



THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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Third Annual Vandalia Christmas Parade

The third annual Vandalia Christmas parade was held Saturday, Dec. 9 in downtown Vandalia. Pictured at top was the Culwell family float wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. Pictured second are the many towed vehicles from Kuda Auto Repair and pictured, right, is the Vandalia Dairy Queen float that treated those attending to Dairy Queen treats following the parade.



Ruby Leigh Coming To 2024 Prairie Days

SoulRoot, Becky Denton and Cherry Pistols Also To Perform

The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce has announced that Ruby Leigh of Foley who has been predicted to win The Voice on Tuesday, Dec. 19, will be performing at Prairie Days in Vandalia on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Contracts have also been signed for SoulRoot to entertain Friday, Sept. 20 with a time to be announced. Becky Denton and Cherry Pistols will also perform with Ruby Leigh on Saturday evening, Sept. 21. All of this year's music is from Missouri.

The Van-Far School District has also scheduled 2024 Football Homecoming for Friday, Sept. 20 for a weekend full of activities.

The schedule of events for the two-day event will be announced as it is planned in the near future.

Pike County Turns 205 On Dec. 14

BY BRENT ENGL, CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Future First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln was one day old.

Illinois had been a state for just under two weeks.

And the Missouri Territorial Legislature formally established Pike County.

The date was Dec. 14, 1818. A locale that would quickly make its mark nationally was little more than a timbered frontier with a few farms, fledgling settlements and a waterway that would prove a golden path.

The 1883 book "History of Pike County, Missouri" offers a declarative description.

"Pike County is old and venerable," it says. "It existed before Missouri as a state was born."

The act which created the county took effect on Feb. 1, 1819. It named settlers An-

drew Edwards, John Jordan, James Bryson, James Johnson and Peyton Watson as the



Zebulon Pike

first county commissioners.

The first courthouse was a Louisiana hotel owned by Obadiah Dickerson. The county quickly earned the nickname "State of Pike" due to its size. The boundaries in-

cluded all or parts of present-day Ralls, Marion, Monroe, Shelby, Lewis, Knox, Clark, Scotland, Audrain, Randolph, Macon and Adair counties.

Pike was "not reduced to its present limits until 1820, when Ralls County was created," the history book says.

The first formal marriage apparently was that of James Templeton and Jennie Mackey on Jan. 26, 1818.

In August, 1819, a tax system was set up. It featured such ridiculous charges as 25 cents for every billiard table. However, there were also despicable fees.

Though Missouri did not become a state until 1821, slavery was already established. Pike County instituted a fee of 50 cents for every indentured servant between the ages of 16 and 40.

The first two licensed taverns were in Clarksville, and cost owners Richard Ripley and James Phelan \$10 each - about \$200 today.

Moving the county seat from Louisiana to Bowling Green was "warmly debated and hotly contested" but eventually accepted, the history book notes.

The tunes "Sweet Betsy From Pike" and "Joe Bowers" helped expand the county's popularity as American moved West. Professor T. Berry Smith cemented the feeling with his poem "Once a Piker, Always A Piker."

As for the name, it came from New Jersey native Zebulon Pike, who had visited in 1805 as part of the first American expedition up the Mississippi River.

Vandalia Native Named DOC Deputy Director

BY BRICE CHANDLER, EDITOR

Recently, Governor Mike Parson announced that Trevor Foley will serve as acting director of the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC). Foley's appointment became effective Wednesday, Dec. 6 upon Director Anne Precythe's departure from state government.

Along with Foley's Appointment, Van-Far graduate, Travis Terry and Valarie Moseley will serve as DOC deputy directors.

Terry has been a member of the Department of Corrections team since 2010. He has served as Director of Adult Institutions, Director of Division of Offender Rehabilitation Services, vocational education supervisor at Algoa Correctional Center and education supervisor at Moberly Correctional Center. In 2018, he became assistant division director for the Division of Offender Rehabilitative Services and the administrator of Missouri Vocational Enterprises.

Terry holds a bachelor's degree in business administration management from the University of Missouri.

"We welcome Trevor on our Cabinet team and appreciate him as well as Valarie



Travis Terry

and Travis for stepping into these critical leadership roles," Governor Parson said. "Trevor is well-respected by his team members at DOC and among state leaders here in the Capitol. We are confident that with this team's leadership, the cultural transformation that has occurred within DOC will remain and be built upon as the department continues to be not only a state but national leader."

