

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

Published Every Tuesday • Vol. 29 - No. 21 • Tuesday, April 1, 2025 • Online at www.thepeoplestribune.com



Bowling Green Man Arrested Following Police Pursuit



James Bryan Comer

BY BRIENT ENGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
According to a press release from the Audrain County Sheriff's Office, a Bowling Green man was arrested last week after fleeing from deputies.

On Tuesday, March 25, members of the Audrain County Sheriff's Office were conducting proactive patrols in Mexico. During this time,

a deputy attempted to stop a silver Volkswagen passenger vehicle for an observed moving violation.

The driver of the Volkswagen, later identified as James Bryan Comer, 52, of Bowling Green, refused to stop and began fleeing from the deputy at a high rate of speed.

Other deputies were nearby at the time of the pursuit and assisted and pursued Comer along East Highway 54 into rural Audrain County.

As the pursuit neared the intersection of Highway 54 and Highway B near Rush Hill, Missouri, Comer attempted to pass another motorist on the shoulder and ultimately, side swiped the motorist's vehicle and proceeded to flee eastbound.

The pursuit continued East to Highway BB and Audrain County Road 637, where Comer failed to negotiate a sharp turn and crashed his vehicle into a field. Before

deputies were able to approach Comer, he exited the Volkswagen and began fleeing on foot.

The pursuing deputies gave chase and were able to subdue him after a brief struggle. During the arrest Comer was found to be in possession of methamphetamine.

Comer and a pursuing deputy were treated for minor injuries at the Missouri University Hospital. The motorist that Comer struck along Highway 54 was uninjured.

Once medically cleared, Comer was transported to the Audrain County Jail for outstanding arrest warrants from Pike County charging him with two counts of failure to appear on felony driving revoked.

He remains jailed there while additional charges are sought.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Chandler Honored At State Capitol

Speaker Pro Tem Chad Perkins along with Lieutenant Governor Wasinger and Brice Chandler, Purple Heart recipient and Louisiana resident, are pictured during a ceremony that honored Chandler for actions that took place on March 28, 2007, Fallujah. He was presented a certificate of recognition from the Missouri House of Representatives in Jefferson City at the state capitol.

Hop! Splash! Hunt! And Swim At Twin Pike Family YMCA Easter Egg Hunt

The Twin Pike Family YMCA, Louisiana, will be hosting a free Easter egg hunt in the swimming pool on Saturday, April 12.

Children, ages 0-12 will have the opportunity to swim and dive after Easter eggs which will float and sink to the bottom of the pool. Children will collect as many eggs as possible and turn them in for a prize.

The Easter bunny will also be available for pictures.

Children will be divided into groups according to age and will enter the pool at specified times as follows: Families with children of mixed ages (parent participation required) - 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; 9-12 year olds-8:30-9:15 a.m.; 5-8 year olds (parent participation required) - 9:30-10:15 a.m.; and 0-4 year olds (parent participation required) - 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Early registration is recommended through April 4.

Walk-in registration the day of the hunt will be allowed on a space-available basis only. Contact the YMCA at 573-754-4497 to register or stop

by the Welcome Center.

The Twin Pike Family YMCA serves Pike County, Illinois and Pike County, Missouri and surrounding communities.



Lifeguard Ben Nichtula of Louisiana and the Easter Bunny welcome the community to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt in the Swimming Pool at the Twin Pike Family YMCA

Mama Tried

Appeal Made On Behalf Of Louisiana Man's Killer

Editor's note: Following is the conclusion of a story series by contributing writer Brent Engel.

The man who killed a Stark Brothers Nurseries employee had little to lose by confessing to another killing.

Twenty-two-year-old Arthur Barnes was sentenced to life in prison for the shooting of Carl Shumaker on Feb. 17, 1925.

From behind bars, he had confessed to killing Quincy restaurant worker Mark Gallimore two weeks earlier.

It was one of several crimes to which he admitted as part of a gang that flaunted Prohibition laws against illicit booze. The surprise came on June 4, when Barnes recanted.

"I know nothing of the shooting of Mark Gallimore," he said in a signed affidavit.

Investigators did not believe Barnes because the evidence pointed to his participation with two other masked men. One of them allegedly was Clarence Baker, an accomplice in the Shumaker killing. The other was reported to be a paroled criminal named James Smith.

In taking back his confession, Barnes said he barely knew Smith and that he and Baker were not part of the Gallimore murder. Smith also denied being involved.

Baker was sentenced to 25 years for helping to steal the car used in the Shumaker murder, and authorities speculated Barnes was trying to keep him from additional prison time if charges were brought in the Gallimore case. As his mother had done for him, Barnes sought mercy for Baker.

"He is just an 18-year-old, who, like myself, went the wrong path and is now paying the penalty," he wrote in part.

On June 6, Smith was sentenced to 14 years in prison for separate robberies. Be-



Athur Barnes

cause Baker remained silent, investigators had nothing to go on and closed the Gallimore case without filing charges.

A battle over the \$500 reward offered by Stark Brothers in the Shumaker killing would drag out until December 1925, when a judge ordered the money split between Hannibal Police Chief Pete Tuner, Detective Arch Leonard and Marion County Prosecuting Attorney Roy Hamlin.

Havoc surrounding Barnes continued, however.

He twice failed to escape from prison - in April 1926 and March 1929. On Oct. 25, 1930, his 21-year-old brother, Leslie, was gunned down during an argument outside an Elsberry grocery.

The most dramatic incident came on Jan. 10, 1931. Barnes stabbed to death inmate Garnett Petro outside the Jefferson City prison's pool hall. Petro was serving five life terms for kidnapping and robbery, and challenged Barnes to what guards reported as "a fight to the death."

Lonnie Clark, the other accomplice in the Shumaker killing, was paroled in 1930, with Baker freed in 1931.

Leonard, a law enforcement veteran of more than 25 years, called Barnes the "meanest criminal" he ever came across and said the

Louisiana native had a penchant for lawbreaking.

The detective might have been onto something. A relative, Bartholomew Barnes, was 20 years old when hanged in Pittsfield on Dec. 29, 1871, for the murder of 45-year-old father of eight John Gresham.

A bar fight in Pleasant Hill triggered ongoing animosity that culminated with Barnes calling the victim "a damned old son of a b----." Gresham was beaten so badly that his own doctor did not recognize the corpse. Though the execution took place inside the Pike County Jail, an estimated 3,000 people stood outside in a vain effort to catch a glimpse.

"All were eager to see Barnes hurled into eternity, not because of his great crime, but from that insatiate curiosity of mankind to see man pass through the most fearful of earthly ordeals," The Quincy Daily Herald proclaimed.

One last surprise awaited, and it was a doozy.

On May 31, 1940. Missouri Gov. Lloyd Stark - a cousin of the man whose car Barnes and his companions stole in Louisiana to start the series of deadly events - issued a pardon.

Stark gave no reason, and Barnes was freed after serving just 15 years and two months. He moved to Arkansas, got married and apparently did not commit more crimes.

