.

Refreshments were provided by Susan Rouchka with Linda Allmon, Robin Blackburn and Rosie Bunch serving and helping with clean up. The door prize was won by Stacey Beard. The next meeting will be May 5 at 1 p.m. visitors are welcome.

How bugs beet juice could play roles in the race to replace artificial dyes in food

By Joneel Aleecia
AP Health Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — As pressure grows to get artificial colors out of the U.S. food supply, the shift may well start at Abby Tampow's laboratory desk.

On an April afternoon, the scientist hovered over tiny dishes of red dye, each a slightly different ruby hue. Her task? To match the synthetic shade used for years in a commercial bottled raspberry vinaigrette — but by using only natural ingredients.

"With this red, it needs a little more orange," Tampow said, mixing a slurry of purplish black carrot juice with a bit of beta-carotene, an orange-red color made from algae.

Tampow is part of the team at Sensient Technologies Corp., one of the world's largest dyemakers, that is rushing to help the salad dressing manufacturer — along with thousands of other American businesses — meet demands to overhaul colors used to brighten products from cereals to sports drinks.

"Most of our customers have decided that this is finally the time when they're going to make that switch to a natural color," said Dave Gebhardt, Sensient's senior technical director. He joined a recent tour of the Sensient Colors factory in a north St. Louis neighborhood.

Last week, U.S. health officials announced plans to persuade food companies to voluntarily eliminate petroleum-based artificial dyes by the end of 2026.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. called them "poisonous compounds" that endanger children's health and development, citing limited evidence of potential health risks.

The federal push follows a flurry of state laws and a January decision to ban the artificial dye known as Red 3 — found in cakes, candies and some medications — because of cancer risks in lab animals. Social media influencers and ordinary consumers have ramped up calls for artificial colors to be removed from foods.

A change to natural colors may not be fast

The Food and Drug Administration allows about three dozen color additives, including eight remaining synthetic dyes. But making the change from the petroleum-based dyes to colors derived from vegetables, fruits, flowers and even insects won't be easy, fast or cheap, said Monica Giusti, an Ohio State University food color expert.

"Study after study has shown that if all companies were to remove synthetic colors from their formulations, the supply of the natural alternatives would not be enough," Giusti said. "We are not really ready."

It can take six months to a year to convert a single product from a synthetic dye to a natural one. And it could require three to four years to build up the supply of botanical products necessary for an industrywide shift, Sensient officials said.

"It's not like there's 150 million pounds of beet juice sitting around waiting on the off chance the whole market may convert," said Paul Manning, the company's chief executive. "Tens of millions of pounds of these products need to be grown, pulled out of the ground, extracted."

To make natural dyes, Sensient works with farmers and producers around the world to harvest the raw materials, which typically arrive at the plant as bulk concentrates. They're processed and blended into liquids, granules or powders and then sent to food companies to be added to final products.

Natural dyes are harder to make and use than artificial colors. They are less consistent in color, less stable and subject to changes related to acidity, heat and light, Manning said. Blue is especially difficult. There aren't many natural sources of the color and those that exist can be hard to maintain during processing.

Also, a natural color costs about 10 times more to make than the synthetic version, Manning estimated.

"How do you get that same vividness, that same performance, that same level of safety in that product as you would in a synthetic product?" he said. "There's a lot of complexity associated with that."

The insects that could make 'Barbie pink' naturally

Companies have long used the Red 3 synthetic dye to create what Sensient officials describe as "the Barbie pink."

To create that color with a natural source might require the use of cochineal, an insect about the size of a peppercorn.

The female insects release a vibrant red pigment, carminic acid, in their bodies and eggs. The bugs live only on prickly pear cactuses in Peru and elsewhere. About 70,000 cochineal insects are needed to produce 1 kilogram, about 2.2 pounds, of dye.

"It's interesting how the most exotic colors are found in the most exotic places," said Norb Nobrega, who travels the world scouting new hues for Sensient.

Artificial dyes are used widely in U.S. foods. About 1 in 5 food products in the U.S. contains added colors, whether natural or synthetic, Manning estimated. Many contain multiple colors.

FDA requires a sample of each batch of synthetic colors to be submitted for testing and certification. Color additives derived from plant, animal or mineral sources are exempt, but have been evaluated by the agency.

Health advocates have long called for the removal of artificial dyes from foods, citing mixed studies indicating they can cause neurobehavioral problems, including hyperactivity and attention issues, in some children.

The FDA says that the approved dyes are safe when used according to regulations and that "most children have no adverse effects when consuming foods containing color additives."

But critics note that added colors are a key component of ultraprocessed foods, which account for more than 70% of the U.S. diet and have been associated with a host of chronic health problems, including heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

"I am all for getting artificial food dyes out of the food supply," said Marion Nestle, a food policy expert. "They are strictly cosmetic, have no health or safety purpose, are markers of ultraprocessed foods and may be harmful to some children."

The cautionary tale of Trix cereal

Color is powerful driver of consumer behavior and changes can backfire, Giusti noted. In 2016, food giant General Mills removed artificial dyes from Trix cereal after requests from consumers, switching to natural sources including turmeric, strawberries and radishes.

But the cereal lost its neon colors, resulting in more muted hues — and a consumer backlash. Trix fans said they missed the bright colors and familiar taste of the cereal. In 2017, the company switched back.

"When it's a product you already love, that you're used to consuming, and it changes slightly, then it may not really be the same experience," Giusti said. "Announcing a regulatory change is one step, but then the implementation is another thing."

Kennedy, the health secretary, said U.S. officials have an "understanding" with food companies to phase out artificial colors. Industry officials told The Associated Press that there is no formal agreement.

However, several companies have said they plan to accelerate a shift to natural colors in some of their products.

PepsiCo CEO Ramon Laguarta said most of its products are already free of artificial colors, and that its Lays and Tostitos brands will phase them out by the end of this year. He said the company plans to phase out artificial colors — or at least offer consumers a natural alternative — over the next few years.

Representatives for General Mills said they're "committed to continuing the conversation" with the administration. WK Kellogg officials said they are reformulating cereals used in the nation's school lunch programs to eliminate the artificial dyes and will halt any new products containing them starting next January.

Sensient officials wouldn't confirm which companies are seeking help making the switch, but they said they're ready for the surge.

"Now that there's a date, there's the timeline," Manning said. "It certainly requires action."

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MARKET REPORT
4/23/25

1826 Receipts. 12% cows.
Compared to last week
Steers and heifers traded mostly 2-7 higher,
Slaughter cows and bulls traded mostly 1-4 higher.

Steers Med & Large Frame #
300-400 lbs.....$412-$465
400-500 lbs.....$380-$447
500-600 lbs.....$325-$410
600-700 lbs.....$310-$371
700-800 lbs.....$275-$331.50
800-900 lbs.....$251-$297

Small Frame or Fleshy Steers & Bulls
400-700 lbs.....$190-$300

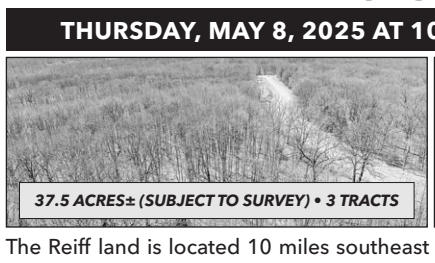
Heifers Med & Large Frame #1
300-400 lbs. $351-$442.50
400-500 lbs....$325-$425
500-600 lbs....$290-$360
600-700 lbs....$265-$321
700-800 lbs....$245-$309
800-900 lbs....$225-$271

Small Frame or Fleshy Heifers
400-700 lbs....$154-$268
Weigh Cows Bulk..$145-$154
High Dressing ...$151-$164
Low Dressing ...$115 Back
Bulls Bulk .....$175-$200

Rep Sales
1 Ld blk strs $779.....$315.00
1 Ld blk strs $859.....$240.50
1 Ld mx strs $969.....$269.50
1 Ld blk strs $741.....$294.50

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Starting at Noon

For our weekly text alerts text the word CATTLE to 660-647-6040
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Sale every Wednesday 12 PM

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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 AT 10:00 AM CT


The Reiff land is located 10 miles southeast of Versailles, MO. From Versailles, take Hwy. W southeast 7.6 miles to Golden Beach Rd. Turn right onto Golden Beach Rd., then go 1.8 miles to the property. The land lies on the west side and east side of Golden Beach Road. The land is further described as being located in Section 11, T41N-R17W, Osage Township, Morgan County, Missouri.
The property represents an excellent wooded, recreational property near Lake of the Ozarks.
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Sex: Male • Age: 0Y/6M/4W
Animal ID: SED-A-39048 • Location: Cat Adoption
George
Breed: Bulldog, English / Terrier, Pit Bull
Sex: Male • Age: 1Y/11M/1W
Animal ID: SED-A-18015 • Location: Dog Adoption
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
50 Hours — Lanyard 150 Hours — Shirt
250 Hours — Water Bottle
On holidays, your hours are recorded as double!
DONATIONS NEEDED
Bleach, Wet Cat Food, Purina Kitten Chow, Paper Towels, Dawn Dish Soap, Leashes, Grooming Supplies & Toys
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Grandmother, grandson construct model train set

By Zach Bott
zachb@warrensburgstar-journal.com



Jett Jewell, left, and his grandmother Roberta "Bobbe" Anson, right, pose for a photo in front of their model train set depicting the town of Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on Thursday, April 24, in Anson's garage in Warrensburg. PHOTO BY ZACH BOTT | STAR-JOURNAL

WARRENSBURG -— June 6, 1944, better known as D-Day, was the day when Allied forces invaded Normandy, France, and is seen as one of the first of many turning points in World War II.

Over 4,000 Allied fatalities occurred across the French beaches, including 2,510 Americans.

Colleville-sur-Mer, France, overlooks Omaha Beach, one of the five beach landing sectors of D-Day, and is home to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. Built in 1956, the cemetery honors 9,388 American personnel, most of whom were killed during the invasion of Normandy and ensuing military operations in World War II.

Wanting to honor those that came before them, and combine a new interest in model train building, Roberta "Bobbe" Anson and her grandson Jett Jewell, 12, began constructing a 1:87 model train display of the town of Colleville-sur-Mer, France, after Thanksgiving last year.

"I bought the railroad set, the track and the cars and everything after I saw how excited Jett was over a trip to Union Station in Kansas City, where they had all the different model sizes and trains," Anson said.

The Union Station model train gallery depicts American villages and landscapes. Wanting to do something different, Jewell turned his passion for history and model train building into a depiction of the Normandy American Cemetery and city of Colleville-sur-Mer, France, in 1960, after the war was over.

"Normandy is a beautiful region up in the northern part of France, (with) beautiful cliffs and scenery," Jewell said. "(It also has) historical significance of the area from the D-Day landings there back in 1944. It was significant, but we decided to put it in more passive time."

With his father in the Air Force, Jewell wanted to emulate him in any way and found his passion for history in doing so.

"I dove into what he did and how he did it (and) the history of the Air Force," Jewell said. "That kind of developed into (learning) the general local history and a good knowledge of everything related to the subject."

Through the many snowy and rainy days in Warrensburg, the pair worked tirelessly to construct and paint the town that once neighbored the D-Day invasions on an 8x4 sheet.

"Jett spent many hours doing all the models, putting them together and then I painted them," Anson said. "He's fabulous at putting things together. Some of the instructions are very detailed, and some of them are very cryptic. He figured out how to get all these buildings and everything put together."

Jewell and Anson's attention to detail can be seen in every corner of the display. It has chicken farms, city streets filled with model humans, lit interior buildings and beautiful scenery. The cemetery, though not built to scale, features over 600 3-D printed cross gravestones and a reflection pool similar to the actual one found in Colleville-sur-Mer.

The model train itself can orbit either the whole town or the cemetery and uses a period-style train and train carts.

No matter where you look, Colleville-sur-Mer comes to life.

"It combines (our) passion for geography, history and a combined interest for creativity and imagination," Jewell said.

Jewell said he has plans to keep improving the current model, adding on things like a broken plane or German tanks to shed light on the war, and hopes to build a new model in the future depicting a battlefield or runway.

Both hope to one day share their creation with the rest of Warrensburg and especially with those who served.

"It just kind of all came together and we had a great time doing it," Anson said.

Zach Bott can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Conclave to elect a new pope will start on May 7 as cardinals get to know one another

By Nicole Winfield and Colleen Barry
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days so they can get to know one another better and find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel.

The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of informal meetings following Pope Francis' funeral Saturday. In a chaotic scene, journalists shouted questions about the mood inside and whether there was unity. A reporter for a satirical Italian television program asked whether an Italian cardinal who has been convicted by the Vatican criminal court on finance-related charges would be allowed to vote.

The conclave could have opened as early as May 5, but the cardinals gave themselves extra time to speak in more informal sessions that include cardinals over age 80, who will not be allowed into the Sistine Chapel once the conclave begins. They will next meet on Tuesday morning,

"There is the hope of unity," said Argentine Cardinal Ángel Sixto Rossi, the 66-year-old archbishop of Cordoba who Francis made a cardinal in 2023.

Many cardinals cited the desire to continue Francis' pastoral focus on people who are marginalized and against war. But conservatives may be more focused on forging unity and refocusing the church back on core doctrines emphasized by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, rather than continuing Francis' social justice focus and outreach to women and gays.

Cardinal Baldassare Reina, in a homily in St. Peter's Basilica on the third day of official mourning for Francis' death, urged fellow cardinals to continue the Argentine pope's reforms and avoid "power alliances" and "retaliation" as they choose his successor.

British Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the 79-year-old archbishop of Westminster, was adamant that the church must strive for unity, and he downplayed divisions.

"The role of the pope is to essentially hold us together and that's the grace we've been given from God," Nichols said.

