

THE PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

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Present Past

The Clarksville Memorial VFW Post 4610 and Auxiliary held their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Clopton on Saturday, April 19, it was held in the Clopton School cafeteria because of the rain. Approximately 75 or more youth attended, gifts were given to the youth also a cake walk was held. It was a great success. Pictured are: Commander Herbert Everett, President Mary Tarpein, Joanne Hammuck, and Sseated at the small gift table was Glenette Boatman and Susan Richardson, where everyone could receive a gift. Placing the eggs in the cafeteria were Matt and Mary Ann Schreder, and Abigal Tarpein, Virginia Starks was there to assist with the cake walk. Seated at the large gift table was Carolyn Everett. They could receive a large gift if they found a winner tag in their egg. Everyone enjoyed both of the activities.

Bowling Green R-I Elects Officers

BY LARRY TWELLMAN
R-I School Board Elects Officers
Reorganization was the first item on the agenda for the Bowling Green R-I School Board at their meeting on Tuesday, April 15.
Scott Hunt and Tamara Scherder were sworn in to three-year terms at the beginning of the meeting.
Hunt and Scherder were the only persons to file for the two board positions that would have been on the ballot for the Tuesday, April 8 municipal elections. Since only two people applied, no election was held.
Holly Delgman was elected to serve as board president and Tim Gamm was elected to serve as the board's vice-president. Gamm was also appointed to serve as the district's Missouri School Board Association's delegate with Scott Hunt appointed to serve as the alternate to that position.
The district's three school

nurses presented their annual report to the board concerning the services they provide to the students and staff. They requested that the district consider purchasing another vision screener.
Currently the district has one vision screener that is used at all buildings and also used for screening young children enrolled in the district's Parents As Teacher program.
Superintendent Nick Larson said that another vision screener would be considered as he develops the budget for the coming school year.
Three students: Abigail Haas, Lucas Orf, and Jake Piper, presented to the board information about their FFA projects. The three students, proficiency winners at the area level, will compete at the state level later this month.
The board approved the school calendar for the 2025-26 school year. The first day of classes will be Aug. 18 and the final day of school is

scheduled for May 15, 2026. The district will have 169 days of student attendance and that will generate additional state money according to legislation passed in 2024 by the state legislature.
Bowling Green Elementary Principal, Cory Kessler, praised the quick action of custodian Billy Motley for putting out a small fire there earlier this month.
Superintendent Larson reported that he would be recommending the hiring of several staff members in the executive session to be held later and reminded the board members that Middle School graduation would be held Thursday, May 15 at 6 p.m., and high school graduation would be on Friday, May 16 at 7 p.m.
The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, starting at 5:30 pm in the district's meeting room.

Brandon Rice Held Without Bond

A Vandalia man is facing multiple felony and misdemeanor charges after prosecutors allege he violated a court-issued order of protection and committed sexual offenses against the same victim.
According to the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, 37-year-old Stuart Brandon Rice of Vandalia was charged on Tuesday, April 8, with eight criminal counts, including: sodomy in the first degree, attempted sodomy in the first degree, stalking in the first degree, and five counts of violation of an order of protection for an adult.
The charges stem from multiple investigations by the Audrain County Sheriff's Office, spanning from April 2024-February 2025. Court documents allege that Rice engaged in repeated and unwanted communication with a protected party, despite being under a full order of protection that prohibited contact except through a monitored app and only regarding child custody matters.
Deputies allege that Rice sent more than 300 unauthorized messages and initiated multiple phone calls between October 2024 and February 2025. Some of the communications allegedly included threats, harassment, and attempts to control or manipulate the victim's behavior.
In addition to the stalking and protection order violations, Rice is also accused of two separate incidents of sexual misconduct against the victim while she was asleep and in a vulnerable condition. One of those incidents allegedly occurred in August 2024 at the victim's residence while children were present.
The state has requested that Rice be held without bond, citing concerns for the victim's safety and Rice's repeated disregard for court orders. During a bond hearing held April 15, the court agreed and ordered Rice to remain in custody. A bond review hearing is Tuesday, (today) April 22.
All persons named are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



2024 LCBA Advocate Award

Louisiana Community Betterment Association was pleased to present the 2024 Advocate of the Year award to Russell "Sonny" Stevens during the annual banquet of the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, held on Thursday, April 10. The Advocate Award began in 1918. This award is to honor someone in the community who gives up their time and talents, and is always there, although, does so in a way that is not outwardly recognized by many others. Stevens, or "Sonny" as he is known by so many within the community, is definitely one of those people. Stevens served our country in the U.S. Army. He loves water sports, is a Mizzou Tiger fan and avid golfer. Stevens served as a city councilman for many years and volunteered for over 40 years as the statistician and announcer for the Louisiana High School football team. He has served as a volunteer at Pike County Memorial Hospital for over 25 years in the gift shop and at the front desk. Sonny is also the biggest fan and supporter of his eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, attending nearly all of their athletic games, concerts, theater, productions, dance recitals, and other events. Sunny received a standing ovation when the award was presented by Diana Huckstep, LCBA Chairperson.