"I'm grateful to Governor Parson for this opportunity to take on a new role in my service to the state of Missouri," Trevor Foley said. "I hope to follow the example of excellence, innovation, and leadership set by my mentors, Anne Precythe and Matt Sturm. I

will continue to advocate for the interests of corrections staff, the safety of our communities, and the needs of the people we serve."

"Throughout his time in the department, Trevor Foley has proven himself as an effective problem solver, a strategic thinker, and a forward-thinking leader," DOC Director Anne Precythe said. "He has been instrumental in shaping our vision for a better Department of Corrections, and I'm confident that he will see it through. The department is in good hands."

Foley began his career with the Missouri Department of Corrections as a budget analyst in January 2000 and had been promoted to budget analyst III by May 2001. In August 2008, he accepted a position with the Missouri State Senate as an appropriations analyst. He was promoted to Assistant Director of the Senate Appropriations Staff Office in July 2015. Foley left the Senate and returned to the Department of Corrections as the Director of Budget and Finance in August 2018.

Foley holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia College.

Museum Raffle Winners

The Louisiana Area Historical Museum has announced winners of its recent raffle.

The event began at Louisiana Colorfest, Oct 21 and 22. The drawing was held Dec. 2.

Winner of the \$250 gift certificate to Woods Smoked Meats of Bowling Green was Sandy Hart of Louisiana. Lydia Mackey of Bowling Green won a \$50 gasoline card and Brenda Pennock of Detroit, Ill., will receive Mo Mo the Missouri Monster t-shirt.

Proceeds will be used for museum projects.



Van-Far ag student Kaden Whitaker takes his turn on the newly purchased skid steer made possible by Ag Vocational Department grant.

Grant Helps Van-Far Ag Purchase Skid Steer

Last Thursday, Dec. 7, several of Van-Far's Vocational Ag students were able to get some hands-on training with the department's newest piece of equipment.

The school district was able to purchase a new Case skid steer after the Ag Vocational Department was awarded a Vocational-Technical Educational Enhancement grant through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

According to the school district, the new skid steer will be used for upper Vo-Ag classes.

"Students received a brief lesson about care of the new tool from members of the staff from Ennis Implement," the school district shared via social media. "Those enrolled in Ag Construction were able to apply their skills and operate the machinery immediately. We are excited about what this grant will offer for our students!"

The new piece of machinery will allow students to become more familiar with the equipment as they develop skills necessary for the workforce.

What Is Still Happening With The Bowling Green Bicentennial?

BY DON HAMILTON

We promised you that a DVD was being created for purchase from the Bowling Green Bicentennial and it would become available during the fall of 2023. It pleasantly ended up being a much larger video project to put together than what we expected.

Brent Engel, Amy Becker, Don Hamilton and Mayor Jim Arico have been busy putting this all together. We are all volunteers with big jobs of our own and we all only have so much time to devote to the project.

We originally estimated that it would be one DVD that had the festival booklets from 1923, 1973 and 2023 along with live video from 2023. We had so much quality video of many of the contests during the week, the live community choir, community band, the parade and the wonderful Army Band concert; that it will now take two DVDs in length to fit all of the booklets and video. We didn't just want to throw anything together, just for the sake of getting it

done. Like the rest of the Bicentennial, we want it done right. It will hopefully come out and be duplicated before the end of February. You will have the opportunity to order it between now and the final duplication. We originally priced the single DVD for \$20, but the two DVD set will remain priced at \$20. This is non-profit project, but we want everyone will have a complete memory of our event.

If you want your name on the order list, call Don Hamilton's office at 573-324-3000 or leave a message and phone number and we will get you on the list for a copy of the DVD. If you want to buy a gift certificate now for the DVD set for a Christmas gift, call by Dec. 21, and we will get a gift certificate printed.

Merry Christmas to everyone and again thanks for all of the participation during the event. Also don't forget to mark your 2024 calendar for the Army Band's return free thank-you concert for Bowling Green on July 2, 2024.

Frederickson Announces Departure From Bowling Green School District

BY BRICE J. CHANDLER, EDITOR

Bowling Green School District Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Frederickson announced last week that he will be leaving the district.

Frederickson accepted an offer from the Lincoln County R-III School Board to serve as their superintendent starting in July.

"I write to inform you about an important yet bittersweet announcement occurring today," he said in a letter to the community. "Yesterday morning, the Lincoln Co. R-III School Board voted unanimously to extend an offer to me to serve as their next Superintendent beginning July 1", and I accepted. I am excited for this next challenge and opportunity while being mindful of the great experiences I have had over 30 years in education, primarily the seven years I have served as your Superintendent. These past seven years have been the most fulfilling of my entire career, marked by significant achievements and milestones."