Venezuelan Cardinal Baltazar Enrique Porras Cardozo expressed confidence that once the conclave begins, a decision would be quick, "between two and three days."

Cardinal electors

The College of Cardinals that will elect a new pope includes members from far-flung corners of the globe whom Francis named over his 12-year papacy to bring in new points of view — often at the expense of traditional centers of Catholicism.

Many have spent little or no time in Rome getting to know colleagues, injecting some uncertainty into a process that requires two-thirds of the voting-age cardinals to coalesce behind a single candidate.

Nichols acknowledged that the 135 cardinal electors — 108 of whom were appointed by Francis — don't know each other very well. The last 20 were appointed in early December.

"We've got all week," Nichols said as he arrived.

Only cardinals under 80 are eligible to vote, and it is not clear how many of the 135 will participate. A Spanish cardinal has said he won't come to Rome for health reasons.

Controversy

A big uncertainty is whether Cardinal Angelo Becciu, once one of the most powerful cardinals in the Vatican, will be allowed in the Sistine Chapel. Francis in 2020 forced Becciu to resign as head of the Vatican's saint-making office and renounce his rights as a cardinal because of allegations of embezzlement and financial fraud. Becciu denied any wrongdoing but was put on trial in the Vatican criminal court and convicted of finance-related charges in December, 2023.

He is appealing the conviction and has participated in the pre-conclave meetings, but there is a lingering question about whether he is entitled to vote. The Vatican's official statistics list him as a "non-elector." When he was ousted in 2020, Becciu told a hastily arranged press conference that he wouldn't be voting in any future conclave, but recently he has insisted he is entitled to vote, and canon lawyers have been poring over the Vatican document regulating the conclave to determine if he's right.

The case was discussed Monday by cardinals but there was "no resolution," the Vatican said.

Papal candidates

While Francis stacked the ranks with his cardinals, it is not necessarily the case that all of them will want to see the church continue in his image.

On Monday, any glimpse of a red cap appearing along St. Peter's Square's stately colonnade set journalists running with cameras and voice recorders aloft to capture the mood inside.

Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, considered a contender to be the next pope, navigated the scrum of journalists with humor, joking that he was "holding his breath" as the microphones and cameras surrounded him all the way to the Vatican gate.

African voices

Nigerian Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan, the emeritus archbishop of Abuja, was asked if the African cardinals were coalescing around a particular candidate.

African bishops had made a remarkably united stand last year against Francis' outreach to LGBTQ+ people, refusing to implement his declaration allowing priests to offer blessings to same-sex couples. Given such a stand, there is some speculation that the 18 African cardinal electors could help block a progressive candidate from emerging.

"We have not come here for a political rally. We have come to get a pope out," said Onaiyekan, who at 81 is too old to vote but can have a role in influencing how younger electors might.

Asian and Latin American voices

Indian Cardinal Anthony Poola, the 61-year-old archbishop of Hyderabad, said he had experienced a sense of unity among his fellow cardinals but allowed that "anything could happen." As a relatively young cardinal, Poola is one of four Indian electors who will participate in the conclave, three of whom, including Poola, were named by Francis.

"Anyone who is coming up must be the successor of St. Peter, and we all hope that he will be a good pope," he said.

Rossi, the Argentine cardinal, said he hoped that Francis' message of "mercy, closeness, charity, tenderness and faith," would accompany them in finding a successor.

But he acknowledged the job was daunting. Asked how he felt about participating in his first conclave, he responded with a laugh: "Afraid."

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Farm bankruptcies climb amid economic pressures in rural America

By Jack Payne
Special to the Democrat

Farm bankruptcies across the United States have surged sharply in the past year, marking a troubling trend for rural communities and the agricultural sector already grappling with tight margins, rising input costs, and volatile commodity prices.

According to data released this week, Chapter 12 family farm bankruptcies rose by 55% in 2024 compared to the previous year, with early 2025 figures continuing to reflect upward momentum. Analysts attribute the increase to a combination of market instability, climate-related disruptions, and diminishing government support that have left many farmers unable to stay afloat.

In the Midwest, where family farms are a staple of both the economy and culture, the spike in bankruptcies has been particularly pronounced. States like Iowa, Illinois and

Missouri have reported double-digit increases in filings, with some regions noting the highest levels of farm closures in nearly a decade.

Several key factors are driving the rise. Among them is the sustained increase in interest rates over the past two years. Many farmers operate with substantial debt loads and rely on lines of credit to cover seasonal expenses. As borrowing costs climb, repayment becomes more burdensome, particularly for producers who experienced poor harvests or lower-than-expected market returns.

At the same time, the cost of essential inputs such as fertilizer, seed, fuel, and equipment has continued to escalate, putting additional financial pressure on producers.

Supply chain disruptions and global conflict have further strained access to affordable materials, leading many farmers to reduce acreage or delay purchases, ultimately impacting yields and revenue.

On the revenue side, declining export sales have added to the woes. Recent reports indicate U.S. soybean and wheat exports are at multi-year lows, with soybean sales falling to their weakest level in nearly two decades. Trade uncertainty and increased global competition have made it difficult for American producers to maintain their traditional market share abroad, especially in key markets such as China.

Weather extremes have also played a major role in the financial hardship. Flooding in parts of the Midwest, persistent drought in the Plains, and unseasonal storms in the Southeast have all taken a toll on planting schedules and harvest outcomes. With crop insurance not always bridging the gap between loss and recovery, many farm operators have been left to absorb the full weight of their losses.

"And while much of the industrywide distress predates his second stint in the White House, (President Donald) Trump has quickly nudged more farmers closer to the brink of going under and created turbulence for producers trying to make ends meet," Alex Wolf and Skye Witley reported in a Bloomberg Law story.

Adding to the strain, recent federal policy changes have curtailed access to emergency aid and slowed the disbursement of existing agricultural subsidies. Budget freezes have stalled programs that support crop innovation, conservation efforts, and rural development initiatives, leaving farmers with fewer resources to adapt to changing conditions.

The rise in bankruptcies has broad implications beyond individual farms. As family operations close, rural communities often experience ripple effects, including lost jobs, shrinking tax bases and declining enrollment in local schools. Equipment dealers, seed suppliers and trucking firms all feel the economic impact when fewer farms remain in business.

While the USDA has announced new disaster relief funding in recent weeks, many stakeholders argue that more targeted, long-term solutions are needed to stabilize the sector. Without structural changes to improve price stability, access to credit and investment in rural infrastructure, the trend of farm bankruptcies could continue into the foreseeable future. "Remember, we are getting a ton of money put into the sector this year from the bill that was passed by Congress in December," Joe Glauber, former USDA chief economist and a current emeritus fellow with the International Food Policy Research Institute told "AgriTalk's" Chip Flory. "So that's $31 billion coming in with $10 billion of that going out to farmers as direct income support to offset low margins. So, I don't think we'll see a lot of farms going out of business. But certainly, if these short, tight margins persist for a long time, then that's going to affect people", said Glauber.

For now, thousands of farming families face tough decisions as they try to navigate an

increasingly unforgiving economic landscape. The numbers paint a stark picture: more

farms are shutting their gates, and the American heartland is feeling the strain.

Three economic research firms vying to study the health of Missouri cannabis industry

By Rebecca Rivas
Missouri Independent

A trio of research firms who contend Missouri is a poster child for success in the cannabis industry hope to win a contract to study the state's market closer.

"As it relates to cannabis markets, Missouri is pretty famously the model to follow," said Mackenzie Slade, CEO and owner of New York-based Cannabis Public Policy Consulting. "So I'm very interested in doing a super deep dive."

In March, the state issued a request for proposals looking for a vendor to conduct a cannabis market and economic impact study. Currently, Missouri has issued nearly 400 cannabis licenses to operate full-scale cultivation and manufacturing facilities and dispensaries. The state will also eventually have 144 microbusiness licenses, which are limited in size and scope and meant to benefit disadvantaged business owners.

In 2024, Missouri sold$1.46 billion in total marijuana sales in the state's second year of adult-use marijuana, outperforming states with a longer history of marijuana legalization like Arizona, Colorado and Nevada.

The results of the study will help the state determine "whether or when the state will be required to issue additional cannabis facility licenses and, if so, how many, where, and of what type," according to a March press release from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Missouri received three responses that fit the requirements of having at least five years of experience specializing in the economic impact of marijuana, or at least 10 years of experience conducting economic impact studies in general.

The responding agencies were Slade's firm, St. Louis-based Capital Consulting Services and Oregon-based Whitney Economics. The firm that wins the bid will be awarded the $X million contract.

Beau Whitney's company, which conducts studies globally, gathers data monthly on the cannabis industry for each legal state on business licenses, supply capacity and revenues.

"I have data that goes back multiple years," he said, "and so I can say, 'Here's the progression of the state and its program,'" along with providing future projections 10 years out.

Whitney calls Missouri a "success story." In one of his recent reports that looked at investment potential nationwide, he found there's still opportunities for growth, development and investment into the Missouri market.

"And that's unusual," he said. "In Oregon where I'm based out of, I just gave an update to the Office of Economic Analysis and I basically said, there's no investment opportunity in Oregon for any new businesses. Zero for the next 10 years."

That's because there's too much supply, an over saturation of licenses and prices are so low that people can't make any profit, he said.

"My goal with Missouri is to give them the data that they need to avoid that scenario," Whitney said.

Slade has seen the same in New York, where her firm has been based for about seven years.

Her company administers a national survey on cannabis use, which essentially measures and quantifies demand behavior for consumers. One of the things that they use it for, she said, at a national level is to try to understand how states are performing based on their policies.

"And Missouri continuously outperforms other states, relative to their date of sale," she said. "…because they were able to stand up a market so quickly."

That was in part because Missouri limited the number of licenses to get operational within just a few months. For the study, Slade proposed to use the state's track and trace data to identify the efficiencies of the licenses.

"That's a prime example of where we would uncover some extremely important considerations for policy," she said. "And I do believe that the intent of the study is to identify areas of policy that need to be updated."

Tracey Jeffries' company, Capital Consulting Services, has helped governments with economic feasibility studies for 15 years on a state and federal level, and she's a certified Missouri minority-owned business enterprise as a Black woman owner. According to state policy, winners of any state contract must employ 10% minority-owned and 5% women-owned businesses.

The advantage Jeffries believes she brings to the program is knowing her state and its economy, having led projects throughout Missouri.

"DHSS has done a great job," she said, "but it's timely to have the feasibility study because this will benefit the regulators, the businesses, and most importantly to me, in my opinion, the community."

State law says the cannabis regulators may "lift or ease any limit on the number of [cannabis] licensees or certificate holders in order to meet the demand for marijuana in the state and to ensure a competitive market while also preventing an over-concentration of marijuana facilities within the boundaries of any particular local government."

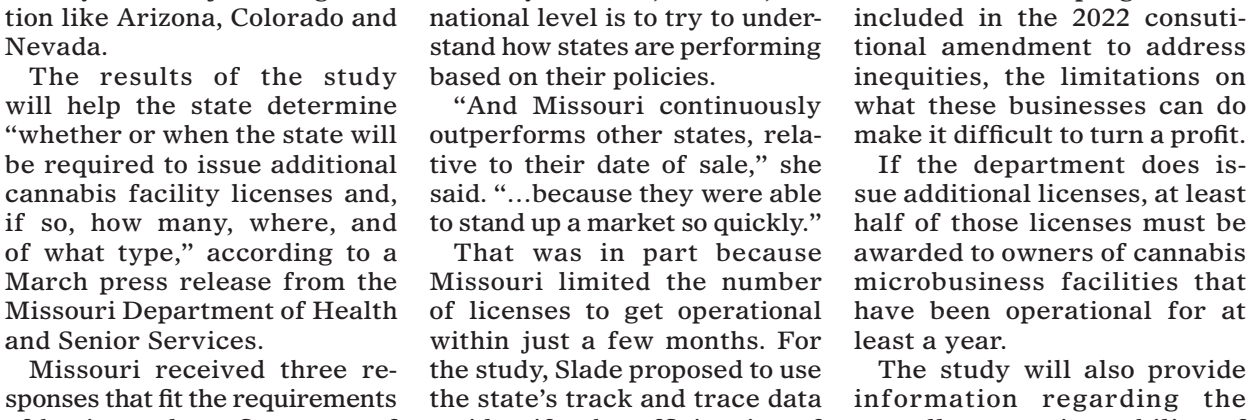
Experts generally agree that Missouri's decision to only issue the minimum licenses allowed under its constitution has been the key to the industry's boom. However, critics have long argued that the decision created a monopoly that's kept out opportunities for people who were most impacted by the War on Drugs. While the microbusiness license program was included in the 2022 consutitional amendment to address inequities, the limitations on what these businesses can do make it difficult to turn a profit.

If the department does issue additional licenses, at least half of those licenses must be awarded to owners of cannabis microbusiness facilities that have been operational for at least a year.

The study will also provide information regarding the overall economic stability of the regulated market, including strengths and risks, with a special emphasis on the market's impact on economically distressed areas of the state.

Jeremy Washington, spokesman for the Office of Administration, the agency that handles contracting for the state, said there isn't a "published schedule for the completion of the evaluation process."

However, upon completion of the evaluation process, the MissouriBUYS Bid Board will be updated to reflect the changed status. In addition, the entire procurement file will be published on the Division of Purchasing's awarded bid and contract document site.



Border czar defends kicking US citizen children out of the country

By Ariana Figueroa
States Newsroom

WASHINGTON — White House border czar Tom Homan on Monday blamed the parents of U.S. citizen children the Trump administration sent to Honduras over the weekend.