Leonard never changed his mind about Barnes. Though the impassioned plea from the convict's mother had led to the sentence of life in prison, Leonard believed the youthful criminal should have gotten the same fate as his relative.

"I would class him as a born killer, one who kills for the love of killing, and not necessarily for the material gain he may expect to get," the detective concluded.

MFA Grants Help Volunteer Firefighters Save Lives, Protect Communities

Since 2020, the MFA Incorporated Charitable Foundation has teamed with University of Missouri Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute to award MFA Volunteer Fire Grants to train and equip rural fire departments throughout the state.

"Grant funding for rural fire departments is essential because these departments often operate with limited budgets while protecting vast areas," says Harry Ward, director of the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute (FRTI). "Investing in these departments enhances public safety, reduces property loss and ensures that rural communities receive the same level of fire protection as urban areas."

MU FRTI, which provides comprehensive continuing professional education training to Missouri's fire service and emergency response personnel, administers the grant program on behalf of MFA Incorporated.

MFA recently pledged to support MFA Foundation Fire Grants for another five years, notes Rachel Augustine, MU Extension senior director of advancement.

"We are proud to support our rural communities through initiatives like the MFA Volunteer Fire Grants," said Jason Weirich, MFA Inc. executive vice president of operations. "These grants enable small rural fire departments to purchase essential equipment and improve their capabilities. We are honored to play a role in enhancing their safety and well-being."

This year, the program has awarded 28 grants totaling \$50,000. (See below for list.) Since the program's inception, Missouri fire departments have received \$236,000 in grants.

Chief Javi Gil of the Rutledge Community Fire Department notes that grants can be a vital lifeline for small rural fire departments, which are often not tax-supported and have to rely on fire dues, fundraisers and donations of money and equipment. "Although our town is small, we

respond to many calls each year," Gil said. Through mutual aid agreements, his department also responds to calls when needed in neighboring communities in Scotland County and in the 3,974-acre Indian Hills Conservation Area. "We run our department with a very small budget that is used to pay for insurance, repairs and small upgrades to our equipment." A 2023 MFA Volunteer Fire Grant for \$2,000 enabled the department to purchase radios and some well-needed tools, he said.

The Fredericktown Fire Department purchased three thermal imaging cameras, which are used in search and rescue operations to find hidden hot spots in walls or debris piles and to allow firefighters to see their way out of hazardous environments.

Sedgewickville Fire Protection District replaced old ladders. "The ladders we have, we don't even know the age of them. They have been with the department for years," said Dana Craft, assistant chief of the Sedgewickville Fire Protection District. The department purchased two attic ladders, two roof ladders and two extension ladders.

The Wheaton Fire Protection District used grant funding to purchase 13 sections of fire hose and hard suction hose, one tower light and two battery packs.

The Sac-Osage Fire Protection District in Osceola purchased laundry equipment for washing firefighter gear. Volunteers no longer have to take gear home to wash it, potentially bringing carcinogens and other hazardous materials into their homes. The facility is available to volunteers from every fire department in St. Clair County.

MFA Volunteer Fire Grants, which range from \$500 to \$2,000, are awarded to help train and equip Missouri fire departments for the purpose of saving lives and protecting property. Grants are distributed within Missouri's nine fire mutual aid re-

gions, with the intention to award at least one per region. Eligible fire departments must be currently registered with the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

MFA Volunteer Fire Grant winners

2024 MFA Volunteer Fire Grants were presented Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, in Columbia.

Alton Volunteer Fire Department

Baring Volunteer Fire Department

Brixey & Rockbridge Fire Department

Bucklin Volunteer Fire Department

Buffalo Rural Fire Department

Callao Fire Protection District

Caufield Membership Fire Department

Cedar Creek Fire Protection District

DeKalb Fire Protection District

Dixon Rural Fire Protection District

East Lynne-Gunn City Fire Protection District

Fairfax Fire Protection District

Long Lane Volunteer Fire Department

Louisiana Fire Department

Martinsburg Fire Protection District

Montauk Rural Fire Department

Osborn Fire Protection District

Portageville Fire Department

Quin Fire Protection District

Shelby Community Fire Department

Slater Volunteer Fire Department

Tunas Fire Department

Tuscumbia Fire Protection District

Tyrone Rural Volunteer Fire Department

Urbana Rural Fire Department

Urich Volunteer Fire Department

Washburn Volunteer Fire Department

Zell Volunteer Fire Department

For more information, visit <http://muext.us/MFAGrants>.

Funds Transferred To Beneficiaries Of State's Adult-Use Cannabis Program

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has transferred \$23,363,968 in funds generated by Missouri's adult use marijuana program to agencies as outlined in Article XIV, Section 2, of the Missouri Constitution. This transfer was authorized by the Supplemental Budget (House Bill 14.495) for Fiscal Year 25 passed by the legislature.

Recipient agencies of adult use program funds authorized

in the Supplemental Budget bill include the following:

Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC) (\$11,681,984): for use exclusively for health care and other services for military veterans and their dependent families;

DHSS (\$11,681,984): to operate a grant program for subrecipients to increase access to evidence-based, low-barrier drug addiction treatment prioritizing medically proven treatment and

overdose prevention and reversal methods and public or private treatment options with an emphasis on reintegrating recipients into their local communities, to support overdose prevention education, and to support job placement, housing, and counseling for those with substance use disorders.

To learn more about Missouri's medical and adult use marijuana programs, visit Cannabis.Mo.Gov.

Community News

April Library Book Review



Brenda Gower
April 2025
Library Staff Juvenile Book Review
The Sherlock Society by James Ponti
(Juvenile Fiction)
Reviewed by Brenda Gower, Farber Branch
Library Manager

This is the first book in a new series written by James Ponti. I have enjoyed reading his other series City Spies, so I was looking forward to reading the first book in his new series.

I was not disappointed. The book had me connected from the very beginning. Alex and Zoe Sherlock are looking at ways to add some excitement to their summer and earn some money by solving a mystery.

With the hopes of a long lost treasure connected to Al Capone surely they will be successful with their last name being Sherlock, the help of their grandfather a retired reporter with a storage unit full of old cases, and two great friends.

One clue leads to another to provide an exciting story for the reader. You will need to read the book to find out their success. I enjoy a good mystery to solve and this book provided. It was nice to read a book for this age group in which the adults are respected by the main teenage characters and what is happening could be feasible. I would give this book a 5/5 and am looking forward to the second book in the series. It can be checked out from the Audrain County Library.



Kasi Welborn
April 2025
Library Staff Young Adult Book Review
Wings Of Starlight By Allison Saft
Reviewed by Kasi Welborn, Circulation
Assistant-Mexico Public Library

Long ago, when Pixie Hollow was very young, two fairies met and fell in love. One of them was a winter fairy and the other was from the warm seasons.