Photo by Brent Engel

NECAC Observing 60 Years

Agency Struggles Out Of The Gate

BY BRENT ENGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Editor's note: Following is the second in a periodic 2025 series by
Like so many organizations, NECAC had youthful growing pains after its establishment in 1965.
Incorporated as the TRICO Economic Opportunity Agency in April 1965, the name, location and coverage area would change over the first few years.
TRICO initially was based in New London and administered federally-funded programs in Ralls, Pike and Monroe counties. The name was changed to QUINCO in November 1965 after Marion and Shelby counties were added.
QUINCO featured talented, experienced leadership. One of the early administrators was George H. Pace, a World War II veteran, Hannibal businessman and community organization member who had served three terms as a Missouri state representative.
Early programs included Head Start, commodities dis-

tribution, high school equivalency classes and youth employment training.
In 1968, the agency merged with Daniel Boone Human Development Corporation of Troy. The agreement added Lincoln, Montgomery, St. Charles and Warren counties to the fold.
The merger was done to "extend programs over a larger area to reduce administrative expenditures," one newspaper reported.
In 1970, Daniel Boone's headquarters were moved to Bowling Green. Around that time, the concept of Community Action - people helping people to help themselves - was coupled with the ideals of community development.
Rebuilding housing stock, improving job training programs and creating new opportunities through better education became the focus for NECAC and sister agencies across the nation.
CAAs became the "testing ground" for proposed social service programs. Those that were successful were picked up and run by federal agen-

cies, with administrative operations handled through Community Action. The move forced agencies such as NECAC to once again adapt.
There had also been a change in the structure of boards that oversaw the agencies. The concept of a tri-partite board - with a public elected official, civic interest nominee and a low-income representative - was implemented.
In 1973, the name was changed again to North East Community Action Coalition, which would remain in place until North East Community Action Corporation became the title in 1980.
Others at the helm through the early years included Larry Fulham, Charles Thomas, Conrad McMillan, Anthony Liebig and Elliot Smith.
By bringing together the diverse interests of its communities, NECAC became stronger. And little more than a decade later, the tri-partite concept would prove significant when Congress again decided changes were in order.
Next time: A new leader.

Vandalia Man Charged Following Alleged Intentional Crash

A Vandalia man is facing multiple felony charges after allegedly using his vehicle to intentionally ram another car occupied by two adults and a child last week.
According to court documents and a probable cause statement from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, troopers responded to a crash at approximately 6:47 p.m. on Monday, April 15, at the intersection of South Main and East Woodlawn streets in Vandalia. They found a red Dodge Challenger with front-end damage. The vehicle was occupied by a man, a woman, and a juvenile at the time of the crash.
The investigation deter-

mined that the Challenger had been struck by a white Ford F-150 pickup, allegedly driven by Joseph Dean Fischer of Vandalia. Authorities said Fischer fled the scene before law enforcement arrived. The truck was later discovered unoccupied on County Road 437 in Pike County.
On the morning of April 16, troopers arrested Fischer during a traffic stop while canvassing the area. According to the probable cause statement, Fischer admitted to being the driver of the truck and claimed he ingested three grams of methamphetamine as troopers initiated the stop. He was taken into custody and later transported to a hospital.
Fischer has been charged

in Audrain County with three counts of first-degree assault, armed criminal action, tampering with physical evidence, and first-degree stalking. Prosecutors allege Fischer struck the victim's vehicle deliberately and had sent threatening communications and traveled to the victim's location prior to the incident.
Court records indicate Fischer has a lengthy criminal history involving assault, stalking, resisting arrest, and violations of protection orders. He is currently being held without bond. A court-ordered mental evaluation is underway, and a bond review hearing is scheduled for April 24 in Audrain County Circuit Court. *All persons named are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