At a Monday morning press conference, Homan defended the government's actions to remove three young children from two different families alongside their mothers who were in the country without legal authorization but participated in a program that allows otherwise law-abiding migrants to stay in their communities.

"If you enter this country illegally, it's a crime," Homan said. "Knowing you're in this country illegally, you put yourself in that position. You put your family in that position."

The children, all under the age of 10, were placed on deportation flights to Honduras on Friday after their mothers checked in with a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in New Orleans as part of the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program, which allows immigrants to stay in their communities while undergoing immigration court proceedings.

An attorney for one of the children, Gracie Willis at the National Immigration Project, said the 4-year-old U.S. citizen with Stage 4 cancer was deported without access to his medication.

Homan has argued the mothers requested to be deported with their children, but attorneys for the families argue they were "denied access to legal counsel, and swiftly deported without due process."

Due process concerns

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty, whom Trump appointed to a seat on the Louisiana federal bench in 2018, expressed concern that a 2-year-old U.S. citizen had been deported, despite her father's wishes she remain in the U.S., according to court filings.

Doughty scheduled a May 16 hearing because of his "strong suspicion that the government just deported a U.S. citizen with no meaningful process."

"The government contends that this is all okay because the mother wishes that the child be deported with her," Doughty wrote in his order. "But the court doesn't know that."

Willis, from the National Immigration Project, raised concerns about a lack of due process and how the deportations have separated families.

"What we saw from ICE over the last several days is horrifying and baffling," she said in a statement. "These mothers had no opportunity to speak with their co-parents to make the kinds of choices that parents are entitled to make for their children, the kinds of decisions that millions of parents make every day: 'what is best for our child?'"

Homan has argued the children were deported at the request of the mothers and that the Trump administration was "keeping families together."

"What we did is remove children with their mothers who requested their children depart with them," he said. "When a parent says, 'I want my 2-year-old baby to go with me,' we made that happen. They weren't deported. We don't deport U.S. citizens. The parents made that decision, not the United States government.

Wisconsin judge

Monday's remarks from Homan come the day before President Donald Trump will mark the 100th day of his second term. His early days in office have centered on carrying out his campaign promise of mass deportations of millions of people in the U.S. without permanent legal status.

Trump will sign two executive orders on immigration late Monday: one relating to border security and another to require the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security to publicly list so-called sanctuary cities that do not coordinate with federal immigration law enforcement.

Homan also stood by the Trump administration's decision to arrest a federal judge in Wisconsin on the grounds she obstructed immigration officials from detaining a man attending his court hearing. It marked an escalation between the Trump administration and the judiciary branch, raising concerns from Democrats.

The arrest of Judge Hannah Dugan was highly publicized after she was handcuffed in public and FBI Director Kash Patel bragged about the arrest on social media.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said on Fox News that the Trump administration was going to continue to go after judges who "think they're above the law."

"When you cross that line to impediment or knowingly harboring, concealing an illegal alien from ICE, you will be prosecuted, judge or not," Homan said.

Heartland Chronicles

Focusing on Henry, Benton and Morgan County news.

Smash N Dash brings fresh comfort to Warsaw

By Vanessa Schardan
vanessas@sedaliademocrat.com



A new food truck, Smash N Dash, has opened in Warsaw. You'll usually find Smash N Dash parked at the Osage Mini Mart on Main Street. PHOTO COURTESY OF SMASH N DASH

A new wave of flavor is rolling into Benton County with the debut of Smash N Dash, a food truck based out of Warsaw. Officially opening on April 21, Smash N Dash is already making a name for itself with its fresh take on American comfort food—and a catchy name to match.

The name "Smash N Dash" was inspired by the truck's specialty: made-to-order smash burgers that customers can quickly enjoy before dashing off to their next adventure. "We do smash burgers, and you can smash one and dash off—that's where it came from!" said Jeremiah Hayes, co-owner and chef, who launched the venture alongside his dad, Jim Hayes.

Choosing to operate a food truck rather than a traditional brick-and-mortar restaurant was a strategic decision. "It was cheaper, and it gives me the opportunity to talk to new people every day. I love that I'm not confined to one spot," Hayes said. His passion for the culinary world is backed by formal training—he attended culinary arts school before deciding to pour his skills into this mobile venture.

While the idea for Smash N Dash was Hayes' own, a little persuasion convinced his father to partner with him, making the food truck a family-run operation. Together, they serve up a mouthwatering menu featuring smash burgers, fries, grilled cheese, hot ham and cheese sandwiches, chicken sandwiches, and chicken nuggets. On Tuesdays, customers can look forward to Taco Tuesdays, offering beef, chicken, and steak options.

Smash N Dash proudly uses a custom smash burger seasoning crafted by Hayes himself, setting their burgers apart with a signature flavor. Their style is rooted in pure comfort food, focusing on hearty, satisfying meals at a fair price.

You'll usually find Smash N Dash parked at the Osage Mini Mart on Main Street in Warsaw, thanks to the generosity of Beth Drake, the store's owner. For now, the food truck is licensed to operate within Benton County, but private event catering allows them to serve farther if the event is contracted. Customers are encouraged to follow Smash N Dash on Facebook for daily updates, including any days they may travel to events or offer delivery service.

Community response has been overwhelmingly positive. Smash N Dash has already built a solid reputation for both the quality of their food and the friendliness of their service. Special thanks go out to supporters like Brian and Shanda Steinhoff, who have helped keep the truck running smoothly—literally—by making sure the propane tanks stay full.

Of course, launching a food truck hasn't been without its hurdles. "Getting everything fixed and in working order to start serving was probably the biggest challenge," Hayes said.

Still, the dream is growing—plans are already in motion to purchase a second food truck that could travel city to city and even state to state, expanding the Smash N Dash name beyond Benton County.

Customers looking to support Smash N Dash can do so by stopping by for a bite, sharing posts on social media, offering feedback, and spreading the word about their experience.

At the heart of it all is Hayes' genuine love of cooking and community.

"I love to cook," he said. "Being able to serve the community and provide a quality product at an affordable price—that's a huge bonus."

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

Mid Mo Trends celebrates six years of community roots

By Vanessa Schardan
vanessas@sedaliademocrat.com

What started as a dream between two friends has grown into a beloved staple of Cole Camp's shopping scene. This month, Mid Mo Trends is proudly celebrating six years in business — a journey marked by resilience, community support, and a passion for helping women feel confident in their own skin.

Mid Mo Trends was founded in April 2019 by Dylana Fox, a Cole Camp native, and Austin, originally from Brookfield. The pair first crossed paths while working in retail and soon discovered a shared dream of opening their own boutique. Together, they took the leap, initially launching Mid Mo Trends as an online-only store.

"When we first started, opening a brick-and-mortar store didn't seem feasible," Fox said. But just a year later — amid the uncertainty of the pandemic — the duo saw an opportunity to breathe new life into a meaningful family space. On May 22, 2020, Mid Mo Trends opened the doors of their storefront inside a building once home to Fox's grandmother's Levi's store, a fixture of downtown Cole Camp from 1960 to 2005.

"It's absolutely wild to be celebrating six years," Austin said. "It feels like we just started yesterday and yet like we've been doing it forever."

Over the past six years, Mid Mo Trends has seen tremendous growth. From humble beginnings with plastic tubs full of merchandise, to a thriving online store and a warm, inviting storefront, the boutique has become a destination for fashion lovers both locally and across the country. Their website, www.midmotrends.com, has played a vital role in expanding their reach, allowing customers from all over the U.S. to shop their curated collections.

While their original vision included multiple storefronts, Fox and Austin learned through experience that their sweet spot is maintaining one brick-and-mortar location with pop-up hours, supported by a strong online presence. This balance lets them stay hands-on with customers while still growing the brand.

The building itself holds a deep sentimental value for Fox. Many longtime residents remember visiting her grandmother's Levi's shop, and customers still share stories of stacked jeans and bustling afternoons. While Mid Mo Trends has added fresh paint and small updates, much of the building's charm remains intact.

"Finding old treasures around the store during renovations made the labor even more special," Fox said.

Mid Mo Trends is known for its wide variety of styles, catering to every generation — from teenage girls to grandmothers — with a thoughtful eye for quality and versatility. Each piece is hand-selected during trips to market, ensuring customers have access to the latest trends and timeless favorites alike.

Austin and Fox's combined retail experience and distinct personal styles help set the boutique apart. They also offer custom T-shirt services for local events, schools, and businesses, further weaving themselves into the fabric of the community.

Throughout their journey, the Cole Camp community has played a vital role in their success.

"The support we've received from Cole Camp and the surrounding communities has been incredible," Austin said. "It's a community that roots for you — and we're lucky to work alongside so many other strong, women-owned businesses."

Looking ahead, Mid Mo Trends is gearing up for a busy season. They recently returned from market trips with exciting new arrivals and are preparing for their booth at the Missouri State Fair inside the Mathewson Exhibition Center. Fans can also find a selection of their styles year-round at The Charming Market in Warsaw.

Above all, it's the relationships they've built with customers that Fox and Austin treasure most.

"We don't just sell clothes; we get to be a small part of people's important moments," Fox said. "We feel so blessed to be on this journey with our customers and friends."

Their advice to other women dreaming of starting a small-town business? "It's fun, rewarding, and very time-consuming — but the support you'll find is unmatched. Get experience in your field before jumping in, and never underestimate the impact of a simple recommendation or social media share for a small business."

As Mid Mo Trends marks this special milestone, Fox and Austin are filled with gratitude for their community, their customers, and the journey that's just getting started.

For more information or to shop their collections, visit www.midmotrends.com, follow them on TikTok @ MidMoTrends, or join their Exclusively MMT Facebook group.

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



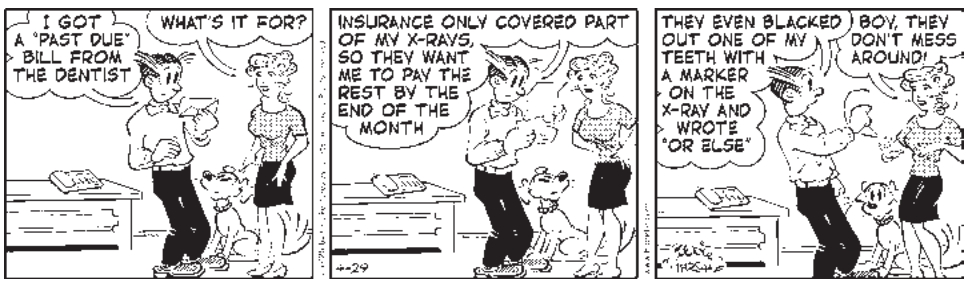
Taylor Austin and Dylana Fox established Mid Mo Trends in 2019. The duo originally started off exclusively online before growing into a storefront at 103 E. Main St. in Cole Camp.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MID-MO TRENDS





BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



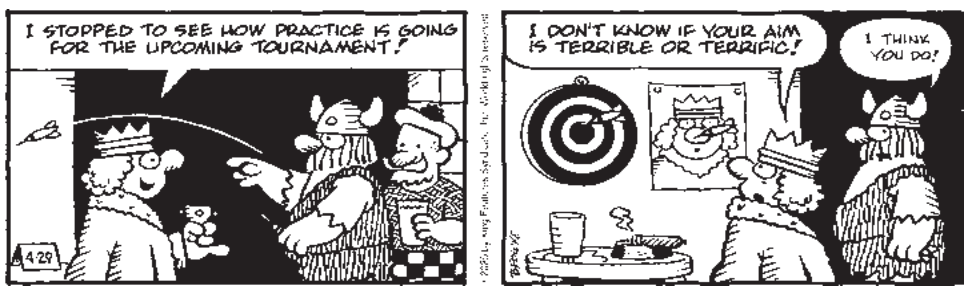
BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

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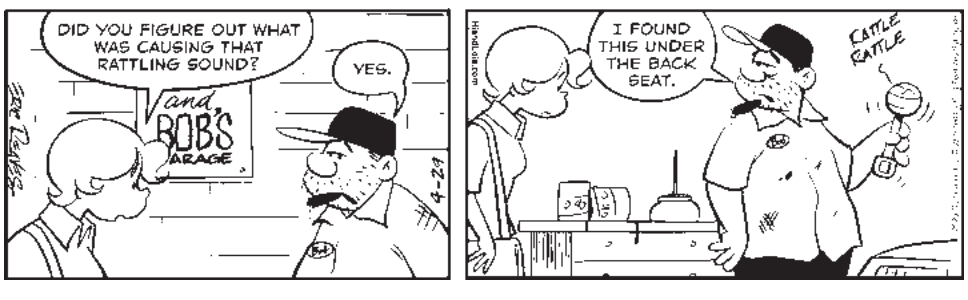
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



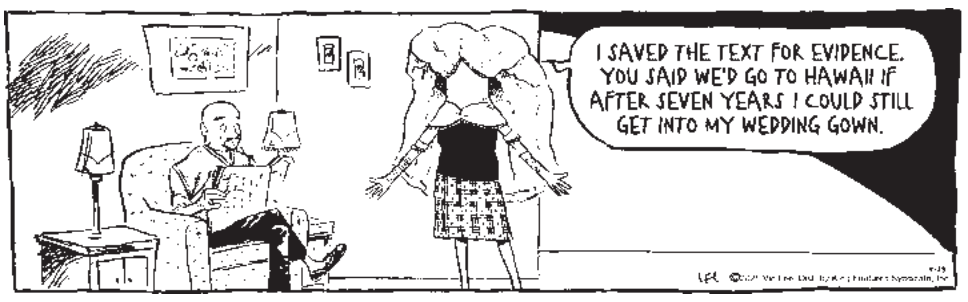
HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