The two fairies were enchanted with each other and every sunset they met at the border where spring touches winter." This is part of the story told to Tinker Bell by Queen Clarion in the 2012 movie Secret of the Wings. In Wings of Starlight, we get to know the details of Princess Clarion right before her coronation meeting Lord Milori, the "Warden of Winter." Clarion doesn't feel she's ready for the crown-she has issues accessing her magic, she doubts her own decisions, and she cannot seem to do anything right. Then when a monster is spotted leaving the Winter Woods, she dashes to the border to see if there is anything she can do to help. There she meets Milori, who is trying to warn the warm seasons about a terrible threat to all of Pixie Hollow.

Even though I knew how this story would end: Bittersweet, I still felt compelled from watching Secret of the Wings to know why the Queen and the Lord of Winter looked so longingly at each other.



It's All In The Wrist

Ninety-four-year-old Charles Shelton flips flapjacks during the Louisiana Lions Club's 65th annual Pancake and Sausage Day March 22. The fund-raiser was held at First Christian Church, Sixth and South Carolina. Shelton has been making perfectly-cooked pancakes at the event for years. Proceeds will be used for Lions vision programs and community projects.

Clarksville VFW, Auxiliary To Meet

The Clarksville Memorial VFW Post 4610 and Auxiliary will hold their regular meetings on Monday April 7 at 6 p.m., at the post in Clarksville.

Light refreshments will be served honoring their Vietnam Veterans and any other Vietnam Veterans that would like to attend.

Regular business meetings will be held for both post and auxiliary, Commander Herbert Everett and Auxiliary President Mary Tarpein would like to have all that can to attend.

Gov. Kehoe Signs HB 495

On Wednesday, March 26, during a bill signing ceremony at the Missouri State Capitol, Governor Mike Kehoe signed House Bill (HB) 495 into law. Governor Kehoe was joined by the sponsors of the bill, Representative Brad Christ, and Senators Nick Schroer and Travis Fitzwater.

Also in attendance for the signing was Attorney General Andrew Bailey, Missouri Department of Public Safety Director Mark James, Missouri State Highway Patrol Colonel Michael Turner, and leaders from statewide law enforcement associations, including the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, Missouri State Troopers Association, Missouri Police Chiefs Association, the Missouri Sheriffs Association, and the Ethical Society of Police.

"We thank the Missouri General Assembly and the bill sponsors for prioritizing public safety and getting this legislation to my desk so quickly this session," said Governor Mike Kehoe. "In addition to establishing a citizen board to oversee the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, HB 495 benefits law enforcement across our state with tools they need to crack down on crime and illegal immigration."

Developed in close collaboration with law enforcement partners and representatives across all levels of law enforcement in the state, Governor Kehoe's Safer Missouri initiative includes HB 495, budget priorities, and the executive orders signed on day one of the Kehoe Administration.

Natalie Griggsby - Country Financial

Insurance Agent

- ★ Home
- ★ Auto
- ★ Life
- ★ Commercial

21 North Main Cross
Bowling Green, MO 63334
Office: 573-324-8505
Mobile: 573-213-1180

Experience More!



Playback Of The Past

"History Lives" segments for April were recorded by Kaylee Davis at KJFM Radio in Bowling Green. Topics for the month include Louisiana's May Birkhead getting exclusive interviews from Titanic passengers, Missouri U.S. Sen. John Brooks Henderson of Louisiana visiting Abraham Lincoln just hours before the president was assassinated, President Theodore Roosevelt's visit to Pike County in 1903, a Spencerburg man's 12-foot beard and Louisiana author Lucy Foster Madison.

PLUMBING SERVICES

Our Services:

- Sewer Camera Inspections
- New Construction
- Tankless Heater Installations
- Sales & Service

573-719-9474
mingramplumbing@gmail.com
18080 Bluebonnet Lane, Bowling Green, Missouri

Happy National Doctors' Day

Dr. Trone, D.O.

Dr. Jennings, D.O.

Dr. Fite, M.D.

Dr. Whitlock, D.O.

Dr. Milian, M.D.

Pike County Memorial Hospital & Clinics
573-754-5531
Pcmh-mo.org

become a **SAFE SLEEP CHAMPION!**

The Pike County Health Department –Maternal and Child Health Program – is seeking community members to join us in the implementation of a Safe Sleep Champion program to prevent Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) through safe sleep education and prevention.

A Safe Sleep Champion is an individual that is willing to take a safe sleep training and help us bring a unified message on the most up to date safe sleep practices and recommendations. Champions will serve as advocates for promoting safe sleep and will provide families with education and available resources to ensure the establishment of a safe sleep environment.

Anyone can become a Safe Sleep Champion!

Learn more & Get Started!

- Take a Free 30 minute, self-paced Safe Sleep Ambassador Training
- Get registered with the Pike County Safe Sleep Champion Registry

Pike County Health Department
Home Health & Hospice
PikeCountyHealth.org 573-324-2111

HOMETOWN BANKING AWAY FROM HOME.

Whether it's basketball games, family vacations or work commutes, making it to the bank isn't always possible. But, thanks to Peoples Bank Mobile Banking, the tools available for banking on the go are all available from the palm of your hand.

PEOPLES BANK & TRUST
www.pbtc.net

106 S. Business Hwy. 61 • Bowling Green 324-2525
101 S. Third Street • Louisiana 754-5517

Download our free Mobile Banking App today!

- ACCOUNTS
- TRANSFERS
- BILL PAY
- MOBILE CHECK DEPOSIT
- TEXT BANKING
- CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Community News

State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT
Representative Chad Perkins emphasized his continued support for Second Amendment rights as the legislature moves forward with key legislation this session, including the Second Amendment Preservation Act (SAPA). The bill aims to ensure that local law enforcement agencies are not compelled to enforce federal gun laws, reinforcing Missouri's commitment to protecting gun rights. "Defending the Second Amendment is a responsibility I take seriously," Perkins said. "We are working to ensure that the rights of law-abiding gun

owners are upheld in Missouri, and this legislation is an important step in that direction."

PROTECTING BABIES
Representative Chad Perkins reaffirmed his strong pro-life stance following the passage of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act this week. The legislation ensures that infants who survive abortion procedures receive necessary medical care. Perkins emphasized the importance of protecting the most vulnerable, stating, "Every child deserves a chance at life, and I'm proud to stand for legislation that upholds that fundamental value."

Pike To Pike ...



By Wyvetta Davis
1-217-320-8438

Saturday, April 5, Silver Wings will be at the Cardinal Inn with the show starting at 6 p.m.

The Pike County Senior Citizens Center at 220 West Adams Street in Pittsfield will be holding their first of the season fundraiser Fish Fry on Thursday, April 10, 4:30-6 p.m. The menu will be your choice of catfish fillet or buffalo with three set sides which will include this month potato salad, green bean casserole, and five-cup salad plus your choice of dessert. Eat in or carry out. All ages are welcome. They appreciate your continued support. Questions? Please call 217-285-4969. They also have gift certificates available for any amount.

Easter Sunday is April 20. Something new is happening in our area that you all just might be interested in. The Big River Band is going to start having a show the fourth Saturday of each month, starting this month on Saturday, April 26, at the Pike County Senior Center, 220

West Adams, in Pittsfield. This will run from 6:30-9 p.m., and there will be no admission charge, but there will be a donation bucket passed to help with the band expenses. There will not be any meals to purchase but there will be a concession stand available that the senior center board will operate. And a big dance floor for all who enjoy dancing. Mark your calendars for this upcoming event.

