

# SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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## El Rodeo restaurant finally opens to sell-out crowds

By Chris Howell  
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El Rodeo Authentic Mexican Restaurant finally opened this week at the corner of South Limit Avenue and West 14th Street.

Tali Lopez is a successful restaurateur who wanted to move to Sedalia.

"I have a restaurant in Warrensburg, Cancun Mexican restaurant," Lopez said. "I have been there, and we had that one since 2012, and we were looking to open in Sedalia but very hard to find a building to open that was in a good location, so we just kept looking, finally we got this."

Lopez bought the old Hardee's building, 1400 S. Limit Ave., a location with easy access off the

major thoroughfare. But there were some problems with the structure.

"It was a really old building," Lopez recalled, "and when I saw the building, it was that old, so we ended with a very old building and every time we're trying to do something, the walls were rotted, and we had to rebuild them."

Opening day kept getting pushed back further and further as people watched work drag on at the location for a year. Part of the delay was the great deal of work to do, but Lopez said part of the delay was Sedalia's permitting process.

Lopez said he had to revise plans again and again as he worked with the city, adding months to the process.

See **EL RODEO | A5**



Tali Lopez, seen Friday, Feb. 9, and partner Roberto Oyervides have opened El Rodeo Authentic Mexican at the corner of South Limit Avenue and West 14th Street. Lopez said the excellent location was worth the effort of converting the old Hardee's into a bright, inviting and clean restaurant.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



Primrose Retirement resident Bonnie Morris holds up a sign on Thursday, Feb. 8 as 30 residents prepare to create another Kansas City Chiefs video for Super Bowl LVIII. The group, known as the Primrose Chiefs Cheerleaders, had their first video go viral and were in the news across the country. PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT

## Seeing red: Primrose residents perform another Chiefs-themed video

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney

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With bright smiles and eager hearts Thursday afternoon, Feb. 8, 30 Primrose Chiefs Cheerleaders made a "touchdown" with their new Kansas City Chiefs-themed video that brought in local and state news outlets.

Under the direction of Primrose Retirement Community Activities Director Connie Chevalier, the residents created a Chiefs-themed video a couple of weeks ago that went viral. Due to the video's popularity, news sources across the U.S. picked it up, aired it on national television, and published it in People Magazine. Know by some as the "Silver Swifties," Chevalier said they are actually the "Primrose Chiefs Cheerleaders."

See **VIDEO | A6**



On Thursday, from left, Ginna Dean, Donna Egan and Lory Moxter perform a seated dance routine to Taylor Swift's song, "Look What You Made Me Do." Along with local media outlets, news sources from Columbia and Kansas City were on hand for the performance.

## Kim reflects on Carnegie Hall performance, teaching at UCM

By Zach Bott

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WARRENSBURG – Mia Kim's career has taken her to places she wouldn't have believed growing up. Traveling to places like Greece, Spain and Serbia for work, Kim, the University of Central Missouri Piano Area Coordinator and Director of the Community Music Program, could only dream of going to some of these places.

Another dream became a reality for Kim last week.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Kim performed as a soloist and ensemble member in the concert "Letters About Three Luminaries," featuring works

of Greek composers Dr. Athanasios Zervas and Dinos Constantinides at Carnegie Hall in New York. The benefit concert, sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, was in support of the Hellenic Education Fund. This fund supports more than 500 day and afternoon schools across the U.S. while showcasing Hellenic arts and music.

Prior to performing at Carnegie, Kim and Zervas had met each other when Kim performed in Greece in 2017 and accompanied one another in 2022 when Zervas made the trip to Warrensburg.

Carnegie Hall has stood as an iconic concert venue in Manhattan ever since it

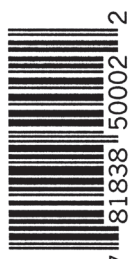
was built in 1891. Built by and named after industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the hall has featured the works of Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, The Beatles, Leonard Bernstein and many more. Inside, the building contains three performance halls: the Stern Auditorium, Zankel Hall, and the Weill Recital Hall.

Upon arriving in New York a few days prior to the concert, Kim and the other performers headed to rehearsals immediately. Three days of nonstop practice and understanding the logistics of the performance later and the ensemble was ready.

See **HALL | A5**



University of Central Missouri Piano Area Coordinator and Director of the Community Music Program Dr. Mia Kim rehearses on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the Weill Recital Hall inside Carnegie Hall in New York. PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MIA KIM



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### Fortnite Tournament

**TODAY, February 10th**  
**HCC- Community Room C**  
**10AM-3PM**

**Open to all ages!**

**\$10 per player, unch included**

**Register up until the tournament starts.**

WE BRING THE FUN!  
1800 W. 3RD STREET • SEDALIA, MO  
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### Shamrock Shuffle Registration

- Saturday, March 9 at Centennial Park
- Check-in is from 7:30am-8:15am
  - Run begins at 8:30am
  - Kids 12 and under- \$15
  - Adults- \$25
- Register by February 17 to guarantee a t-shirt
- Prizes for Best Leprechaun, Most Spirited, and Most Green

708914f

## DEATH NOTICE

### Leonard

Joyce Ladine Leonard, 75, of Knob Noster, died Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at Sylvia G. Thompson Residence Center in Sedalia.

Arrangements are pending at Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

## FUNERALS

### Wanda Jean (Johnson) Kreisel

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Warrensburg. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home in Warrensburg.

### Steven Ray Eck

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at the First United Methodist Church, Thompson Site in Sedalia.

### Tammy S. Mosier-Young

Noon Monday, Feb. 12 at Calvary Baptist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

### Franklin (Frank) Delano Chapman Sr.

3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa. Arrangements are under the direction of Grandon Funeral and Cremation Care in Ames, Iowa.

### Daniel W. Smith

2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Sedalia.

## POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

### Sedalia Police Department

#### Arrests

##### Feb. 8

9:18 a.m.: Tiffany Rey Adair, 37, was arrested after officers responded to the 300 block of East Boonville Road for a burglary report. An RV had been entered and property damage was caused in the amount of \$2,000. The suspect was identified and located. Adair was transported to the Pettis County Jail and held for 24 hours pending charges of first-degree property damage and first-degree trespass.

#### Incidents

##### Feb. 6

1:49 p.m.: An officer took a report in the lobby of the police department from the 1500 block of South Vermont Avenue. The complainant reported their vehicle had been damaged when someone attempted to break into it. The damage was estimated at \$130, and a report was completed to document the incident.

##### Feb. 8

8:57 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of East Ninth Street regarding a fraud case. They spoke with a complainant and gathered information for a report.

10:22 a.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 3200 block of South Limit Avenue in reference to fraud on a debit card. The reporting party said their purse and wallet were recently stolen along with a debit card. They noticed fraudulent activity on the card and officers collected the information and submitted a report.

1:50 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the 1200 block of South Moniteau Avenue in reference to a vehicle break-in. They made contact with the reporting party, gathered information and submitted a report.

3:12 p.m.: An officer took a report over the phone of a runaway juvenile from the 300 block of East Broadway Boulevard. A report was completed and the juvenile was entered into the system as a missing person.

10:42 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to the 1500 block of West Third Street in reference to money being stolen from a woman's online banking account by a known suspect.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

## CRASH REPORTS

### Rocky Mount teen injured in motorcycle accident

A 16-year-old male from Rocky Mount suffered moderate injuries at 6 p.m. Thursday in a Morgan County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the boy was riding a 2006 Yamaha YZF-R6 south on Route Y near Red Arrow Road when he crossed the center of the roadway and struck a southbound 2012 Ford F150 driven by Brian D. Luke, 46, of Rocky Mount.

Both drivers were wearing safety devices. The motorcyclist was transported by Mid-MO Ambulance District to Lake Regional Hospital in Osage Beach.

Luke was arrested for driving while intoxicated — alcohol, transported to the Morgan County Jail and released.

### Indianapolis man hurt in I-70 accident

Aaron M. Dishman, 36, of Indianapolis, Indiana, suffered minor injuries at 4 p.m. Thursday in a Saline County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Dishman was driving a 1998 Dodge Ram 3500 west on I-70 when he traveled off the north side of the roadway and struck the guardrail.

Dishman was wearing a seat belt and was transported by Concordia Fire Protection District to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

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

Compiled by Chris Howell.

# FCC outlaws AI-generated voices in robocalls

### By Ali Swenson

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Federal Communications Commission on Thursday outlawed robocalls that contain voices generated by artificial intelligence, a decision that sends a clear message that exploiting the technology to scam people and mislead voters won't be tolerated.

The unanimous ruling targets robocalls made with AI voice-cloning tools under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, a 1991 law restricting junk calls that use artificial and prerecorded voice messages.

The announcement comes as New Hampshire authorities are advancing their investigation into AI-generated robocalls that mimicked President Joe Biden's voice to discourage people from voting in the state's first-in-the-nation primary last month.

Effective immediately, the regulation empowers the FCC to fine companies that use AI voices in their calls or block the service providers that carry them. It also opens the door for call recipients to file lawsuits and gives state attorneys general a new mechanism to crack down on violators, according to the FCC.

The agency's chairwoman, Jessica Rosenworcel, said bad actors have been using AI-generated voices in robocalls to misinform voters, impersonate celebrities and extort family members.

"It seems like something from the far-off future, but this threat is already here," Rosenworcel told The Associated Press on Wednesday as the commission was considering the regulations.

"All of us could be on the receiving end of these faked calls, so that's why we felt the time to act was now."

Under the consumer protection law, telemarketers generally cannot use automated dialers or artificial or prerecorded voice messages to call cellphones, and they cannot make such calls to landlines without prior written consent from the call recipient.

The new ruling classifies AI-generated voices in robocalls as "artificial" and thus enforceable by the same standards, the FCC said.

Those who break the law can face steep fines, with a maximum of more than \$23,000 per call, the FCC said. The agency has previously used the consumer law to clamp down on robocallers interfering in elections, including imposing a \$5 million fine on two conservative hoaxers for falsely warning people in predominantly Black areas that voting by mail could heighten their risk of arrest, debt collection and forced vaccination.

The law also gives call recipients the right to take legal action and potentially recover up to \$1,500 in damages for each unwanted call.

Josh Lawson, director of AI and democracy at the Aspen Institute, said even with the FCC's ruling, voters should prepare themselves for personalized spam to target them by phone, text and social media.

"The true dark hats tend to disregard the stakes and they know what they're doing is unlawful," he said. "We have to understand that bad actors are going to continue to rattle the cages and push the limits."

Kathleen Carley, a Carnegie Mellon professor who specializes in computational disinformation, said that in order to detect AI abuse of voice technology, one needs to be able to clearly identify that the audio was AI generated.

That is possible now, she said, "because the technology for generating these calls has existed for awhile. It's well understood and it makes standard mistakes. But that technology will get better."

Sophisticated generative AI tools, from voice-cloning software to image generators, already are in use in elections in the U.S. and around the world.

Last year, as the U.S. presidential race got underway, several campaign advertisements used AI-generated audio or imagery, and some candidates experimented with using AI chatbots to communicate with voters.

Bipartisan efforts in Congress have sought to regulate AI in political campaigns, but no federal legislation has passed, with the general election nine months away.

Rep. Yvette Clarke, who introduced legislation to regulate AI in politics, lauded the FCC for its ruling but said now Congress needs to act.

"I believe Democrats and Republicans can agree that AI-generated content used to deceive people is a bad thing, and we need to work together to help folks have the tools necessary to help discern what's real and what isn't," said Clarke, D-N.Y.

The AI-generated robocalls that sought to influence New Hampshire's Jan. 23 primary election used a voice similar to Biden's,

employed his often-used phrase, "What a bunch of malarkey" and falsely suggested that voting in the primary would preclude voters from casting a ballot in November.

"New Hampshire had a taste of how AI can be used inappropriately in the election process," New Hampshire Secretary of State David Scanlan said. "It is certainly appropriate to try and get our arms around the use and the enforcement so that we're not misleading the voting population in a way that could harm our elections."

The state's attorney general, John Formella, said Tuesday that investigators had identified the Texas-based Life Corp. and its owner, Walter Monk as the source of the calls, which went to thousands of state residents, mostly registered Democrats. He said the calls were transmitted by another Texas-based company, Lingo Telecom.

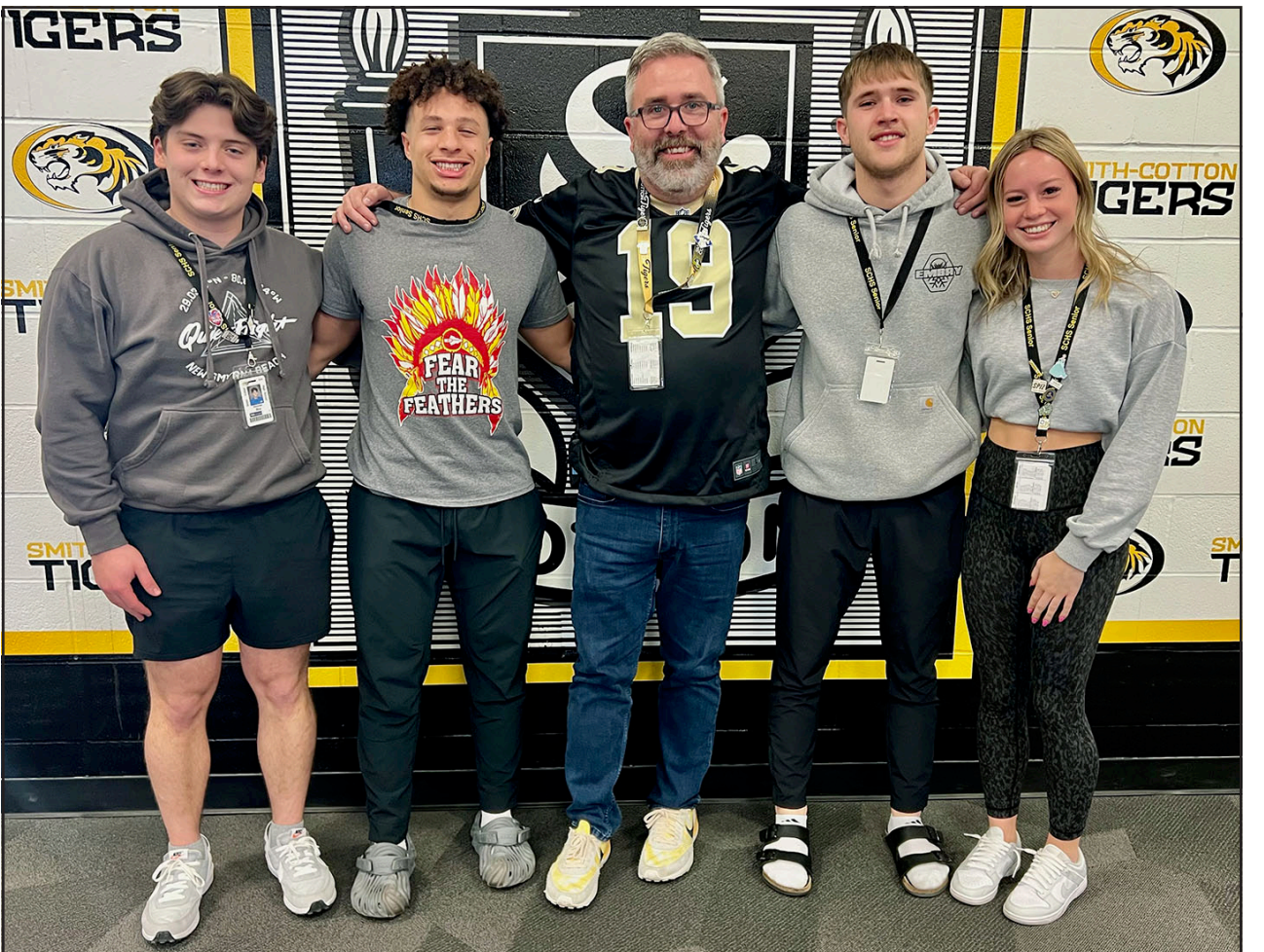
According to the FCC, both Lingo Telecom and Life Corp. have been investigated for illegal robocalls in the past.

Lingo Telecom said in a statement Tuesday that it "acted immediately" to help with the investigation into the robocalls impersonating Biden. The company said it "had no involvement whatsoever in the production of the call content."

A man who answered the business line for Life Corp. declined to comment Thursday.

Associated Press writers Christina A. Cassidy in Washington and Frank Bajak in Boston contributed to this report.

# S-C DECA programs earn Gold certifications



Smith-Cotton High DECA seniors Alex Rice, left, and Mylan Hawkins, second from left, led S-C's school store, The Tiger Tailgate, to its third DECA recertification in the Gold category for Food Operations. Fellow Smith-Cotton DECA seniors Brady Anderson, second from right, and Marianne Treuner, right, earned a first-time Gold certification in the Retail Operation category for the S-C clothing shop, Tiger Threads. Both duos now are headed to DECA Nationals in Anaheim, Calif., in April. They are shown with S-C High Principal Wade Norton. S-C's DECA advisor is Kassie Eddy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

### 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.

## More Republicans back spending on child care, saying it's an economic issue

By Moriah Balingit  
Associated Press

Like a lot of mothers, North Dakota state Rep. Emily O'Brien struggled to find infant care when her daughter Lennon was born in 2019. So O'Brien, a Republican who represents the Grand Forks region, brought Lennon along to meetings with local leaders and constituents.

O'Brien had her second daughter, Jolene, in 2022, not long before legislators were due to meet. Wanting more time to bond before returning to work, O'Brien brought the newborn with her to Bismarck, where she snoozed through Gov. Doug Burgum's State of the State address on her mother's desk.

Not long after, O'Brien persuaded her colleagues to back a plan to invest \$66 million in child care, an unprecedented sum for a state that had, like others with Republican leadership, long resisted such spending. But O'Brien argued it could help the state's workforce shortage by helping more parents go to work and attracting new families to the state.

"It was definitely not, you know, an easy sell, because this is probably somewhere where you don't want the government to get involved," O'Brien said. "But it's a workforce solution. We have people that are willing and able to work, but finding child care was an obstacle."

Republicans historically have been lukewarm about using taxpayer money for child care, even as they have embraced prekindergarten. But the pandemic, which left many child care providers in crisis, underscored how precarious the industry is and how many working parents rely on it.

In 2021, Congress passed \$24 billion of pandemic aid for child care businesses, an unprecedented federal investment. Now, as that aid dries up, Republican state lawmakers across the country are embracing plans to support child care — and even making it central to their policy agendas.

To be sure, the largest investments in child care have come not from Republicans but from Democratic lawmakers. In New Mexico, the state is covering child care for most children under 5 using a trust funded by oil and natural gas production. In Vermont, Democratic state lawmakers overrode a Republican governor's veto to pass a payroll tax hike to fund child care subsidies.