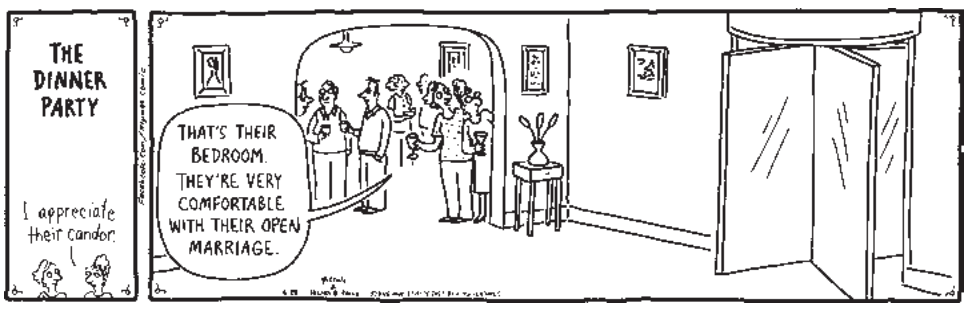
PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



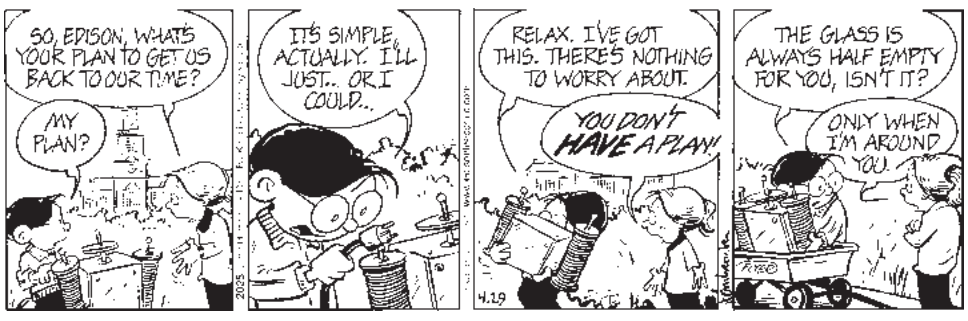
RHYMES WITH ORANGE

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THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



DENNIS THE MENACE BY HANK KETCHAM



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Kids' card game
7 Cylindrical sandwich
11 Homecoming group
12 Ring of light
13 Carried out
15 Canvas holder
16 Worthless stuff
18 Netlike fabric
21 Flex
22 Off-color
24 Turkish topper
25 Getz's instrument
26 One, for Juan
27 Work week's finish
29 Alley prowlers
30 Tater
31 Bits of makeup
32 Stingy one
34 Kept alive
40 Lotion additive
41 On the go
42 Flag waver
43 Toadies

DOWN

1 Opening
2 Bullfight cry
3 Animal coat
4 Be about to happen
5 Furtive fellow
6 Wallops
7 Marine mammals
8 Scoundrel
9 Pub brew
10 Okra unit
14 Dance record
16 Mocks
17 Open, as a jacket
19 Young pigeon
20 Searches
21 Awesomest bud
22 Beam of light
23 Dawn goddess
25 "Sexy" Beatles girl
28 Broke up with
29 Jewelry units
31 Low card
33 Remain
34 Pussy foot
35 Yale student
36 Harry's friend
37 Comic Allen
38 Preceding night
39 Lion lair

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

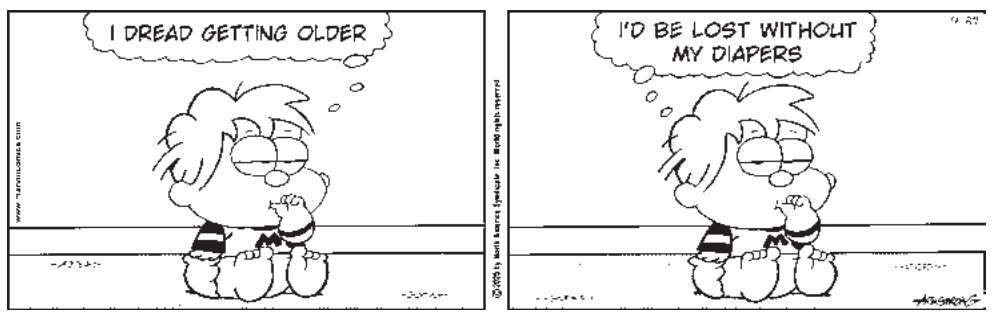
4-29

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T	O	V	■	D	I	V	E	S	T	S				
A	L	I	B	I	■	A	S	H	E	N				
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P	E	E	V	E	■	A	T	E	A	T				
S	L	E	E	T	■	S	E	E	D	Y				

Friday's answer

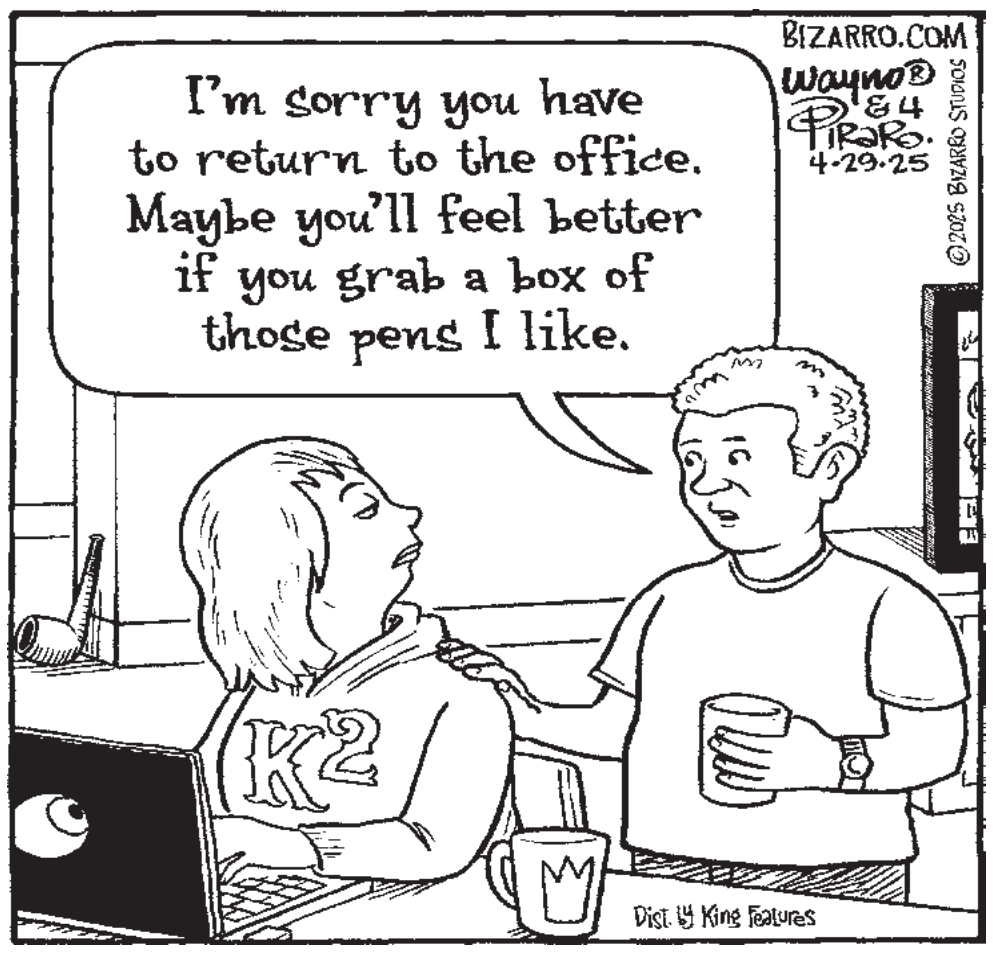
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



BIZARRO

BY DAN PIRARO



King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★ 4/29

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 4/25

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A lagging broadband program faces more delays

By Madyson Fitzgerald
Stateline

The Trump administration is extending the deadline for states to submit their final proposals for a federal broadband program, further delaying an effort that's still largely in the planning phase after more than three years.

States will have an additional 90 days to submit their final plans for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, known as BEAD, a federal grant program meant to expand broadband access to underserved areas across the country.

The extension comes as the Trump administration prepares to make changes to the BEAD program, according to a notice from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The department is currently reviewing the program "to remove unnecessary rules and mandates, to improve efficiency, take a more technology-neutral approach, cut unnecessary red tape, and streamline deployment," the notice said.

The $42.45 billion program, created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, began falling behind schedule in part because of inadequate federal mapping of where broadband is most needed and a lengthy challenge process to the maps. As a result, the slow-moving program has some local officials and experts questioning its efficiency.

They anticipate that federal officials might change an affordability requirement, which mandates states include a low-cost service option for low-income households, or the type of technologies given preference under the program. That shift likely would be away from fiber-optic internet toward satellites or other technology.

Earlier this month, more than 100 state lawmakers from 28 states sent a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick requesting that any changes to the BEAD program be optional rather than mandatory. They argued that mandatory changes could undo their BEAD plans and delay broadband deployment by a year or more.

The BEAD program originally had required states to submit their final proposals to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration within a year of their initial plan's approval. Citing "extraordinary circumstances," however — the new federal review — deadlines for states' final proposals will be moved, according to the notice.

NTIA declined to comment for this story.

All 50 states have had their initial BEAD proposals approved, unlocking a portion — often 20% — of the money the feds will provide. As of April 14, Delaware, Louisiana and Nevada are the only states to have submitted their final proposals for public comment, according to the NTIA's BEAD Progress Dashboard.

Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina and Texas are the only states that have not made any progress beyond having their initial proposal approved, according to the tracker.

Lawsuit challenges constitutionality of Missouri AG's new powers

By Rudi Keller
Missouri Independent

A bill signed Thursday by Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe generated a lawsuit Friday challenging its constitutionality even as Attorney General Andrew Bailey wasted no time using new powers granted in the law.

The bill changes the deadlines and procedure for challenging the ballot language of measures placed before voters by the General Assembly or by initiative petition. It also allows the ballot summaries to be longer.

But a major focus of legislative debate was the provision of the bill giving the attorney general the power to appeal preliminary injunctions granted in cases where the state or a statewide official is blocked from enforcing a law or statute.

It was inspired by an ongoing abortion-rights lawsuit and included an emergency clause making the power to appeal preliminary injunctions effective immediately. The bill cited the need "to ensure judicial efficiency" as the reason it is "deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and safety" of the state.

On Friday, attorney Chuck Hatfield filed a lawsuit in Cole County Circuit Court on behalf of longtime progressive activist Sean Nicholson arguing the bill violates the constitution in six ways. The emergency clause, and the reason it gives for invoking the Constitution's provision for making laws effective immediately, are not an emergency, Hatfield wrote.

"There is no crisis or emergency which requires immediate or quick legislative action for the preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety, or morals," Hatfield wrote.

Bailey followed through on the intent of the legislation Thursday by using the newly granted power to challenge two preliminary injunctions issued after voters approved Amendment 3 overturning Missouri's near-total ban on abortions.

The first preliminary injunction, issued by Jackson County Judge Jerri Zhang in December, blocked state laws that required a 72-hour waiting period for an abortion and a mandate that physicians performing abortions have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

The second, issued Feb. 14, stopped enforcement of a licensing requirement for abortion clinics that providers argued was a key obstacle to renewing access to the procedure across the state. Hours later, Planned Parenthood clinics announced they would begin offering abortion services in Missouri.

In a statement issued Thursday, the ACLU of Missouri and the state's two Planned Parenthood affiliates vowed to fight against the effort to alter the laws governing court cases.

"A majority of Missouri voters passed Amendment 3 to end Missouri's abortion ban and protect reproductive freedom," the statement read. "Rather than following the will of the people, the same anti-abortion politicians that fought against Amendment 3 and lost at the ballot box have changed the rules of both the initiative petition and the court procedures so they can try to reinstate Missouri's abortion ban."

A spokeswoman for Bailey's office said in an emailed statement that he filed an appeal to challenge the court's decision to "eliminate common-sense health and safety standards.

Abortion Action Missouri executive director Mallory Schwarz said in a news release that the bill signed by Kehoe is an admission that abortion rights backers have won at the ballot box and in the courts.

"The governor signing this attack on democracy just shows that the state is power hungry and obsessed with controlling Missourian's lives, taking away their personal and private decision-making, and inserting itself into their bedrooms and doctors' offices," Scharz said.

In the lawsuit, Hatfield wrote that until the passage of the bill signed Thursday, Missouri court procedure did not allow an appeal of preliminary injunctions.

Hatfield wrote that "the grant of the right is one sided, favoring only the attorney general" and violates the state Constitution's guarantee of equal rights and opportunity.

The power to appeal past preliminary injunctions is also "unconstitutionally retroactive because it is applicable to preliminary injunctions in place prior to the passage."

The Missouri Constitution forbids ex post facto laws — laws making something a crime after the act — and laws that alter contracts or is retrospective in effect.

The bill's provisions governing the revision of ballot language is a reaction to the legal fight over the wording for Amendment 3. In 2023, Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem ruled the ballot title written by then-Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft was "argumentative" or unfairly biased and rewrote it. That decision was upheld by the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals.

Under the bill, a ballot title deemed insufficient or unfair would be sent back to the secretary of state for revision. The courts would have to allow three attempts, all under increasingly tight deadlines, before taking over the job.

The bill also moves up the deadline for completing all court challenges from eight weeks before the election to 10 weeks before the election.

Along with creating unconstitutional powers for the attorney general and granting them in an unconstitutional way, Hatfield's lawsuit alleges the bill was improperly changed to alter its original purpose and that the changes made violate the constitutional requirement that bills address a single subject.