The Mule Man Pike County Native Draws World Attention

BY BRENT ENGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Editor's note: Following is the first part in a story series by contributing writer Brent Engel.
In some ways, his personality fit the disposition of the animal which brought him both acclaim and acrimony.
Luke Emerson once was the Monarch of Missouri Mules, and embodied the rugged design, intellectual prowess and resolute spirit for which Pike County residents were known worldwide.
Often quiet yet undeniably commanding, Emerson had other passions that would sometimes get him into trouble.
"He was one of those daring, dynamic personalities that crop up very rarely," wrote author John Ashton. "His admirers considered him a real he-man - one to be esteemed for his forceful qualities and his conventional, spontaneous effusions of energy and enterprise, as well as for his total disregard of what his critics might think of his actions."
The gritty farm boy was born in Buffalo Township outside Louisiana on Sept. 10, 1860. He was only four months old when his mother, Catherine, died at age 45.
His father, Edward, made sure Luke, his three brothers and four sisters had "the advantages of a good education" to set them on a course for "the right discharge of the duties of their future stations or positions in life," according to "The History of Pike County, Missouri" from 1883.
In 1867, Edward Emerson

paid the equivalent today of more than \$400 as a founding member of the Agricultural and Mechanical Society of Pike County. The organization sponsored fairs on a 10-acre site at Ashley, with stalls for 100 animals and a grandstand that could seat 3,000 people. The younger Emerson got his first taste of showing mules there.
A decade later, the teenager took a huge business leap and began importing male donkeys, or "jacks." The first shipment of 40 came from Spain. The idea was to breed them with female horses to produce mules that could then be sold for a profit in the United States and overseas.
Despite being a man of few words, Emerson once explained his affinity for the mule.
"It possesses the patience, endurance and sure-footedness of the jack, and the vigor, strength and courage of the horse," he wrote. "It is easily kept, very hardy, and no path is too precipitous or mountain trail too difficult for one with its burden. The mule enjoys comparative immunity from disease, and lives to a great age."
He wasn't the only fan. Controversial evolutionist Charles Darwin called the mule "a most surprising animal" and said that because it seemed to "possess more reason, memory, obstinacy, social affection, powers of muscular endurance and length of life than either of its parents," it indicated "that art has here outdone nature."
Emerson set up a large mule operation near Ashley,

calling it "Jack Town" and making sure that "the necessities of life could be purchased without going to Bowling Green," according to the Missouri State Board of Agriculture.
"Luke is doing an immense business," the Mexico Ledger reported. "Intending purchasers will meet with a cordial reception here," Rural World magazine added.
Some neighbors were not impressed. One publication said the "leathern-lunged animals" made "an appalling chorus" daily.
All the braying only fattened the pocketbook. While most mules could be purchased for what would today be \$2,500 to \$3,500 each, Emerson sold elite stock for as much as \$26,000 per animal.
"Pike beats the world for fine jacks, especially the imported variety," the Clarksville Sentinel said in 1893.
While deals were made close to home, larger success came in selling to brokers in other countries. A pair of jacks that went for \$225 in America could fetch \$1,600 in Europe and Africa.
Rural World commended Emerson and his team for "climbing the hills and tramping the valleys of the Pyrenees and Catalonia in selecting the choicest of the Spanish product of jackdom."
By 1895, newspapers were calling Emerson "The Mule King of Two Continents." The throne, however, would not be devoid of trouble.
Next time: Murder or self-defense?

Community News



Louisiana Chamber Awards

More than 110 people attended the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Thursday, April 10 at The Gatherings at 601 event center. Pictured are State Rep. Chad Perkins, left, presenting a Missouri House resolution recognizing Don and Sherry McCarty as Louisiana Citizens of the Year. KJFM Radio was named Chamber Member of the Year and the Louisiana Community Betterment Award went to Russell "Sonny" Stephens. Guest speaker was Luke Reed, director of legislative affairs for the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The evening included music from MizzOkie Entertainment of Louisiana and magic from Master Illusionist Keith Jozsef of St. Louis. The 2025 chamber board of directors was sworn in. President is Layne Ebers; vice president, Brent Engel; treasurer, Diana Huckstep; secretary, Viki Cadwallader; and board members Tannis Sanders, Heather White, Dr. Tom Ward, Jeri Smith and Edna Dolbeare. Executive director is Brook Patterson.

Photos By Brent Engel



Welcome Home!