Red states are following suit with more modest — but nonetheless historic — investments in child care.

In Missouri, Republican Gov. Mike Parson has proposed spending nearly \$130 million to help low-income families access child care once the pandemic relief money dries up and to create tax credits to support child care providers. The House passed the tax credit legislation Thursday with bipartisan support, sending it to the Senate.

Republican state Rep. Brenda Shields, who sponsored the tax credit

bill, said she tells conservative colleagues that child care accessibility is vital to grow the state's economy.

"Child care is a critical infrastructure, just like roads and bridges and ports and trains," Shields said. "Businesses have been saying, 'What are you doing about child care?' So I'm trying to be part of the solution."

Missouri's number of child-care facilities is down 14%, and the 167,000 slots for children is about 6,000 fewer than before the coronavirus pandemic in December 2019, according to data from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Elsewhere, Louisiana last year approved an unprecedented \$52 million for child care subsidies for low-income families. Alabama provided \$17 million worth of incentives for child care providers to get licensed. And Texas voters approved a property tax cut for some day care centers.

More Republicans have pledged to tackle the child care crisis this year. In Missouri, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, a Republican, said he hoped the Statehouse would focus less on culture war issues — like criminalizing drag shows and censoring library books — and more on expanding access to child care and school choice. Nebraska and Indiana have both pitched programs to make child care free for child care workers. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican who ran on a conservative education agenda, pitched boosting the state's child care and education spending by \$180 million.

Child care advocates say the investments are not enough and called on Congress to authorize a new round of money to keep the child care industry afloat. Already, day care centers report they are raising tuition and losing workers because they are no longer receiving federal subsidies. Some have folded.

GOP resistance to child care spending dates to the 1970s, when President Richard Nixon vetoed a bill to establish a national child care system, invoking fears of communism and saying it had "family-weakening implications." Many of those arguments persist. Some conservative lawmakers have panned child care funding as "socialist," arguing that people who can't afford day care should not have children. Two years ago, an Idaho state lawmaker apologized after he opposed federal early childhood money because it encouraged women to "come out of the home and let others raise their children."

The new and expanded funding reflects a growing sentiment that the nation's broken child care system will not be fixed without public support. Families have long faced issues finding affordable, reliable child care. But during the pandemic, many child care workers left the industry for better-paying jobs, and some child care centers closed for good, exacerbating the problem.

## S-C senior Hoeffling to cheer for William Woods



Eden Hoeffling, a senior at Smith-Cotton High School, has accepted a scholarship to perform with the competitive cheerleading squad at William Woods University in Fulton.

Hoeffling, a four-year member of S-C's varsity cheer squad, is a senior captain and has earned All-American cheer honors. She is a 15-year Allstar Cheerleader, performing with multiple national champion-

ship teams.

S-C Cheerleading Coach Zara Hoover said, "Eden is been such a great asset to the varsity team. She is so spunky and really showed the true meaning of teamwork while being part of our team. She is such an amazing cheerleader and is going to bloom even more at William Woods."

Release courtesy of Sedalia School District 200.

On Left: Senior captain Eden Hoeffling performs with the Smith-Cotton varsity cheer squad during the Tigers football game against Battle in September 2023.



Eden Hoeffling, a Smith-Cotton High School senior, has accepted a scholarship to cheer at William Woods University in Fulton. Seated with her at the table are her parents, Aaron and Alena Hoeffling, and grandmother Anne Gertz; back row, from left: S-C Assistant Principal Joe Doyle, William Woods Cheer Head Coach Toni Snyder, boyfriend Tyler Swearngin, S-C Cheerleading Coach Zara Hoover, and S-C Activities Director Kyle Middleton.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

## Israel seeks to evacuate Palestinians in Gaza city ahead of expected invasion

By Josef Federman, Najib Jobain and Bassem Mroue

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday said he has ordered the military to prepare a plan to evacuate civilians from Rafah ahead of an expected Israeli invasion of the densely populated southern Gaza city.

The announcement came after heavy international criticism, including from the U.S., of Israeli intentions to move ground forces into the city that borders Egypt. Rafah had a prewar population of roughly 280,000, and according to the United Nations is now home to some 1.4 million additional people living with relatives, in shelters or in sprawling tent camps after fleeing fighting elsewhere in Gaza.

Israel says that Rafah is the last remaining Hamas stronghold in Gaza after more than four months of war.

"It is impossible to achieve the goal of the war of eliminating Hamas by leaving four Hamas battalions in Rafah," Netanyahu's office said. "On the contrary, it is clear that intense activity in Rafah requires that civilians evacuate the areas of combat."

It said he had ordered the military and security officials to come up with a "combined plan" that includes both a mass

evacuation of civilians and the destruction of Hamas' forces in the town.

Israel declared war after several thousand Hamas militants burst across the border into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 others hostage. An Israeli air and ground offensive has killed roughly 28,000 Palestinians, most of them women and minors, according to local health officials. Roughly 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced, and the territory has plunged into a humanitarian crisis with shortages of food and medical services.

Netanyahu has largely rebuffed international criticism of the civilian death toll, saying that Hamas is responsible for endangering civilians by operating and hiding in residential areas. But that criticism has grown in recent days as Netanyahu and other leaders vow to move into Rafah.

U.S. President Joe Biden said Thursday that Israel's conduct in the war is "over the top," the harshest U.S. criticism yet of its close ally. The State Department said an invasion of Rafah in the current circumstances "would be a disaster."

The operation will be a challenge on many levels. It remains unclear where civilians can go. The Israeli offensive has caused widespread destruction, especially in northern Gaza, and hundreds of thousands of people do

not have homes to return to.

In addition, Egypt has warned that any movement of Palestinians across the border into Egypt would threaten the four-decade-old peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. The border crossing between Gaza and Egypt, which is mostly closed, serves as the main entry point for humanitarian aid.

Israel already has begun to strike Rafah from the air. Airstrikes overnight and into Friday hit two residential buildings in Rafah, while two other sites were bombed in central Gaza, including one that damaged a kindergarten-turned-shelter for displaced Palestinians. Twenty-two people were killed, according to AP journalists who saw the bodies arriving at hospitals.

### GROWING FRICTION

Comments from top U.S. officials about Rafah have signaled growing friction with Netanyahu after a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Blinken, who has been working with Egypt and Qatar on trying to mediate a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, left the region Thursday without an agreement. But he said he believed it was still possible to strike a deal that would include an extended pause in fighting in exchange for the release of many of the more than 100 hostages held by Hamas.

Netanyahu appeared to snub Blinken, saying he will settle for nothing short of "total victory." The Israeli leader has said the war seeks to destroy Hamas' military and governing capabilities and return all hostages home. With Blinken still in town, Netanyahu said achieving those goals would require an operation in Rafah. Vedant Patel, a State Department spokesman, said Thursday that going ahead with such an offensive "with no planning and little thought in an area where there is sheltering of a million people would be a disaster."

John Kirby, the White House's national security spokesman, said an Israel ground offensive in Rafah is "not something we would support."

Aid agency officials have also sounded warnings over the prospect of a Rafah offensive. "We need Gaza's last remaining hospitals, shelters, markets and water systems to stay functional," said Catherine Russell, head of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF. "Without them, hunger and disease will skyrocket, taking more child lives."

With the war now in its fifth month, Israeli ground forces are still focusing on the city of Khan Younis, just north of Rafah, but Netanyahu has repeatedly said Rafah will be next, creating panic among hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

**GUEST COLUMN**

**Sorry to conspiracy theorists, Kansas City loves the Chiefs**

Apparently not everyone is thrilled with the prospect of Kansas City returning to the Super Bowl against San Francisco.

“Bleh. How uninspired. How anti-climatic. How disappointing,” is how a USA Today story summed up fan reaction outside of the Chiefs Kingdom and the Bay area.

Sorry, not sorry. We here in Kansas City believe we totally deserve to wrack up Super Bowl honors for as long as Patrick Mahomes can throw a football.

Also, sorry if you are bothered by the appearance of pop star Taylor Swift at Chiefs games. Here’s a pro tip: Cover your eyes for at least 30 seconds every time the Chiefs score a touchdown or Travis Kelce catches the football. That should minimize the upsetting glimpses of a woman enjoying herself in the suites.

And, awfully sorry if you are giving any credence to the bizarre idea that Swift’s romance with Kelce is a contrived plot to unite the fan bases of the pop star and the National Football League in support of Joe Biden’s re-election bid.

For that, I can only recommend therapy.

The theory is bonkers on so many levels. Not least of which is the notion that a grand conspiracy to harness the power of the Swifties to prop up a Democratic candidate would be centered in a city in Missouri, a state that hasn’t voted blue in a presidential race since 1996.

Granted, Kansas City itself votes Democratic. And some of the local fans booed Republican Gov. Mike Parson when he showed up on the stage outside of Union Station to help celebrate the Chiefs Super Bowl victory last year.

That was rude. But Parson has signed his name onto laws limiting abortion, health care for transgender youth and gun safety that are deeply harmful to Kansas City residents. So, not sorry.

In the big picture, though, the Kansas City Chiefs football team is one of the few institutions that can bridge Missouri’s rural-urban, red-blue divide. It might be the only one right now.

Drive through Missouri on an autumn Sunday when there’s a home game at Arrowhead Stadium and you’ll find red Chiefs flags flying from vehicles making their way to Kansas City from every corner of the state. The Chiefs radio network broadcasts in more than 70 Missouri cities.

I randomly googled “Kansas City Chiefs” and “Joplin, Missouri,” to get a pulse on whether the Swift-Kelce-Biden conspiracy was gaining traction in that red niche of the state.

What I found was an announcement that a venue called Journey Through Slime was sponsoring an event whereby kids and adults could craft slime creations with a Taylor Swift or Chiefs theme, and enjoy a Kansas City Chiefs cookie in the bargain. Based on the Journey Through Slime’s



**Barbara Shelly**  
Guest Columnist

Facebook page, the event was a big hit. People stood in line to get in.

Far right media figures and departed GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy find it highly suspicious that Swift, an entertainer who has endorsed Biden and other Democrats in the past, has teamed up with Kelce, who has appeared in ads for Pfizer, the vaccine maker, and Budweiser, which had signed off on a brief partnership with a transgender influencer.

“An artificially culturally propped-up couple,” is how Ramaswamy put it, as if Taylor Swift, one of the world’s busiest women, could somehow be manipulated to appear at 12 Chiefs games, including one in Kansas City where the wind chill dipped to negative 27, and another in Buffalo, New York, just after a snowstorm.

It speaks again to the presence of the Chiefs as a unifying force that statewide Republican politicians — even those who are normally on high alert for stirrings from “the woke mob” — aren’t jumping in on the cultural backlash.

Sen. Josh Hawley congratulated the team on social media, singling out “my friend” Harrison Butker, the kicker, who is open about his anti-abortion views.

Sen. Eric Schmitt’s X account reposted a Chiefs photo montage that prominently features Kelce.

Parson also posted congratulatory messages. “Missouri’s team gets it done!” he gushed, and displayed a photo of a tattoo on his arm that he said was partly inspired by the Chief’s victory in last year’s Super Bowl.

The governor’s excitement over the Chiefs playoff run was not enough to prompt him to include money in his proposed budget for the upcoming year to finance stadium upgrades for either the Chiefs or the Kansas City Royals. He told reporters the teams’ proposals were still too undefined to put money behind. He’s got a point. Nothing stretches fan loyalties like a hit to their pocketbooks. So expect more developments on that front as the year continues.

For now, the Chiefs are in their winning era, so much so that folks in other places find us boring and/or irritating. Sorry, not sorry. Here in Missouri, the Chiefs Kingdom remains one of our last bipartisan tents. That’s something to be glad about.

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



“IT’S WHAT YOU CALL IT WHEN POLITICIANS ACT LIKE THEY CARE ABOUT KIDS.”

**CONTRIBUTING COLUMN**

*Afghanistan experience was eye-opening*

I realized yesterday that this coming Monday is what I now call my “Homecoming.” Feb. 12, 2013, I landed in Kansas City, having left Kabul some 36 hours before, flying through Dubai, and then to Atlanta. The trip from Atlanta to KC dragged by, but eventually, I was on the ground. Max was waiting, and he took me to a Starbucks to get a vanilla latte before we headed back to home sweet home.



**Deborah Mitchell**  
Contributing Columnist

I haven’t forgotten that trip from Kabul, nor how I felt when I was going through customs in Atlanta with what seemed like thousands of other people — some entering the country for the first time, and some, like me, just glad to be back in the USA. As I stood in the gargantuan hall, some of our country’s most iconic images flashed across huge screens for the seemingly interminable time we waited: Kansas wheat waving in the breeze; a square in Savannah, the “purple mountains” majesty; a Maine lighthouse; and other pictures that made me cry.

I remember that we arrived in Atlanta at 5:30 in the morning. By the time I got through customs, a coffee shop had opened in the gate area. I sat quietly, drinking a latte, soaking up the idea that I was home. Getting on the plane to Kansas City was exhilarating. I couldn’t tell if I was feeling the caffeine or the excitement of returning to my real life.

Early in my stint with the State Department contractor, one of my colleagues told me he was surprised that I had come. I was puzzled. He explained that many of the ex-pats we worked with were there because they didn’t really have anything else to do. Many of them didn’t have families; many had been working in the area for 15 years — some more than that. “You,” he said, “have a life. You have a family, you have a job, you have friends, you have a

PLACE in your life.”

I was struck by the truth of what he said: I did have a life. I had a life filled with those I hold dear. I was happy in my jobs — being municipal judge, teaching, playing music in the church — and I felt as if my life had meaning. And yet, the incredible opportunity to work in someplace totally foreign — in all possible meanings of the word — was worth the time away.

I had seen things I would not otherwise see. I saw a way of life in another country that I couldn’t fathom, nor did I think I had gained much understanding of those who lived it, although many of my Afghan colleagues I still count as friends. I met and worked with people who, though Americans, had not been “home” in decades.

I came to understand, viscerally, why I believe that America is the best in the world. Generally speaking, we have it pretty good. We drive on paved roads. We can get a glass of water from the faucet and drink it without fear. We know that the food we buy in the grocery store is fit to eat. We have a trained police force and trained fire-

fighters. We have trained educators who want the best for our children.

All these things are things I celebrated when I returned home. Now, 11 years later, I still count my blessings. I am grateful for the governmental agencies who oversee our drinking water and food safety. I appreciate the people who keep us safe and who rush to fight fires. I appreciate our teachers — much more than does the Missouri legislature, who last week, in their usual wisdom, voted down (along party lines, of course) a measly \$1,000 pay raise for teachers.

Most of all, I appreciate that we all kick in with our taxes — income tax, sales tax, property tax, and more (of course) — that provide us with a standard of living that people in most of the rest of the world can only dream about (I wish, however, that the top tier people would pony up their fair share).

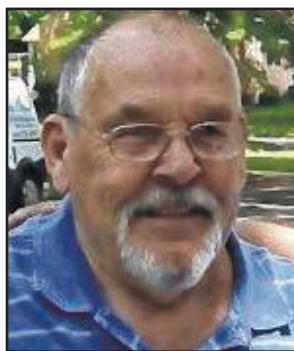
My stint in Afghanistan opened my eyes widely. I think that kind of experience might be good for everyone.

*Deborah Mitchell is a Sedalia attorney.*

**GUEST COLUMN**

**Discovering the secret to success**

I picked up one of those “How to Become Successful” books the other day, and after reading a little of it, I realized the only person it could possibly make rich was the guy selling the book.



**Jack Miller**  
Guest Columnist

According to the dictionary, the definition of success is “The favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors.” I have always been a little suspicious of people who sell “How to Become Rich” books. I am, however, as mercenary as the next person, and I have thought about writing one of those how-to-find success books myself, and if I ever succeed at some-

thing, I will.

In the meantime, I remain skeptical that a book or TV show is going to show me the formula that will make the path to success easier. I have always thought that people who are successful would keep the “how to” part under

lock and key, fearing someone would find it. I also believe a person’s idea of success changes along with their age.

For instance, at an early age, success for me meant becoming a cowboy or superhero. In my teens, it was a date with the little black-haired girl in my class, but she said I had a better chance of becoming a cowboy or superhero. I did have a little success as a sailor, but I just barely got the opportunity for that one because I had to stand on tiptoe to meet the height standard. (I was a little short as a 17-year-old).

I guess I can count my marriage of 60-plus

years as a success, but everyone says I owe that one to my wife, who put up with me for all those years. The same goes for being a good father; I owe that one to her, too.

I guess you could say the only thing I have really been successful at all by myself is adding candles to a birthday cake, which now has grown into a major fire hazard.

I do not take that success lightly, and I am working hard to make it to the next candle.

*Jack Miller is a long-time Sedalia resident, former radio news reporter and former Democrat contributing columnist.*

**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.*

# El Rodeo

From Page A1

“All the red tape takes you a while,” Lopez said. “The problem with the city, I think, is when you get the plans, the city’s supposed to tell you everything that’s wrong with plans to get it back and give you the permit; no, I give you one thing at a time, you find something wrong and we need to fix this. You get plans back, you take it back again, they find something else.”

El Rodeo opened this week, and the lunch crowd on Friday, Feb. 9 was at the restaurant’s capacity. The bright and fresh interior, helpful staff and proven menu mean El Rodeo could easily become a Sedalia success story.

“The old, very old restaurants used to be like this – years and years ago, you used to come up in horses,” Lopez said. “So, you see a lot of restaurants like this in Mexico, rancho style, and Sedalia, I see a lot of cowboys here and things like that.”

El Rodeo is a family restaurant but has a small bar to offer alcoholic drinks for patrons. Bar seating is on saddles and most patrons sit at tables or the



El Rodeo Authentic Mexican Restaurant has opened at 1400 S. Limit Ave. The long-awaited opening of the converted Hardee’s was delayed by Sedalia’s clunky permitting process, according to the owner.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

ornately carved booths.

For Tali, his wife Lili, young daughter Isabella and business partner Roberto, the new restaurant is a ticket to a new chapter in Sedalia.

“I like Sedalia, everyone is very nice. I like it, I like all the people here,” Lopez said. “It’s different, it looks like everybody’s doing their

own business, everybody’s working.”

With the difficult startup behind them, El Ranchero is now open to serve seven days a week.

“Good location, good food, very clean,” Lopez added. “We’re open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.”

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



From left, business partners Roberto Oyervides and Tali Lopez, Lopez’s daughter Isabella Lopez and Lopez’s wife Lili Lopez pose for a photo Friday at the newly opened El Rodeo restaurant.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

## STATE BRIEFS

### Wrecking crew knocks wall into transmission tower during demolition

ST. LOUIS — A wrecking crew tearing down a burned-out St. Louis factory accidentally knocked a brick wall into a transmission tower Friday, causing a brief explosion and power to flicker for some downtown buildings.

