

# SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

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## Pettis County begins first day of budget hearings

By **Skye Melcher**  
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On Monday, the Pettis County Commission began its first day of budget hearings for the fiscal year 2023. Hearings will continue Thursday and Friday.

Each elected official, department head and representative from county-funded organizations will present their budget in 30-minute or one-hour sessions. The commission will not make any formal decisions during the hearings.

Most line items remained the same in Pettis County Chief Juvenile Officer Kendra Harms's request for the Juvenile Office, but there were some proposed increases, such as an increase of \$500 for fuel and lubricants due to increasing fuel prices.

One of her most significant requests was raising the juvenile board and out-of-county fees from \$10,500 to \$15,000. The \$15,000 may still not be enough to cover these fees.

"In the past year, things have increased to the point of concern and I don't know if that pattern's going to continue and get better," Harms said.

In this line item, the Juvenile Office is almost out of money and the county has been paying for the difference out of general revenue. The commissioners agreed that if Harms spent more than \$15,000, they would take money from the county's general revenue to cover the difference.

She also asked to

change the name of the detention supplies line item to electronic monitoring. The Juvenile Office doesn't have detention supplies anymore since it no longer houses juveniles, but the office does pay for ankle monitors.

Harms addressed the certified youth issue again. At the end of 2021, any youth the Juvenile Office certified as an adult could no longer be held in jail, meaning they had to be held at the juvenile detention center in Columbia. According to information provided during last year's budget hearing, if a youth were to sit at the detention center for a year, if they are 17 going on 18, it would cost the county \$20,000 a year per person.

The request wasn't approved last year due to its unpredictability, but then the county had three certified juveniles in a row; two of them are in jail now. Harms was unsure if it should go into her budget or the Sheriff's budget, so she asked for \$15,000 for certified youth in 2023.

Harms also requested to raise employees' pay by \$1 — from \$18.05 an hour to \$19.05 an hour — to match state employees who work for the juvenile division.

Sheriff Brad Anders, along with multiple Sheriff's Office officials, ended Monday's budget hearings with multiple discussions over his budget. These discussions came from the passage of Proposition A, a .5% sales tax increase, in April's municipal election.

**See BUDGET | 5A**



On Sunday, Jeff Tilley purchases the book "Living with Conviction," by author and former Sedalian Toby Dorr, who now lives in Washington, D.C. Dorr was conducting a book signing at First Christian Church. Her book, released June 15, details her time in prison and her path to finding grace and redemption.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

## 'Living with Conviction,' a journey of grace and redemption

By **Faith Bemiss**  
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No matter how far a person sinks in life and how dark their journey is, author and former Sedalian Toby Dorr has a message of grace and redemption — and she's sharing it with women across the country.

Dorr, who now lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Chris, released a new nonfiction book, "Living with Conviction," on June 15. The book

chronicles her journey as a married mother of two who gambled with some dark choices and lost everything. Dorr was a volunteer with a rehabilitative dog program for the Safe Harbor Prison Dog Program at Lansing Correctional Center when she fell in love with convict John Maynard, who was serving time for murder. The book describes the accurate account of Dorr smuggling Manard out of Lansing in a dog crate and the subsequent 12-day national search for the pair.

It also provides a window into forgiveness and lessons learned while she served 27 months behind bars.

The Rev. Chad McMullin, pastor of First Christian, noted in the book that Dorr has an "incredible story to share."

"I was blessed to be her pastor for a transforming time in her life," he said. "Her story is one of escape in so many ways."

"It is filled with twists and turns and irony and spiritual coincidences," he continued. "It seems that God and the universe have

conspired to bring us a story of redemption, second chances, and learning to live with conviction."

On Sunday, while at the church for a book signing, Dorr told the Democrat she'd spent the weekend in Kansas City talking about her book and asked McMullin if she could come by on Sunday.

Dorr has traveled across the U.S. talking about her new book. In addition, She has been featured on television, radio, and 40 different podcasts.

**See GRACE | 6A**

## Recreational marijuana passage sees increased interest in growing

By **Chris Howell**  
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Scott Siron is a co-owner at Mid-Mo Organics, a company that caters to cannabis growers. He was watching the Nov. 8 general election results as the passage of Proposition 3 legalized recreational marijuana in Missouri.

"I was fairly excited about it," Siron said. "Personally, I have some reservations on it, but either way, there's not a whole lot we can do about it."

Professionally, however, he admits it has been great for business.

"Obviously, it's gonna

help my business," Siron said, "because we offer classes on how to grow cannabis, we offer all the nutrients, we have the knowledge, we have everything that you need to do it. Naturally, it's going to increase my business."