Frederickson noted several highlights and accomplishments while at Bowling Green including: the tax rate is below the state average, the student to teacher ratio has gone down from previous years and is just one above the state average, Bowling Green's average years of teaching experience

has gone up and is above the state average, the percentage of professionals with advanced degrees is steadily climbing and getting closer to the state average, the percentage of students attending a four-year college after high school is slightly higher than state average, the percentage of students attending a technical school after high school is slightly higher than state average, Bowling Green's graduation rates are above the state average, and more.

"Bowling Green is undeniably an exceptional community, and I feel a profound sense of gratitude for the privilege of serving as superintendent throughout the longest tenure among the last six individuals in this role," Frederickson continued. "Reflecting on this incredible journey, the Board of Education has consistently provided unwavering support to our students and staff, establishing themselves as an unparalleled source of guidance and commitment. The ride has been nothing short of remarkable. As I look ahead to the district's future, I am filled with excitement, and I am dedicated to ensuring a seamlessly orchestrated transition in the months to come. No matter what the future holds, it will always be a great day to be a Bobcat! Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication."



Church Walk Is A Success

The Centenary United Methodist Church handbell choir performs under the direction of Joanna Brock, foreground, during the 30th annual Louisiana Area Historical Museum Mid-Town Church Walk on Dec. 10. Other parishes on the tour were Beth AME, First Christian, First Baptist, Calvary Episcopal and First Presbyterian. More than 100 people participated or joined in the event, which featured music, biblical readings and prayers.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Foster Signs Letter Of Intent

Van-Far senior, Blake Foster signed a letter of intent to continue his educational and football career with William Woods University. He was joined by friends, family, and staff during the signing. Pictured, sitting, from left: Blake Foster and his mother, Leanna Griffin. Second row: William Woods Head Football Coach Julian Mendez; Van-Far Head Football coach Lucas Gibson; Van-Far Athletic Director Dustin Elledge; and Van-Far Assistant Football Coach Steve Gschwender



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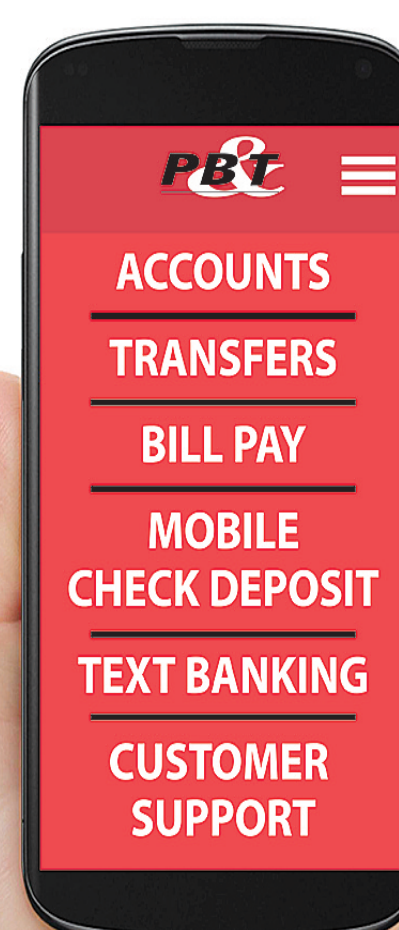


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a letter of football ca- was joined ning. Pic- and his : William ndez; Van- n-Far As- der

COMMUNITY NEWS

From The Mayor's Desk...

Thanks to all who supported and were involved in the Christmas Lighted Parade and Small Town Christmas in the Park! You braved the rain and cool weather as you gathered around the Square, MeMe's area, and the main Park itself. Santa Clause was once again the main attraction for children of all sizes and ages! Well done Parks and Rec Board and BG Chamber!



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Santa also showed up at the PC Health Department on Saturday. Tiz the season to be jolly! It's also a wonderful time to give to the less fortunate with Toys for Tots and Angel Tree programs.

Welcome Tractor Supply to Bowling Green. Let's be happy and proud Bowling Green that we have access to another great addition and business to our awesome town!

Christmas is still a couple of weeks off and I still want to encourage you to SHOP BOWLING GREEN! Many of our stores also have the capability for on-line ordering if they don't have it in their stores. I understand we are still a small town, but we have many wonderful stores with great selections. So many local businesses make a potential 30% or more of their profits during this time of year. Being a former business owner, I can attest to this fact! SHOP BOWLING GREEN

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 is the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet. Tickets are available on

their website or contacting Sarah Gigous at 573-324-3733. On February 10, 2024, the PC Health Department-Home Health and Hospice Gala fundraiser happens. Please check the BG School website for school activities and events to add to area activities and things to do and places to go!

aThank you, Bowling Green, for the incredible encouragement and support you have given to me over the past three plus years! I am not running for a third term so I would like to suggest that if you have any interest in getting involved in the city's activities and government, now is the time to sign up at City Hall. You will work with some very wise and knowledgeable people on the Boards and a very professional and pleasant staff at city hall. Even though I have a masters in secondary school administration and another in Business Administration, I was seldom called upon to use these experiences.