No one was hurt, but the St. Louis Board of Aldermen lost its livestream, forcing officials to recess briefly, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Officials have not said what caused the accident.

Crews were demolishing a five-story warehouse near the Mississippi River that burned Saturday. The massive fire at

the vacant building created smoke that could be seen for several miles. About 80 firefighters were called to the scene.

### Former STL officer who shot suspect in 2018 found not guilty

ST. LOUIS — A judge ruled Friday that a former St. Louis police officer was not guilty of assault for shooting a suspected carjacker in 2018, ruling he acted in self-defense.

The shooting by Matthew D. EerNisse was “objectively reasonable in light of the totality of the particular facts and circumstances confronting the officer on the scene,” Judge John T. Bird wrote, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Former Circuit Attor-

ney Kim Gardner charged EerNisse with first-degree assault in 2019. The charge was reduced to second-degree assault on the first day of trial, but prosecutors still contended that EerNisse “recklessly” shot at the unarmed suspect, Arvell Keithley, who was struck in the back of the thigh and arm. Keithley survived.

But defense attorney Scott Rosenblum said the suspect was considered “armed and dangerous” and had crashed a stolen car. EerNisse chased Keithley into an alley, where he said he saw Keithley reach for his waistband. He also allegedly reached for the officer’s gun.

Keithley was sentenced in 2019 to 11 years in prison for two separate carjackings.

Rosenblum said the case “never should’ve been brought in the first place.” He said EerNisse plans to go back into law enforcement.



Dr. Mia Kim plays the piano ahead of performing “Letters About Three Luminaries,” featuring works of Greek composers Dr. Athanasios Zervas and Dinos Constantinides on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Carnegie Hall in New York. Kim was a part of an ensemble and played 18 songs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MIA KIM

## Hall

From Page A1

The day of the concert saw Kim have a special rehearsal, as she was the first to arrive to the stage.

“I actually did have some time to play and practice in the hall by myself and with my page turner,” Kim said. “That was just for a few minutes, but that was a memory I’ll have for the rest of my life.”

Kim had the pleasure of performing in the elegant, ballroom-esque Weill Recital Hall. It wasn’t the first time she had been to Carnegie Hall, but it was her first time performing. She played piano on 18 different songs as part of an ensemble that was directed by Zervas, which included a string quartet, saxophone, piano, and singers. Zervas also included a solo for Kim to give her a moment to shine, and give the other members a break.

While being the smallest of the three halls, Weill still provided Kim the ample opportunity to soak in the history and honor that comes with playing at Carnegie.

“I’ve played in a lot of interesting places in the world. I’ve been very lucky that way,” Kim said. “But this one has so much history behind it, it’s hard to treat it casually.”

### Bloomington to the ‘Burg

Kim has been playing the piano since she

first took lessons at the age of 3 and a half. She performed as a soloist with an orchestra by the age of 10. Two years later, 12-year-old Kim made her professional debut as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony. Since then, it’s been hard to find Kim not on stage.

Having the right mentors is a big part of why Kim is the pianist and teacher she is today. One perk of growing up in Bloomington, according to Kim, was having “one of the premier music departments on the planet” in her backyard at Indiana University. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from IU before earning her doctorate degree at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

“One kind of weird thing about me, that’s not like other musicians, is that I’ve had a lot of piano teachers,” Kim said. “I think I counted once and it’s over 20, which is not normal. I was very fortunate to have wonderful teachers, who always were people I wanted to emulate.”

As she finished her time at Eastman, Kim had a feeling that teaching piano would be her next step. Coincidentally, an opening in Warrensburg opened up. Dr. Nelita True, Kim’s piano teacher at the Eastman, notified Kim of the opening as her brother, Dr. Wesley True, was retiring from teaching at UCM. That was in 1996.

Since then, Kim has grown to love the community in the ‘Burg and has made strides to help the music community in her 25-plus years in Johnson County. Kim served as director of the Warrensburg Area Youth Symphony from 1997-2002, founded the Warrensburg Friends of Music, and serves as the director of the UCM Community Music Program. In all, Kim finds inspiration for music-making from her students and her neighbors in the community who love listening to and playing music.

“I love teaching, I love performing, and I love this community, and I’m very lucky to work with a group of people who share this sentiment,” Kim said. “I hope that my students will get to share in my enthusiasm, and that it inspires them on their own journey.”

If interested in seeing Kim perform, she will be performing a solo recital at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Hart Recital Hall at UCM. The recital admission is free but tickets are required. They can be ordered at [ucmbboxoffice.universitytickets.com](http://ucmbboxoffice.universitytickets.com).

She will be performing new works as well as a solo piece she played at Carnegie Hall. Kim will also be performing the same program as part of the “Mid-Town Concert Series” on March 3 at the Central Christian Church of Springfield.

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

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# Video

## From Page A1

As cameras rolled on Thursday, Chevalier led the residents in six songs, beginning with Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do." In addition, they performed the songs "Red Kingdom," "Final Count Down," "Swag Surfin," "Eye of the Tiger," and "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party)." As of Friday morning, Feb. 9, the video had 700 views on TikTok.

"We practiced Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday," Chevalier noted. "Wednesday, we had the dress rehearsal; we had them wear their Chiefs shirts and everything. They took it very seriously."

Chevalier said this is the last video they plan to make for the Chiefs.

"We'll watch the Super Bowl and have it on the big screen out here," she noted. "We'll have a watch party, and if they win, we're going to be watching the parade."

"But we're not going to have any more dances," she continued with a laugh.

"It's been about three weeks of it, you know, doing two different ones. It's been three weeks of solid coming up with routines and music for it and then teaching it to them. I'm going to take a break."

She added that having

so much media coverage with the viral video was also taxing.

"I was even getting phone calls from people in New York," Chevalier said. "People Magazine and stuff, they all called us because they had to have our permission to put it on."

"Yahoo News called me, Nightline (ABC News) called," she continued. "Nightline will air tonight (Friday, Feb. 9) at 11:20 (p.m.). I think the most exciting person to call was Good Morning America."

Chevalier stopped counting the views of the viral video on her page when it reached 114,000. She said she was still determining how far it had reached on all the other media platforms. She's uncertain how well Thursday's video will do but said it was "a cute routine and a cute follow-up."

"And I think people were waiting for it," she said. "Because we put it out there that we'd be doing a new one. So, I kind of think people will be interested."

Chevalier said the whole concept of the videos was for the residents to have fun. No one knew the previous one would go viral.

"But they get to live that limelight," she added with a smile. "And I just think that's really cute; I'm happy for them."

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



Mary Saylor, of Primrose Retirement Community, shows off her "Super Bowl" ring Thursday before the group of 30 residents does a dance routine for the media. PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT



Primrose Retirement Community residents have bright smiles as they perform a new Kansas City Chiefs-themed dance video for the news media on Thursday.

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# THE WEATHER

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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
49 / 31	46 / 31	50 / 32	58 / 37	56 / 38	59 / 36	52 / 30
Cooler with plenty of sun	Cloudy	Partly to mostly sunny	Sunny and milder	Mostly sunny and mild	Partly sunny and mild	Times of clouds and sun

## SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:10 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	5:44 p.m.		
Moonrise today	7:57 a.m.		
Moonset today	6:52 p.m.		
<b>First</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>New</b>
Feb 16	Feb 24	Mar 3	Mar 10

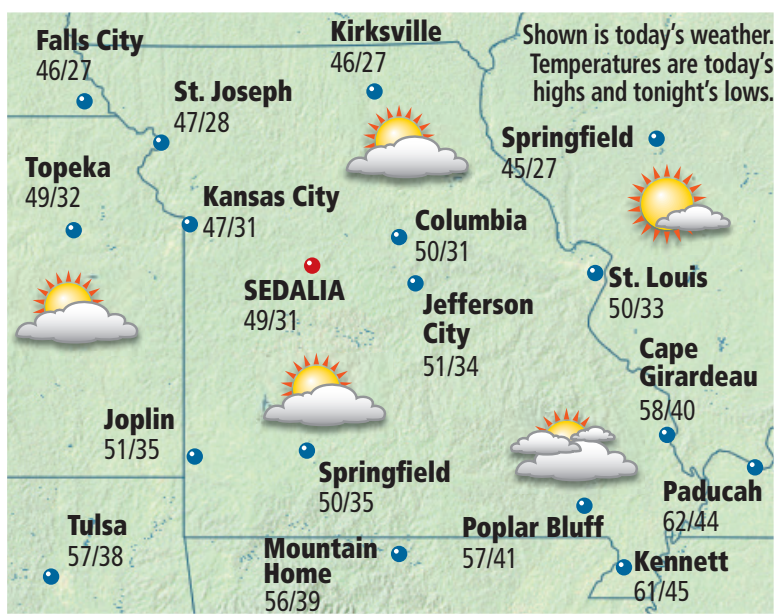
## WEATHER HISTORY

On Feb. 10, 1980, snow closed interstate highways in Alabama and Dallas. Exactly one year later, spring-style tornadoes damaged schools and shopping centers from Texas to Alabama.

## ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Thursday

<b>TEMPERATURES</b>			
High	70		
Low	50		
Normal high	41		
Normal low	21		
Record high	70 in 2024		
Record low	-14 in 1985		
<b>PRECIPITATION</b>			
Thursday	0.00"		
Month to date	0.08"		
Normal m-t-d	0.52"		
Year to date	2.14"		
Normal y-t-d	2.44"		
<b>HEATING DEGREE DAYS</b>			
Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.			
Thursday	5		
Month to date	110		
Season to date	2682		
Normal season to date	3454		
Last season to date	2894		
<b>RIVER LEVELS</b>			
In feet as of 7 a.m. Friday			
<b>Blackwater</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Chg</b>	<b>Fld Stg</b>
Blue Lick	7.64	-0.21	24
Valley City	3.74	-0.22	22
<b>Lamine</b>			
Otterville	1.54	-0.07	15
<b>Missouri</b>			
Boonville	6.64	+0.61	21



**BRANSON**  
High: 55. Low: 37. Clouds and sun today. Overcast tonight. Cloudy tomorrow with a little rain in the afternoon. Monday: mostly cloudy with a little snow.

**KANSAS CITY**  
High: 47. Low: 31. Partly sunny today. Overcast tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. Monday: plenty of sunshine. Tuesday: mild with plenty of sun.

**ST. LOUIS**  
High: 50. Low: 33. Clouds and sun today. Mostly cloudy tonight. A thick cloud cover tomorrow. Monday: a little snow at times, accumulating up to an inch.

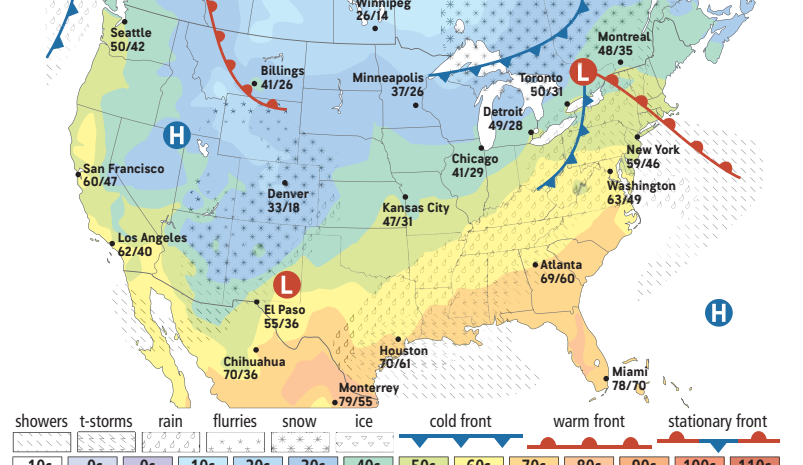
**NEW YORK CITY**  
High: 59. Low: 46. Variably cloudy today with a shower; the temperature near the record of 61. A passing shower tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.

**LOS ANGELES**  
High: 62. Low: 40. Cool today with plenty of sunshine; a welcome break from recent heavy rain. Clear and chilly tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

## NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W		Today Hi/Lo/W	Sunday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	69/60/c	67/60/r	Milwaukee	41/27/pc	40/26/pc
Baltimore	65/46/c	55/40/c	Nashville	67/50/r	61/49/r
Billings	41/26/pc	48/30/c	New Orleans	76/67/t	75/60/t
Boston	58/42/c	51/36/pc	Norfolk	66/54/r	58/44/r
Buffalo	48/32/r	38/28/c	Oklahoma City	52/36/sh	38/31/r
Charlotte	69/58/c	65/54/sh	Orlando	80/62/s	83/64/pc
Chicago	41/29/pc	40/28/pc	Portland, OR	52/41/c	52/37/r
Cleveland	53/32/r	41/31/pc	Sacramento	61/36/s	59/38/s
Dallas	62/50/r	53/38/r	St. Louis	50/33/pc	46/35/c
Denver	33/18/sn	39/21/pc	San Francisco	60/47/s	59/44/s
Detroit	49/28/pc	41/28/pc	Seattle	50/42/c	49/41/r
Honolulu	81/66/sh	81/66/pc	Washington, DC	63/49/r	55/42/r
Houston	70/61/t	76/41/t			
Indianapolis	52/31/pc	46/30/c			
Las Vegas	53/37/s	53/36/s			

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



**Summary:** A cold front will spread rain from western New York to Texas today. Thunderstorms can develop from western Texas to southern Alabama. Snow will affect portions of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.



# MARK POHL

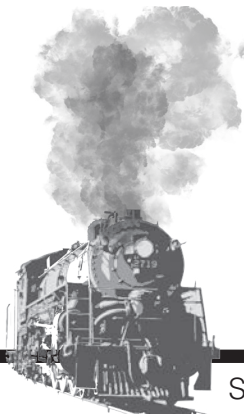
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## If Super Bowl comes down to kickers, it'll be rookie against established standout

By Noah Trister  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — In this town of favorites and underdogs, the Super Bowl kicking matchup between Harrison Butker and Jake Moody fits the narrative nicely.

Moody is the challenger, a rookie who missed key kicks in a couple losses and has had some shaky moments during these playoffs. Butker is the champion, a veteran who has come through in the clutch for Kansas City throughout his career and provided the winning points for the Chiefs when they won it all last year.

The kickers have been an afterthought in most Super Bowls, but in a close game they can make all the difference. Butker's 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left gave the Chiefs a 38-35 win over Philadelphia in last season's Super Bowl.

Butker is 7 for 7 on field goals this postseason and went 33 of 35 during the regular season. He's one of several big-name kickers Moody has gone up against in his first NFL season.

"Justin Tucker and Matt Prater, Dustin Hopkins, just to name a couple. It's always cool just meeting these guys and kind of like

trying to pick their brain a little bit," Moody said. "Those are the guys I grew up watching. To be able to play against them on the same field, that's a pretty cool feeling. Butker's another name to add."

Moody was a standout in college at Michigan and was drafted in the third round by the 49ers. He only missed four field goals during the regular season, but one was at the end of a two-point loss to Cleveland. He also missed a field goal and an extra point in a one-point loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

He's had a miss and a kick blocked in the playoffs, but he also made a big 52-yarder in the divisional round.

"Although I've had some ups and downs, some good moments, some bad moments, it's been a good year to learn from," he said. "I'm glad everything's worked out the way it has. Obviously, we're in the Super Bowl, so it's been a pretty cool year."

### IN THE LIMELIGHT

The wife of Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes is stealing a little of the spotlight from him this week after Sports Illustrated announced that Brittany Mahomes would be in the 60th anniversary of its swimsuit issue in May.

See **KICKERS | A11**



Kansas City Chiefs place kicker Harrison Butker (7) kicks a field goal against the Baltimore Ravens during the first half of an AFC Championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, in Baltimore.

PHOTO BY JULIO CORTEZ | AP PHOTO



State Fair Community College men's basketball assistant coach Deshon Portley signals to the team during its game against Missouri Valley College JV on Nov. 1, 2023.

PHOTO BY BRYAN EVERSON | DEMOCRAT

## Assistant coach Portley imparting wisdom on Roadrunners

By Bryan Everson  
bryane@sedaliademocrat.com

State Fair Community College men's basketball program has been the benefactor of some unforeseen twists and turns that led to the arrival of first-year assistant coach Deshon Portley.

Portley's path, like many others, took a detour during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was in Year 3 at his alma mater, Southern Nazarene University, when the circumstances put something of a full-court trap on his coaching career.

"We had a great season, and we were on the road, literally two hours into the trip, to our [NCAA Division II national tournament] region play, and we got the news that they shut everything down," Portley said.

His position eliminated during the pandemic, he went home and played assistant off the court to his mom. "She owns a cleaning business and that whole year I helped, and it was good for her," he said. "With COVID, everyone needed their businesses cleaned. Business was

booming. I started coaching AAU that summer, then went back to Laramie and coached."

By Laramie, he means Laramie County Community College, where Portley left as second all-time in scoring for the program.

He was an All-American there — a 1,000-point scorer who shot over 85% on free-throw attempts — under now-Central Missouri men's basketball head coach Adam Bohac.

A coach's son, Portley didn't plan on coaching as soon as he did, but foot surgery when he was a senior sped up the process.

"That's all I did as a little kid, just shooting free throws in the gym all day," Portley said of that likelihood to end up as a coach.

He speaks about Bohac and how he was there for him after the injury, and how critical he was in aiding his education. "That always stuck with me," he said.

Portley talks about gaining knowledge from everyone he's coached under, and spoke of Roadrunners head coach Matt Brown's pedigree

in being a reason he landed at State Fair.

"I pick up golden nuggets everywhere I go and put them in my pocket," Portley said. "From Bohac to [DeWayne Saulsberry at LCCC], this is my first year with Coach Brown and I've picked up so much already. The biggest challenge I'd say with me and Brown is, this is the first coach I didn't know prior to the job. Bohac and Saulsberry, I played for them. Learning on the fly every day, it's been good."

And [Brown's] done it at a high level, too, so I get to learn that side from it. That's one of the reasons I took the job. Someone who's coached at Florida, with Billy Donovan, that's a lot of knowledge I can get."

Portley is also keen to guide players like a shot at the charity stripe through the net to graduation and prevent them from making some of the mistakes that can be avoided.

"I tell them don't make the journey harder than it has to be," Portley said. "Try to keep it as easy as you can. People are gonna make

mistakes. Nobody's perfect. I just try to give them advice and be patient.

As he grows into his coaching shoes — like anyone, he has ambitions to become a head coach — Portley thinks that patience is one of the biggest things he's picked up in the past several years throughout the journey.

"I have the knowledge of playing basketball my whole life being a coach's son, so there's a lot of knowledge I've picked up over time, but I'm just trying to be patient," Portley said. "My first year, second year, it was, 'right now, right now, let's win every game,' and I wanted instant results. But I've learned it's a process. You've got to play the long game. If today wasn't a great practice, you realize it's just one of those days, and you have to bounce back tomorrow."