Siron has been adding inventory to the grow store at 4790 S. Limit Ave. and has plans for expansion as the passage of Proposition 3 signals high times for recreational users and growers of marijuana. The business also sells a variety of houseplants, many types of soil nutrients and other gardening essentials.

"We're expanding on it, so we're getting ready to do a pretty decent little expansion, I guess," Siron said. "Business has definitely increased and, like I said, the taboo's gone."

Siron points out that nothing he was doing be-

fore Prop 3's passage was illegal, though it might have carried a certain stigma.

"I don't understand why they felt like they couldn't come in here before. It's just that: we're just a nutrient store, right?" Siron asked. "We don't sell any kind of cannabis or anything in here, but we do cater to the cannabis industry."

And with the promise of possibly lucrative indoor cannabis farming becoming legal, the phones at Mid-Mo Organics have been blowing up with inquiries about the equipment needed.

"I have had a lot of new people come in," Siron said. "Now they're starting to pick my brain about it and they're starting to ask questions all of a sudden."

"Today I've already had (phone rings) ... and I'll let the answering

machine answer that, but my phone's been ringing all morning," Siron said. "I've had people coming in, I've had two I've done two medical cards this morning."

Siron said some areas of the new recreational marijuana law may need adjusting, but as he reads the new law, legally growing marijuana will significantly expand.

"As the bill read, anybody that is growing recreationally can have up to three plants and they can have three ounces on them at any given time," Siron said. "They still have to file through the Department of Health just like we do, just like the medical patients, and have a fee to grow."

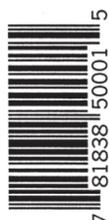
Those with medical cards will be able to cultivate up to six plants and possess no more than six ounces of marijuana.

**See GROW | 5A**



Scott Siron, co-owner of Mid-Mo Organics, a store catering to cannabis cultivators, says business has increased markedly since the passage of Proposition 3.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT



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# Grace

From Page 1A

She was a guest with Dana Wright on the KM-BZ-FM talk show “Dana and Parks,” hosted a book signing in Liberty, and put on a two-day seminar for women, “Slaying Your Shame Dragon,” at the King Conference Center in Kansas City. She was also on Fox 4 in Kansas City and she taped an episode of the Whitney Reynolds Show last month in Chicago that will air this spring.

She added the book is doing well.

“It’s been really consistent,” she said. “Every week, they keep selling, so I’m pretty pleased with it.”

The book is about ministry and helping others, especially women, regain life after significant losses.

“It’s about rebuilding your life after something so devastating that destroys everything,” Dorr noted. “It is possible to come back and rebuild your life — you are not your worst mistake.”

She added women should not let others keep

*“And I think that the hardest things that we go through in a lot of ways are blessings. Because that’s the opportunity when we really grow and learn. And it gives us tools that we can take out into the world and help change other people’s lives.”*

— Author Toby Dorr

them in their worst mistakes.

“Because you’re so much more than that,” she said. “We all have so much more to bring to the world.

“And I think that the hardest things that we go through in a lot of ways are blessings,” she continued. “Because that’s the opportunity when we really grow and learn. And it gives us tools that we can take out into the world and help change other people’s lives.”

While writing the book, Dorr said she learned there was still more work to be

done after the book was published.

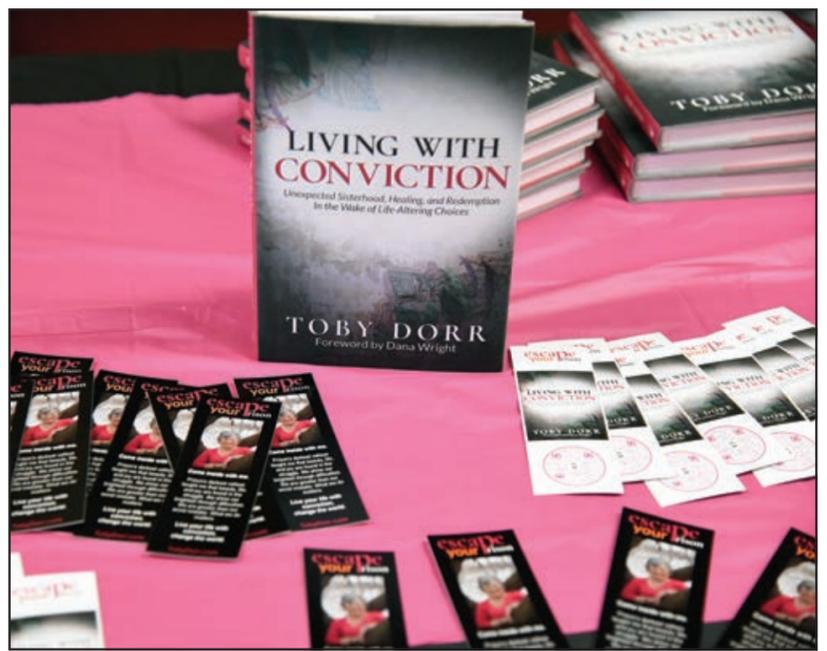
“Writing the story was so therapeutic for me,” she noted. “And I really learned a lot about myself through the writing of the story.