The bill filed by state Sen. Rick Brattin, a Harrisonville Republican, began as "one new section relating to ballot summaries prepared by the general assembly." It was changed to be "three new sections relating to ballot summaries" in a Senate committee before being passed as "five new sections relating to judicial proceedings."

One provision allowing ballot titles to have 100 words instead of 50 has nothing to do with judicial proceedings, the lawsuit states.

And the power to appeal preliminary injunctions has nothing to do with ballot summaries prepared by lawmakers, it adds.

No hearings can be set for the lawsuit until notice is served on Bailey and Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, the defendants in the case.

The political battle over abortion, and how the initiative process is used, is also continuing inside and outside the General Assembly.

On April 17, the Missouri House approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would overturn most provisions of Amendment 3, restoring the ban on abortions that was in place starting in 2022 but with new exceptions for medical emergencies, fatal fetal anomalies and for survivors of rape and incest in the first 12 weeks of gestation.

The bill has not been assigned to a state Senate committee.

Lawmakers have tried, and failed, to pass proposals that would change how many signatures must be gathered for initiatives and how majorities are counted for initiative measures that make the ballot.

A group called the Respect Missouri Voters Coalition has filed an initiative proposal to add new protections for initiative measures to the state constitution. Any initiative changing a statute or the constitution could only be altered by lawmakers if 80% of members in both chambers vote for a bill that is then submitted to a statewide vote.

The bill signed Thursday will give far too much power to the secretary of state, Benjamin Singer, co-founder of the Respect Missouri Voters Coalition and CEO of Show Me Integrity, said in a news release.

"Missouri's citizen initiative process is now dead for anything that the Secretary of State doesn't like and wants to kill with biased language," Singer said.

Tech-related tariffs remain uncertain, but prepare for cost hikes

By Paige Gross
States Newsroom

The price of technology goods and services in the U.S. will likely rise in the next few months, experts say, as the White House continues to shift its strategy on tariffs for imported electronic hardware.

After initial reports that Chinese goods would receive as high as a 145% tariff, President Donald Trump said on April 13 that electronics like smartphones, computers and semiconductors — chips that process, power and transmit information — would be exempt. But Trump said later that day that imported semiconductors, and the electronics they're embedded in, will likely be facing their own tariff structure in the coming weeks.

In tandem with Trump's announcement, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced an official investigation into semiconductor imports, aiming to study the national security implications of importing manufacturing equipment and derivative products. The move is likely two-fold, tech experts say — Trump's aim with foreign tariffs is to pressure American manufacturers to make more goods in U.S. facilities.

But his administration is also likely looking for cybersecurity risks that could be introduced through foreign manufacturing, like in compromised operating systems, embedded malicious code, or flawed designs, said Derek Lemke, senior vice president of product level intelligence at risk management firm Exiger.

"They power everything from advanced weapons systems and critical infrastructure to smartphones and laptops," Lemke said. "Many of these components are manufactured abroad, often in regions with rising geopolitical tensions or limited transparency into supply chain practices."

The U.S. is currently upping its manufacturing of semiconductors. It produced about 10% of the world's semiconductors in 2022, and is projected to reach 14% by 2032 with the additional funding and infrastructure provided by the CHIPS and Science Act, passed during the Biden administration. But while many advanced chips are designed by American companies like Nvidia, Apple, Qualcomm and AMD, they are manufactured in Taiwan, which is currently negotiating tariff deals with the U.S.

Many electronics involve manufacturing processes from all over the world, making the tariff structure involved a complicated one. And while it's a good idea for Americans to manufacture more of their semiconductors to diversify the global supply chain of chips, the country is nowhere near prepared to make as many as we need, said Nikolas Guggenberger, an assistant professor of law with a focus on antitrust, law and technology, privacy, and regulation at The University of Houston Law Center.

Guggenberger called semiconductor manufacturing "among the most complex industrial processes on Earth," which would require years of planning, training and billions in investment for the U.S. to become a leader.

While the U.S. awaits more clarity over tariffs on electronic goods and the findings of the semiconductor probe, Guggenberger and Lemke say that American consumers should prepare themselves for higher prices on smartphones, laptops and other personal devices. Because semiconductors are used in so many everyday products, those price hikes could seep into wider spending, Guggenberger said.

"From a computer to everyday devices, like a garage opener, or a toaster," he said. "It's everything, it's absolutely everything."

Guggenberger said there's a possibility that very high tariffs could also lead to a pause or slowdown in manufacturing in general, meaning consumers may see emptier shelves or a backlog on products in a few months.

Those on the software side of the tech industry will feel the effects, too, Lemke said. Software companies, AI developers and cybersecurity experts all rely on computing power from chip hardware, and disruption in the supply chain could slow innovation in these businesses, he said.

Even just the discussion of tariffs is having a ripple effect through the tech sector, Lemke said. Companies are having to evaluate their supply chains, their sourcing and maybe stockpile some components to their products.

"The uncertainty alone is enough to influence pricing, procurement strategies and investment decisions across the tech ecosystem," Lemke said.

PLANTING

Continued from Page 1B

To round out our greenhouse travels, we came back to Sedalia and shopped at Moore's Greenhouse & Flower Shop for begonias. Moore's always has the most beautiful begonias. Also on our radar for this week is a trip to the State Fair Community College Horticulture Club Spring Plant Sale. The SFCC Greenhouse opened on Monday, April 28, and will sell flowers and plants until May 10.

Take a weekend and explore the greenhouses in the area and region, you won't be disappointed.

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



One can find beautiful begonias at Moore's Greenhouse & Flower Shop in Sedalia each spring. PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT CLASSIFIEDS Online

Place Your Classified Ads at **SedaliaDemocrat.com** or email classifieds@sedaliademocrat.com



Linda
Ext. 1497

Contact Us Today to Place Your Classified Ads!

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm (Closed Saturday & Sunday)

Errors must be reported immediately. The Sedalia Democrat will only be responsible for errors the first day the ad runs.

660-826-1000
Fax: 660-826-2413

DEADLINES

Tuesday and Friday: Day before at 2pm

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices

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

SALEM CEMETERY OF Pettis County Annual MeetingMonday, May 5th, 6:30pm at Maplewood Church Fellowship Hall, O Highway. Business to conduct will include the election of board vacancies, fundraising and investment discussions.
Cemetery Clean Up day will be Saturday, April 26th at 9am with rain date of May 3rd.

EMPLOYMENT

Miscellaneous

First Baptist Church Clinton, Missouri
First Baptist Church Clinton is seeking a full-time Executive Ministry Assistant.
For job description or to submit a resume, email Kevin@ lifecatalystconsulting.com

MERCHANDISE

Antiques & Collectibles

MKT MERCANTILE ANTIQUES,
Collectibles and What-nots
102 S Main St.,
Greenridge, MO 65332
12-5 Th-Sun
mktmercantile.com

Miscellaneous

Now Taking orders for Strawberries



Rissler
573-392-1857

Little ad. Big results.

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT
660-826-1000
Place your ad today!

REAL ESTATE RENTALS

Apartments

THE NICEST, all one level, 2-3 bedroom 2 bath Twin homes with garages in the area. Westside location, near medical, shopping & College. Fully appointed kitchens, with all appliances, including washers/dryers, security systems, walk out back patios and garages with auto garage door openers. Call 660-619-0384
See us on Face book at Ensign Properties.

SERVICES

Child/Elderly Care-Services

CLAYTONS HEARTFELT IN home health care is a local private in-home health care company striving everyday to keep your loved ones at home. We are now accepting new clients. We provide day to day care, 24-hour care and end of life care. Now accepting Medicade/private insurance & private pay.
Please call today. Tiffany 660-233-2213

YARD SALES

Pettis County

CAMBRIDGE VILLAGE Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales May 2& 3 Buckingham & Cunningham Drives Near Skyline Elementary School

GARAGE SALE 608 E 27TH FRIDAY 7AM-4PM SATURDAY 7AM-NOON
Baby clothes, newborn-12 months. Baby items. Girls, women's, and men's clothes. Toys. Home decor. Kitchen items. Wedding decor.

Little ads. Big results. The Marketplace is a great place to advertise.

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES!
Shots & Dewormed · Negotiable Prices
Deliverable in Person
573-414-4601/ 573-979-5375

Professional Service Directory

Call us at 660-826-1000 to Place Your Ad Today!

PAINTING

HOUSE PAINTING
Interior/Exterior | 660-827-1211
FREE ESTIMATES
Max Frisby
715360ar1

Pettis County

HUGE GARAGE SALE P.E.O. CHAPTER BB
(Women Supporting Women)
FRIDAY, MAY 2 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 916 THOMPSON BLVD FELLOWSHIP HALL OPEN @ 7AM
Large pop-up shelter, patio and garden items, horse tack, antique trunk, child's rocker, doll bed, kitchen countertop appliances, other kitchen goodies, Christmas Tree, seasonal decor, clothing, adjustable TV stand, books, SO MUCH MORE!

LARGE MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE 4159 S KENUCKY FRI, MAY 2, 7AM-5PM SAT, MAY 3, 7AM-1PM
Recliner, vacuum cleaners, large pet carrier, lamps, car parts/tools, several wind chimes, electric heaters, bedding sets, garden tools, clothing, purses, shoes, home decor, lots of kitchen items, several small appliances, TV's, baby items, lots of miscellaneous items.

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE 1620 WILLOW DR FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7AM-3PM
Boys & adult clothes, toys, holiday decor, baby items, new light fixtures, pool toys, household items, and Much More!

PETTIS COUNTY MUSEUM FUNDRAISING FLEA MARKET 228 DUNDEE AVE SEDALIA, MO SATURDAY MAY 3RD 8AM-5PM
Multi Booth Spots, (still available) 5X10 2-wheel enclosed trailer, garden tiller, with lots of miscellaneous.

SLATER CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025 RAIN OR SHINE

Thompson Hills Subdivision Garage Sales
Friday & Saturday
May 2nd & May 3rd
905 Leone
1003 Leone
1004 Leone
904 Royal
1007 Royal
903 Ruthann
906 Ruthann

YARD SALE 3425 W 32ND FRIDAY SATURDAY 7AM-6PM
Clothing & shoes, infant, women, girl's, men's, toys, decor, jewelry, comics, model kits, die cast, fishing tackle, DVD's, house plants, speakers, vinyl records, Christmas, lamps, old hardware, crafts, baking items, coolers.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Ethan Ayscue; Madison Ayscue, dated February 4, 2021, and recorded on February 4, 2021, Document No. 2021-0713 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri, the undersigned Trustee will on May 6, 2025, at 9:00 AM, at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:
LOT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO (162) IN MAPLEWOOD 12TH SUBDIVISION, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, commonly known as 2705 Rosebud Cir, Sedalia, MO, 65301
subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.
SouthLaw, P.C. Trustee
First Publication:
April 8, 2025.
For more information,
visit www.southlaw.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 250807-1054993).
4x-4/8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

TRUSTEE'S SALE
IN RE: Adam Bierema, unmarried man
Trustee's Sale:
For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Adam Bierema, unmarried man dated May 4, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Pettis County, Missouri as Document Number: 2022-2359 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Friday, May 2, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 2:15 PM), at the West Front Door of the Court House, City of Sedalia, County of Pettis, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Pettis County, State of Missouri, to wit:
THE SOUTH FORTY (40) FEET OF THE NORTH EIGHTY (80) FEET OF LOTS TEN (10), ELEVEN (11) AND TWELVE (12) IN BLOCK TWO (2) OF WEST SIDE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEDALIA, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI.
to satisfy said debt and cost.
MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,
Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No:
226557.050225.454989 FC

Notice
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
4x-4/8, 15, 22, 29, 2025

IN THE 18TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division:
PROBATE
Case Number: 25PT-PR00076
MARK ALLEN BIRD,
Deceased.
Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Independent Administration)
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MARK ALLEN BIRD, Decedent:
On April 24, 2025, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of MARK ALLEN BIRD, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of PETTIS COUNTY, Missouri.
The personal representative's business address is:
BART L BIRD, 716 N PROSPECT AVE, SEDALIA, MO 65301.
The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:
JEFFREY R NILSON, 304 S OHIO, SEDALIA, MO 65301, 660-827-5650.
Date of the decedent's death:
23-APR-2024
Date of first publication:
29-APR-2025
Susan Sadler,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/Darla Ebeling,
Deputy Clerk
4x-4/29, 5/6, 13, 20, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Correctional Healthcare Services for Johnson County Sheriff's Office
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Johnson County, Missouri Sheriff's Office is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP): Correctional Healthcare Services. A complete copy of this RFP will be posted on the Sheriff's website at https://jocomosheriff.org
All questions concerning this RFP shall be submitted by email or in written form tomhanes@jocomosheriff.org
Sealed proposals must be received by 3:00 p.m. (CST) on Friday, May 23, 2025, to Johnson County Sheriff's Office, 278 SW 871 Rd, Centerview MO 64019.
1x-4/29/2025

Notice To Bidders
Bids for High Voltage Electrical Services - Missouri State Fairgrounds / Statewide, Project No. IDIQMCA-5003, will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, May 15, 2025. Project information available at: http://oa.mo.gov/facilities