Portley and the Roadrunners, 3-2 in their last five games, head to Three Rivers Community College for a conference game Saturday night.

## Chiefs and 49ers ramp up practice intensity as Super Bowl approaches

By Dave Skretta  
Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. — The Kansas City Chiefs have been getting a chippy in practice this week as kickoff for the Super Bowl against the San Francisco 49ers approaches, culminating in a scuffle involving members of the offensive and defensive lines on Wednesday.

Left guard Trey Smith, who carries a reputation for having a mean streak on the field, laughed when he was asked whether he was the instigator. But he went on to say that everything was smoothed out before the end of practice.

In fact, several Chiefs said they prefer to see that kind of fight early in the week, provided they save some for game day.

"You know guys are into it," Chiefs safety Justin Reid said. "You want that aggression to be there. It's a lot easier to try, and as a coach you want to be holding guys back. When you're trying to put intensity in guys, you can't put in something that's not there. So you want ev-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) runs with teammates during practice Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 in Henderson, Nev. The Chiefs are scheduled to play the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL's Super Bowl 58 football game Sunday in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL | AP PHOTO

eryone to have that tenacity, that energy, that violence ready, and then just hold it back."

### GETTING SERIOUS

The 49ers had their most intense practice this week, according to a pool report, going an hour and 27 minutes.

Coach Kyle Shanahan said he was pleased with the effort.

"I think it's been great," he told the pool reporter. "The first two days (of Super Bowl week) are always a challenge. Yesterday was

really good, today was even better. Having these two days in a row where we can get as close to our routine as possible is great."

### LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Patrick Mahomes may be the face of the Chiefs, and the leader of their locker room, but he usually isn't the one getting on wide receivers when they drop a pass — they led the league in those this season — or commit a penalty or run the wrong route.

See **PRACTICE | A11**

## US water polo star prepares for Paris Olympics as husband battles lung cancer

By Jay Cohen  
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The phone call struck Maddie Musselman at her very center, confirming the worst fear for the U.S. water polo star and her soon-to-be husband, Pat Woepse.

Pat's nagging cough, the one that chased him around for weeks, including on a swim across the English Channel on his 30th birthday, was a symptom of an aggressive form of lung cancer.

Immediately, there were all sorts of decisions that had to be made, about doctors and hospitals and treatment. But one decision was made right away, even before it became a conversation.

Maddie was going to the Paris Olympics to help the United States try for an unprecedented fourth consecutive gold medal.

"Pat, from the beginning, was like, 'You're not stopping playing water polo. I love watching you play,'" Maddie said with Pat sitting beside her on a couch in

their Southern California apartment.

She just had to figure out how. How do you play water polo at the highest level, when you can't play water polo all the time? How do you park your life at the edge of a pool?

"I know how much it means to her. I know how hard she works, how invested she is," he said. "So given the opportunity to watch her play and have success, it's like there's nothing better in the world to me than watching that."

### ON THE BRINK

Musselman was 15 when she played in her first game with the national team in 2013. Mature beyond her years, to go along with a 5-foot-11 frame and impressive athleticism, she quickly became a key performer in an emerging dynasty.

Musselman, one of three daughters for former major league pitcher Jeff Musselman and his wife, Karen, scored 12 goals when the U.S. won its second straight gold medal at the 2016 Olympics.

See **BATTLE | A11**



Two-time Olympic gold medalist and attacker Maddie Musselman trains with the U.S. women's water polo team at the Long Beach City College in Long Beach, Calif., on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024.

PHOTO BY DAMIAN DOWARGANES | AP PHOTO





## HOROSCOPES

### By Georgia Nicols

**Moon Alert:** After 9 a.m. EST today (6 a.m. PST), there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Pisces.

### Happy Birthday for Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024:

You are goal-oriented because you like approval and recognition. You have amazing drive to go after what you want. This is a slower-paced year. Take time to rejuvenate yourself. Focus on your closest relationships, both professional and personal. Seek out people who benefit you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Today is a mixed bag. Initially, you might feel lonely, depressed and cut off from others. ("I'm naval lint.") However, as the day wears on, these gloomy feelings will subside and, in fact, be replaced by feelings of joy, hope and optimism for your future! Go figure. Tonight: You're happy.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Today you might keep your feelings to yourself because you feel a bit distant from others. Possibly, someone older will discourage you or make you feel diminished. Don't give in to these feelings. Later in the day, you will enjoy fun activities with groups and friends. Tonight: Popular!

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ A parent, boss or someone older might rain on your parade today. (Always a bummer.) Fortunately, these feelings of discouragement will be short-lived. Later in the day, you will enjoy being with important people. You might even see that you can make a difference, which is reassuring and rewarding. Tonight: You are high-viz.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might feel discouraged about politics, religion or racial issues today, especially in the news or when talking to someone older. (Well, there is always bad news, isn't there?) Fortunately, as this day wears on, you get happier! Opportunities to travel and learn will lift your spirits. Tonight: Explore!

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You might feel discouraged about debt, financial issues or how something is divided or shared today. (The old squeeze play.) Ironically, as this day wears on, you start to feel richer. You realize that things are not as bad as you thought. This is a happy revelation! Tonight: Check your finances.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Be patient with partners and close friends this morning, because conversations might be difficult. You might feel ignored or criticized. However, as this day wears on, quite the opposite will start to occur. You'll feel happier when talking to those who are closest to you. In fact, a group situation will please you! Tonight: Socialize.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Some kind of onerous situation might discourage you today — heavy work or heavy responsibilities! (No fun.) Later in the day, interaction with groups and co-workers will be a lovely boost. In fact, some of you will be delighted with travel plans or ways to expand your world. Who knew? Tonight: Get organized.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Today you might feel that children are an increased responsibility. Or you feel overwhelmed about sports or social occasions. ("Do I have to do this?") But as this day wears on, to your surprise, you will have fun and enjoy yourself with new activities and group encounters. Tonight: Play!

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Discussions with a parent or older family member might discourage you today. Don't let this get you down, because later in the day, you'll feel happier by engaging with groups. You might entertain at home. You might receive an invitation. Anything might happen. Tonight: Relax.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ This day begins on a worrisome note. You might feel apprehensive, either through your own thoughts or because of what someone else says. Shrug this off. As this day wears on, you get happier! Encounters with groups and friends will be a delight! Tonight: Schmooze.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Your finances look depressing this morning. (Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money?) Fear not, because later in the day, things look different. Money comes your way, or news will make you feel wealthier! Tonight: You're pleased.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This morning the Moon is in your sign lined up with Saturn, which is depressing. Don't let this get you down, because as the day wears on, these negative feelings are replaced with happy opportunities to schmooze! You are saved! Tonight: Strength.

### BORN TODAY

Actress Elizabeth Banks (1974), actress Chloe Grace Moretz (1997), actress Emma Roberts (1991)



Michigan acting head coach Sherrone Moore reacts to a video replay during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Ohio State, Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, in Ann Arbor, Mich. Moore joined a rare group of Black coaches given the opportunity to run elite programs when Michigan hired him to succeed national-championship winning coach Jim Harbaugh.

FILE PHOTO BY DAVID DERMER | AP PHOTO

## Moore's hire at Michigan gives advocates hope that Black coaches at bluebloods can become the norm

### By Cliff Brunt

Associated Press

Tyrone Willingham retired back in 2008, yet he has seen just a few Black men receive the kind of elite opportunity he got when he was hired as Notre Dame's first Black head football coach more than two decades ago.

He was encouraged when Michigan hired Sherrone Moore to replace Jim Harbaugh.

Black head coaches at the Division I level often have been given jobs at struggling programs with limited resources and thus smaller chance of long-term success. Moore, however, is taking the reins at a blue-blood program that just won a national title.

Willingham, 70, said the topic of Black coaches' previous lack of access to head coaching jobs at top programs has not just been a Black issue, it has been symbolic of a foundational American issue. In an email interview, he said he was glad to see Black men finally being considered rising stars in line for the best jobs. He sees Moore's hire as similar to Notre Dame hiring Marcus Freeman — the school's second Black head football coach — in 2021.

"Let us be about hiring the best, and that attitude will serve our country well in all aspects of our society," wrote Willingham, who also coached at Stanford and Washington. "I believe Sherrone Moore and Marcus Freeman meet

that standard, and if given the correct resources, they will do very well. They are excellent leaders of young men and university communities."

Moore is well aware of how special his opportunity is.

"It's an honor," Moore said. "It's a privilege. It's something I don't take lightly. For all the African American men who have worked, I just want to show them that you can do it."

Michigan's hire came as the NFL added three Black head coaches — Atlanta's Raheem Morris, New England's Jerod Mayo and Las Vegas' Antonio Pierce — this cycle. There will be at least nine minority head coaches to start the 2024 NFL season, the most ever.

"We've been waiting for this type of year for so long now, I began to wonder if it was ever going to come," said Richard Lapchick, founder of The Institute for Diversity and Ethics In Sport.

Floyd Keith, a former executive director of the Black Coaches Association, said it matters that programs such as Michigan, Notre Dame and Penn State have Black coaches. James Franklin has an 88-39 record since taking over at Penn State in 2014. With the backing of programs with rich histories and plentiful resources, Moore, Freeman or Franklin could become the first Black coach to win a national title.

Like Franklin, Moore's

experience is on the offensive side of the ball. The 37-year-old coordinator went 4-0, including wins over Ohio State and Penn State, while Harbaugh was serving two separate suspensions last season.

Maryland coach Mike Locksley founded the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches in 2020. The organization provides professional training and educational programs to help prepare minority coaches for coaching jobs. Both Moore and Freeman have participated in the programs. Locksley said his organization's goal is to help coaches like Moore be ready when doors open.

"That to me is where the timing of it is," Locksley said. "It's not by accident that he was put in this role."

Moore got help from Black mentors along the way. He was a graduate assistant at Louisville before Charlie Strong made him his tight ends coach in 2012. Strong left Louisville to become head coach at Texas, becoming one of the rare Black coaches to land a head coaching job at a powerhouse program.

"Charlie is like a big brother and father figure," Moore said. "He gave me my first chance to be a position coach, and I'll be forever grateful for that."

Moore said he also admired two other Black coaches on the Louisville staff — Vance Bedford and Clint Hurtt. Bedford was defensive coordinator at

Louisville and Texas. Hurtt was just hired as defensive line coach for the Philadelphia Eagles after being defensive coordinator for the Seattle Seahawks.

Moore's biggest leap forward came this past season, when Harbaugh made him a playcalling offensive coordinator last season.

"Anything is possible," Moore said. "As long as you take your time, regardless of your background, you can earn an opportunity."

Three Black coaches — Moore, Derrick Mason at Middle Tennessee and Fran Brown at Syracuse — were hired at the top tier of Division I (Bowl Subdivision) this cycle. Two of the 13 Power Five conference hires and one of the 15 Group of Five hires were Black.

Overall, there are now 15 Black FBS coaches out of 134 schools — about the same percentage as there have been over the past decade in a division where about half the players are Black.

"We've seen some growth," Locksley said. "Is it corrected? No, it's not corrected yet. But to see these types of hires, and the success that these coaches have and continue to have or will have, are going to be the things that push us forward."

AP Football Writer *Ralph D. Russo* and AP Sports Writers *Larry Lage* and *Alanis Thames* contributed to this report.

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February 16, 2024  
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Refreshments will be served.

709350at

### BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



### BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG WALKER, BRIAN WALKER AND NEAL WALKER



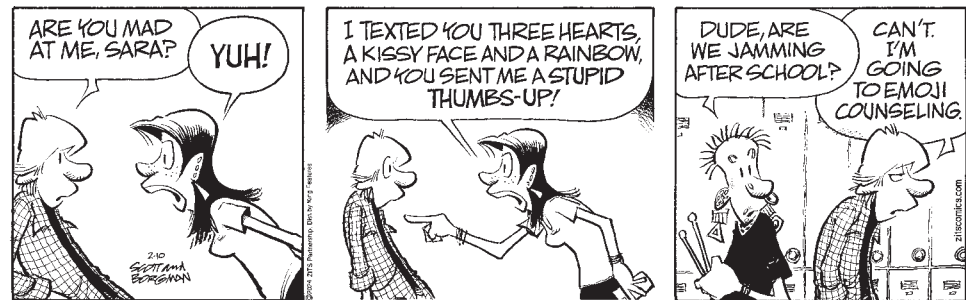
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

BY CHRIS BROWNE



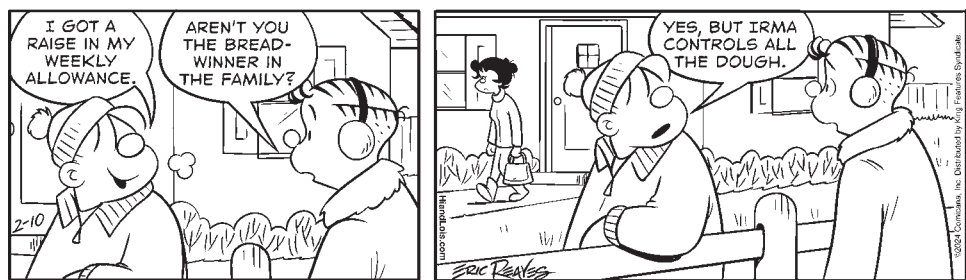
### ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



### HI AND LOIS

WRITTEN BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER; DRAWN BY CHANCE BROWNE



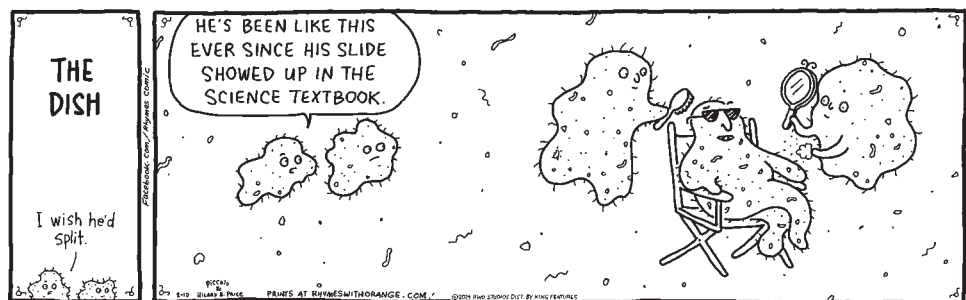
### PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE



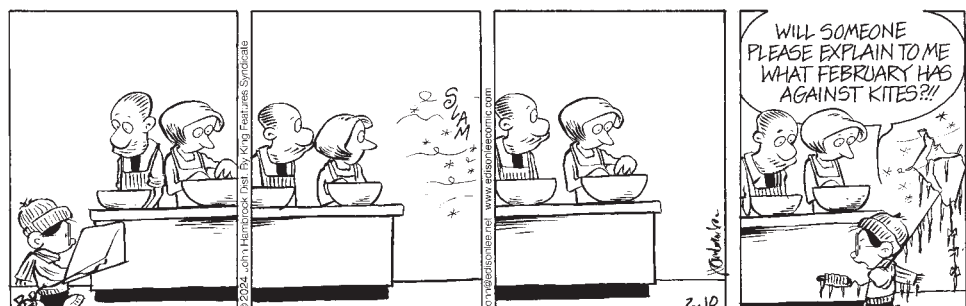
### RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY PRICE



### THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

BY JOHN HAMBROCK



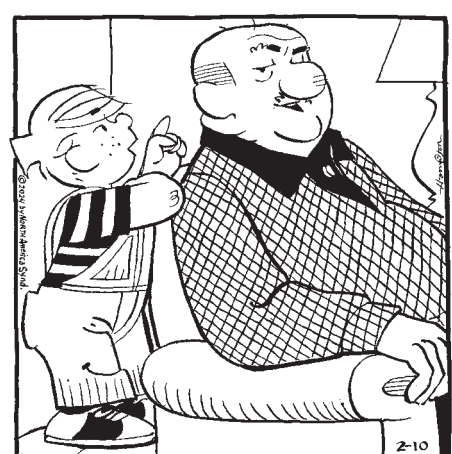
### DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



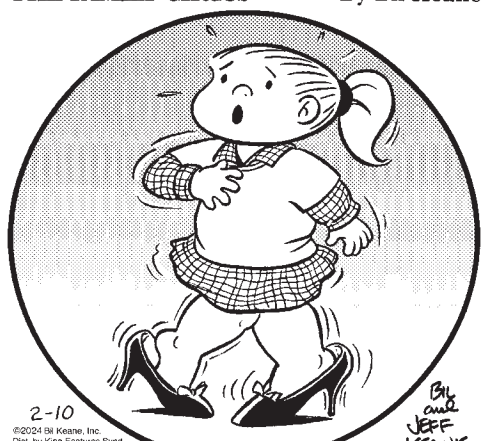
### DENNIS THE MENACE

BY HANK KETCHAM



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 Garden sections
  - 1 Petty quarrel
  - 5 Severe
  - 10 Ocean's motions
  - 12 Bowl
  - 13 Home of the Huskies
  - 14 Necessary
  - 15 Impair
  - 16 Really impress
  - 18 Gallery fill
  - 19 Expecting, informally
  - 21 Artist's medium
  - 22 Marsh insect
  - 24 Sorceress of myth
  - 25 Marine fish of Australia
  - 29 Hot
  - 30 Mine transport
  - 32 Small worker
  - 33 Lamb's dam
  - 34 Draw
  - 35 Softener ingredient
  - 37 Deli fixture
  - 39 Make blank
  - 40 Ready to play
  - 41 Some files
- DOWN**
- 1 Lumberjack's leftover
  - 2 Enterprise captain
  - 3 Worshipful one
  - 4 Finger count
  - 5 Possess
  - 6 "Exodus" hero
  - 7 Store business
  - 8 Tangled
  - 9 Stops
  - 11 Got through good fortune
  - 17 Wilson whose first name was really Thomas
  - 20 Red wine
  - 21 Mature
  - 23 Most proximate
  - 25 Lady of Spain
  - 26 Crowd scene players
  - 27 Pump rating
  - 28 Executed perfectly
  - 29 Cavalry weapon
  - 31 Marsh plants
  - 33 Alimony payers
  - 36 Nile serpent
  - 38 New reporter

C	O	W	E	R		A	T	P	A	R
A	S	O	N	E		R	O	L	L	E
B	I	R	D	S		S	L	A	T	E
A	R	K		T	I	E	D	Y	E	D
N	I	T		S	A	N		T	R	Y
A	S	H	E		S	M	A	T	H	S
					E	S		L	I	E
					A	S	T	E	R	
F	L	Y		R	D	S		S	P	A
E	A	S	T		M	A	N		N	O
A	S	T	R	O		O	P	I	O	I
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T	A	M	P	S		E	A	S	E	D

#### Yesterday's answer

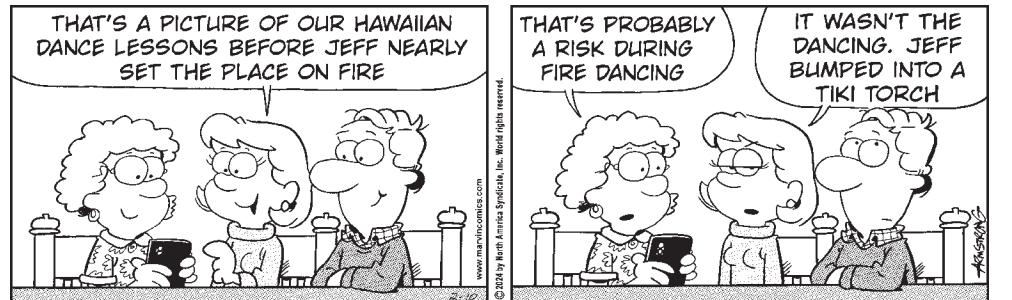
- 17 Wilson whose first name was really Thomas
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- 36 Nile serpent
- 38 New reporter

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	

2-10

### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



### BIZARRO

BY DAN PIRARO



#### King Classic Sudoku

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

#### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/9

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/10

# Kickers

From Page A7

The 28-year-old Brittany Mahomes, who briefly played collegiate soccer and in a professional league in Europe, will be featured as one of SI's swimsuit rookies, and several teaser photos of her upcoming appearance have been released on social media.