There is a local country band looking for a reliable, dependable drummer that loves music. If seriously interested, please call 1-573-975-0958.

Birthdays and anniversaries for the week of April 1 - 8, 2025.

April 1 - Jennie Johnson
April 4 - Bob Ryan, Frank York

April 5 - Lainey Kirk, Lynn Scott

April 7 - David Haughey
Prayer Requests for This Week: America and the people of America to all turn back to God, continued healing for Connie Garner, Eric Morris and Nic Carter, Janet and Roger Bonnett, and unspoken prayer requests.

Trivia Questions for the next few weeks are dealing with Easter. Here are this week's questions:

1. Which lady in the Bible poured spikenard on Jesus' head to prepare Him for burial?
2. Which apostle went to the chief priests to betray Jesus?
3. Where did Jesus and His apostles go so Jesus could pray?

The Pittsfield High School Class of 1973 enjoyed their class luncheon on Friday, March 28, at the Watson 1838 with 27 present, and they were: Cathy Bollegar; Marvin and Tonya Reel; Orin Borrowman; Joe Womble and Mary Breden; Dennis and Teresa Wade; Theresa Sidwell; Kerry Dickerson and husband; Fred Ruzich; Andy Borrowman; Marion Peters; Jackie and Rick Williams; Cheri Myers; Janet and Greg McKee; Bruce and Barb McKee; Jeanie Hartman; Theresa Reel; Tom and Patty Cawthon, and Gary and Sharon Williams.

What an outstanding show the Big River Band did Saturday, March 29, at the Cardinal Inn in Pittsfield!! You will never see or hear a more harder working, or a more giving-it-all-they-got band. To those who attended, the band extends their appreciation. And they hope to see you at their future shows.

We Welcome Your Local News

We're Back in the Office!
File your taxes with C. Tom Backer
With nearly 40 years of tax preparation experience!
C. Tom Backer Professional Accountant

Call to make an appointment today for all your Accounting Services & Income Tax Preparation needs!
319 Georgia street | Louisiana
573-754-5017
Monday - Friday | 9 am - 5 pm

Queen Of The Vines

You can look high and low, but you likely won't find a climbing vine that compares to the clematis, known as the "Queen of the Vines," says Gwen Funk, University of Missouri Extension field specialist in horticulture.

Part of the buttercup family, clematis comprises several species and numerous cultivars. Color, bloom time, habitat and even growth habit vary among species. There are varieties to fit into most landscapes, Funk says.

"It is interesting to note that it is not the petals that provide the splendor of this group of plants; rather, the sepals are the flower part that attracts pollinators, birds and the human eye," she says.

While many cultivars originated in Japan or China, a few species are native to Missouri. Vining types include virgin's bower (Clematis virginiana) and pitcher's leather (Clematis pitcheri), also called purple flower.

Ashley Community Center Fish Fry
April 11, 18
4:30-8 p.m.
Adults \$14 • Kids 11-5
\$7 • 5 & Under Free
Dine-In or Carry-Out
Catfish & Buffalo Served

TOP SOIL FILL DIRT
For Sale
754-5812

Scherder Autobody LLC

Phone: 573.324.6023
Email: scherderautobody@gmail.com

16637 Pike 318
Bowling Green, MO 63334

5.4 miles from St. Clement on Hwy J
(call for directions if needed)

- Collision repair
- Insurance work welcome
- Free estimates
- Pick up and delivery

Second Missionary Baptist Church
West Hwy. 54 - Vandalia

FISH FRY

Friday, April 4 - 11 a.m.-?

\$13 Serving catfish, fried potatoes, baked beans, cole slaw

Carry-Outs • Delivery Call 594-2146

Spring Consignment Auction

Montgomery County Livestock Market
514 N. Hwy 19 * Montgomery City, MO 63361

Saturday, April 4th, 2025

Now Accepting Consignments for
Farm Machinery, Livestock & Construction Equipment,
Trucks & Trailers

Joe Vomund Auction Service
www.auctionzip.com for listing and photos, dealer #14584

Claude Niemeyer 573-470-1017	Jamie Niemeyer 573-470-8810	Elden Foster 573-239-6745
Wayne McCluggage 573-473-6314	Jimmie Woodhurst 573-231-6770	Joe Vomund 573-289-0116

2025-2026
BGE
KINDERGARTEN Roundup

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH

6:00 to 7:00 PM @ BGE

- Parent presentation with the principals.
- Student fun with the K teachers and a bus driver.
- Children must turn 5 by August 1st, 2025 to enter K in the fall.

SPRING IS HERE!!

Are you remodeling or new construction??

We do decks, kitchen cabinets and vanities. Delivered and installed.

Come see us at:
Eicher Kitchens
11350 Pike 4896
Bowling Green, MO. 633345

Or for more info call
Mitzi @ 573-470-1654

Where quality and customer satisfaction is our goal!!

ONE STOP to handle your insurance...
auto, home, life, farm, business

We're your Shield.
We're your Shelter.

ShelterInsurance.com

Brent Branstetter
740 S Bus Hwy 61, Ste A
Bowling Green
573-324-2446
BBranstetter@ShelterInsurance.com

Ashley Jenkins
3404 Georgia St.
Louisiana
573-754-3453
TJenkins@ShelterInsurance.com

Frank Wallace
610 W Hwy 54
Vandalia
573-594-2235
FEWallace@ShelterInsurance.com

Obituaries



James ‘Jamie’ Leroy Shaw Jr.

James “Jamie” Leroy Shaw Jr., 73, of Vandalia, formerly of Middletown died Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at his home.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday at the Fairmount Cemetery with Pastor Kevin Wilkerson officiating.

Jamie was born Feb.6, 1952, to James Shaw Sr. and Mildred Tapley Shaw. On June 8, 1984, in Spencerburg, Missouri, he married Diane Howard who survives. They spent a total of 42 wonderful years together.

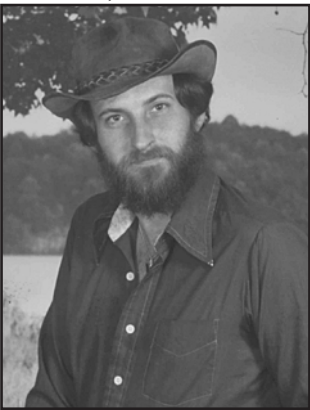
Jamie was baptized at the Vandalia Christian Church. Jamie had a varied and fulfilling career, working for the railroad and later as a truck driver for several different companies.

Outside of his career, Jamie had a deep passion for collecting toys and restoring antique tractors. He enjoyed the hands-on work of fixing and preserving these pieces of history. One of his greatest joys was participating in tractor pulls, where he proudly drove his tractors, showcasing his love for the craft and the community of fellow enthusiasts.