“But what I’ve really learned from publishing the book is that writing the book is just the tip of the iceberg,” she continued. “You know, what comes after it’s published is every bit as much work as writing the book. And it’s a whole different set of skills, it’s been a crazy whirlwind, and I’ve loved every minute of it.”

On Sunday, McMullin noted he was pleased to have Dorr and her husband at the church.

“Toby and Chris have been members of our church for at least 10 years,” he noted. “It was so good to be with them again.

“God is doing amazing things in their lives, and they are sharing Toby’s story of redemption, forgiveness, and grace,” he continued. “We are so



“Living with Conviction” is the newest book released by author Toby Dorr. Her other releases include “You are not Your Worst Mistake” and the “Unleashed” series.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

proud of what she has been able to accomplish, and it was a joy to have them back with us and worship.”

Dorr added it was “beautiful” to be back in Sedalia.

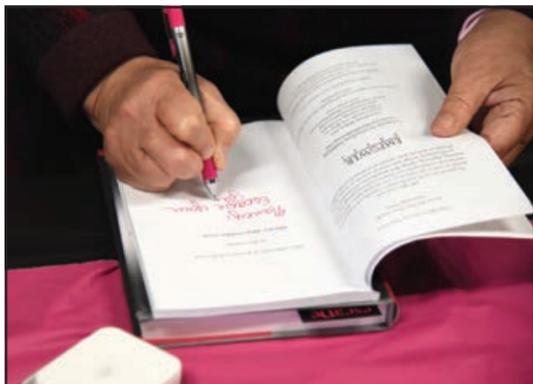
“Washington, right now, is home,” she explained. “And my house feels like home, but the town doesn’t feel like home. Kansas City and Sedalia, they really feel like home. It’s good to be back; we really miss Sedalia.”

“Living with Conviction” is published by GracePoint Publishing, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. It can be purchased at tobydorr.com/unleashed or any other online platform. Two weeks ago, Dorr also released a poetry book, “You Are Not Your Worst Mistake,” work taken from her prison journals.

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @fbemiss.



Toby Dorr stands with her husband, Chris Sunday, at First Christian Church. Dorr spent the weekend in Kansas City promoting her self-help books by giving a women’s seminar and as a guest with Dana Wright on the KMBZ-FM talk show “Dana and Parks.”

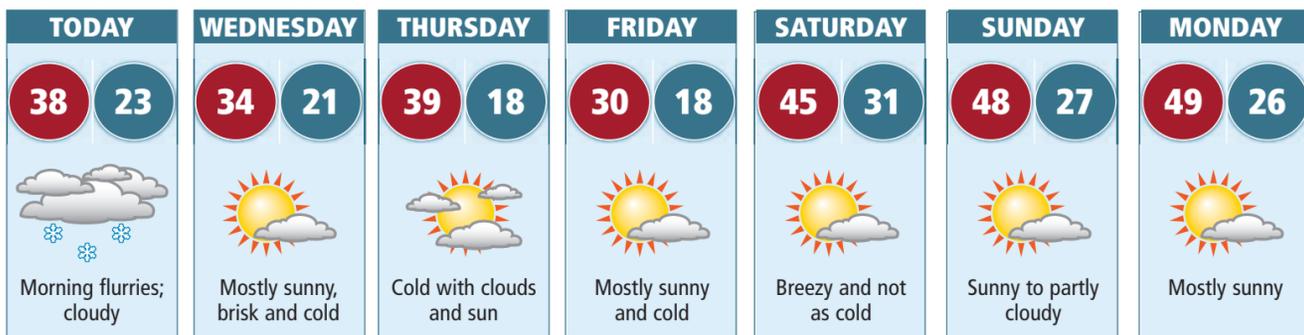


On Sunday morning, Toby Dorr signs her book “You are not Your Worst Mistake” for a woman during her book signing at First Christian Church.

## THE WEATHER

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### SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:55 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:00 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:01 p.m.
Moonsset today	1:02 p.m.



### WEATHER HISTORY

A devastating tornado cut an 18.5-mile-long path through Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 15, 1989. Twenty-one people died, and 463 were injured. Over 500 buildings were damaged at a cost of \$100 million.