Brittany Mahomes, who has become close friends with pop superstar Taylor Swift this season, has been a lightning rod at times. She has made many eyebrow-raising posts on social media, and in January 2022, she was criticized for spraying champagne on cold fans after the Chiefs won a playoff game.

"People are going to love you or hate you," Brittany Mahomes said on an Instagram Story after the SI announcement, "but finding your values and what makes you 'you' to be the best version of yourself is what really matters. Whether that's health and wellness, being a great wife or mom, or career goals, being the best version of you is the most important thing you can be."

## TECHNOLOGY

Like seemingly every other business, the NFL is trying to figure out how to use artificial intelligence in the best way possible.

Troy Vincent, the league's executive vice president for football operations, said it's planning to keep using data to help coaches keep track of their players during games.

"One of the things that we're thinking about

doing is (introducing) a spreadsheet where they can have in real time who's on the field, personnel, and who's not on the field," Vincent said at a news conference on the league's Next Gen Stats initiative. "I don't want to sound like a dinosaur here but we still have clubs that are writing that on a piece of paper."

San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan told reporters Thursday that whatever technology coaching staffs currently use "isn't good enough" when considering the grand scope of artificial intelligence.

"Everything evolves every day," Shanahan said. "So I don't care if you're young or old, whether it's this week or next week, you don't stop (learning).

"It's pretty broad on what AI does and everything, but it can help and we'll use anything that helps."

## MANNING ON PURDY

Two-time Super Bowl winner Eli Manning had some choice words for anyone who thinks Brock Purdy's system in San Francisco diminishes his accomplishments.

"The 'system quarterback' thing, I'd take that as a compliment. I think you want to be a system quarterback. That means you know your system. The system's there and you've mastered it," Manning said. "You're going to the right place. You're looking at the defenses, you're analyzing that and you're saying, 'All right, this is where the ball should go.' And then I'm throwing it accurately to my receivers. I don't know why that's like an insult."

# AP sources: Amazon Prime Video will carry an NFL playoff game next season

By Joe Reedy

Associated Press

Amazon Prime Video will carry an NFL post-season game next season, people familiar with the matter confirmed to The Associated Press.

The three people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Friday because neither the league nor the streaming platform has made the announcement.

The Wall Street Journal was the first to report that Amazon is getting a playoff game.

It will be the second straight year that an important NFL game will be carried exclusively on a streaming platform. The Jan. 13 AFC wild-card game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Miami Dolphins streamed on Peacock.

According to various reports, NBCUniversal paid \$110 million for the rights to the game, with Amazon expected to pay higher.

Under the NFL's contract, each of its four broadcast partners — NBC, CBS, Fox and ESPN/ABC — gets at least one wild-card game. Of the two remaining games, one rotates each year between NBC, CBS and Fox, while the other

is up for bid.

This season's 16-game package on Prime Video averaged 11.86 million viewers, according to Nielsen, a 24% increase over last year's inaugural season. Twelve games averaged more than 10 million, doubling 2022, and triggering some performance clauses allowing it to carry a playoff game.

Despite some rancor among fans, the game on Peacock was the most-watched event on a streaming service. According to Nielsen, the Chiefs' 26-7 victory averaged 23 million viewers on Peacock, NFL+ and on NBC affiliates in Kansas City and Miami, and had a total reach of 27.6 million.

By comparison, the late Saturday game between the Los Angeles Chargers and Jacksonville Jaguars on Jan. 14, 2023, averaged 20.61 million viewers.

Comcast reported at the end of last year that Peacock had 31 million subscribers. According to the subscription analytics firm Antenna, there were 2.8 million new subscribers to the streaming service during the weekend of the wild-card game.

# Practice

From Page A7

Instead, he sends Travis Kelce to deliver the message. "I'll play bad cop. It's all right," the Chiefs' star tight end said. "I give the same energy to myself when I screw up."

Receiver Rashee Rice, who set a slew of Chiefs rookie records this season, remembers more than once Kelce corralling him on the practice fields after a play went awry. But it didn't always mean he was about to get a tongue-lashing.

"He's not running over to me. I'm running over to him," Rice said. "I'm all about learning from him. He just kind of tells me things, like where a defense is going to be coming from, or what to do if someone is here, you know?"

## FALSE ALARM

Niners players had an early wake-up call — thanks to a false fire alarm at their hotel.

Shanahan said he and the

other coaches were already up and working in the basement when the alarm went off at 6 a.m. and they didn't hear it.

But once he saw his players later in the morning, he heard all about it.

"By the time I saw the players and asked them how their night was they were all complaining about the fire alarm and all having to go outside," Shanahan said. "I didn't realize how big a deal it was until I met them. I think it was a pain for them to get up at 6 and go outside."

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

This year's Super Bowl holds a special meaning to Chiefs intern Jade Thomas, considering where the game is being played and the legacy her name bears. The public relations specialist is a graduate of UNLV and a Las Vegas native. She starred for the national powerhouse Centennial High School girls' basketball team before playing for the Lady Rebels.

She is also the granddaughter of Pro Football

Hall of Fame cornerback Emmitt Thomas, who played for the Chiefs from 1966-78. He played in two Super Bowls, including a win in 1970 over Minnesota, and coached from 1979 until he retired in 2018 after a nine-year stint as the Chiefs' defensive backs coach.

"It's awesome being back in Vegas, especially coming back in such a different perspective and position," Jade Thomas said. "Being an intern in the NFL is amazing, but making it to the Super Bowl in my first year is another level."

She said hearing stories from her grandfather and holding his championship ring has made it a dream.

"I'm very grateful to be a part of this staff and along for the ride," Thomas said. "Among all the craziness, having my family here has been another blessing. It definitely brings me a sense of calmness to just hang out with them after a long and crazy day."

## PERFECT IN VEGAS

The Chiefs might feel especially at home this week

given they are 4-0 at Allegiant Stadium.

"We love the atmosphere in Las Vegas," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "It's Las Vegas, right? I think Allegiant Stadium is one of the best stadiums in the NFL. They have bottle service in the stadium. There's nothing like playing in Allegiant Stadium. They light the (Al Davis Memorial) Torch. We're used to the crazy Raiders fans with the masks on and everything."

The Chiefs and Raiders have an intense rivalry, which makes Kansas City's digs unique. The Chiefs will use the Las Vegas locker room on game day and are practicing at the Raiders' headquarters.

"Their facility is top of the line," Chiefs right tackle Jawaan Taylor said, before admitting: "It's a little weird sometimes seeing the (Raiders) logo every day."

AP Pro Football Writer Josh Dubow, AP Sports Writer Mark Anderson and AP freelancer W.G. Ramirez contributed to this report.

# Battle

From Page A7

She was the tournament MVP when the U.S. won again at the Tokyo Games, finishing with 18 goals.

She is more than just a scorer, but her offensive ability stands out — even among the world's best players. Facing China in last year's world championships, she kicked a pass to her right hand and then flipped the ball over the charging goaltender while fighting off two defenders.

After swimming back to the center of the pool for the resumption of play, Musselman had a bemused look on her face, almost as if she couldn't believe the move actually worked.

"She helps make the game look beautiful," U.S. captain Maggie Steffens said.

Lifted by Musselman's stellar play, the U.S. is on the brink of history. No team — women or men — has ever won four straight water polo titles at the Olympics.

That all seemed meaningless after the results of Pat's biopsy came in.

## A LOVE STORY

Musselman met Woepse when Kodi Hill, one of her teammates at UCLA, married Ryder Roberts, one of his water polo teammates with the Bruins, in January 2022.

Woepse got Musselman's phone number from Hill after the wedding. He gave her a call, but she let it go to voicemail because she didn't recognize the number.

Two years later, Woepse smiled as he recalled stumbling through his message.

"No, it's great," Musselman interjected. "It's like my favorite."

"She called me back and I'm very lucky," Woepse continued.

It worked right from the start. They bonded over their shared Catholic faith — something they have leaned on even more amid Woepse's cancer diagnosis — and water polo. They started making plans.

Woepse loves to travel, so he joined Musselman in Hungary for the 2022 world championships. After the U.S. won the title, the couple stayed in Europe for vacation. They also explored Japan after last year's world championships in Fukuoka.

Woepse proposed to Musselman on Newport Beach in June. They moved in together in August, and Musselman borrowed a dress from a family friend when they decided to get married on short notice Sept. 30.

"It was always really easy

dating Maddie, which is amazing," Woepse said.

It was all very easy for Musselman, too. She had been told that she was picky when it came to relationships, but she found what she was looking for in the affable Woepse.

"When we went on that trip to Europe after Budapest, I was like, 'This is awesome. I could spend the rest of my life with this guy,'" she said.

## A CANCER DIAGNOSIS

The cough Pat had in Japan lingered after he moved in with Maddie, so he saw a doctor and got a chest X-ray. Following more tests, he learned in September that he had NUT carcinoma — a rare diagnosis that "seems to be a random, unprovoked event," according to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Massachusetts.

"Once you get the confirming call, it was tough," Woepse said. "I was with my family and Maddie, obviously surrounded by everybody

that loves me, so that was a pretty powerful moment."

Musselman, 25, took a couple of weeks off from training after they got the biopsy results, staying right beside Woepse as they figured out the next steps. They flew to Dana-Farber to consult with one of the doctors who discovered NUT carcinoma in the early 2000s.

Woepse enrolled in a clinical trial that involves a mixture of two types of chemotherapy and a pill designed for his particular form of cancer. Along the way, Woepse and Musselman made a point of avoiding any prognosis for his long-term health.

"It's so rare, there's not a lot of data points that can point to positive and negative cases," he said. "So that doesn't mean anything to me. And for us, really, it's about us. It's about me. So you can be the outlier, in my opinion."

Woepse's cancer diagnosis was relayed to the U.S. women's team in a variety of

ways. Musselman met with coach Adam Krikorian days after the biopsy results came in, and teammate Kaleigh Gilchrist acted as a messenger while Musselman was away.

It was an emotional time. Part of California's small water polo community, Woepse's connection to the U.S. team runs deeper than his relationship with Musselman.

"He is without a doubt one of the best humans that I've ever met," said Rachel Fattal, who played for UCLA while Woepse competed for the school. "And they are both incredibly strong, and together, they're as strong as they come."

When Musselman re-joined the national team for training, she was nervous. It felt different. Everything felt different.

She met with the team. She shared what she knew, and what she didn't know — namely, how much she was going to be able to play.

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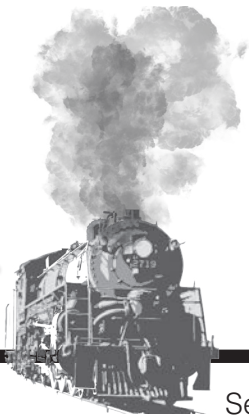
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**Heather Smith**  
 RN, Injector

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## Fun and love in February

Wow, what a month to celebrate. Sunday, we have the Super Bowl, and a few days later, Valentine's Day. Both are perfect days for entertaining groups or intimate dining with unique dishes and excellent wines.

Let's start with the Kansas City Chiefs. Obviously, you want red and avoid any San Francisco, Napa, and Sonoma wines. We'll get the heat going with Za'atar Fire Crackers Saltines, a magical cracker. Whatever it is about them makes it nearly impossible to eat six in less than a minute, for those familiar with the Saltine Challenge. Not for the faint of heart or dry of mouth, it also makes these famously basic crackers able to soak up a ton of liquid and retain their crunch. This recipe is a twist on "Fire Crackers," a Southern classic called party crackers or comeback crackers. An Italian Orvieto white wine can easily overcome the dryness and heat. Other choices include South American Pinot Grigio or Kim Crawford New Zealand whites (but no Chardonnay). For the full recipe, go to [tinyurl.com/4sb9wdwr](http://tinyurl.com/4sb9wdwr).

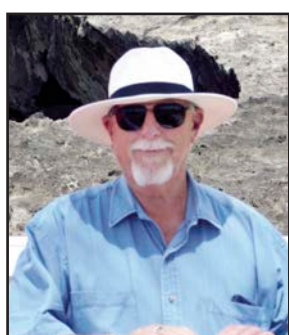
Next, try the Ground Beef Bugogi Sloppy Joes with Fiery Napa Slaw, which is sure to light the Chiefs' fire. Check out the complete recipe at [tinyurl.com/yckh2vbx](http://tinyurl.com/yckh2vbx).

Suppose you want to find some of the ingredients. In that case, there are a significant number of international markets in Columbia where you can find some of these items: Shwe Market International Foods, 800 Vandiver Drive; A&Y Global Market, 400 Business Loop 7 West; and Lymva International Market, 705 Vandiver Drive.

Here's a tasty, sweet idea: Chewy, Fudgy Almond Butter and Palm Sugar Cookies. They're caramel-rich and almost chocolaty — without containing any chocolate. Pair with fruity red wine, such as Hot to Trot (red) or similar wines.

Now that we've won the Super Bowl, we'll turn to the love you feel from that great event by celebrating Valentine's Day.

Let's start with something light. How about a raw vegetable



**Turf Martin**  
Guest Columnist

and fruit plate with sliced yellow and red peppers, strawberries, cubed watermelon, cubed cantaloupe, an assortment of cubed yellow cheeses, cherry tomatoes, raspberries, and cherries, to mention a few? We pair these with crisp whites, such as Sea Glass, or other suitable choices would be generic, such as Muscadet, Chablis, Menetou-Salon, Reuilly, Sylvaner, or Jacquère Savoy wines like Apremont and Chignin.

The second course might include a mixed salad with spinach leaves sprinkled with lime and lemon juice topped with boiled red shrimp (deveined and shell removed, but you may leave the tail on). Pair this with an acidic white like an Austrian Gruener Veltliner.

Try Spiced Pork Chops with Buttery Peas, Radishes, and Mint for the Main Course. Melissa Clark's spiced pork chops get their flavor from a spice blend; it's the perfect shortcut to rich flavor without fuss. Go to [tinyurl.com/3hvcprh](http://tinyurl.com/3hvcprh). The ideal match is an old vine, Zinfandel, from Lodi, California.

Top off your special dinner with an excellent red port wine and a Knickerbocker Glory Ice Cream Sundae. It is described as "the adult version" of an Eton mess, a traditional English dessert consisting of a mixture of strawberries or other berries, meringue, and whipped cream.

This delicious dessert uses jelly, chocolate fudge sauce, nuts, and berry coulis, which come together over ice cream. The recipe can be found at [tinyurl.com/dx7ervh9](http://tinyurl.com/dx7ervh9).

With all this in mind — it's time to have a great Red February!

Turf Martin is the former owner of Wine and More in Sedalia. He learned all about wine making, tasting and pairing while living in Austria. Reach him at [turf.d.martin54@gmail.com](mailto:turf.d.martin54@gmail.com).



Members of Sedalia's United We Sew No. 80781 with the Quilts of Valor Foundation pose for a photo on Saturday, Feb. 3, during the 2024 National Sew Day at First Christian Church. Back row from left, Cinthia Titus, Connie Soendker, Christy Goodman, Janice Young, and Billie Dunn. Front row, QOV state coordinator Linda Martien, Josie Scribner, Delores Woolery, and Jeannie Braswell. Not pictured is member Tonya Hooton. PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITED WE SEW NO. 80781

## Making sew much difference

### Sedalia women create Quilts of Valor

By Faith Bemiss-McKinney  
[faithb@sedaliademocrat.com](mailto:faithb@sedaliademocrat.com)

Several local women are making a difference for military veterans and enlisted personnel by donating their time to sew specialized patriotic quilts through the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

#### A network of quilters

United We Sew No. 80781, a local chapter of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, began in 2021 and was organized by Jeannie Braswell. Since starting the chapter, the women have honored 62 military veterans and enlisted personnel with hand-sewn 60-by-80-inch patriotic quilts. United We Sew includes Pettis, Benton, Saline, Johnson, and Cass counties.

"We are the closest Quilt of Valor group in those vicinities," Braswell explained. "So, if someone goes online and nominates a veteran, then they will put them in the group that is closest to them."

"Right now, we have six that's pending," she continued. "And I contacted all of them and either spoke to them or left messages on Feb. 2, that we were getting together. And hopefully, within two to three months, we will have their quilts ready. And we

will contact them and get a date that's acceptable for all of them."

Braswell said each quilt costs between \$300 to \$400, and if the national QOVF does not reimburse them for supplies, the money comes out of their pockets. Because of this, they often host fundraisers to create additional funds for fabric, battling, backing, and long-arm sewing of the quilts. She added that across the U.S., there are around 600 QOV groups.

#### The women of United We Sew

The local group includes Cinthia Titus, Connie Soendker, Christy Goodman, Janice Young, Billie Dunn, Josie Scribner, Delores Woolery, Tonja Hooton, and Jeannie Braswell.

Braswell said she began the group because she's a "sewaholic" or sewing fanatic.

"My license plate says, 'SewKrz,'" she noted with a laugh. "Because we'd rather be sewing than anything else."

On Saturday, Feb. 3, United We Sew came together at First Christian Church in Sedalia to make blocks for quilts as they participated in the Quilts of Valor 2024 National Sew Day. Braswell also said Missouri State Coordinator Linda Martien of Mexico,



Cinthia Titus works on a quilt on Saturday, Feb. 3, at First Christian Church during the 2024 National Sew Day for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Volunteers with the QOVF make quilts for veterans and enlisted military personnel.

Missouri, was working with them that day.

"Linda Martien had received 500 blocks from the Hannibal Piecemakers Quilt Guild," Braswell said. "They had made the 2023 block-drive blocks for a charity; they gave them to her, and she brought us 50."