In addition to his wife, Diane, survivors include two daughters, Carrie Keppler and husband, George of Bellflower and Dani Shaw of New Florence; four grandchildren, Gavin Keppler, Autumn Keppler, Mina Shaw, and Beta Shaw; and two brothers, Mike Shaw and wife, Pam of Middletown and Terry Shaw and wife, Angel of Middletown.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents; and two brothers, Butch Shaw and Tommy Shaw.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Shriners Hospital, St. Jude Children’s Hospital, Audrain Humane Society, or Audrain County Humane Society – Pet Pals. They may be sent c/o Myers Funeral Home, 203 E. Bates, Wellsville, MO 63384.



Willis ‘Gene’ Eugene Largent

Willis "Gene" Eugene Largent, 73, died peacefully at his home in Vandalia Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

He was surrounded by his loving family at the time of his departure, where he embraced his faith as a Christian and left this world to become a Warrior of God.

A memorial gathering in honor of Gene will be held on Tuesday (today) from 5-7 p.m., at Waters Funeral Home, located at 500 S. Main Street, Vandalia, MO, 63382.

Willis was born Jan. 21, 1952, in Wellsville, the son of Sherwood and Mable Campbell Largent. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Catherine "Cathy" Mosley on May 17, 1969, in Vandalia.

Family was everything to Gene. He cherished every moment spent with his loved ones, creating a legacy of warmth and compassion.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Cathy Largent of the home; and his children, Lisa Berlin and husband, John of Arnold, Joseph Largent and wife, Stephanie of Center, John Largent and wife, Tina of Center, and Sarah Boston and husband, John of Vandalia. His love extended through generations, as he leaves behind his grandchildren, Nichole Husky and husband, Derrick, Jared Berlin

and wife, Sam, Jordan Largent and wife, Erica, Allison Largent, Josiah Largent, Joey Largent, Nevaeh Largent, Jacob Largent, Autumn Largent, Solomon Largent, Kaylein Wilson, and Ian Boston. He was also a proud great-grandfather to Paisley, Rhett, Brelynn, Julian, Tatum, Chase and two on the way.

Willis is also survived by his sisters, Virginia Howdeshell of Vandalia, Mary Eskew of Vandalia, Dorothy Largent of Mexico, and Barbara Hawkinson and husband, Marion of Farber.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents and a grandson, Jessie Berlin. He also mourned the loss of his brothers, Charles, Bill, Earl, and James Richard Largent.

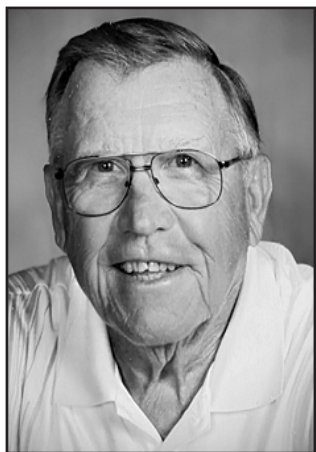
Gene dedicated an impressive 42 years of his life to the Harbison-Walker Brick Plant in Vandalia, where he built not only a successful career but also lasting relationships with his coworkers. He was known for his unique personality, distinctively different in his own way, and his ability to make and fix anything, a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit that many admired.

He enjoyed various hobbies, including fishing, mushroom hunting, and spending time at the farm tending to his orchard and shrimp ponds. One of his cherished traditions was hosting the annual shrimp fest, further illustrating his commitment to sharing joy and love with his family.

Gene's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him, as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. His unwavering love for his family and his unique spirit will be deeply missed.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cathy Largent, to help with funeral expenses, c/o Waters Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made to the family and video tribute viewed on Gene's memorial page at www.watersfuneral.com.



Ralph John Niemeyer

After a life well-lived, Ralph John Niemeyer, 83, of Bowling Green sadly left our world on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Harry S Truman VA Medical Center in Columbia surrounded by family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday today at 10:30 a.m., at St. Clement Catholic Church. Burial will be in the St. Clement Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday (today) from 9-10:30 a.m., at the church.

Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes & Crematory in Bowling Green are in charge of arrangements.

Ralph was born Nov. 5, 1941 to Harry and Viola Geurjen Niemeyer at Pike County Memorial Hospital. A Bowling Green native, Ralph was a 1959 graduate from Bowling Green High School, where he excelled in basketball and track, and attended Missouri Valley College where he played basketball before joining the United States Navy in 1960.

During his time in the Navy, he was stationed on the USS NORFOLK DL-1, the ship that served as the flagship commander of the South Atlantic forces. Ralph traveled to numerous different countries and ports throughout the Caribbean including Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, and Cuba, as well as through Central and South America including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Straights of Magellan. He often reflected on his trips through the Panama Canal and what an amazing experience that was.

He was also fortunate to have served on the same ship as his brother, Leroy, his childhood friend, Jack Haley,

from Bowling Green, and Heisman trophy winner, Joe Bellino. In true Navy tradition, it was during this time that this sailor became a “Trusty Shellback” into the court of Neptune.

After his time in the Navy, Ralph worked in St. Louis for McDonnell Douglas at St. Louis Lambert Field. After time in St. Louis, he returned to Bowling Green and began working for Bob Meyer, a local contractor.

It was back home where he began dating his high school classmate, Mary Mark “Markie” Deters. On June 27, 1964, Ralph and Markie married at St. Clement Catholic Church and they moved back to St. Louis where Markie was working as a registered nurse. A year later, they returned home to Bowling Green to begin their long and loving life together. Ralph worked for another contractor, C.T. Wendel, and Markie at Pike County Memorial Hospital. In July 1966, Ralph began employment with Missouri Edison Company, which would set the course of a long and successful career in the power and utility business. Initially a lineman, he learned the trade of providing electrical service rain or shine, wind, ice, etc., to the local area. He continued to grow in positions and responsibilities as Missouri Edison became part of Union Electric (UE) and ultimately Ameren corporation, a Fortune 500 company. After a nearly 35-year career, he retired from his position as the operations and construction supervisor for a very large service area and a leader of many employees.

As a young boy, Ralph spent much time on the farm of his aunt and uncle and it was there where he initially fell in love with the farming lifestyle and continued that love through the mentoring of his father-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Sr. and his brother-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Jr. During his teen years, he helped and worked at this parents’ business, the well-known Niemeyer Brothers. In high school he assisted Dr. H.E. Wheatley, DVM, and further honed his farming skills as he was excellent at working with livestock. As he never lost the “farming bug”, he bought his own farm in 1972 and managed to balance this endeavor with his full-time job. Over the years, the farming operation grew until he and Markie moved to their current location where they were able to build their dream home on a setting that was very near and dear to them.

Ralph was never one to be idle and was always active. He was involved with many organizations including the St. Clement Knights of Columbus, the Jaycees, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (B.P.O.E), where he served as the Exalted Ruler. He was also active with the Bowling Green Bobcat Boosters, serving as the president for many years during the 1980s. After retirement, he was an active leader of Quail Unlimited and other conservation and hunting advocacy organizations. Ralph loved the outdoors, especially spending time raising and training English Pointer and English Setter bird hunting dogs, culminating in 2024 when Ralph raised the Na-

tional Bird Hunters Association (NBHA) state champion in the puppy division. Ralph also loved quail hunting with his friends, as well as fishing and spending time on the water in search of that next big crappie.