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sedalia School District #200 is accepting bids for dairy products for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact the District office or reference the RFP on the district website at sedalia200.org/Domain/366 for the list of products needed. Sealed bids marked "Dairy Bid" will be received at the District office, 2806 Matthew Drive, Sedalia MO, 65301 from April 14, 2025 until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025. Sedalia School District #200 reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any or all bids. For further information please contact Holly Ladd at 660-829-6475.
2x-4/11, 29, 2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sedalia School District #200 is accepting bids for Prime Grocery Vendor for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact the District office or reference the RFP on the district website at sedalia200.org/Domain/366 for the list of products needed. Sealed bids marked "Food Service Grocery - Prime Vendor" will be received at the District office, 2806 Matthew Drive, Sedalia MO, 65301 from April 14, 2025 until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025. Sedalia School District #200 reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any or all bids. For further information please contact Holly Ladd at 660-829-6475.
2x-4/11, 29, 2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SUBJECT: Request for Bids for concrete work at Smith-Cotton High School and Horace Mann Elementary
The Sedalia School District #200 is seeking bids for concrete work at Smith-Cotton High School and Horace Mann Elementary. The concrete will replace existing asphalt in the east bus lane and at four other high travel locations at the high school. Seven other alternate areas for concrete will be considered in this opportunity. The timeframe for this project will be from June 2025- August 1, 2025. Sealed bids marked "SCHS & HM concrete" will be received at the District Office, 2806 Matthew Drive, Sedalia, MO 65301 until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. Please schedule an appointment with Richie Simons at simonsrichie@sedalia200.org to receive a copy of the scope of work and to take field measurements.
The Sedalia School District#200 reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any and all bids.
2x-4/22, 29, 2025

Request for Bid
The Sedalia School District #200 is accepting sealed bids for one lot of technology surplus.
The "lot" includes but is not limited to 346 student Chromebooks. Link to specifics: bit.ly/4jENpP9
Winning bidder must take and remove all items in the lot and provide written documentation of a certificate of data destruction in accordance with district policy and procedures. Storage bins are not included in this bid, gaylords need to be returned. Sealed bids must be marked "Tech Surplus" and will be accepted until 10:00 am on May 2, 2025, at the Sedalia School District #200, 2806 Matthew Dr., Sedalia, MO 65301. The surplus lists are available at the Warehouse. If you have any questions, please call Tony Neth at 660-460-1263.
The Sedalia School District #200 reserves the right to refuse and/or reject any or all bids.
2x-4/22, 29, 2025



HOW TO GUIDE 2025



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Caleb and Employees, I am so happy to be a customer. All are so friendly and helpful. Thank you. PP

Brenda Bottcher is my agent. She is very knowledgeable on all aspects of my insurance needs. I really appreciate her and Sumner Insurance. -CK

I talked to Jon Hill today about my homeowners insurance and not only was he quick and efficient but he saved me money!! I can't say enough good things about how much I appreciate his professionalism and kind understanding for my concerns about the rising costs of insurance!! Thank you, Jon!! -DN

So thankful for Sumner Insurance! Their guidance since we retired has been priceless. They will always have the customer's best interest a priority. Highly recommend. -JV

I had friends ask why an Independent Insurance agency. This is why! We can shop among multiple carriers to get the greatest value! That goes for all insurance....property, casualty, life, health, Medicare, and others.-Anonymous

So thankful for Sumner Insurance! Their guidance since we retired has been priceless. They will always have the customers best interest a priority. Highly recommend. -JV

Drew Lusk at Sumner Insurance Services in Sedalia was very helpful with the insurance update for my daughter. It was a pleasure meeting Drew and he made things very easy for us to understand! -MG

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Understanding The Value of Life Insurance

It is common to hear unfortunate stories every day about people dying from heart attacks or other illnesses, car accidents, or many other unexpected and ways. This usually makes people think about what would happen if they or a loved one were the one in such a situation. While no one wants to consider the "What If's", having a plan for the unknown is vital, especially if others depend on you.

For those who have family members they would leave behind, the biggest concern is what would happen to them. Without financial protection such as significant financial savings or life insurance protection, this could leave survivors in a difficult position for many years to come. Consideration of the impact of one's loss of income on a family is important.

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that surviving family members risk the loss of their home or vehicle after the death of a main earner occur. However, the risks of loss due to inadequate long-term financial resources can have an exhaustive consequence.

Considering just a few high-risk areas in assessing life insurance protection needs is a great place to start.

Emotional Stress: Surviving family members will likely have sleepless nights including grief, emotional, and financial stress. On top of funeral and burial costs, the surviving parent might find the need to take some extended time off work to spend with grieving children, or to travel to visit family. The absence of income can be cushioned by the security of a life insurance payout.

Childcare & Other Needs: Aside from keeping up with the financial costs of necessities when raising children, childcare expenses are an issue for both working and non-working spouses. A loss of a wage earner in the home will be detrimental as related to loss of income, medical cost concerns, and keeping up with general family financial needs and basics. Additionally, when planning, many families vastly underestimate the contributions a stay-at-home parent makes to the household. If the non-working spouse dies, the remaining spouse will now have an increased responsibility and will need to take time away from work and often will need to hire someone to help with general childcare needs, especially when younger children are left behind. Thinking longer term, it isn't uncommon for a family to desire to save for their children's college funds. Life insurance can provide coverage protection to fill this planning need for down the road.

Remaining Debt: Nearly every person has at least one or two debts. For those who have considerable amounts of debt, it is important to think about who will pay these debts after death. With the loss of one income, your loved ones would already face difficulties, but this only worsens the problems, especially when debts continue to linger.

Remembrance: Everyone wants to be remembered after death. For every person, this is something that will be very different. Whether a person wants to donate to a charity or just provide sufficiently for his or her family, life insurance is a good way to do this.

Don't risk being under-insured. Too many families and small business owners overlook the need to get sufficient life insurance protection in place before it's too late. The right amount of life insurance based on your family needs is a personal decision and varies widely — but the more thought people put into it, the more they realize they need it. The sooner they secure a life insurance policy, the sooner their family is protected.

A common misconception often exists is that having an employer-based group life insurance policy is coverage enough. Relying solely on group life insurance coverage from your employer is likely not sufficient. Should you decide to leave your employer at will, your company lay you off or go bankrupt, or they simply stop offering this benefit as part of their package, your financial protection could be sacrificed. If you have a history of health issues, it may be difficult or impossible to get life insurance at that time. If you own your own policy, you don't have to worry about losing your life insurance even if your company relationship doesn't last. Additionally, while having an employer group life insurance benefit is good to have, most workplace life insurance policies are one-size-fits-all. You really should opt to carry a personalized policy that meets your needs. Over the years, employers have become less likely to offer important insurance benefits like long-term care insurance, critical illness, cancer insurance, and/or long-term disability coverage. By purchasing your own policy and not relying solely on your employer, you guarantee that no one can terminate the policy that works best for you, except for you.

Everyone should consider assessing their life insurance need. While the type of protection needed will vary, there are a multitude of life insurance-related products available on the market today. Take the time now to learn more. It is better to buy today than tomorrow as life insurance costs are less at a younger age and while a person is in better health. Plus, premiums are small in comparison with the high-cost survivors will pay for an untimely death of an income earner. Since nobody is guaranteed tomorrow, the best time to start shopping is now. To learn more, contact a licensed insurance professional today. Your family will thank you.

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How to Choose a Community College

As college tuition costs continue to soar, community colleges have become an increasingly attractive option. These two-year institutions offer a range of possibilities, serving as a pathway to four-year colleges or as a valuable resource for those seeking specific career or personal education at any stage of life.

For students juggling family responsibilities, full-time jobs, or other commitments, community colleges offer flexibility, lower tuition fees and a diverse array of courses. Some even find that an associate's degree from a community college is sufficient to kickstart their careers. However, it's essential to recognize that not all community colleges are created equal. Factors such as location, tuition costs, available courses and scheduling convenience should all be weighed when selecting the right one for you.

Begin your journey by researching all the community colleges in your vicinity. Ideally, your chosen community college should be no more than a 30-minute commute away and easily accessible by car or public transportation. A shorter commute increases the likelihood of attending classes regularly. Furthermore, many community colleges offer online courses, providing added flexibility.

Cost is undoubtedly a significant factor in your decision-making process. Many community colleges have two-tiered tuition systems, with one rate for in-area residents and a higher rate for out-of-area residents. Living in the same county as the community college often means paying only a fraction of the tuition fees compared to non-residents. Financial assistance may also be available. Local businesses frequently support their community colleges by offering scholarships, and state and federal grants and loans can help alleviate the financial burden of higher education.

Consider the course offerings when selecting a community college. Ensure that the college is accredited or has cooperative partnerships with local or state universities if you plan to transfer credits. If multiple community colleges offer your chosen major, delve into their internship programs and reputations. Check whether they provide employment statistics, as opting for a college with a higher employment rate post-graduation can be a strategic move.

See **COLLEGE**, Page S10



Choosing the right Auto Body Shop

No matter how careful a driver you are, the unexpected can still happen, resulting in dents, nicks and scratches to your vehicle. Debris from passing trucks, parking lot mishaps and random accidents can all conspire to mar your car's appearance. When faced with significant damage, the search for a reputable auto body shop becomes essential to restore your vehicle to its pristine condition.

Auto body shops specializing in this service vary in terms of quality, reliability and cost. It's not uncommon for auto body repair estimates to vary significantly, sometimes by hundreds or even thousands of dollars. To ensure you receive the best quality work at a fair price, it's crucial to invest time in your search and ask the right questions.

Choosing the right auto body shop depends on various factors, including the extent of the damage, whether the costs are covered by insurance, the shop's experience with your vehicle's make and model and its overall reputation.

At the heart of your search is the quest for an auto body shop that embodies qualities like honesty, trustworthiness and dependability. This choice ensures that your vehicle is repaired promptly, affordably and correctly.

The ideal auto body shop should be capable of handling a wide range of tasks, from minor touch-ups to full-body repairs. Seek recommendations from friends, family and colleagues, as auto body shops are a common necessity in many people's lives.

Compile a list of potential shops, conduct online research and read customer reviews, taking both positive and negative feedback into account. Keep in mind that no business can satisfy every customer, and negative comments may be more common than positive ones.

Local newspapers can be an excellent resource for finding auto body shops, often featuring advertisements and special deals that can help you save money.

Once you've created a list of prospective shops, contact them by phone to ask essential questions. Inquire about their years in business, areas of specialization and the earliest available inspection appointment.

See **AUTO**, Page S10

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How to Choose a Church

In an era where church attendance varies, it's heartening to know that many people still seek a place of worship.

Whether you're a newcomer to faith, have relocated, or are in search of a more fulfilling spiritual journey, selecting the right church can be a rewarding experience. The diversity of denominations across the United States means that you have countless options, but choosing the ideal congregation goes beyond denomination. At its core, a church is a community of like-minded individuals who share beliefs, values and support systems. It's a place where you can deepen your faith, find fellowship and engage in personal growth. To help you navigate this important decision, here's a guide to choosing a church that aligns with your spiritual and personal needs.

Determine Your Worship Preferences

Begin by defining your worship style and congregation size preferences. Do you prefer a liturgical or "low church" environment? Are you seeking a more contemporary, less formal setting with dynamic sermons? Would you thrive in an intimate community or a larger, mega-church setting? Consider your musical preferences, too, as some churches embrace traditional sacred music while others incorporate more contemporary styles.

Clarify Your Beliefs

Your faith tradition may guide your choice. If you're a Methodist, Baptist or Lutheran, you might seek a congregation that aligns with your denomination. Alternatively, you may prefer a non-denominational church.

Determine whether you're drawn to a progressive or conservative congregation, and whether you identify with evangelical beliefs or mainstream beliefs.

Conduct Research

Take advantage of various resources to identify potential churches. Consult local newspapers, browse online directories, or drive around your city to discover places of worship. Seek recommendations from friends and family who may share their church experiences with you.

Once you've identified potential churches, attend services with an open heart and mind. Interact with church members, ask questions and collect information. Don't hesitate to strike up conversations with fellow attendees or speak with the pastor after the service. You may also find informative literature available to take home.

Reflect on Your Experience

After visiting multiple churches, reflect on your experiences. Assess whether the church's statement of belief resonates with your own. Consider the level of comfort you felt during the service and whether the pastor's message engaged you or left you wanting more.

Identify the core values that matter most to you and evaluate how well each church aligns with them. If community service and volunteering are significant, look for congregations with outreach programs that resonate with your passions.

Remember that worship and spirituality are deeply personal journeys. By asking the right questions and reflecting on your experiences, you can confidently choose a church where you'll grow spiritually, feel at home and be inspired to live your best life.

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How to Choose Garage Doors

Is it time to bid farewell to your old, worn-out garage door and welcome a sleek and modern replacement? Garage doors play a significant role in your home's exterior appeal, providing not only aesthetic value but also functionality and security.

As these doors endure years of use and exposure to the elements, they may become noisy and less efficient. Replacing your garage door can enhance your home's curb appeal, improve security, and even boost its overall value.

If you're considering this upgrade, you'll be delighted to discover the abundance of options available in today's market, making garage door replacement an affordable and transformative home improvement project.

Exploring Stylish Options

Garage doors have evolved, offering an extensive array of styles, materials, and colors to complement any architectural design, from rustic barns to classic craftsman bungalows and contemporary urban residences. The days of limited choices with simple sheet metal doors are long gone. While you might already have a particular style in mind, seeking advice from a designer can help you make the perfect selection in terms of style and color. Some garage door retailers even offer tools to visualize the doors with color and material samples, allowing you to preview how your home's appearance will be transformed.

When choosing a garage door, carefully consider the material options available. Modern garage doors can be crafted from various materials, including expensive hardwoods, textured vinyl, durable fiberglass, or basic aluminum. Your choice of material significantly impacts the door's appearance and durability. Be mindful of maintenance requirements, as some materials maintain their color longer, while others, like real wood, may need periodic staining and sealing to preserve their exquisite look.

See **GARAGE**, Page S10





How to Choose a Real Estate Agency

The journey of buying or selling a home can be an overwhelming experience filled with paperwork, intricate closing procedures, and potential challenges in dealing with other parties.