Members of the Clarksville Garden Club recently re-installed the purple martin houses on the riverfront in Clarksville. Purple martins will return to their nesting spots each year as long as their living quarters are still there. Each year, Joe and Linda Pridgeon, members of the Clarksville Garden Club, ensure that the Purple Martin houses are put up in a timely fashion welcome home the purple martins. Joe and Linda also give of their time to monitor the purple martin houses during the year, and then remove them at the end of the season, so that they can be cleaned and readied for the next year. Clarksville Garden Club is pleased to manage the purple martin houses for the Clarksville community and others enjoyment. The Clarksville Garden Club is a member of the Missouri Federated Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening, the club offers an array of informational programs at each meeting. The club meets the 4th Thursday of every month. Wanda Lucas is the current President. For more information or to become a member, please contact Joe Pridgeon, treasurer at: 573-754-0243. Clarksville Garden Club is always happy to welcome new members.

WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS



Away From The Mic

KJFM Radio was named Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year during the group's annual banquet April 10. Pictured, from left, are station personnel April Fronick, Tannis Sanders, Gordon Sanders and Brenden Ince. At right is State Rep. Chad Perkins, a broadcast veteran who still can be heard on KJFM.



Call If Needed

Luke Reed, director of legislative affairs for the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was the featured speaker at the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Thursday, April 10. Reed discussed the group's legislative priorities for 2025, including child care and Proposition A reform, and encouraged businesses to reach out to his organization for help with business advocacy.



No Strings Attached

Master Illusionist Keith Jozsef wowed the crowd at the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet April 10 with a variety of card tricks and optical magic. He's pictured levitating a table with audience participant Hannah Williams.

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Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

Thanks to all who participated in the Easter egg hunt in Bowling Green Park. Thanks again, park board for all your efforts in making this another BIG success.

Hope all had a nice Easter and celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, for the forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting!

As National Volunteer Week and Month are approaching, it is one of the amazing aspects of Bowling Green's community personality. It is one of helping our neighbors and especially serving those who served in our Armed Forces.

BTW, there were some outstanding displays of history and especially Bowling Green and Pike County at the VFW History Day on April 12. Thanks to all those who had displays and presentations. They were very impressive!

Volunteers from the Men's Ministry put on a new deck for a single mom and her daughter and the list could go on for all those who have come to the rescue doing good deeds for one another in our wonderful town. These leads to the promotion of Love Thy Neighbor program where Second Baptist Church and other volunteers from the area work together to repair or replace structures on the outside of homeowner's houses.

For those who are not physically able or cannot afford to make these exterior repairs to their home, experienced and knowledgeable volunteers will upgrade, replace, or repair for free. There is no charge for this program! This is a multi-

denominational construction-based ministry for Bowling Green residents.

This is an all-volunteer program designed to show the love of Jesus and be His hands, feet, and mouth to help and love others. Forms for projects and for volunteers are available on-line at Love Thy Neighbor Bowling Green, at the Second Baptist Church, and at local Banks.



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

The projects will start on June 15 and go through June 19. Now is the time to obtain the forms either for house repairs or volunteers, so if you are interested, please sign up now. Listen to KJFM or check the our excellent newspapers for more details.

I'm so excited by all the housing construction and new businesses coming into Bowling Green. I am also excited about all the plans your council and alderpersons have in store for improvements and upgrades for our summer projects.

Yet, according to my survey results in the papers, Bowling Green is still in great need of apartments and a big push for smaller homes. It corresponds with a National movement where advocates for smaller and more affordable housing is occurring.

Bowling Green is on the cutting edge of what's happening nationally. People are trying to save money, reduce waste, fraud, and be a voice for change.

As our country still seems to be polarized, let's be a model for towns and cities to come together in harmony and cooperation to see great things accomplished! Show Me the Potential and Possibilities of Bowling Green!

Pike To Pike...



By Wyvetta Davis
1-217-320-8438

Saturday, April 26, there will be a band (part of The Big River Band and a couple other singers) at the Pike County Senior Center with the show from 6:30-9 p.m. No admission charge. There is to be a 50/50 drawing, some other drawings, a concession stand offering good snacks at reasonable prices, and most of all good music. Come on out for a good evening.

Birthdays and anniversaries for the week of April 23-29, 2025.

April 23 - Tina Lovelace
April 25 - Mike Devine
April 27 - Whitney McDonald

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 Answers from Last Week:

1. How many prisoners were crucified with Jesus? (two prisoners)
2. As soon as Jesus died on the cross, what important thing in the temple was torn into? (the veil of the temple)
3. Whose new tomb was Jesus' body laid in? (the tomb belonged to Joseph of Arimathea).