#### A dedicated sisterhood

Braswell said the women who help United We Sew are dedicated to the cause, and Christy Goodman expressed her thoughts also.

"I love making quilts for our veterans," she noted. "It is a small way I can thank them for their service and sacrifice. Plus, it lets me be creative with a purpose."

Braswell added that Goodman and Dunn get together with other women and make quilts at the First

United Methodist Church Celebration Center on the first Thursday of the month.

"They quilt blocks, and they make quilts of valor," she said. "So, their dedication goes above and beyond. I know that they are trying to cover their veterans. Especially the older ones first because we can't present them with one once they pass."

Braswell noted that Titus, a United We Sew member, makes small items for the women to sell during the Sedalia Downtown First Thursdays as a fundraiser.

"She's working two jobs," Braswell said. "But this lady made several things and gave them to us to sell at First Thursdays. Last October was our first time doing it."

See **QUILTS | B4**



Jeannie Braswell concentrates on sewing a quilt for the Quilts of Valor Foundation on Saturday, Feb. 3. Braswell said since they began the Sedalia chapter, United We Sew, the group has made 62 quilts for area veterans and enlisted military personnel.



On Saturday, Feb. 3, Billie Dunn, a member of United We Sew, places quilt blocks together before sewing them. Local Quilts of Valor organizer Jeannie Braswell said each quilt costs around \$300 to \$400 to create.

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## GRANDFIELD BIRTHDAY

Gloria June Grandfield, who was born Feb. 14, 1924, will celebrate her 100th birthday from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 with cake and

ice cream at the Tambo Apartments in Sedalia. Family and friends are invited to the celebration in the common room at the apartments.



## GRAVES BIRTHDAY

Merlin Lee Graves will observe his 90th birthday Feb. 10.

He was born Feb. 10, 1934, in Mitchell, Iowa.

Merlin, a Lutheran, is retired and once owned a small auto repair shop in Ontario, California. His hobbies include wood-working, do-it-yourself projects, caring for his pets, watching TV and

reading Facebook.

Merlin is a widower and he has four children, Charles Graves and Michael Graves, both of Sedalia, Tara Harry, of Riverside, California, and the late Candy Prather, of Mason City, Iowa. He has nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

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## BRL2GO SCHEDULE

**Boonslick Regional Library Monday**

No run: Presidents Day.

**Wednesday**

9:30 a.m.: Lincoln City Hall.

10 a.m. to noon: Lincoln

City Park.

1:30 to 3:45 p.m.: Cole Camp City Park.

**Friday**

9 to 11:45 a.m.: Brook-  
ing Park Village.

1:15 to 4 p.m.: Otterville  
Mini Mart.

## POPULAR BOOKS

**Boonslick Regional Library Fiction**

“The Boy Who Cried Bear,” by Kelley Armstrong.

“Fourteen Days,” by Margaret Atwood and Douglas Preston.

“Fangirl Down,” by Tessa Bailey.

“What Fears at Night,” by T. Kingfisher.

“Kingpin,” by Mike

Lawson.

“Murder at an Irish Chipper,” by Carlene O’Connor.

“Wandering Stars,” by Tommy Orange.

“The Guest,” by B.A. Paris.

“Crosshairs,” by James Patterson and James O. Born.

“The American Daughters,” by Maurice Carlos Ruffin.

**Nonfiction**

“Stand by Me: A Guide to Navigating Modern Meaningful Caregiving,” by Allison J. Applebaum.

“The Secret Life of Hidden Places: Concealed Rooms, Clandestine Passageways, and the Curious Minds that Made Them,” by Stefan Bachmann and April G. Tucholke.

“Our Ancient Faith: Lincoln, Democracy, and the American Experiment,” by Allen C. Guelzo.

“Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America,” by Barbara McQuade.

“American Woman: The Transformation of the Modern First Lady, from Hillary Clinton to Jill Biden,” by Katie Rogers.

## NEW BOOKS

**Sedalia Public Library Fiction**

“Mine,” by J.R. Ward (romance).

“Kingpin,” by Mike Lawson (suspense).

“The Disappearance of Astrid Bricard,” by Natasha Lester (fiction).

“Everyone on this Train is a Suspect,” by Benjamin Stevenson (mystery).

“The Price You Pay,” by Nick Petrie (suspense).

“Fourteen Days,” Edited by Margaret Atwood

and Douglas Preston (fiction).

“The Ghost Orchid,” by Jonathan Kellerman (mystery).

“One in a Million,” by Janet Dailey (romance).

**Nonfiction**

“The Book of Facts

and Trivia: American History,” by Terri Schlichenmeyer.

“Slimming Eats Made in Fryer,” by Siobhan Wightman.

**New Movies**

“Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny”

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization that delivers meals to seniors, the homebound and handicapped citizens of Sedalia. The food is prepared by Superior Vendall and is delivered by volunteers.

Meals cost \$4. For more information on receiving meals or becoming a volunteer, call 660-826-5039.

Meals will be delivered by friends of the program from various churches.

**Monday:** Sloppy Joe, baked beans, macaroni salad, peaches and milk.

**Tuesday:** Spaghetti, corn, breadsticks, brownie and milk.

**Wednesday:** Pizza, salad, tropical fruit and

milk.

**Thursday:** Beef and noodles, green beans, vanilla pudding and milk.

**Friday:** Roast beef, potatoes and gravy, peas, cookie and milk.

# From ‘Friends’ reunion to Clydesdales, the buzziest Super Bowl ads so far

**By Mae Anderson and Wyatt Grantham-Philips**

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — If you watch the Super Bowl for the commercials, you no longer have to wait until the big game to see what advertisers have in store for viewers.

Many companies now release ads ahead of the game in the hope of capitalizing on the buzz that builds as the game approaches. They hope to recoup some of the reported \$7 million that’s the going rate for a 30-second spot by capturing pre-game attention.

It’s a big challenge to stand out among the 50-plus advertisers that will be vying for the eyes of the more than 100 million people expected to tune in this year to CBS (and Paramount+ and Nickelodeon) on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 11). Last year’s broadcast on Fox was watched by a record 115.1 million viewers, according to Nielsen.

So advertisers pull out all the stops. In the ads released ahead of the game so far, Budweiser focuses on its iconic Clydesdales, Michelob Ultra capitalizes on the iconic star power of soccer legend Lionel Messi, and Uber Eats goes for laughs with an ad where Jennifer Aniston forgets she starred in “Friends” with David Schwimmer. Many more commercials are expected to be released ahead of the game.

Of course, not all advertisers release their ads ahead of the game, so there will be surprises. Big advertisers like Amazon have stayed mum on ad plans so far. And while there have been no indications of such, it remains to be seen whether

advertisers will capitalize on this year’s Taylor Swift buzz in some way.

Here are some of the buzziest ads that have been released so far: **BOOKING.COM**

Actress Tina Fey has so many choices on the online travel agency booking.com site she has to hire body doubles: an influencer type played by her 30 Rock co-star, Jane Krakowski, to stay at a fancy hotel, a bigfoot handled by another 30 Rock co-star, Jack McBrayer, to stay at a cabin, and even actress Glenn Close, who stays on a farm.

**BUD LIGHT**

The Bud Light genie grants wishes — like giving someone ‘80s metal hair and someone else a giant bicep — to Bud Light drinkers. NFL legend Peyton Manning, rapper Post Malone and more also appear on screen.

**BUDWEISER**

Budweiser is bringing back familiar characters to its gameday slot. In the beer brand’s nostalgic ad, a snowstorm threatens to derail a delivery to a small-town bar. But a team of Clydesdales and a Labrador retriever team up to help Budweiser make the delivery.

**DORITOS DINAMITA**

Two grandmotherly women (“Dina” and “Mita”) chase after “Top Gun: Maverick” actor Danny Ramirez, who took the last bag of Doritos Dinamita from a store shelf, leaving actress Jenna Ortega behind.

**DOVE**

Dove’s ad begins seemingly whimsically showing young girls having mishaps playing sports to the tune of “It’s the Hard Knock Life.” But the ad cuts starkly to a girl looking self-consciously in the

mirror. The message: low body-confidence leads to girls quitting sports, not the mishaps.

**GOOGLE**

Google’s heart-string-pulling ad follows a blind man as he uses “Guided Frame” — Google’s AI-powered accessibility feature for the Pixel camera that uses a combination of audio cues, high-contrast animations and tactile vibrations — to take pictures of the people and places in his life.

**HELLMANN’S**

In an ad for Hellmann’s, Kate McKinnon makes an unusual discovery: her cat can talk. Well, sort of. Her furry friend can say one word, “may-ow” — which skyrockets her to celebrity status and causes a mayonnaise-buying frenzy. The “Mayo Cat” becomes so famous that she even dates (and soon dumps) Pete Davidson.

**MICHELOB ULTRA**

Lionel Messi’s Super Bowl debut shows off his soccer mastery and apparent loyalty to Michelob Ultra. In the ad, the soccer star also gets an assist from NFL legend Dan Marino and nod from “Ted Lasso’s” Jason Sudeikis.

**MTN DEW**

**BAJA BLAST**

Aubrey Plaza is always having a blast, whether she is stuck in an elevator or being abducted by aliens — or reuniting with her “Parks and Rec” co-star Nick Offerman while riding dragons.

**M&M’S**

Retired Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, Buffalo Bills’ Bruce Smith and wide receiver Terrell Owens never got a Super Bowl ring, but M&M’s and Scarlett Johansson present the

“Almost Champions” ring to the almost winners.

**OREO**

According to Oreo, the key to making life’s biggest decisions is to “twist on it.” An ad for the iconic sandwich cookie suggests that even Kris Jenner used the tactic before agreeing to start “Keeping Up With The Kardashians” back in 2007.

**PRINGLES**

After a gas station clerk points out Chris Pratt looks like the man in the Pringles logo, he goes viral and stars in a movie about “Mr. P.”

**STARRY**

PepsiCo’s year-old lemon-lime soda’s debut Super Bowl ad features rapper Ice Spice dealing with a breakup by spending time with the Starry lemon and lime spokescharacters — the message: “It’s time to see other sodas.”

**T-MOBILE**

Jason Momoa shows off his singing chops in an ad that shows Scrubs duo Zach Braff and Donald Faison singing about T-Mobile home internet to the tune of “Flashdance ... What a Feeling.” “Flashdance” star Jennifer Beals pops in to spray Momoa with water and ask him to sing it again — without his shirt.

**UBER EATS**

When someone tells Jennifer Aniston they didn’t know you could order a wide variety of products on Uber Eats, Aniston tells them, “In order to remember something, you’ve got to forget something else.” That prompts a wave of forgetting: David and Victoria Beckham forget Victoria Beckham used to be Posh Spice, and Jennifer Aniston forgets she starred in “Friends” with David Schwimmer.

# Community Calendar FEBRUARY

To have your event or meeting listed, send details to faithb@sedaliademocrat.com or call 660-826-1000 ext. 1481.

## SUNDAY

Noon and 7 p.m.: Alcoholic Anonymous 12x12 Non-smoking group, Sunday through Saturday, at 417 E. Pettis St., 660-310-9922, sedalia12x12aa@gmail.com.

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

7 p.m.: Narcotics Anonymous Because We Care and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave. For more information, call 660-221-2221.

## MONDAY

8 a.m.: Courthouse Prayer Group meets on the lawn of the Pettis County Courthouse, Monday through Friday. During the winter months, the group meets at Panera.

10 a.m.: Show-Me Mad Tatters, University Extension Office Conference Room, 1012A Thompson Blvd.

10:30 a.m.: Be Forever Young, Parkview Christian Church, 1405 E. 16th St.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Rotary Club, Best Western State Fair Inn, 3120 S. Limit Ave.

1:45 p.m.: TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 0102 Sedalia

meets at the Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., in the lower level meeting room. All are welcome to attend. The first meeting is always free. Call 660-525-4142.

5 p.m.: Sedalia Public Library Board of Trustees at Public Library, 311 W. Third St.

6 p.m.: Cornerstone Celebrate Recovery. A Bible-based 12-step program for Hurts, Habits and Hangups; Cornerstone Baptist Church, 660-827-4833.

6 p.m.: Smithton Senior Citizens Group Pitch and Pool, Smithton Senior Center on Washington Street.

6:10 p.m.: Daughters of Isabella for Rosary; meeting at 6:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

6:30 p.m.: Show Me Sound, Sweet Adelines International, rehearsals at Wesley United Methodist Church basement, 1322 West Broadway Blvd. All women who like to sing are welcome. For more information, call 660-851-2205.

7 p.m.: Al Anon, at 417 W. Pettis. For more information, call 660-473-0855.

7 p.m.: Cole Camp Area Historical Society, Cole Camp Jung Memorial Library in Cole Camp.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Chorale Rehearsal, rehearsal room 67 in the Stauffacher Center at State Fair Community College.

7:30 p.m.: Windsor School Board, High School Library, 210 North St.

## TUESDAY

8 a.m.: Central MO Business Builders (BNI), at Heckart Family Center, 903 S. Ohio Ave.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Business Network meets at Colton's Steak House, 4101 W. Broadway Blvd.

Noon: Sedalia Optimist Club, in Room C at the Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Birthright Pregnancy Center, 1810 W. 11th St., Tuesday through Friday; and other hours by appointment. The office number is 660-826-9060.

2 p.m.: Book Club at Sedalia Public Library, 311 W. Third St.

5:30 p.m.: Diversified Community Outreach, True Vine Church of God in Christ, 600 N. Moniteau Ave.

6 p.m.: NarAnon meetings at LifePointe Church, 2921 W. Broadway Blvd.

6 p.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Track at Smith-Cotton Track.

6 p.m.: Sedville Crazy Quilt Guild at Community of Christ Church, 2000 S. Ingram Ave.

6:30 p.m.: Pettis County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Shrine Fun Kor, Sedalia Shrine Club, 1615 Elm Hills Blvd.

6:30 p.m.: Sedville Petal Pushers, University of Missouri Pettis County Extension Office, 1012 A Thompson Blvd.

7 p.m.: Women of the Moose, Moose Lodge,

119 Winchester Ave.

7:30 p.m.: Sedalia Chapter No. 57, Order of the Eastern Star, Masonic Temple, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY

10 a.m.: TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 958, First Baptist Church, 200 E. Sixth St. First visit is free; 816-916-6237.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Sedalia Lions Club, Heckart Community Center, 1800 W. Third St.

4 to 7 p.m.: Knights of Columbus Council No. 831, all-you-can-eat Family Night Buffet. Located at U.S. Highway 65 and Elm Hills Boulevard. The public is invited. Cost for adults is \$11; for children 6 to 12 years, \$5; children under 6 are free.

5:30 p.m.: Amigos de Cristo, Teen Mom Classes at 3003 W. 11th St., 660-826-2788.

6:30 p.m.: West Central Beekeepers Association meeting at the Pettis County Extension Office, 1012-A Thompson Blvd.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Lodge 236, Sedalia Masonic Center, 601 W. Broadway Blvd.

## THURSDAY

7:45 a.m.: 40 & 8 Voiture 333, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Kiwanis of Sedalia, at Lamy's, 108 Pacific St.

12:30 p.m.: Friends of Boonslick Regional Library, downstairs meeting room at Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St.

1 p.m.: Sedalia Duplicate Bridge Club at First Christian Church, 200 S. Limit Ave.

1 p.m.: The Whiteman Area Piecemakers in the meeting room of the Knob Noster Branch of the Trails Regional Library, 202 N. Adams. For more information, call 660-647-3367 or 660-563-5247.

4:15 p.m.: Birthright, volunteer meeting at offices, 1810 W. 11th St.

6 p.m.: Women in Crisis Group, call 660-827-5555 for location.

6:30 p.m.: Sedalia Cadet Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Civil Air Patrol building, U.S. Highway 50.

7 p.m.: Central Missouri Coin Club, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1708 Elm Hills Blvd.

7 p.m.: Gamma Epsilon Master Chapter. For location information, call 660-827-2299.

7 p.m.: Sedalia Bible Academy, Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St., Sedalia. For more information, call 660-826-9988. It is free and open to the public.

7:30 p.m.: Central Missouri Harley Owners Group Sedalia Chapter, Yeager's Cycle Sales, 3001 S. Limit Ave.

## FRIDAY

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

Noon: Pettis County Pachyderms, Room C at the Heckart Community Center.

6 p.m.: Bingo, Sedalia Moose Lodge, 119 Winchester Dr., doors open at 4 p.m.; Kitchen opens at 5 p.m.; early-bird bingo at 6 p.m.; regular bingo at 6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.: Bunceton Senior Dance Melody Makers Band will perform. Bring finger food. Dance at Bunceton Lions Club. Cost is \$4 per person.

## SATURDAY

7 a.m.: Sedalia Runners Club-Group Run every Saturday at Clarendon and Katy Trail.

9 a.m.: Osage Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Saturday of each month at the Boonslick Regional Library, 219 W. Third St. in Sedalia. All women ages 18-98 are welcome. OsageChapterDAR@gmail.com.

10 a.m. to noon: Chess Club at the Sedalia Public Library. All ages are welcome.

11:30 a.m.: Open Door Soup Kitchen, 417 W. Pettis St. Call 660-827-1613.

1 p.m.: Missouri State Fair Bikers Against Child Abuse, American Paramedical Service classroom, 400B Industrial Road.

1 to 4 p.m.: The Pettis County Museum and Historical Society is free and open for guests, 228 Dundee Ave.

5 to 8 p.m.: Family Night at the Cole Camp Library. Tabletop Gaming, VR games and experiences, family escape room games and full access to the library after hours. Light refreshments will be provided. Call 660-668-3887 for reservations.

# Taylor Swift's sports connections go back to early days performing national anthem

By Dan Gelston

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Years before Taylor Swift grew into the global superstar who has become the talk of this Super Bowl, she was just a young Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, singer happy to strum her guitar and perform as the opening act for the biggest sporting events in town. The U.S. Open. NASCAR. The World Series.

No messy ticket rollouts necessary.

Swift was tied to Francis Scott Key before Travis Kelce in her formative years, as the unsigned artist looked for any kind of break by belting out the national anthem in front of as many packed crowds as she could find.

She sent her demo tapes "everywhere," she told Rolling Stone in 2008.

"When I was 11 years old, it occurred to me that the national anthem was the best way to get in front of a large group of people if you don't have a record deal," Swift said. "So I started singing the national anthem anywhere I possibly could."

Swift had a Philadelphia Phillies connection early in her career — both major leagues and minor.

She sang the anthem before 45,900 fans at Game 3 of the 2008 World Series, a game the Phillies won on their way to their last championship. Tim McGraw — his name also the title of one of Swift's early breakout hits — delivered the game ball. Swift joined other Philly luminaries Patti LaBelle and John Oates as 2008 World Series anthem singers.