Ralph and Markie celebrated over 60 years of marriage. To this union, Ralph was the proud father of three children, Susan Ausfahl and husband, Chuck, Mike Niemeyer and wife, Amie, and Randall Niemeyer.

He is survived by his wife; three children; six grandchildren, Kerstie, Hayden, Madison, Mackenzie, Lexie, and Anna; four great-grandchildren, Hudson, Stella, Evie, and Hattie; and many other family members.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Leroy and Larry, his in-laws, Clem and Catherine Deters, and three brothers-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Jr., 2nd Lt. David S. Deters, and Gary Caplinger.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jack Glover, Ed “Arch” Jennings, Argil Ellison, Dr. Bill Wright, Chuck Ausfahl, Bruce Storts, and Greg Renner. Honorary pallbearers will be Bonham Bibb, John Boise, Bob Niemeyer, Paul Niemeyer, Bob Wilson, Wayne Nierman, Lynn Cherry, and Jim Smith.

Memorials may be made to the family for dissemination to causes close to Ralph’s heart.

Online condolences may be left at www.bibbveach.com.



Donna Lee Parsons Price

Donna Lee Parsons Price, 77, of O’Fallon, Ill., born May 21, 1947 in Louisiana died peacefully Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loved ones.

Visitation was Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Schildknecht Funeral Home in O’Fallon, IL 62269.

A second visitation was held Monday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana.

Services were Monday at 1 p.m., at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. Burial immediately followed at Fairview Cemetery in Louisiana.

Arrangements in O’Fallon, Ill., were entrusted to Schildknecht Funeral Home.

Donna was born and raised in Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana High School in 1965 where she was proud to have been a cheerleader for the Bulldogs.

She received her BS degree in education at Central Missouri State University where she was in the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Married during her senior year, she accompanied her husband on a career in the military. Family was everything to her and she started one early while an Air Force wife. Her

three boys were born during assignments at three different bases in the States. However, the nomadic military life took her to Europe for six years where she made sure the boys were exposed to the many cultures and life experiences overseas.

While in Belgium, she was active in Cursillo at the base chapel. The family returned to the States for the boys to have stability in their secondary education. Always an involved parent, she was the president of the band boosters in O’Fallon and in Littleton, Colo. Putting the military life behind her, and seeing her boys growing into young men, Donna became a "Genie Guru". She travelled the States in her camper in search of her family's history as well as cheerfully sharing her expertise with friends.

She readily embraced being obsessed by genealogy and reveled in the search. One of the benefits of her efforts was achieving membership as a Daughter of the American Revolution. She was also a member of PEO Chapter LJ, which was important to her for the advancement of young women's education. Through the years, she was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, community volunteer, and friend who loved to entertain. One of her greatest joys was becoming "Nee" to her four grandchildren. She was kind to everyone and loved life to the fullest.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Bailey M. and Byrna Dane Silvey Parsons; and daughter-in-law, Mary Price.

Cherishing Donna’s memory are her husband, Richard Price of O’Fallon, Ill.; three sons, Shannon Price of St. Louis, Brian Price of O’Fallon, Ill., and Daniel Price of Phoenix, Ariz.; and four grandchildren, Ashleigh Price, Kaitlyn Price, Aidan Price, and Sarah Price; sisters-in-law, Susan Donat and Nancy Price.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association; <https://www.alz.org/>.

Condolences may be extended to the family online at www.schildknechtfh.com.



Bernadette ‘Dee’ Taylor

Bernadette "Dee" Taylor, 77, of Silex, formerly of Troy died. Sunday, March 23, 2025 at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

She was born Feb. 10, 1948 in Minnesota to Raymond and Elsie Damlow.

She was a loving mother to her four children. Dee was a member of American Legion Post 226 Ladies Auxillary and she was a member of the "Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW #9064"

She is survived by a son, Joshua Westfall and wife, Rhonda; two daughters, Sheila Henkel and Debbie Cook; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Dee was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Timothy Damlow; and her husband, Richard Taylor.

A Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

The family has asked that donations be made to McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes for funeral expense.



William Russell Black II

December 5, 1967 – February 12, 2025

"We all loved Billy Black. He was the epitome of ‘One of a Kind’."

William Russell Black II— Billy to those who knew | See OBITUARIES on page 5

Hometown Checking Plus

Save money by shopping locally at our local discount participants!

Country Gals

\$1 Off Haircut

417 W. Champ Clark Dr. Bowling Green 573-324-5338

Bowling Green Times

\$5 Off New Subscription & \$3 Off Renewal

106 W. Main Bowling Green 573-324-2222

Crossroads

Free 2 Ltr. Soda With Purchase Of 2 Pizzas

1001 Bus. Hwy. 61 Bowling Green 573-324-2922

On The Square Bowling Green 324-2233

www.c-s-b.com

Member FDIC

C\$B

Community State Bank of Missouri

Card Of Thanks

The family of Roger Lee Smith would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, flowers, food, and memorials.

Thanks to the First Christian Church for a wonderful dinner. Thanks to Bibb-Veach Funeral Home and Jamie Franke for the wonderful service.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

The Smith Family

Tina Rodney & Family Ryan & Family Ron & Donna Dena & Family Robert & Family

Classifieds

All classified ads are payable in advance. 40-cents per word, \$4 minimum. Deadline: Monday at 11 A.M.

MOBILE HOMES

USED DOUBLEWIDE - DUTCH. Amish built in Indiana, excellent condition, 3 bed., 2 bath. FINANCING. Call for info 573-249-3333, marktwain mobilehomes.com. (tf)

I BUY used mobile homes. Call or text 573-338-6250 or email GregS.CDH@outlook.com. (tf)

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 4

him—was impossible to forget. He had a way about him. Sharp, funny, warm, and full of life, he could light up a room with a look, a quick remark, or one of his signature “Billy-isms.” People were drawn to him, and if you knew him, you knew.

Born in December 1967, in St. Louis, Missouri, Billy grew up in Clarksville, Missouri. He was a standout student and athlete at Clopton High School (Class of 1986) and later graduated from Westminster College in Fulton in 1990. Even as a kid, he had big dreams and an unstoppable work ethic—a combination that would take him far.

Billy built a career in insurance and mortgage brokerage and spent much of his adult life in California and Texas. But more than anything, he was proud to be a father. His two sons, William Broderick Black (“Brody”) and Baron Spalding Black, meant everything to him, and he never missed an opportunity to tell people how proud he was of them.

Billy later met Tatiana in Austin, Texas, where he started a new chapter and embraced a blended family, becoming a loving father to Julia and Clara.

Billy was funny, kind, and fiercely loyal. He had a way of making people laugh—whether through his quick wit, deadpan delivery, or just a well-timed glance. He loved the simple things—a round of golf, a day on the water, a perfect Missouri tomato, Harold’s homemade pickles, sushi, and a St. Louis Cardinals win.