### ALMANAC

Sedalia Regional Airport Sunday

#### TEMPERATURES

High	40
Low	19
Normal high	55
Normal low	33
Record high	81 in 1999
Record low	5 in 1986

#### PRECIPITATION

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	0.92"
Normal m-t-d	1.34"
Year to date	35.13"
Normal y-t-d	39.84"

#### HEATING DEGREE DAYS

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

Sunday	35
Month to date	162
Season to date	444
Normal season to date	639
Last season to date	388

#### RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fid	Stg
Blue Lick	7.61	+0.19	24	
Valley City	3.06	-0.20	22	

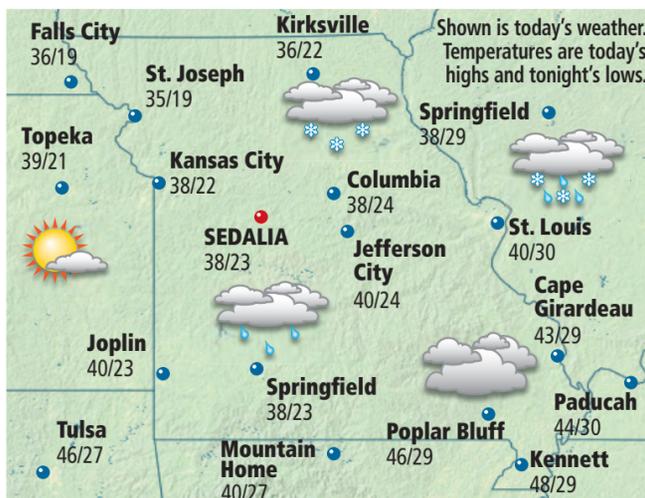
#### Lamine

Otterville	1.00	+0.03	15
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#### Missouri

Boonville	7.08	+0.50	21
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**BRANSON**  
High: 40. Low: 26. Cloudy and chilly today. Clear to partly cloudy and cold tonight. Chilly tomorrow with times of clouds and sun.

**KANSAS CITY**  
High: 38. Low: 22. Partly sunny and chilly today with a flurry around. Mainly clear and colder tonight. Sunny to partly cloudy and colder tomorrow.

**ST. LOUIS**  
High: 40. Low: 30. Morning snow today, accumulating a coating to an inch; cloudy and cold; storm total snowfall 1-3 inches.

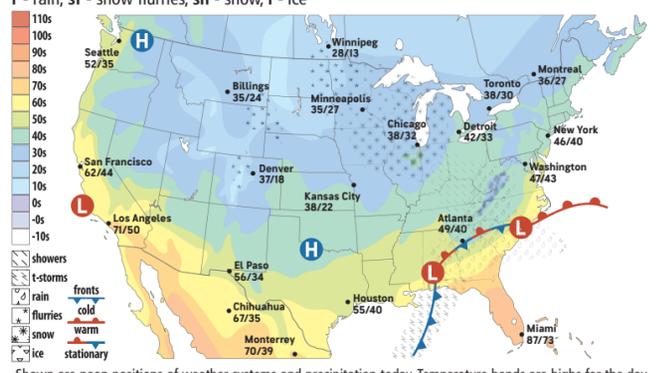
**NEW YORK CITY**  
High: 46. Low: 40. Increasing cloudiness today. Rain tonight. Periods of rain early tomorrow morning; mostly cloudy and breezy.

**LOS ANGELES**  
High: 71. Low: 50. Sunny to partly cloudy today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow. Thursday: plenty of sunshine. Friday: clouds and sun.

### NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today	Wednesday	Today	Wednesday
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	49/40/r	54/33/c	Milwaukee	37/33/sn
Baltimore	47/42/r	53/33/c	Nashville	49/34/sh
Billings	35/24/c	36/9/sn	New Orleans	65/45/c
Boston	44/37/pc	51/36/r	Norfolk	59/51/r
Buffalo	41/33/c	40/31/sn	Oklahoma City	44/26/s
Charlotte	45/40/r	57/32/c	Orlando	86/67/c
Chicago	38/32/sn	37/27/sn	Phoenix	72/48/s
Cleveland	43/35/c	39/32/sn	Pittsburgh	42/35/r
Dallas	50/36/c	52/32/pc	Portland, ME	42/30/pc
Denver	37/18/pc	42/18/s	Portland, OR	50/34/s
Detroit	42/33/sn	42/27/sf	Sacramento	64/35/s
Honolulu	84/69/pc	84/71/c	St. Louis	40/30/sn
Houston	55/40/pc	57/37/c	San Francisco	62/44/s
Indianapolis	38/30/c	37/28/c	Seattle	52/35/pc
Las Vegas	62/42/s	61/40/s	Washington, DC	47/43/r

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



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Summary: A pair of storms will bring wet weather into the East today. Snow will fall across the Great Lakes and the Ohio Valley. It will be dry in the Western states with gusty winds in Southern California.