Before that, Swift made the short drive from her six-bedroom home —

roughly 5 miles — for appearances at Reading Phillies Double-A games in 1999 and 2007.

She wore cowboy boots and a knit hat for her April 5, 2007, anthem, with some of the most famous names in the minors on hand for opening day. She played a stripped-down version of the song on the grass behind home plate as mascots Change-Up the Turtle, Blooper the Hound Dog and Bucky the Beaver solemnly stood with their right forepaws and other appendages on their prodigious chests. Swift triumphantly waved to the crowd alongside Screwball, his "R" cap askew and appropriately signature red tongue draped past his chin.

Baseball fans in the area saved some serious cash in those days to catch Swift in concert — even if just a one-song set. But who would ever expect as teams at all levels churn through anthem singers night after night that one would pop as an eventual 14-time Grammy winner, including a four-time winner for album of the year?

Rob Hackash worked for Reading in various departments, notably as director of communications, for 21 years. He said this week that Swift was a standout at the mic, even at such a young age.

"To borrow an old scout's phrase, she had some mound presence," he said.

Hackash said the team mostly worked through Swift's family, including her parents Scott and Andrea, to snag an appearance.

"My memories are all fond of the Swifts in general," Hackash said. "(Her dad)

wanted her singing the anthem in front of a crowd. Her first Reading game was kind of a stepping stone to get something on tape to send to the Sixers. That was kind of the reason they came to us. I always remember Scott as a good dude, good dad. She kind of took it from there and eventually did end up with the Sixers."

Swift got the call for the big time and sang the anthem at an April 5, 2002, Sixers game. Allen Iverson did not play in that one but Swift was there at 12 years old, dressed in an American flag sweatshirt and headband at center court in front of 20,754 fans.

The 76ers presented Swift with duffel bags full of souvenirs, including a jersey signed by members of the team.

"My mom and I were just jumping up and down we were so excited," Swift told The Reading Eagle for an April 19, 2002, story. "I just really love doing that sort of thing. It is an adrenaline rush."

How big of a step up for her career were the Sixers? The month before, The Reading Eagle noted Swift did another rendition of the anthem, only at Wyomissing High School for a basketball game between school faculty and members of the community.

Former Sixers manager of game operations Kathy Drysdale said in 2002 that Swift's voice caught her attention immediately on a tape submitted by Scott Swift.

"Her voice is so strong and powerful at 12 years old," Drysdale said. "You look at her and think,

'Did that come out of her mouth?'"

Swift nailed the performance.

Matt Cord has been the voice of the 76ers as their public address announcer since 1998. He quickly pulled up a picture on his phone of a young Swift singing the anthem at the Wells Fargo Center when asked about her and remembered specific instructions he had for her introduction.

"She was from Wyomissing, Pennsylvania and I didn't know that town," Cord said from his courtside seat. "Her dad was right here and he goes, 'Just say Reading.' So I went with Reading. We introduced her as a country star from Reading."

The Reading Eagle story ended on a hopeful note, where writer Jeremy Carroll noted, "Last month, the Swifts traveled to Nashville, where they distributed (her) CD to record companies in the hope of landing a record deal."

Oh, she signed that deal — and so much more in the years ahead. But her career was still in its infancy — Swift dropped her debut album late in 2006 — when she returned to Reading for the anthem, much to the delight and surprise of the organization.

"At this point, the first album was already out, it was already huge," Hackash said. "I kind of realized, this was a big deal. We had players

from all different parts of the country and those guys, like the Texas kids, the South Carolina kids, they knew darn well who she was. They knew the 'Tim McGraw' song, they knew her. I was like, this has exceeded our little area here. By a lot."

Swift hasn't forgotten her Pennsylvania stadium roots, of course.

Only now she can cause a fan frenzy as she fills Lincoln Financial Field, the home of the Philadelphia Eagles, as she did for three nights last May. Swift gave a shoutout to the Eagles one night — "Guys, like, c'mon. I'm from Philly," she told the crowd — though her alliance now is clearly with Kelce and the Kansas City Chiefs.

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# Justin Hartley leads his own show with CBS' 'Tracker'

By Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justin Hartley is one of those guys who is as comfortable in the rough outdoors as he is safe inside, enjoying creature comforts.

"Don't get me wrong, I like room service. I like an airport greeter. But I also dig camping and stuff like that," he says. "I love all of it. I love the idea of outdoors some days, where it's like I'd rather look out the window. But then there are days where I'd rather be out in it."

Hartley has lately been practicing his outdoors skills as the star of CBS' new series "Tracker," about a savvy, lone-wolf survivalist who makes his living earning rewards posted by police or citizens, like a mix of Bear Grylls and Kojak.

"I had just never seen a character like this before. He's very unique," says Hartley, who spent six seasons as Kevin Pearson on the acclaimed NBC series "This Is Us."

"I just love the idea that this guy is smart and he also can physically kick ass. I think that's just so cool. It's just what I think maybe every man strives for."

The show opens with an injured hiker waking up in the Nevada desert after losing consciousness from a leg injury and gazing into the face of Hartley, who stabilizes her leg injury and gives her hope.

"What I think we're dealing with here is a good, old fashioned case of mild hypothermia," he tells her. "You're going to survive. You're going to be A-OK." He gets her out of danger and lands a \$50,000 bounty.

It's a fine introduction to a rootless, haunted character who lives in an Airstream attached to his pickup, ready to go wherever the next reward takes him. There's a weekly adventure but also an ongoing attempt to explain how his dysfunctional childhood led him to this life.

"Tracker" — based on the novel "The Never Game" by Jeffery Deaver — has impressed CBS so much that it's premiering Sunday right after the Super Bowl, one of the most coveted TV spots all year.

"It probably feels like after a Super Bowl win and you sit in the locker room with your family and all these people that you've worked so hard with for so many years developing something and you just say, 'Wow, we did it. We're on air and we're after the Super Bowl,'" he says. "I feel like we should have a trophy or something."

Hartley's character is a good man but not just a Good Samaritan. He's in it for the financial gain. "Cash is always welcome. I also take checks. Venmo, if that's easier," he says

to families after locating their loved ones. "A reward becomes a binding contract at the moment of success."

It doesn't hurt that Hartley has matinee-idol looks with a lantern jaw and a physique to back that up. Both the first and second episodes have him shirtless within the first five minutes.

Ken Olin, the former "This Is Us" executive producer and director who co-executive produced "Tracker" and directed the pilot, said he and Hartley were itching to roam around outside after years of being in kitchens and living rooms for "This Is Us."

"We were both in the mood to go do something where the guy's got a job and a gun," Olin says. "It's much more demanding physically than say, 'This Is Us.' And also, he's pretty much is in every scene, which is a whole different load for him to carry. But he's fantastic at it."

Hartley's character, Colter Shaw, might be an expert tracker and bounty hunter, but he does share some characteristics with the more domestic Kevin Pearson.

"He certainly is led by his heart in a certain way," says the actor. "I think those are always the characters that I've always been drawn to my entire life, actually. They're a bit broken."

Hartley hopes "Tracker" could become another huge network hit like "This Is Us," but he knows how unlikely that is. "Those things don't happen to people like me. They don't happen to anyone. It's like winning the lottery," he says.

The premise — a weekly search from people to animals to lost evidence or sentimental items — means the show has a vast resource. Or, as Hartley's character says "I find it to be steady work. Everyone's looking for something."

Hartley says he wasn't necessarily looking for more steady TV after "This Is Us" ended — just looking for anything good.

"It wasn't necessarily genre specific — comedy, action, thriller, horror. It wasn't necessarily TV. The medium didn't matter. It didn't matter to me. Co-star, guest star, lead — none of that mattered. It just had to be a really great project that I knew I was going to pour myself into and was excited about."

"Tracker" also celebrates America's outdoors, with visits to places network TV rarely goes — like Springland, Idaho, and Klamath Falls, Oregon — and different stories from those places.

"The physical beauty of America is just something that maybe we haven't paid attention to for a while, and I wanted to do that," Olin says. "I don't want this to be formulaic."

# Quilts

From Page B1

Soendker is a quiet woman, Braswell said, but is extremely sweet.

"They all are," Braswell said of the women. "They believe in what they are

doing. They want to cover the veterans.

"Most of us sew on our own," she continued. "Because it's a matter of bringing the sewing machine — there's a lot to take out."

She noted the group is like a sisterhood, and she welcomes new members. Last year, during Na-

tional Sew Day, 6,000 quilts participated in making quilts for veterans across the country, and nearly 900 quilt-tops were completed. Quilts are presented to nominated and approved veterans and the military, often at local churches.

Braswell added she is thankful for donations from local individuals, or-

ganizations and businesses that have contributed to United We Sew since its inception.

For more information, to join a local group or nominate a military veteran or enlisted individual, visit gov.org.

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



In November 2021, several veterans and an active-duty serviceman were honored with Quilts of Valor at First Christian Church by the women of United We Sew No. 80781. While serving with the U.S. Army, Adam Schock was honored with a handmade quilt. Holding the quilt are Tonja and Nathan Hooton, members of the church.

FILE PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS-MCKINNEY | DEMOCRAT



In 2021, United We Sew organizer Jeannie Braswell, center, talks about the service of David Menefee, seated, who served from 1956 to 1962 in the Army National Guard. Tonja and Nathan Hooton, members of First Christian Church, prepare to give Menefee his quilt.



Veteran John Swearngin, who served from 1962-65 with the U.S. Navy, is honored with a Quilt of Valor in 2021 at First Christian Church. Tonja and Nathan Hooton, members of the church, hold the quilt for Swearngin.

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# Make custom chocolates for, or with, your Valentine

By Albert Stumm  
Associated Press

Since Cadbury popularized the fancy box of chocolates in the 19th century, the link between love and those darkly sweet treats has only grown stronger — thanks partly to years of clever marketing.

“If you look at advertising over the years, chocolate companies emphasized love and romance, and that you could win hearts and maybe a kiss for a box of chocolate,” said Sue Quinn, author of “The Little Chocolate Cookbook” and “Cocoa.”

We still love indulging in chocolate on Valentine’s Day. This year, however, why not up the gift cache and, instead of buying chocolates, make your own?

With no special equipment required, many recipes are simple enough for novices — and making them together is a fun way to spend the evening.

Quinn’s template for chocolate bark requires little more than melting the right kind of chocolate bar, spreading it onto a baking sheet and adding a variety of toppings. She suggested combining sweet-tart ingredients like dried cranberries or cherries with chopped nuts for contrasting flavor and texture. And she always sprinkles the bark with flaky sea salt to bring out the chocolate’s nuanced flavor.

Besides being a special gift from the heart, homemade chocolates also are free from preservatives, extra sugar and artificial ingredients, said Jennifer Bell, who blogs about

cooking at A Sweet Alternative. Her simple recipes for 20 homemade chocolates include three-ingredient truffles stuffed with strawberries, mango or almond butter, their creamy center enveloped in a crispy chocolate shell. Or try her chocolate-covered coconut bars, blackberry clusters and pears.

“They’re such an easy gift that’s got that homemade touch,” Bell said. “And really all you need in terms of equipment is parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.”

With homemade recipes like these, there is no need to worry about “tempering.” That’s a technique professionals use, slowly melting the chocolate and resetting it in a particular way to maintain its shine and characteristic snap.

It is critical, however, to melt the chocolate gently or it will become grainy as the cocoa butter separates from the solids under high heat. Bell prefers doing so in the microwave in a heatproof bowl, nuking chopped dark chocolate or chips on high power in 20 second increments, and stirring in between until it’s smooth.

Because Quinn accidentally has burned chocolate before in the microwave, she now blasts it with a hair dryer in 30 second increments, while stirring, so it doesn’t overheat. Or she rigs a bain-marie (a double boiler), placing the chopped chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a saucepan of barely simmering water. Make sure the bottom doesn’t touch the water.



This image shows a plate of chocolate truffles and chocolate bark. Rather than spending on store-bought chocolates for Valentine’s Day, make them together as a fun way to spend the evening with your Valentine.

PHOTO BY ALBERT STUMM VIA AP

It’s worth springing for high-quality dark chocolate made from about 70% cacao that lists only three to five ingredients. Sugar should not be the first ingredient listed; soy lecithin, a common additive to make melted chocolate more pourable, is fine and does not affect flavor.

The quality of chocolate is key for such basic recipes. But even the most basic homemade chocolates convey something special, Quinn said.

“You can buy them from the gas station on the way to a date. But goodness, someone who makes you some chocolates? They’re a keeper, aren’t they?”

## HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE BARK

From Sue Quinn’s “The Little Chocolate Cook-

book”

Time: 50 minutes (20 minutes active)

600 grams/21 ounces dark chocolate

2 to 3 tablespoons of chopped toppings, such as pistachios, almonds, hazelnuts, dried fruit, candied ginger, toasted coconut, crumbled cookies or sprinkles

Flaky sea salt

Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment, letting the paper hang over the sides. Gently melt the chocolate (see note in story above) and pour onto the prepared sheet, tilting it to spread the chocolate toward the edges. While it is still soft, add the toppings of your choice. Leave to set completely before breaking into shards.

## HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY TRUFFLES

From Jennifer Bell’s “A Sweet Alternative”

Time: 1 hour, 40 minutes (25 minutes active)

Makes 12 truffles

1 1/2 cups chopped dark chocolate or chips

3/4 cup chopped fresh or frozen strawberries

Optional topping: freeze-dried strawberry powder

In a saucepan over medium-low heat, cook the strawberries for 2 to 3 minutes, mashing them while they cook. Turn off the heat and add half the chocolate to the fruit, allowing the residual heat to melt it. Mix well until all the chocolate is melted.

Transfer the mixture to a bowl, then chill it in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Take it out and let it sit at room temperature for 5 minutes.

Line a baking sheet with

parchment paper. Scoop 1 tablespoon of the mixture and use your hands to roll it into a ball (using kitchen gloves if preferred). Place it on the prepared sheet and make the remaining balls. If the mixture is too sticky, chill it in the freezer for 5 minutes and try again. In a heatproof bowl, melt the remaining 3/4 cup chocolate (see note in story above).

Add one ball to the bowl at a time, gently stirring to coat each completely. Use two forks to transfer each coated ball to the prepared baking sheet. Add a sprinkle of freeze-dried strawberry powder, if using.

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Albert Stumm lives in Barcelona and writes about food, travel and wellness. Find his work at [www.albertstumm.com](http://www.albertstumm.com).

## Here’s why millions are excited for Super Bowl Sunday

Even if it’s not the game itself, millions of Americans will find something to be excited about when it comes to Super Bowl Sunday — and that’s before even factoring in the influence of Taylor Swift.

Four in 10 U.S. adults are extremely or very excited for at least one part of the Super Bowl day’s festivities — whether that’s the game, commercials, halftime show or the Puppy Bowl — according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

One-quarter of U.S. adults are excited for the actual Super Bowl game, where the Kansas City Chiefs will try to win their second title in a row when they play the San Francisco 49ers in Las Vegas. Another 27% are “somewhat excited” for the game, and about half say they are not too or not at all excited. This poll was conducted mostly before the Chiefs and 49ers (and Swift) were cemented to appear in this year’s Super Bowl. Three in 10 men say they are extremely or very excited for the Super Bowl game, compared to about 2 in 10 women. Black adults are more likely than white or Hispanic adults to be enthusiastic about the game.

Don Hallstone, who lives in Oregon but also spends time in Arizona, is especially fired up because he is a 49ers fan.

“I was excited about this matchup four years ago and it didn’t go my way,” Hallstone said of the Chiefs’ 31-20 victory over the Niners in the 2020 Super Bowl. “I’m excited

because Brock Purdy is such an interesting story.”

Purdy was the last player drafted in 2022, making his unlikely rise to a Super Bowl quarterback one of the main storylines this week.

Another storyline is the Chiefs potentially on the cusp of building a dynasty, which has caused some fans to hope San Francisco wins.

“I usually just watch the commercials and the halftime show,” said Sally Mullins, who lives in Tennessee. “But I’m excited about the two teams that are playing this year because I want the 49ers to win. I like the Chiefs, don’t get me wrong, but I really want somebody else to win this year.”

About 2 in 10 adults overall, or 22%, are looking forward to the commercials during the Super Bowl. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be excited for the commercials. Men and women are similarly likely to be excited for the commercials.

About 2 in 10 are excited for the Super Bowl halftime show, when Usher will perform. Black and Hispanic adults are more excited than white adults for the show. Adults under 45 are more likely than older adults to be eager for the performance. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be looking forward to the show.

“I just like the halftime shows,” said Mel Bell, who lives in California. “They always put on a good performance, and they always bring out guest artists. It’s always exciting to see that.

And then I like the commercials because they’re longer, they’re different, they’re always funny and they’re really entertaining.”

Overall, 36% of adults are excited about at least one element of the Super Bowl programming on CBS.

There is also the 20th annual Puppy Bowl to consider, where Animal Planet showcases over 100 adoptable puppies from shelters and rescue groups as they play on a makeshift football field. About 1 in 10 adults, or 14%, are extremely or very excited for the event. That includes 4% who are excited about the Puppy Bowl but not about the game, the ads or the halftime show. Women are more likely than men to be only excited about the puppies.

Those under 45 are more excited than people 45 and older about the canine special, in general.

Three in 10 women are not excited about the game itself but are excited for the commercials, halftime show or puppy appearances. A similar share of adults under 45 are not excited about the football game but have reason to be excited about another component of the day.

—  
The poll of 1,152 adults was conducted Jan. 25–29, 2024, using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

## What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

By Deepa Bharath  
Associated Press

On Feb. 10, Asian American communities around the U.S. will ring in the Year of the Dragon with community carnivals, family gatherings, parades, traditional food, fireworks and other festivities. In many Asian countries, it is a festival that is celebrated for several days. In diaspora communities, particularly in cultural enclaves, Lunar New Year is visibly and joyfully celebrated.

In the Chinese zodiac, 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. Different countries across Asia celebrate the new year in many ways and may follow a different zodiac. **What is the Lunar New Year?**

The Lunar New Year — known as the Spring Festival in China, Tet in Vietnam and Seollal in Korea — is a major festival celebrated in several Asian countries. It is also widely celebrated by diaspora communities around the world.

It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends 15 days later on the first full moon. Because the lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, the dates of the holiday vary slightly each year, falling between late January and mid-February.

**What are the animals of the zodiac?**

Each year honors an animal based on the Chinese zodiac. The circle of 12 animals — the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, drag-

on, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig — measure the cycles of time. Legend has it that a god beckoned all animals to bid him farewell before his departure from earth and only 12 of them showed up. The Vietnamese zodiac is slightly different, honoring the cat instead of the rabbit and the buffalo instead of the ox.

**What are some beliefs and traditions around the Lunar New Year?**

One well-known ancient legend speaks of Nian, a hideous monster that feasted on human flesh on New Year’s Day. Because the beast feared the color red, loud noises and fire, people put up red paper dragons on their doors, burned red lanterns all night and set off firecrackers to frighten and chase away the monster.