Billy is survived by wife Tatiana Black; children, Brody, Baron, Clara, and Julia; mother, Linda R. Black; sisters, Shari Black and Joe Grote and Whitney Black and Alec Denes; aunts, Mary Dell Black and Lisa Pitzer and husband, Clint; and uncle, John Seward and Todd.

He was preceded in death by father William R. “Rusty” Black; grandparents William L. and Mary Jane Black and Gregory and Mary Seward.

Billy was deeply loved and will be missed beyond measure. His kindness, humor, and presence will live on in all of us lucky enough to have known him.

FOR SALE

SELF-STORAGE - In Vandalia. Units in 3 sizes - 10x20, 10x10, and 8x10. L&S Storage, 573-248-4563.

MODERN MATURITY BUILDING - Vandalia - Family reunion, shower, birthday. Call Art Wiser, 594-3224. (tf)

NOTICE

NOT responsible for debt other than my own. John Boyd. (tf)

FOR SALE

USED ELECTRIC dryer, \$150. Vandalia Firestone, Appliance & Furniture, 573-594-6624.

REAL WORLD Wildlife Products - Food Plot Seeds & minerals. Glenn Eicher, 19986 Pike 468, Curryville.

WASHER \$300. Vandalia Firestone, Appliance & Furniture, 573-594-6624.

USED upright freezer, \$200. Vandalia Firestone, Appliance & Furniture, 573-594-6624.

USED ELETRIC DRYER, \$200. Vandalia Firestone, Appliance & Furniture, 573-594-6624.

REFURNISHED COMPUTERS, parts, accessories. Call Geeky Hillbilly Computers 573-324-7176. (tf)

FOR SALE

GOOD used tires, passenger & light truck, \$15 & up. Vandalia Firestone & Appliance, 594-6624.

METAL ROOFING. Wagler Metals: 21764 Pike 409, Bowling Green. (tf)

HYDRAULIC rock clearing rake, \$1,500. 636-697-8499. (tf)

NO HUNTING

NO TRESPASSING OR HUNTING on the property of Cherlyn Boots. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for accidents on property. (tf)

SERVICES

GEEKY HILLBILLY COMPUTER SERVICES LLC - B.G. computer repair & recycling, 573-324-7176, 573-567-6164.

LAWN MOWING BIDS

Accepting insurance bids and must be returned by April 15, 2025 by 2 p.m., for Louisiana Housing Association, Inc.

There are three locations and specs sheet will be at 522 Tella Jane Lane, or you can call 573-754-4434 (cell 573-754-2377 to meet with site manager to look at the grounds.

INSURANCE BIDS

Accepting lawn mowing bids and must be returned by April 15, 2025 by 2 p.m., for Louisiana Housing Association, Inc.

There are three locations and specs sheet will be at 522 Tella Jane Lane, or you can call 573-754-4434 (cell 573-754-2377 to meet with site manager to look at the grounds.

SERVICES

RICK’S LAWN EQUIPMENT & GOLF CARTS - Sales, service, and parts. Used golf cars and mowers. Hwy. 54 West, Louisiana, MO 63353, 573-754-5055.

B&J SEPTIC PUMPING - Commercial or residential, septic pumping & repair, sewer augering & repair, grease trap pumping and porta potty rentals. Butch Menne, 573-384-5536.

BROWN’S SEPTIC PUMPING - Commercial or residential, portable toilet rental, job sites, special events, auctions. Brown’s Septic Pumping, 206 Brown Lane, Louisiana, 754-5812.

SERVICES

NAME DOILIES - Hand crocheted by Ann Hecox. Make great personal gifts. 217-656-3654 annahcx@gmail.com.

PUT OUR ADS TO WORK FOR YOU

HUME REMODELING

Plumbing • Electric
Painting • Cabinets • Flooring
Concrete Vanity & Kitchen Tops - Window & Door Replacement
Tex Ceiling Fix



FREE ESTIMATES

Call Ty Hume - Cell 573-470-6148

For Sale

The Public Water Supply Dist. #1 of Pike County is accepting sealed bids on two 2019 Ford Supercab 4x4 long bed trucks. The trucks can be viewed at the district office located at 1106 W. Adams, Bowling Green, during regular office hours 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The sealed bids will be accepted on each truck “AS IS” until 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2025.



HOURS: Sat. 9 a.m.-noon

Hickerson Shoe Repair

116 N. Court - Bowling Green
573-470-3413



TARGET

WINDOWS & DOORS

Now under new Management

Local Manufacturer
Now Accepting Applications
Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Health & Life Insurance / 401K
Paid Holidays / Paid Vacation

Apply in person at:
Target Windows & Doors
800 W. State St.
Vandalia, MO 63382

EOE

Vandalia Barber Shop

215B S. Main - Vandalia

573-594-3521

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday By Appointment

All haircuts \$10

Harold Williams

"Institute Of Higher Learning"

We Buy Salvage Cars and Farm Equipment Will Pick Up

Ben's Auto Salvage
754-3265 or 754-0508

JAY HURD TREE SERVICE

485-2332 or 573-470-1929

FREE ESTIMATES - LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED

I.S.A. Certified Arborist On Staff

Now accepting most major credit cards



\$47,468

Stock #T4183B - 2024 Hyundai Palisade Calligraphy, Ext. Color Abyss Black Pearl, Interior Color Black, 1,690, 19/24 MPG City/Hwy., All Wheel Drive

Poage Ford
573-324-5130

1110 Bus. Hwy. 61 S. • Bowling Green, MO

Shop 24 hours at
www.poageford.com

Community News

Child Care Gaps Cost MO \$869 Million Annually, MU Extension Research Finds

Analysis from University of Missouri Extension reveals that Missouri loses an estimated \$869 million annually due to child care shortages. This includes \$723 million in employer costs from absentee workers and turnover along with \$146 million in tax revenue that would otherwise be collected to support state and local economies.

“The cost to employers due to a lack of child care access is a tangible data point that helps us better understand how this issue affects businesses and workforce development,” said Luke Dietterle, a specialist for Exceed, an MU Extension regional economic and entrepreneurial development program. “The data we’re collecting can inform ongoing conversations about solutions to Missouri’s child care challenges.”

In a recent MU Extension Exceed Missouri Economy Indicators brief, researchers explored child care availability and affordability across the Show-Me State. They found that for every 10 children under age 5, there are only 4.6 available child care slots; this issue is compounded by a lack of affordability. The brief notes that the average annual cost of full-time child care is \$8,100, nearly 14 percent of a family’s median income.

Alan Spell, MU Extension assistant professor and Exceed director, notes that there are positive points to consider in the realm of child care. As outlined in the recent Exceed brief, Missouri’s child care workforce has rebounded from the pandemic disruption, with 2024 employment up 4 percent from 2020, Spell said. Statewide, just under half (45 percent) of Missouri counties reported increased child care capacity in 2025.

To serve child care providers and analyze the economic impact of child care shortages, MU Extension is developing new resources, including a toolkit for practitioners, through the help of MoExcels. A workforce initiative of the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, MoExcels facilitates development and expansion of employer-driven education and training programs and initiatives.