A reliable real estate agency can transform this process into a smooth, stress-free endeavor. With countless agencies to choose from in every city and town, find one that offers a team of professional, dependable, and successful agents and Realtors. These experts should possess an intimate knowledge of the market and the ability to position you for success.

The quest to find the right agency is a delicate balance between experience and chemistry. Naturally, credentials and licenses are crucial, but the agency's ability to provide personalized attention shouldn't be overlooked. Trustworthiness is another significant factor. Seek recommendations from friends and consult your local business bureau to identify reputable agencies in your area.

Once you have a list of prospects, conduct thorough research. Consider the agency's longevity in the business; ideally, you want professionals who are deeply rooted in your community. Keep in mind that real estate should be their full-time commitment, not just a side business.

Take to the internet and explore customer service reviews to gain a general impression of each agency. After narrowing down your list, reach out to these businesses and ask pertinent questions about their listings, fees, and commissions.

Select an agency that boasts strong ties to the community, an acute understanding of the neighborhoods that interest you, and solid connections with other realty companies. This becomes especially vital when you're selling your current home, as the agency manages the sale while the Realtor assists you in finding a new one.

Each agency sets itself apart through its marketing strategy and advertising, significantly impacting the sale of your home. While many companies may appear similar, they often specialize in particular types of properties, such as commercial real estate or high-end homes. Seek an agency whose focus aligns with your property type.

Review the agency's listings to determine if your home would seamlessly fit in with their existing clientele. Imagine yourself as a potential buyer; are their listings informative and easy to navigate?

The agency's size will influence your experience. Smaller agencies tend to provide personalized service but may lack extensive networking opportunities. On the other hand, larger agencies have broader networks and increased potential to sell your home, although they may divide their attention among numerous clients.

See **AGENCY**, Page S10





How to Choose Emergency or Urgent Care

When you're facing a medical issue, it can be challenging to determine whether you should seek care at an emergency room (ER) or an urgent care facility. Understanding the difference between the two and knowing when to choose each option is crucial for efficient and cost-effective healthcare.

Here are steps to help you make the right decision:

Assess the Severity of the Situation: The first step is to assess the seriousness of the medical issue. Emergencies require immediate attention, while less severe issues may be suitable for urgent care. Signs of a medical emergency include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or pressure
- Severe bleeding
- Loss of consciousness
- Seizures
- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis)
- Signs of a stroke (facial drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty)
- Signs of a heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea)

Understand the Difference:

- Emergency Room (ER): ERs are equipped to handle life-threatening conditions, surgeries, and hospitalization. They have advanced diagnostic tools, specialists, and are available 24/7.
- Urgent Care: Urgent care centers are suitable for non-life-threatening conditions that require prompt attention but are not emergencies. They offer extended hours, X-rays, minor procedures, and can handle various medical issues.

Consider Urgent Care for Non-Emergencies: Urgent care is appropriate for conditions such as:

- High fevers
- Cuts requiring stitches
- Mild allergic reactions
- Insect or snake bites
- Minor fractures
- Minor back or neck injuries
- Heatstroke or frostbite
- Non-severe illnesses

Choose the ER for Emergencies: Visit the ER for serious conditions like:

- Heart attack or stroke symptoms
- Serious breathing difficulties
- Loss of consciousness
- Chemical poisoning
- Heavy bleeding
- Severe burns
- Traumatic head injuries
- Gunshot wounds
- Sexual assault
- Psychiatric emergencies (suicidal thoughts, drug overdose)

Use 9-1-1 for Immediate Emergencies: If you experience signs of a heart attack or stroke, call 9-1-1 immediately. These signs include chest pain, shortness of breath, confusion, weakness, facial drooping, speech difficulty, and numbness.

See **CARE**, Page S10

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COLLEGE

Continued from Page S4

Most community colleges provide class schedules online or distribute course catalogs through local newspapers. Thoroughly review their offerings. If your schedule demands late-evening classes, confirm whether the college offers an adequate number of them. Additionally, investigate distance learning opportunities, as many colleges allow students to earn certificates or degrees entirely online.

For non-traditional students needing flexible schedules, inquire about classes offered on various days of the week, during mornings, evenings or even weekends. Some community colleges offer accelerated programs for those seeking a swift graduation. Furthermore, high school students may find opportunities to attend community colleges and earn degrees ahead of schedule.

If your goal is to secure a certification for your current or future job, rest assured that community colleges offer such programs. Explore tuition reimbursement options with your employer to further ease the financial aspect.

Ultimately, when choosing a community college, take your lifestyle and personal requirements into account. Chances are, a community college in your area can cater to your needs, propelling you towards that coveted promotion, new job or enhanced skill set.

GARAGE

Continued from Page S7

In regions with extreme climates, the insulation of your garage door becomes a critical factor in reducing energy bills. Garage doors come with an "R-factor" rating, indicating their insulation capabilities against outdoor temperature fluctuations. This is especially essential for heated garages. However, even unheated garages benefit from insulated doors, as they help regulate interior temperatures. Generally, higher "R-values" indicate better insulation. Prioritize insulation considerations, especially if you reside in an area with harsh weather conditions.

Local Guidelines and Regulations

Before making a purchase, be aware of any specific requirements imposed by your city, county, or homeowner's association regarding garage doors. Homeowner's associations may have strict guidelines concerning materials and styles permitted in your neighborhood. Ensure your garage door choice aligns with local regulations and receives approval from relevant authorities or boards.

Safety is paramount when selecting a garage door. Garage doors are typically the largest moving objects in a home, and their safe operation is critical. Inquire with your garage door retailer about safety features. Ensure the door is designed to prevent pinching fingers or causing harm to small children if they become trapped underneath. Additionally, verify that the installation complies with all safety codes applicable in your area.

Consider an Opener Upgrade

When installing a new garage door, it's often wise to upgrade your opener as well. Include this in your project budget and explore the latest opener models. Modern garage door openers offer convenient features such as remote closure via smartphones, whisper-quiet operation, and energy-efficient performance.

By carefully considering style, material, insulation, local regulations, safety, and opener options, you can confidently select the perfect garage door to enhance your home's aesthetics, efficiency, and security. Say goodbye to the old and embrace the new, as your garage door transformation awaits!

AUTO

Continued from Page S5

Request a free inspection appointment to further assess the business. Evaluate their lobby for cleanliness and professionalism. Check for posted licenses, awards or certificates, as these reflect a commitment to customer care.

Price comparisons are crucial, but remember that cheaper is not always better. High-quality auto body work often comes at a price, while lower prices may indicate the use of sub-par materials and improper paint application.

Feel free to ask the manager or owner for references before entrusting them with your vehicle. Additionally, examine their previous work. If you spot paint drips, misaligned panels, or mismatched paint, consider alternative options. Choosing quality over cost savings ensures you won't need costly rework down the line.

A reputable auto body shop should inspect your vehicle for hidden damages that may not be immediately visible. Such damages often become apparent only during the repair process.

While searching for an auto body shop may not be the most enjoyable task, finding the right one can significantly improve your experience. When you locate a shop that restores your vehicle to its previous or even better condition, the process becomes much more pleasant, leaving you satisfied with the results.

AGENCY

Continued from Page S8

For those selling their homes, prepare to ask the following questions:

— What is your marketing strategy for my home, including online and newspaper promotion?

— How many photos of my house will be featured online?

— Which websites will showcase my property?

— Can you provide recent sales data for homes in my price range?

— How long has your agency been active in my neighborhood?

— What sets your agency apart from others?

The decisions to buy and sell a home are among the most significant financial choices you'll make in your lifetime. Protect your investment and peace of mind by selecting the most trustworthy and capable real estate agency available.

CARE

Continued from Page S9

Consider Cost and Time: Urgent care is often more cost-effective and faster than the ER for non-emergencies. If you're unsure, choose urgent care, and they can redirect you to the ER if necessary.

Verify your insurance coverage and any requirements for pre-authorization or referrals. This can affect your choice of care facility.

Educate Yourself: Learn about the healthcare facilities in your area, their services, and their operating hours. Knowing where to go in advance can help you make a quicker decision in an emergency.

When in doubt about the severity of a medical issue, prioritize your health and seek immediate medical attention. Trust your instincts.

By understanding the difference between emergency and urgent care and considering the nature and severity of your condition, you can make an informed decision about where to seek medical treatment, ensuring you receive the appropriate care for your needs.



How to Choose a Private School

Selecting the ideal educational environment for your child is one of the most significant decisions parents make. While many opt for public schools, others seek a school that aligns with their educational philosophy, boasts smaller class sizes, and offers increased academic rigor.

Private schools often fulfill these demands, with statistics indicating higher success rates and college-enrollment figures. Additionally, private schools cater to specific religious beliefs and cherished family values.

However, not all private schools are created equal. They may vary in facilities, teacher qualifications, and tuition costs. To aid you in your search for the perfect private school for your child, here are some essential considerations:

Values

Private schools often emphasize instilling a set of values, both through educators and faculty and among the student body. Shared values can be a powerful influence on a child's development. Begin by identifying a private school that values the same principles you hold dear.

While it's crucial to consider whether the school is affiliated with a specific religion or denomination, delve deeper into the extent of religious instruction offered. Some private schools incorporate religious classes and worship services into the curriculum, while others prioritize providing a high-quality secular education with less focus on a particular faith. Some private schools may have no religious affiliation at all.

Remember that values extend beyond written statements. Observe how the school's employees and students embody these values, and take into account the school's reputation within the community when making your decision.

Staff

Private schools can have varying staff qualifications. Some may impose stringent credential requirements that exceed those of public schools, while others may have more relaxed education and training prerequisites. Inquire about the teaching staff's credentials, including their alma maters, degrees, certificates, and ongoing training relevant to the courses they teach.

The school's reputation can be a valuable indicator of the quality of its teachers and administrators. Seek opinions and feedback from your community to gain insight into the school's educational staff.

See **SCHOOL**, Page S16

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Selecting the Right Insurance Agent for Your Needs

The insurance industry is complex and is flooded with companies offering all sorts of insurance at all sorts of prices. What is more rare is the qualified, reliable and ethical insurance agent who is going to help you find what best meets your needs, that gives the coverage you need, at the most competitive price.

For most people, there really are many advantages to finding a local insurance agent who is nearby to answer questions, who knows your service area well, and can provide top-quality service.

Because there are so many fraudulent agents, it is important to vet your agent prior to opting into the coverage they offer. Your asset protection and your financial future depends on finding the right agent to help you get insurance that will fit your needs. Here's some guidance on how to find the best agent or broker for your needs.

Ask for Referrals & Do Your Research

Family, friends and colleagues have likely worked with various insurance agents in the past. Ask people you trust for referrals. If you receive a recommendation, it is because that person has had a positive experience and a good working relationship. There is a strong likelihood that you will have similar results.

If you do not have recommendations, research your options. Begin by looking at local companies and brokers. Be thorough. Buying a policy is like purchasing a new car or home. Select a company that is highly regarded by consumers. Review each company to determine if clients are satisfied? Are they easy to work with? Do they help clients from sale to service and if/when a claims situation arises? Also, check that any prospective agent has all necessary licenses and training.

Good agents understand that offering great service will keep them in business. Your agent should be available. The relationship doesn't end once the sale is completed. Their careers depend on word-of-mouth. If you are happy with the service you receive, your insurance agent will appreciate your willingness to send business their way.

Interviews

After narrowing your list of prospective agents, feel free to make an appointment to visit each one. Prepare a list of questions and concerns about your personal situation. Take notes during your meeting. Remember that you must feel comfortable with the answers before purchasing a policy.

See **AGENT**, Page S16

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Finding the Right Bank

In a world that's rapidly embracing cashless transactions, selecting the right financial institution to entrust with your money is a pivotal decision. Whether you prefer in-person interactions, rely on a user-friendly banking app or opt for seamless online services, your choice of bank should align with your unique financial needs.

Choosing the perfect bank remains one of the most significant financial decisions you can make, even in an era where physical visits to a bank are becoming increasingly rare. As you embark on this journey, you'll quickly realize that the array of financial institutions competing for your business has grown more diverse than ever before.

The type of bank you opt for—be it a traditional "name" institution, a credit union, or a cutting-edge online bank—reflects your specific financial requirements and your preferred method of depositing and managing your hard-earned income. Regardless of how and where you access your funds, a meticulous selection process will lead you to the right bank that serves your needs effectively.

To guide you on this financial quest, here are key factors to consider:

Interest Rates

Interest rates wield a considerable influence on your banking experience. Financial institutions often use competitive interest rates to attract new customers. While savings account interest rates can vary significantly, most banks adjust their rates in response to changes in the federal funds rate.

Don't underestimate the effect of interest rates—especially when dealing with substantial deposit amounts. Explore online resources and diligently compare interest rates in your locality to make informed choices.

Fees

Banking often comes with an array of fees for various transactions. Some checking accounts impose limitations, such as a maximum number of checks you can write each month before incurring fees, or they may require maintaining a minimum balance to keep the account active. While some banks offer "free" checking, scrutinize the fine print to ensure that it genuinely aligns with your financial habits. Understanding a bank's fee schedule is vital to assess its compatibility with your financial goals.

Convenience

Convenience is a key criterion when evaluating banks. Opt for institutions with multiple branches in accessible locations, ensuring that your financial needs are effortlessly met. Frequent travelers should verify whether their local or regional bank is part of a national network, offering free ATM access at partner banks. Assess the bank's online banking infrastructure, considering the ease of navigation and security. The availability of a user-friendly app for online deposits and transactions is a significant convenience factor, as it allows you to check your balance and manage your finances on the go.

See **BANK**, Page S16





How to Choose a Water Well Driller

Access to a reliable source of water is essential, especially in rural areas, farms, or regions affected by droughts. Having your water well can provide independence and cost savings while utilizing the Earth as a natural filtration system. Establishing a dependable relationship with well drilling contractors is crucial for ensuring a continuous water supply.