Easter guests at the home of Patty and Larry Manker were: Kevin Manard and Jean Jones; Mitch and Eugenia Lyons; Robert and Kathy Manard, Amber, Andrea, and Addilyn; Clarissa Manard and Monty Ramsey; Judy Schlieper; Marlene Craig; and Dawnyetta Manard and Ben Westfall and Charlene. They all enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and played games and the girls had fun at an Easter egg hunt.

Jamie and I attended Easter Sunday services at Ramsey Creek Baptist Church in Clarksville, Missouri, with Jamie's son, daughter-in-law,

and granddaughter James, Amanda, and Shayla Niffen. Afterwards, they invited us to their home in Annada for Sunday dinner. Others in attendance were Wanda Brown, Amanda's mother, and Amanda's brother Aaron Brown of Louisiana, Missouri. Enjoyed the delicious meal as well as all the visiting.

You all missed a good show at the Cardinal Inn Friday evening, April 18, with the Big River Band. It's kind of a shame that the Big River Band is there only once a month and Bingo is going on every Friday night. I'm all for Bingo but when a good local band is there only one Friday night a month, it would be nice to show more support. There's my rant for the week. And if you are complaining about the sound being too loud, my suggestion is sit back a few rows. People in the back said it sounded fine and that they could finally hear it.

Single Seniors is still going on their once a month "meet, eat, and greet" excursions, and it's never too late to join. Just call me with questions and if interested at 1-217-320-8438.

Case Of Measles Confirmed In MO Traveler

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is announcing a confirmed case of measles in a visitor of Taney County associated with recent international travel.

The case is in a child whose vaccination status has not yet been verified. There is no indication of widespread exposure as this person was diagnosed soon after arrival to Taney County. Exposure is believed to be limited, and known contacts have been identified and contacted. DHSS is supporting the Taney County Health Department in the disease investigation and advising individuals with possible exposure. This is the first confirmed measles case detected in Missouri this year.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that typically begins with fever, cough, runny nose and red and watery eyes. Symptoms appear 7-14 days after contact with the virus. Tiny white spots may appear inside the mouth 2-3 days after symptoms begin. Measles rash appears 3 to 5 days after the first symptoms. It usually begins as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline. They then spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia,

encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and death. Measles can be transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes. The virus can remain infectious in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves an area. People who are infected will begin to have symptoms on average 1-2 weeks after being exposed to a person with measles.

People who think they have measles or may have been exposed to measles should isolate themselves and call their health care provider before arriving to be tested. It is important to let the provider know that the patient may have measles and to get instructions on how to come to the office for diagnosis without exposing other people to the virus.

The best way to prevent getting sick is to be immunized with two doses of a measles-containing vaccine, which is primarily administered as the combination measles-mumps-rubella or MMR vaccine. Two doses of the MMR vaccine prevent more than 97 percent of measles infections. A small number of vaccinated people can occasionally develop measles. In these cases, the

symptoms are generally milder, and they are less likely to have severe disease symptoms and spread the virus to other people. DHSS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend children receive one dose of MMR at 12 to 15 months of age and another at 4 to 6 years. Unvaccinated adults can also receive "catch-up" MMR vaccination. Children too young to be vaccinated are more likely to have severe complications if they get infected with the measles virus. However, each MMR dose lowers the risk of infection and the severity of illness if infected.

"For those unvaccinated or those unsure of their vaccination status, now is the time to review records and get caught up if needed," said Dr. George Turabelidze, state epidemiologist with DHSS.

Health care providers can find recommendations for infection control and diagnostic testing in the health alert issued on March 7. Providers should report any suspected cases to their local health department immediately, preferably while the patient is still with the provider.

More information about measles and county-level MMR vaccination rates can be found at Health.Mo.Gov/Measles.

State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

SAFEGUARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

This week, the Missouri House passed HJR 73, a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at restoring Missouri's commitment to protecting innocent life and upholding parental rights. Introduced by Representative Brian Seitz, HJR 73 seeks to reverse the effects of Amendment 3, a narrowly approved measure from November 2024 that expanded abortion access in our state.

Amendment 3 was subject to a large amount of out-of-state funding and voters were left unaware of a vast amount of language that was included in the amendment. This initiative would go back to be voted on by the people of Missouri

and if passed would reinstate a near-total abortion ban, allowing exceptions only in cases of rape, incest, medical emergencies, or fatal fetal anomalies, with a 12-week gestational limit for the former two exceptions.

The resolution also prohibits taxpayer-funded abortions and bans gender transition procedures for minors, aligning with existing state law. This resolution reflects the values of Missouri families by safeguarding life, ensuring responsible use of public funds, and protecting children from irreversible medical procedures.

PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY

This week, HB 225 passed a vote of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee and now awaits third reading in the Senate.

The bill aims to enhance public safety by allowing the chief law enforcement executive in any jurisdiction to request assistance from another jurisdiction, including those outside the state of Missouri.

This ensures that law enforcement agencies can collaborate effectively across jurisdictional lines, providing them with the flexibility to respond swiftly to emergencies and complex investigations. By facilitating mutual aid agreements, HB 225 strengthens our state's ability to protect

its citizens and uphold the rule of law. Supporters argue that the bill reinforces Missouri's commitment to law and order by empowering local authorities with the necessary tools to maintain public safety.

ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN MISSOURI'S DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES

This week, the Missouri House passed HB 499, a forward-looking economic development bill aimed at creating new opportunities in some of the state's most economically challenged areas.

The bill establishes "earnings tax opportunity zones," which align with federally defined "distressed communities" and are designed to ease the local earnings tax burden for residents, workers, and businesses operating within these zones.

Starting Jan. 1, 2026 individuals who live or work in one of these designated zones will be exempt from paying city earnings taxes on their wages, salaries, commissions, and other compensation.

Similarly, businesses and corporations conducting activities in these zones will see their net profits exempt from city earnings taxes.

The goal is to incentivize investment, job creation, and economic activity in communities that have long struggled with poverty and underdevelopment

Auxiliary To VFW Post 2173 Meets For April

The Auxiliary to VFW Post 2173 met on Thursday, April 10, at the Vandalia Area Fairgrounds.

President Victoria Shaw called the 7 p.m. meeting to order. Opening ceremonies were observed.

The March meeting minutes were approved as read. The treasurer's report was given and filed for review. The audit report for January, February and March 2025 was given and accepted.

Officers for the 2025-26 year were elected or appointed as follows: President

Victoria Shaw; Senior Vice President Val Galloway; Junior Vice President; Wanda Winders; Secretary, Joy Davis; Treasurer Judy Hull; Chaplain Lionel Shaw; Conductress Ruth Miller; Guard Ruth Miller; Historian June Willis; Patriotic Instructor, June Willis; Trustee #3 Lloyd Shaw; Color Bearer #1 June Willis; Color Bearer #2 Val Galloway.

The Charter was draped in memory of Carolyn "Carrie" Williams by President Victoria Shaw with the

traditional ceremony to follow.

Closing ceremonies were observed and the meeting was adjourned.

The five members attending were J.C. Davis, Val Galloway, Judy Hull, Lionel Shaw, and Victoria Shaw.

The next scheduled auxiliary meeting is Thursday, May 8 at the Vandalia Area Fairgrounds. The time of the meeting will be 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

Volunteer Master Gardeners Help Others

April is National Garden Month, and April 20-26 is National Volunteer Week. In Missouri, almost 3,000 volunteer Extension Master Gardeners donate their time and expertise to advance the program's mission of "helping others learn to grow."

"Volunteers in the Missouri Extension Master Gardener program are passionate about gardening, and their willingness to share their knowledge with others is phenomenal," says Debi Kelly, state coordinator for the University of Missouri Extension Master

Gardener program. "They are truly a great group of people.

Through workshops, hotlines, speakers bureaus, garden show booths and demonstration projects, Master Gardeners provide gardening information to thousands of Missourians each year. Their dedication has an estimated economic impact of more than \$5 million annually, Kelly said.

To find out how volunteer MU Extension Master Gardeners share unbiased, research-based horticultural

information in your community, contact Debi Kelly at 573-445-9792 or kellyd@missouri.edu.

Additional contacts Cindy Besch-Williford, chair of the Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Chapter, willifordc@rocketmail.com, 573-239-9991.

Jan Ivey, demonstration garden chair, Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Chapter, ively@missouri.edu, 573-289-9632.

Learn more about the program at <http://mg.missouri.edu>.

Learn About Turtles In Virtual Program

Turtles are a long-time and fascinating resident of Missouri's outdoor world.

People can get information about the species of turtles that reside in Missouri at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) virtual program "Amphibians and Reptiles: Turtles," April 29. This free online program, which is being put on by the staff at MDC's Springfield Conservation Nature Center, will be 6-7 p.m. People can register at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/206894>

At the April 29 program, MDC Naturalist Morgan Wyatt will discuss the variety of species of turtles found in Missouri and how they've been able to be part of our outdoors world for approximately 200 million years. Wyatt will also discuss what people can do to be sure these remarkable reptiles continue to be a part of Missouri's outdoors.