“Through this MoExcels grant, MU Extension is developing a menu of options to help employers and communities improve their early child care situation,” said Sarah Kennedy, MU Extension community development field specialist. “There is not a single solution to early child care. MU Extension wants to meet people where they are at and help them along their journey. Together we can improve early child care across Missouri.”

For more insights on Missouri’s child care landscape, read the latest Missouri Economy Indicator brief at <http://muext.us/MEI>.

For more information about MoExcels, contact Sarah Kennedy at skennedy@missouri.edu or Luke Dietterle at luke.dietterle@missouri.edu.



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Pictured are winners of the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest 2025 at Van-Far R-I, from left: Shaylen Bailey, junior high communication arts teacher; Tyler Carlyle, first place essay winner, son of Jeff and Angie Carlyle of Vandalia; Makenna Hall, second place, daughter of Jason and Erica Hall of Vandalia; Victoria Shaw, president of the VFW Auxiliary; and Joy Davis, secretary of the VFW Auxiliary and chair of the Patriot's Pen essay contest committee. Tyler and Makenna are eighth grade students in Mrs. Bailey's communication arts classes at Van-Far. The topic of their essays was "My Voice in America's Democracy". They received certificates and cash awards.



MO Angus Foundation Scholarships

These junior members received Missouri Junior Angus Foundation scholarships at the 2025 Missouri Angus Association Annual Banquet, Feb. 22 in Columbia. Pictured, from left: Melaina Thiltgen, Republic; Samuel Jordan, Savannah; Alexis Koelling, Bowling Green; and Chase Litton, Boonville.

Photo by Lauren Gilbert.

PIKE COUNTY, MISSOURI	
2025 POLLING PLACES	
Elks Lodge 120 N. 5 th Street Louisiana, MO 63353 <i>Buffalo B and C</i>	Bowling Green Community Center 201 W. Locust Bowling Green, MO 63334 <i>Cuivre K</i>
American Legion 370 420 Kelly Lane Louisiana, MO 63353 <i>Buffalo D and E</i>	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1806 W. Main Bowling Green, MO 63334 <i>Cuivre M</i>
American Legion 504 S 2 nd St Clarksville, MO 63336 <i>Calumet F, G and H</i>	St Clement - Knights of Columbus Hall 14516 Hwy J Bowling Green, MO 63334 <i>Ashley NO Hartford PQ</i>
Eolia Community Center 100 Community Lane Eolia, MO 63344 <i>Prairieville I</i>	Curryville Presbyterian Church 201 E. Main Street Curryville, MO 63339 <i>Spencer TU, Indian RS</i>
Church of the Nazarene 807 S Court Street Bowling Green, MO 63334 <i>Cuivre JL</i>	Frankford Christian Church 111 N. Main Cross Frankford, MO 63339 <i>Peno V</i>



MO Angus Foundation Scholarships

These junior members received Missouri Junior Angus Foundation scholarships at the 2025 Missouri Angus Association Annual Banquet, Feb. 22 in Columbia. Pictured, from left: Melaina Thiltgen, Republic; Samuel Jordan, Savannah; Alexis Koelling, Bowling Green; and Chase Litton, Boonville.

Photo by Lauren Gilbert.



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the General Municipal Election will be held in the County of Pike on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 as certified to this office by the participating entities of Pike County. The ballot for the election shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF ELECTION OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT PIKE COUNTY, MISSOURI APRIL 8, 2025		
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice, like this <input checked="" type="radio"/> . Use the marking device provided. CANDIDATES: Complete the oval next to the name of the Candidate for whom you wish to vote. PROPOSITIONS: If you are in FAVOR of the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word YES. If you are OPPOSED to the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word NO. WRITE-IN: To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided for such purposes and complete the oval next to the space provided.	Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District Board Member Proposition 1. To choose by ballot two (2) board members who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each. (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> William Wilkinson <input type="radio"/> Tyler Penn <input type="radio"/> Christopher Pritchett <input type="radio"/> Chad Schofield <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Clarksville For North Ward Alderman 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Sue Lindemann <input type="radio"/> Theresa Palmer <input type="radio"/> (write-in) City of Clarksville For South Ward Alderman 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Angi Grossnickle <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
Pike County Memorial Hospital For Board Member 5 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Bowling Green For Alderman Ward I 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Diane Kirkpatrick <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	Village of Eolia For Board of Trustees 2 Year Term (Vote for 3) <input type="radio"/> Katheleen Watson <input type="radio"/> Andy Young <input type="radio"/> Lynn Reuther <input type="radio"/> Christopher Lair <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
Van-Far R-1 School District Board Member Proposition 1. To choose by ballot two (2) board members who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each. (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Mathew Roed <input type="radio"/> Dustin Holt <input type="radio"/> Bryan Allen Evans <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Bowling Green For Alderman Ward II 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Thomas H. DuBach <input type="radio"/> Cheryl L. Jennings <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Frankford For Mayor 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
Pike County R-III School District Board Member Proposition 1. To choose by ballot two (2) board members who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each. (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Nathan Adams <input type="radio"/> Judy L. Cannon <input type="radio"/> Christy Kuntz <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Bowling Green For Alderman Ward III 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Kim S. Luebrecht <input type="radio"/> Dennis Morrison <input type="radio"/> Robert Grummel <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Frankford For At-Large Alderman 2 Year Term (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Robbert Sherman <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
	City of Clarksville For Mayor 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Jo Anne Smiley <input type="radio"/> Robbert Howland <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	City of Frankford For At-Large Alderman 1 Year Unexpired Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)

NOTICE OF ELECTION OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT PIKE COUNTY, MISSOURI APRIL 8, 2025	
City of Louisiana For Councilperson Ward I 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Kristen Baker <input type="radio"/> Heather Wernowsky <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	Pike County 911 Eastern District For Board Member 4 Year Term (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Larry Beauchamp <input type="radio"/> William B. Sterne <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
City of Louisiana For Councilperson Ward II 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> Janet Edwards <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	Pike County 911 Western District For Board Member 4 Year Term (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Anthony "Tony" Windmiller <input type="radio"/> Jennifer Grote <input type="radio"/> Clarence L. Henke <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)
City of Louisiana For Councilperson Ward III 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> James Bell Jr. <input type="radio"/> Glenda Sherman <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	
City of Louisiana For Councilperson Ward IV 2 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> John Phillips <input type="radio"/> Eugene Baker <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	
Village of Paynesville For Board Member 2 Year Term (Vote for 2) <input type="radio"/> Stephen Eisele <input type="radio"/> (write-in) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	
Louisiana Special Road District 3 For Commissioner 3 Year Term (Vote for 1) <input type="radio"/> (write-in)	
I, Laura Stumbaugh, County Clerk/Election Authority within and for the County of Pike, State of Missouri, do hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true and correct list of the Candidates entitled to be voted for at the General Municipal Election to be held on April 8, 2025.	
s/ _____ Laura Stumbaugh, County Clerk	