To this day, the Lunar New Year celebration is centered around removing bad luck and welcoming all that is good and prosperous. Red is considered an auspicious color to ring in the new year. In many Asian cultures, the color symbolizes good fortune and joy. People dress up in red attire, decorate their homes with red paper lanterns and use red envelopes to give loved ones and friends money for the new year, symbolizing good wishes for the year ahead. Gambling and playing traditional games is common during this time across cultures.

Ancestor worship is also common during this time. Many Korean families participate in a ritual called “charye,” where female family members prepare food and male members serve it to ancestors. The final step of the ceremony, called “eumbok,” involves the entire family partaking the food and seeking blessings from their ancestors for the coming year. Vietnamese people cook traditional dishes and place them on a home altar as a mark of respect to their ancestors.

Some Indigenous people also celebrate Lunar New Year this time of year, including members of Mexico’s Purepecha Indigenous group.

**How do diaspora communities celebrate?**

Members of Asian American communities around the U.S. also organize parades, carnivals and festivities around the Lunar New Year featuring lion and dragon dances, fireworks, traditional food and cultural performances. In addition to cleaning their homes, many buy new things for their home such as furniture and decorate using orchids and other brightly colored flowers.

Lunar New Year is also celebrated as a cultural event by some Asian American Christians and is observed by several Catholic dioceses across the U.S. as well as other churches.

# Countdown begins for April's total solar eclipse

By Marcia Dunn

AP Aerospace Writer

The sun is about to pull another disappearing act across North America, turning day into night during a total solar eclipse.

The peak spectacle on April 8 will last up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds in the path of total darkness — twice as long as the total solar eclipse that dimmed U.S. skies in 2017.

This eclipse will take a different and more populated route, entering over Mexico's Pacific coast, dashing up through Texas and Oklahoma, and crisscrossing the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and New England, before exiting over eastern Canada into the Atlantic.

An estimated 44 million people live inside the 115-mile-wide path of totality stretching from Mazatlán, Mexico to Newfoundland; about 32 million of them are in the U.S., guaranteeing jammed roads for the must-see celestial sensation.

The eclipse will allow

many to share in the "wonder of the universe without going very far," said NASA's eclipse program manager Kelly Korreck.

Here's what to know about April's extravaganza and how to prepare: **WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?**

The moon will line up perfectly between the Earth and the sun, blotting out the sunlight. It will take just a couple hours for the moon's shadow to slice a diagonal line from the southwest to the northeast across North America, briefly plunging communities along the track into darkness.

Fifteen U.S. states will get a piece of the action, albeit two of them — Tennessee and Michigan — just barely.

Among the cities smack dab in the action: Dallas; Little Rock, Arkansas; Indianapolis, Cleveland, Ohio; Buffalo, New York; and Montreal — making for the continent's biggest eclipse crowd.

Don't fret if you don't have front-row seats. Practically everyone on the continent can catch at least a partial eclipse. The farther from the path of totality, the smaller the moon's bite will be out of the sun. In Seattle and Portland, Oregon, about as far away as you can get in the continental U.S., one-third of the sun will be swallowed.

**WHY IS TOTALITY LONGER?**

By a cosmic stroke of luck, the moon will make the month's closest approach to Earth the day before the total solar eclipse. That puts the moon just 223,000 miles away on eclipse day.

The moon will appear slightly bigger in the sky thanks to that proximity, resulting in an especially long period of sun-blocked darkness.

What's more, the Earth and moon will be 93 million miles from the sun that day, the average distance.

When a closer moon pairs up with a more dis-

tant sun, totality can last as long as an astounding 7 1/2 minutes. The last time the world saw more than seven minutes of totality was in 1973 over Africa. That won't happen again until 2150 over the Pacific.

**HOW DO I SAFELY WATCH THE ECLIPSE?**

Sunglasses won't cut it. Special eclipse glasses are crucial for safely observing the sun as the moon marches across the late morning and afternoon sky, covering more and more and then less and less of our star.

During totality when the sun is completely shrouded, it's fine to remove your glasses and look with your naked eyes. But before and after, certified eclipse glasses are essential to avoid eye damage. Just make sure they're not scratched or torn.

Cameras, binoculars and telescopes must be outfitted with special solar filters for safe viewing. Bottom line: Never look at an exposed sun without proper protection any day

of the year.

**WHERE ARE SOME ECLIPSE WATCH PARTIES?**

Towns up and down the path of totality are throwing star parties. Festivals, races, yoga retreats, drum circles and more will unfold at museums, fairgrounds, parks, stadiums, wineries, breweries and even one of Ohio's oldest drive-in movie theaters and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Besides looking up, you can attend a "space prom" in Texas Hill Country, get married at eclipse-themed ceremonies in Tiffin, Ohio, and Russellville, Arkansas, or brush up on moonwalking history at the Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio — Neil Armstrong's hometown.

As the eclipse unfolds, NASA will launch small rockets with science instruments into the upper atmosphere from Virginia and chase totality's shadow from high-altitude planes. Satellites and the International Space Station crew

will attempt to capture the show from space.

**WHEN IS THE NEXT TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE?**

Full solar eclipses occur every year or two or three, often in the middle of nowhere like the South Pacific or Antarctic. The next total solar eclipse, in 2026, will grace the northern fringes of Greenland, Iceland and Spain.

North America won't experience totality again until 2033, with Alaska getting sole dibs. Then that's it until 2044, when totality will be confined to Western Canada, Montana and North Dakota.

There won't be another U.S. eclipse, spanning coast to coast, until 2045. That one will stretch from Northern California all the way to Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Aside from Carbondale, Illinois, in the crosshairs of both the 2017 and 2024 eclipses, it usually takes 400 years to 1,000 years before totality returns to the same spot, according to NASA's Korreck.

## Before you start seeds indoors, make sure they're not duds

By Jessica Damiano

Associated Press

I've had just about enough of winter and am itching to get my hands dirty. I can't do that yet in my New York garden, but I have been distracting myself by growing microgreens and dwarf strawberries on the kitchen counter.

It will be another month before I bring out my seed-starting supplies, but I can do some pre-gaming by testing my old stash for viability.

In the past, I've had luck growing seeds several years past their expiration dates. You can, too, but it will take some forethought: Attempting to grow seeds that turn out to be duds could set you too far behind to start over. And that's a gamble no gardener wants to take.

On the other hand, tossing seeds just because they're two, three or even five years old could be wasteful. So, before springing for new ones, conduct a simple test on each batch of your leftover seeds:

Wet a paper towel and wring out excess water.

Fold 5 to 10 seeds of the same type, depending on their size, into the towel and place in a zipper-top plastic bag. If you're testing more than one type of seed, label each bag so you don't mix them up.

Check on the seeds in five days, and again every day afterward for up to three weeks, lightly moistening the paper towel as needed. Each seed type has its own schedule, but those treated this way should germinate more quickly than those sown in soil.

After a few days have passed with no new root sprouts, do the math: If you started 10 seeds, and seven of them germinated, that's a 70% germination rate, which indicates you should plant 30% more seeds than you need (100-70=30). So if you want 10 plants, you should start 13 seeds and expect about 10 to sprout.

After the test, many gardeners discard their germinated test seeds, but — waste not, want not! — you can transplant them into containers when their

sprouted roots are about an inch long (don't wait longer or they may die).

Fill seed trays or other containers with potting mix, then create small planting holes in each compartment. A pencil works nicely for this. Next, using disinfected tweezers and taking care to avoid touching the root end, place one sprout, root-side-down, into each hole. Cover the root with soil, leaving the seed (or what remains of it) exposed above the surface. Water gently, then place under lights and treat as you would conventionally sown seeds.

So, this begs the question: Can the paper towel trick be used as a deliberate seed-starting method?

The answer is yes, and this can be especially helpful if you're late to germinating your seeds and want to get them into the garden ASAP.

—  
*Jessica Damiano writes a weekly gardening column for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.*



This image provided by Jessica Damiano shows a seed-germination test in progress on Long Island New York, as 10 Jackpot pepper hybrid seeds are placed on a moist paper towel. Next, they will be folded into the towel and placed into a zipper-top plastic bag to retain warmth and moisture. Within a week or so, the viable seeds will sprout roots.

PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMIANO VIA AP

## 'Puppy Bowl' celebrates a big anniversary this year

By Mark Kennedy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The annual "Puppy Bowl" turns 20 this year, well over middle age in dog years. But does the sheer cuteness of it really ever get old?

"Who doesn't want to watch dogs play all day long?" asks Laurie Johnson, the director of Florida Little Dog Rescue in St. Cloud, Florida, who has been part of "Puppy Bowl" for a decade.

There are some changes this year to the canine football telecast: Four previous puppy players return to be inducted in the new Puppy Bowl Hall of Fame and the show, which has grown to include armadillos, hedgehogs and chickens, will focus on dogs.

"What we've done this year to flip the whole script is because it's sort of a celebration of the fact that it's the 20th year," says "Puppy Bowl" referee Dan Schachner. "We've decided to go all in on puppy, making it the 'most puppiest 'Puppy Bowl' ever."

The "Puppy Bowl" made its debut as counter-programming to the Super Bowl in 2005. Dogs score touchdowns on a gridiron carpet when they cross the goal line — any goal line — with a toy.

The show is really just an excuse to spend time watching adorable, clumsy pups in colorful sweaters play with chew toys, wag their tails furiously and lick the camera. A deeper reason is to encourage animal adoption.

"We always say the same message every year: Adopt, don't shop," says Schachner. "There are responsible breeders out there, but it kind of defies logic that somebody who's searching for a dog would look beyond their local shelter or rescue."

According to the ASPCA, approximately 390,000 shelter dogs are euthanized each year and 2 million shelter dogs are adopted. Schachner says the number of animals languishing in shelters

is back up after falling during the pandemic. "It's worse than ever," he says.

Florida Little Dog Rescue, which like all puppy groups is vetted by Animal Planet, sent seven pup players and two Hall of Fame inductees this year. Johnson, who volunteers her time, says it's an honor that Animal Planet picks her pups year after year.

"It does bring attention to our rescue, which helps some of our other dogs get adopted. But, honestly, for us, the biggest excitement is that we're helping dogs all over the country get into homes, because rescue is not a competition, it's a cooperation," says Johnson.

Most of the puppies are usually adopted by airtime, since the show is filmed in the fall. But the point is to show that animals just like the ones on the show can be found at any shelter at any time.

Schachner also has some advice for anyone who falls for a particular pup on the broadcast: "That animal is probably likely part of a litter, right? So there's probably siblings out there that are still up for adoption or their parents — their mom, their dad — is in the shelter looking for a forever home."

Florida Little Dog Rescue was the first to send a Shar Pei to the "Puppy Bowl" — the pup, Wrinkles, was quickly adopted by a crew member at the taping — and Johnson says many viewers might not know that all kinds of breeds — Corgis, Westies, Doodles and Cavapoos, included — are available at shelters and rescue groups.

The inaugural "Puppy Bowl" was watched by nearly 6 million viewers. Last year, 13.2 million viewers tuned in, the largest reach for the event in five years. In comparison, The Emmy Awards telecast on Fox this year reached just 4.3 million viewers. This year's show will be simulcast across Animal

Planet, Discovery, TBS, truTV, Max and Discovery.

The dogs are split into two teams — Team Fluff and Team Ruff — and each dog is given a nickname — like "Slick Rick" or "J-Paw" — and a specialty, like "Epic end zone dance."

They are free to frolic, but may face penalties for things like "unsportsmanlike dog conduct" and "trash barking." Awards are given to Most Valuable Puppy and, new this year, an Underdog Award for the more introverted pup.

This year's broadcast is built on the work of dozens of volunteers, as well as 600 pee pads, 200 poop bags, 10 bags of treats, 30 water bowls and 18 cameras. The cat halftime show will also return.

Schachner started refereeing 13 years ago, when there were 59 dogs invited. "I'll never forget that because I thought that was a tremendous amount of dogs to be trying to officiate in one place."

That number has by now more than doubled, with this year's broadcast featuring 131 puppies. "The scope and the size of this show from the time I started 13 years ago to now is just very impressive."

The canine entries this time come from 73 shelters and rescue groups across 36 states and territories. The entrance requirements include being healthy and sturdy enough to be on the field with playmates, between 3-6 months old and having no training.

"We don't want dogs that are show dogs, that are sitting there with a trainer. We want to see them in all their puppy glory. Part of that is to show what puppies are in their true state," says Schachner.

"They are playful, they are curious, they're going to get into trouble, they're going to do crazy things. And from time to time, they're going to score touchdowns and really impress you."

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**STRAW FOR SALE.** Large square bales \$45 each. Small square bales \$4.50 each. In Versailles. 573-539-2060.

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**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.

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#### Miscellaneous

**CLASS A DRIVER** Wanted Home every night Call 660-815-0194

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### MERCHANDISE

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**FURNITURE FOR SALE** Two solid wood full/queen beds with full size mattress, dresser and chest, 500.00 each set. One twin bedroom set with mattress and desk, 300.00. Can be seen on Saturday Feb 10th from 11:00am-3:00pm at 138 Rainbow Drive, Sedalia, MO

If you are an employer looking to recruit the finest, you can count on qualified candidates getting your message through us.

### Miscellaneous



MY WIFE RECENTLY passed away and she had some high quality equipment I need to offer to someone who can use them. These items were used minimally and are in excellent condition. Both have chargers and information and batteries are excellent. Each item is priced at \$1200. If interested in both, we can negotiate. Call 660-631-3331 for information or to view.

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### Homes For Rent



**NICE HOME FOR Rent,** Large lot, 3 br, 1 bath, kitchen with new wood floors, living room and utility room. New paint ceilings and walls. HVAC. Newer refrigerator, oven and microwave. NO smoking or pets. \$1050 per month, \$1000 deposit. Call 660-281-2510.

### Office/Commercial Rentals

**OPEN MARCH 1ST, 2024,** 1712 W 9th, Sedalia. Office space, 5 private office rooms, 2 restrooms, kitchen space, 9 parking spaces, 1200 square feet. Could be Doctors office, Beauty parlor, Insurance office, etc. price is negotiable, call, 660-281-9664.

**Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Assoc.** is here to serve you. We're a 1-stop shop for foster, adoptive and kinship families. Our services are free. 573-298-0258 [www.mofamilies.com](http://www.mofamilies.com)

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**FOR RENT:** VERY Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Katy Trail Subdivision. No pets. \$1995 per month plus security deposit. \$60.00 non-refundable rental application. Call 660-619-0416.

**Norma Mae Bishop**  
February 10  
She was called home one winter night. She only left us because God summoned her. And, oh, the difference to us!  
**Norman, Phyllis, Sue and David**

### Office/Commercial Rentals



**VERY NICE** 2,600 Sq Ft commercial building for rent. Newer exterior siding, wood trim in great location! Ramp access for handicap at front & rear of building, wood floors, carpet with nice reception area. Ten offices, many with nice desks, kitchen, two handicap bathrooms, large conference room and other special features. Call 660-281-2510.

### REAL ESTATE SALES

#### Acreages & Lots-Sales

**LAKE OF THE OZARKS** Fishing Season Special - lots starting at \$4,995- \$125 down \$69 per month. Camping, building and acreage tracts. Beautiful wooded areas, great fishing, free lake access and boat ramps. No credit checks, owner-financing, immediate possession or own for investment. **Prices good through February 18, 2024.** Hwy 135 between Stover and Laurie, MO. Take lake road 135-12 to the Ivy Bend Land Office. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call anytime 573-372-6493.

### RECREATION

#### Boats & Motors

**14 FT. V** Bottom Boat. No title. Aluminum. \$250 cash. 660-473-3059.

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**Warrensburg World Traveler Estate Sale**  
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### Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
The City of Sedalia is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for restoration of the roof at the City's Public Works Garage located at

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

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**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER WANTED**  
**Salary:** \$18.00 per hour; plus full benefit program.  
The City of Knob Noster is seeking an energetic individual to take on the responsibilities of the School Resource Officer. Position requires police training (POST) certification, a high school diploma or equivalent, and a Missouri driver's license.  
Candidate must successfully complete a background investigation and pre-employment drug screen. Applications and job descriptions may be obtained from the KN City Clerk or online at [www.cityofkn.net](http://www.cityofkn.net). The first review of applications will be **February 23, 2024.**  
The City of Knob Noster is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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901 E. 3rd St. To obtain a full copy of the Invitation for Bid packet, please contact Elizabeth Nations at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166 or via e-mail at enations@sedalia.com.

All sealed responses to this IFB are due on Feb 20, 2024 by 2:00 p.m. CST at which time the proposals will be opened by the City Clerk's Office in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids for Construct Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Project No. F2305-01 will be received by FMDC, State of MO, UNTIL 1:30 PM, February 29, 2024.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF: M.C.M., a male minor child, born 6/3/2009, Case No. 23PT-JU00071 HARRY CARL HOFFERT, III and JULIE MARIE HOFFERT, Petitioners.

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

State of Missouri to: SHAUN CHRISTOPHER MORTON You are notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Missouri, Juvenile Division, the object and general nature of which is an adoption.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Sedalia Democrat.

CIRCUIT COURT OF PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI Susan Sadler, Circuit Clerk By: /s/Mary Eberting, Deputy Clerk Dated: January 18, 2024 4x-1/20, 27, 2/3, 10, 2024

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Brittany Elizabeth Garrigus, dated September 14, 2021, and recorded on September 15, 2021, Document No. 2021-5568 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Pettis County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on March 4, 2024, at 10:00 AM, at the West Front Door of the Pettis County Courthouse, Sedalia, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs. SouthLaw, P.C. Successor Trustee First Publication: February 10, 2024. For more information, visit www.southlaw.com

Legal 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.

SKYLINE STORM SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS Notice to Contractors

Sealed bids for SKYLINE STORM SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS, will be received at: Pettis County Clerk's office, 215 E 5th St, SEDALIA, MO 65301 until 10:30 o'clock A.M., February 20, 2024.

The proposed work includes: Grading, compaction, erosion control, fertilizing, seeding, mulching, storm drainage piping, installing gutters on the existing storm shelter, filling a void under the ramp, and replacing the last sidewalk panel on the ramp.

Copies of plans and specifications can be seen or purchased for a Non-Refundable fee online at www.drexeltech.com in their eDistribution plan room, additional assistance is available at distribution@drexeltech.com.

All labor used in the construction of this public improvement shall be paid a wage no less than the prevailing hourly rate of wages of work of a similar character in this locality as established by the state wage rate, whichever is higher unless the total value of the bid is less than \$75,000.00.

Pettis County Commission hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry, or national origin in consideration for an award.

A certified or cashier's check or a bid bond in the amount of 5% shall be submitted with each proposal.

The project will be awarded to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. Pettis County Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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