Though this program is free, registration is required to participate. Use the link above. Registrants must provide an e-mail, so a program link can be sent to them. This program will include a chat-based question-and-answer period where participants can interact with the presenters.

MDC's Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield at 4601 S. Nature Center Way. People can stay informed about upcoming programs at the nature center by signing up for text alerts and e-mail bulletins. People who have questions about how to sign up for text alerts from the nature center can call 417-888-4237.

Staff at MDC facilities across the state are holding virtual and in-person programs. A listing of these programs can be found at mdc.mo.gov/events.



Side-By-Side Poker Run

Clarksville Memorial VFW Post 4610 and Auxiliary participated and helped serve breakfast with the City Of Paynesville on Saturday, April 12 for the Side By Side Poker Run sponsored by the Grow With Eolia, held for the Honor Flight, it was a successful event. Pictured are VFW Commander Herbert Everett, Auxiliary President Mary Tarpein, Paynesville Mayor Joanne Hammuck, Diane Gardner, city treasurer, LaMont Davis, city secretary with his daughter Harmonie. Not pictured Carolyn Everett who is a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

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Mildred ‘June’ Hill

Mildred “June” Hill, 89, of Louisiana died Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory of Bowling Green is handling the cremation rites.

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

June was born June 23, 1935, in Martinsburg, Ill., to Carlos and Lilly Foseter Rodhouse. She was united in marriage to James Emerson DeCamp. Six children were born to this union. James preceded June in death in 2004. June later married Wayne Russell Hill. Wayne also preceded her in death.

June grew up in Pleasant Hill, Ill., and attended Pleasant Hill R-3 Schools. After school, June went to work as a cook at Duvall’s Restaurant in Clarksville. She later purchased and operated Deano’s Pizza in Louisiana until her retirement.

She was very artistic and loved painting. She also enjoyed crocheting. Her pets were family and she absolutely adored them. There wasn’t much June couldn’t do. She loved music and played the guitar and organ. June loved to be outdoors and enjoyed camping and fishing. She never met a stranger and would open her house to any child in need. June was a caring and giving person who will lovingly be remembered by all who knew her.

June is survived by her children, Rhonda Branham of Louisiana, Bob DeCamp and wife, Sandy of Clarksville, Daryl DeCamp, son of Jesse L. Pruitt and wife, Audra of Pittsfield, Ill., Roger DeCamp and Randy of Fort Madison, Ill., Jamie DeCamp and wife, Tina of Effingham, Ill., and Lyndel DeCamp and wife, Carol of Oregon; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Susan; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; children, Ronald Lee DeCamp and Jerry Dale DeCamp; brothers, Paul, Lee, Gene, and Frank Rodhouse; sisters, Elsie Capps, Gloria Norton, and Helen Rodhouse; son-in-law, Donnie Braham; and daughter-in-law, Peggy DeCamp.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Oliver L. Ziemann Sr.

Oliver L. Ziemann Sr., 101, of Elsberry died Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Visitation was Friday, April 11 from 4-8 p.m., at McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes & Crematory in Troy.

Funeral services were Saturday at 10 a.m., also at the funeral home. The Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore officiated. Interment followed in the Troy City Cemetery.

He was born on the 4th of July, 1923 in St. Louis, the child of Fred and Katherine Schantz Ziemann. Oliver was always a very hard worker and grew up on the family farm. In 1941, he married the love of his life, Delena Smith, and the rest is history. Together the happy couple were blessed with two children, Oliver and Shirley.

He provided well for his family by working as a carpenter which he truly enjoyed. When he wasn’t working he would spend time hunting, being outside and just appreciating nature.

Up until his passing he remained very active. Every day he would drive his Kubota up to the mailbox to get his mail. And in the summer he would ride his riding lawn mower cutting the yard. Oliver was always a go-getter and his word was his bond. He will be remembered lovingly by all those who knew him.

He is survived by a son, Oliver and his wife, Sharon of Moscow Mills, and daughter, Shirley Maichin and husband,

Raymond of Troy; five sisters, Sis Kraichely of St. Charles, Doris Hermismeyer of Troy, Charlotte Hoeflerlin and husband, Elmer of St. Peters, Linda Fruend and husband, Harry of Troy, Erma Chapman and husband Ed of Foley; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; as well as many other relatives and friends.

Oliver was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Delena Ziemann, one brother, Earl Ziemann, a sister, Evelyn Ellis, and one grandson, Jeffrey Maichin.

Memorial donations may be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church, c/o the funeral home.

Friends and family are invited to visit our website and sign the online guest register.