So, a level of higher education is not required. However, there are several requirements like one must be 25 years of age, live in the city limits, have their taxes paid in full, and be a registered voter. I highly encourage you to consider registering as soon as possible if you have any interest whatsoever! There is paid on-the-job training as people around you will educate and support you and your hours are very flexible. If you have an interest in getting involved in city government and a love for people, please sign up to run for mayor.

Community Calendar...

Submit upcoming events by calling 324-6111 or e-mail to: peopletribune@sbcglobal.net

On Dec. 19: Pike County Democratic Club meeting will be held at 6 p.m., at the Bowling Green Community Center, 201 W. Locust. Light refreshments served. Topics: Stronger Together Democratic PAC and 2023 Delegate Selection Plan.

Online Master Gardener Training Begins Jan. 14

Gardening is an activity with many rewards, says David Trinklein, state horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension.

A new session of online Missouri Master Gardener core training begins Jan. 14, 2024. Trinklein and MU Extension horticulture specialist Sarah Denkler teach the 14 online classes. "These classes represent a viable option for people who can't take the weekly classes in person," Trinklein said.

Classes are delivered through the Canvas learning management system as a series of scripted and narrated presentations. Students work at their own pace. A composite score of 70 percent on chapter quizzes is needed to pass the course.

Registration deadline for the spring online session is Jan. 12, 2024. For details and registration, go to mg.missouri.edu.



Homes For The Holidays

Diana Huckstep, left, of the Louisiana Community Betterment Association, hands a ticket to Patti Quattrocchi for the organization's fourth annual Holiday Home Tour. More than 110 people attended, with many dropping by the Louisiana Area Historical Museum at 304 George to pick up tickets. There were seven houses on the tour. A craft fair also was held at The Gatherings at Sixth and Georgia.



Santa's Coming To The Farber Firehouse Saturday, Dec. 16 2-4 p.m.

Hot chocolate & cookies provided
Children of all ages welcome

No admission cost

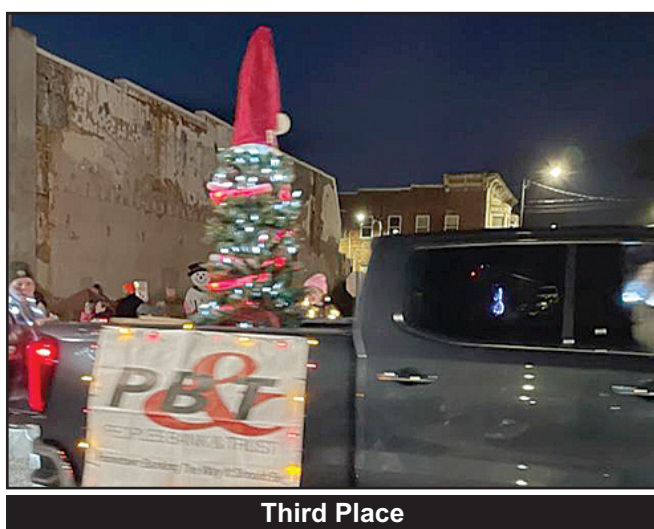
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First Place



Second Place



Third Place

Louisiana Parade Winners

The weather was perfect and Georgia Street in Louisiana was alight with windows decorated for the upcoming Christmas season, as the Louisiana Community Christmas Parade took place on Saturday, Nov. 25.

There were pop-up vendors offering unique items and several of the local specialty shops extended their hours to greet potential customers and parade goers.

Parade attendees were treated to a wonderful lighted parade, with the community Christmas tree being lit up, and visits with Santa following the parade.

Parade winners for this year are: first place, Sudzy Tub; second place, Hair Trendz, and third, place, Peo-

ple's Bank and Trust. Honorable mention went to the Louisiana High School Band for their creative costumes.

Entry winners will be contacted and a check presentation will take place.

Louisiana Community Betterment Association appreciates everyone who participated in the evening's activities and everyone who came out to enjoy all the holiday offerings.

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- Dec. 25 | CLOSED
- Dec. 31 | CLOSED
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