To find the right well driller, consider the following factors.

Credentials and Compliance

Drilling a well is a regulated activity that may involve certain risks. Therefore, select a company with the appropriate licenses and insurance coverage for your area. Reputable drilling companies possess local expertise, ensuring they are well-versed in local regulations, environmental considerations, water quality standards, and necessary permits.

When permits are required, clarify whether the driller will handle the permit application or if you are responsible for obtaining it. Additionally, inquire about the insurance carried by the drilling company to protect against potential accidents or injuries on your property.

Well Specifications

Understanding your water requirements is essential when comparing well-drilling companies. The size and capacity of your well depend on factors such as your household's water needs, agricultural operations, or the size of your family. A reliable well driller should provide you with various options and pricing tailored to meet your specific needs.

To make an informed decision, delve into the specifics, including well depth, capacity, equipment, and pump options. A comprehensive understanding of these details, along with the pros and cons of each choice, will lead to long-term satisfaction with your well.

See **WATER**, Page S16

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How to Choose an Auctioneer

A great auctioneer is a captivating blend of entertainer and salesperson, commanding a strong voice, the art of rapid speech, and wielding a gavel with unwavering confidence.

Though auctions may have waned in popularity in recent times, they continue to hold their place. Whether you're organizing an auction for a charitable cause, to sell real estate or homes or dealing with sizable inventories such as livestock, furniture or vehicles, the services of a skilled auctioneer can be indispensable.

The right auctioneer can unlock the magic word: "Sold!" This is the ultimate goal, particularly when liquidating an estate or raising funds for a noble cause. Auctions are a win-win for both participants and hosts, offering an enjoyable experience while potentially generating substantial profits.

Selecting the perfect auctioneer can be a challenge. Auctioneers are specialists, and finding the one who aligns with your specific needs is paramount. For instance, if you're conducting an estate sale featuring valuable antiques and cherished possessions, a commercial or business-oriented auctioneer may not be the best fit.

Auctions are inherently driven by personality, making it essential to choose an auctioneer who exudes charm, charisma and the ability to forge connections with the audience. This individual should possess the gift of eloquence, a touch of humor and the knack for establishing rapport with bidders.

The success of your auction hinges on the auctioneer's capacity to engage the audience. They should showcase your items in the most appealing light and stimulate participants to bid enthusiastically. Experienced auctioneers often have a dedicated following, drawing attendees to your event due to their stellar reputation.

See **AUCTIONEER**, Page S16

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page S11

Students

Before finalizing your choice, arrange at least one in-person visit to the private school. Attend classes to observe student behavior and how the school addresses disciplinary matters. Seek input from parents of current or former students to gain insights into any existing student-related concerns.

While no school has perfect students, it's important to assess how the school handles disciplinary issues, whether through a strict approach or a more relaxed one. Ultimately, you want to ensure your child's safety and comfort in their learning environment.

Opportunities

Private school enrollment is often driven by the desire to provide children with enhanced opportunities in life. The specific school you select can significantly influence the opportunities available to your child, from college admissions to extracurricular activities like music and sports.

Inquire about the school's college acceptance rates and track record in preparing students for prestigious universities. Pay close attention to the current and future extracurricular offerings, such as arts programs, language clubs, and service clubs. A well-rounded private school with a range of extracurricular activities can expand your child's options during their middle school and high school years.

By thoroughly evaluating the school's values, staff, student environment, and opportunities, you'll be better equipped to make an informed decision about the private school that best suits your child's needs and aspirations.

AGENT

Continued from Page S12

The right agent will let you take as much time as you need to understand the implications of each policy. They will give you useful information and not subject you to high-pressure sales techniques.

Agencies who have been in business for many years likely have a great reputation and track record. They understand the industry complexities, policy options, and will even take extra care that you are properly protected. It is essential that you choose the right type and amount of insurance to adequately protect yourself and your financial future. The policy should be tailored to fit your specific needs. A seasoned, skilled insurance agent in a positively regarded agency will be an invaluable resource for safeguarding your future.

WATER

Continued from Page S14

Expectations and Payment

Establish clear expectations with the well driller regarding payment and the drilling site. It is customary for drillers to request an initial payment, with the balance due upon completion of the well. Some drilling companies may offer financing or alternative payment arrangements to accommodate your budget.

Discuss any site preparation requirements, such as leveling sloped areas, clearing trees, or brush removal, to facilitate equipment access for drilling. Ensure that the associated costs and timelines for site preparations are agreed upon upfront.

Reputation and Recommendations

Reputation plays a significant role in selecting the right well driller. In rural areas, neighbors with water wells can provide valuable insights and recommendations based on their experiences. Seek feedback on drilling companies from your community, both positive and negative, to gain a comprehensive understanding of each company's performance.

Choosing a well drilling company is a significant investment, considering the costs involved. It requires heavy equipment, skilled labor, experienced operators, and high-quality pumps. By conducting thorough research, seeking recommendations, and establishing clear expectations, you can find a reputable well driller who provides excellent service throughout the entire process, from consultation to post-sale support.

BANK

Continued from Page S13

Overdraft Safeguards

Mistakes happen, and inadvertent overdrafts are not uncommon. Each bank has policies regarding overdrafts. Some provide overdraft protection through a high-interest credit line, while others charge fees for overdraft occurrences. Certain banks offer no coverage at all. Investigate overdraft policies meticulously to ensure they align with your preferences and financial habits.

Stability

Evaluating a bank's stability is paramount before entrusting it with your finances. Scrutinize the institution's history and financial health to ensure it operates on a solid foundation. Banks typically invest deposited funds through a fractional reserve banking system, and those with robust balance sheets are better equipped to weather market turbulence. Additionally, most banks are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) for up to $250,000 per depositor. Familiarize yourself with these safeguards to ensure the safety of your funds.

Services

Most banks offer a diverse range of services, from loans to checking accounts. When selecting a bank, prioritize one that aligns with your needs while imposing minimal fees. Seek maximum convenience in banking services to streamline your financial transactions and enhance your overall banking experience.

By navigating the financial landscape with care and vigilance, you'll embark on a fruitful partnership with a trustworthy commercial bank that caters to your unique financial aspirations.

AUCTIONEER

Continued from Page S15

Begin your search for an auctioneer at your local auction house. The most accomplished auctioneers are typically independent professionals with honed skills and a track record of delivering results for their clients.

Use the internet or local newspapers to identify qualified auctioneers. Many newspapers feature an auction section within their classifieds. When searching online, prioritize websites affiliated with recognized institutions, as not all websites list credentialed auctioneers.

If your initial efforts prove fruitless, consider reaching out to the National Auctioneers Association or visit their website at www.auctioneers.org. Many auctioneers hold memberships in professional organizations like the Certified Auctioneers Institute (CAI), which upholds rigorous standards of integrity.

Occasionally, a well-known personality can draw a larger crowd to your event. Ensure that potential auctioneers have received comprehensive training in the auction process, including logistical aspects that require clarification.

During interviews with potential candidates, request references and inquire about their work history. Verify their licensing status and confirm their active participation in auction events.

Once you've compiled a shortlist of finalists, attend an auction where they are performing. Pay close attention to how they interact with attendees and the pacing of the event. Take meticulous notes on each auctioneer's performance. After narrowing your selection to one or two candidates, perform thorough background checks and obtain credible references.

Now, sit back, relax and savor the spectacle. Rest assured that your items will be meticulously described and displayed, and more often than not, sold at the highest possible price. The auctioneer you ultimately choose will ensure this with consummate professionalism.



How to Choose a Real Estate Agent

When it comes to buying or selling a home, having a trustworthy real estate agent by your side can make all the difference. These professionals are not just skilled negotiators; they're your guides through the intricate web of contracts and transactions that make up the real estate world. Whether you're a buyer or a seller, having the right agent can help you secure the best deal and navigate the process seamlessly.

Identifying a great real estate agent isn't as challenging as it may seem. They often come highly recommended by friends and family, earn recognition in local newspapers, and receive accolades from their agencies for their outstanding track records. When you're dealing with something as significant as a home purchase or sale, it's crucial to choose an agent you can trust.

Here's how to find the perfect match for your needs:

Start with Recommendations

Seek referrals from your social network. Friends, family, and colleagues can provide valuable insights into their experiences with real estate agents. Keep in mind that some agents specialize in buying or selling, so consider your specific needs when seeking recommendations. Always opt for credible, responsible agents.

Assess Your Comfort Level

During your initial consultation with a prospective real estate agent, pay close attention to your comfort level. Do they genuinely care about your needs and priorities, or does their focus seem solely on their commission? A good agent should have in-depth knowledge of the local housing market and possess strong negotiation skills. Trust is paramount, so choose an agent you believe will act ethically and secure the best deal for you.

Effective communication is a must. If you're selling your home, your agent should develop a comprehensive marketing plan, explain it clearly, and address any questions or concerns you may have. For homebuyers, the agent should listen attentively to your requirements and budget constraints. Regular updates on the progress of your transaction are vital. Avoid agents who are unresponsive to your calls, texts, or emails.

Leverage Additional Resources

To enhance your understanding of the home buying or selling process, engage in independent research. Real estate magazines and online resources like Realtor.com, associated with the National Association of Realtors (NAR), offer valuable insights, housing statistics, market forecasts, and tips. However, don't underestimate the power of networking. Connect with individuals who share your interests and can provide valuable guidance.

Once you've successfully completed your real estate transaction, keep your agent's contact information handy. You may want to refer others to their services, and you might require their expertise again in the future.

Choosing the right real estate agent is a crucial step in achieving your home buying or selling goals. By following these guidelines and selecting an agent who aligns with your needs and values, you'll ensure a smoother, more successful real estate experience.



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How to Choose a Musical Instrument

Playing a musical instrument is a passion for many people for a lot of different reasons. Whether it is expression and satisfaction, therapy, or the love of performance, the list goes on and on. Choosing which instrument is right for you can be a daunting task. We have asked our local professionals at Backwoods Guitar in Sedalia for some tips and tricks, as well as thoughtful insight, on diving into the world of music. Mason and Eron Harding have years of experience in all aspects of the music world and were happy to lend a hand.

1. Pick an instrument that you love. You have to want to play this instrument. It should not be a chore to practice or want to get better.

2. Find some help from another player. These people can help you with the do's and dont's of that particular instrument from their own personal experience.

3. The one that feels comfortable and sounds good is the one you want. Don't get hung up on brand names.

4. Renting vs purchasing. Maybe you should try out that saxophone before investing a lot of money. Renting may be the best option until you are sure you are ready to commit both the time and money.

5. Find a good teacher. A good teacher can help you on your way to learning the instrument correctly, as well as help introduce you to other types of music. The internet is also a great source for learning and advice. However, keep in mind, there are also a lot of bad instructors on the internet as well.

6. New vs Used. Starting on a nicely used instrument is the most common practice for new players. You can get a good quality instrument to get started, then upgrade as your skills progress. However, it would be a good idea to have your teacher or another player help with your choice to make sure the instrument is in good shape. You don't want to buy a flute or clarinet that has worn out pads, or a guitar with a warped neck.

No matter what instrument you choose, be prepared to invest a lot of time into practicing. There are no shortcuts to becoming a good player. A good part of playing an instrument is muscle memory (ie. getting your fingers to do what your brain tells it to do). The only way to accomplish that is to practice over and over and over.

If you need any help please feel free to call and talk to the pros down at Backwoods Guitar and they will be more than happy to help you with your journey!

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How to Choose a Liquor Store

When you're in the market to stock up on your favorite liquors, wines, and beer, having a reliable go-to liquor store can make all the difference. It's the place where you can count on finding your preferred brands, receive guidance from knowledgeable staff, and discover hidden gems to elevate your drinking experience. While many states offer the convenience of buying liquor in grocery stores, forming a relationship with a great liquor store goes beyond mere convenience.

A remarkable liquor store goes the extra mile by offering more than just mass-produced liquor, wine, and beer. The proprietors are deeply passionate and knowledgeable about their products, ready to suggest pairings, offer special options across various price ranges, and introduce you to craft and specialty beverages. In essence, a great liquor store can be your trusted guide to crafting a memorable occasion with quality spirits.

Here's what to look for in a liquor store:

Wide Variety: Seek out a store that aligns with your preferences. Some shops specialize in local beer selections from nearby microbreweries, while others focus on wines and high-end imported or craft spirits like whiskey, rum, or scotch. The best liquor stores boast a diverse inventory, featuring popular products alongside new, rare, or exotic offerings. Look for a store that caters to various price points, as different occasions may call for different spirits. For mixing cocktails or using liquor in recipes, you may not always need the priciest brands, but for sipping on its own, quality matters.

Expert Advice: If you frequently entertain or make substantial liquor purchases, expert guidance becomes invaluable. The best liquor stores will help you choose the right product for a specific event or occasion. Simply describe your requirements and preferences, and they'll provide recommendations accordingly. Great personalized service might even justify traveling a bit farther to reach your preferred store. Over time, your chosen store will get to know your tastes and preferences, enhancing your overall shopping experience.

Overall Experience: While convenience plays a role, it's not the sole factor to consider. Ideally, the liquor store should be clean, well-organized, and located in a safe area. The finest liquor stores take pride in their appearance, offering a vast selection of products and employing knowledgeable staff. When you find all these elements in one store, you can savor the taste of success.

Choosing a liquor store that aligns with your preferences and provides exceptional service can transform your liquor shopping into an enjoyable and satisfying experience. Whether you're looking for your favorite brands or eager to explore new and exciting options, the right liquor store can be your trusted companion on your spirited journey.

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