Earl Wayne ‘Smitty’ Smith

Earl Wayne “Smitty” Smith, 85, of Bowling Green died peacefully Friday, April 18, 2025, at Hannibal Regional Hospital with immediate family members by his side.

Funeral services for Earl will be held Tuesday (today) at 11 a.m., at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory in Bowling Green with Pastor Rod Ayers officiating. Burial with full military honors will be at Green Lawn Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday (today) from 10 a.m., until the time of services at the funeral home.

Earl was born June 11, 1939, in Vandalia to Walter Clark and Dorothy Miller Smith. He was united in marriage to Martha Ann Jennings on Aug. 20, 1961, in Vandalia. Martha survives.

Also surviving are daughter, Deanna Gillett and husband, Blake of Shawnee, Kan.; a brother, Terry Smith of Vandalia; one sister-in-law, Margaret Jennings of Louisiana; brothers-in-law, Floyd Jennings and wife, Margie, and Wendell Jennings and wife, Lori of Bowling Green; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Larry Smith.

Earl was raised in Estes. He attended grade school in Estes and was a 1957 graduate of Bowling Green High School.

Following school, Earl went to work for Abel’s at the Standard Station in Bowling Green until he was drafted in 1961. He served four years in the United States Air Force and two years in the Air Force Reserves. He was honorably discharged in 1967.

After returning from the service, Earl began his long career working in the auto body industry. He built his first shop where Meyer Implement now sits. In the early 70s he moved his shop to its current location by the Bowling Green City Park.

While Earl concentrated on the exterior of the vehicles, Martha took care of the interior. Earl also owned several other businesses during his lifetime, including owning the Steak House, Laundromat and Robo Car Wash in Bowling Green with business partner and friend, Dennis Allison. However, he always returned to his first passion, auto body repair work.

Earl enjoyed bowling and belonged to leagues at Twin City Bowl in Louisiana. During his bowling career, he bowled two 300 games and a 299 game, placing him in the Missouri Bowling Hall of Fame.

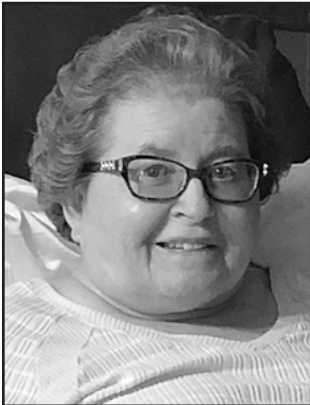
He also enjoyed pitching horseshoes and restoring cars. Earl led the singing at Emmanuel Baptist Church (now Resurrection Church) for a period of time and always enjoyed praising the Lord for all His blessings.

Earl would do anything to help someone and always had a smile and kind word for everyone he met. Earl humbly exhibited his deep and abiding love for the Lord in all that he did, not only through his words, but in his actions

and deeds.

Pallbearers will be Clifford Jennings, Adam Jennings, Dennis Allison, Ronnie Henry, Steve Wiseman, and Bill Bennett.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.



Charlotte Ann Omer

Funeral services for Charlotte Ann Omer, 73, of Perry, will be at 11 a.m., Tuesday (today) at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Perry with pastor Bruce Guile officiating. Burial will follow in the Lick Creek Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m., until the time of the service at the funeral home in Perry.

Mrs. Omer died Friday, April 18, 2025 at Monroe Manor in Paris with her husband by her side.

Charlotte was born Feb. 23, 1952 in Kirksville, the daughter of Walter Edron and Tillie Kathlene Skinner Singleton. She married Fred Omer on May 21, 1994. He survives.

Other survivors include her siblings, Linda Beasley and husband, Pete of Perry, Ronald Singleton and wife, Eileen of Louisiana, Tim Singleton, John Singleton and wife, Sandy, and Lisa Koester and husband, John, all of Bowling Green; along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Charlotte was a member of Santa Fe Christian Church and greatly enjoyed shopping and building crafts, coloring, decorating her home, watching old television shows, and traveling with her husband, Fred.

Pallbearers will be Dale Beasley, Dean Beasley, Tim Singleton, John Singleton, Josh Moss, and Keith Majors. Honorary pallbearers will be Michelle Cupp, Ronnie Singleton, Lisa Koester, Linda Beasley, Pete Beasley, and Scott Leake.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children or St. Jude Children’s Hospital, c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home P.O. Box 427 Perry, MO 63462.

Online condolences may be made at www.bienhofffuneralhome.com.



Michael Gililliand

Michael Gililliand, 62, of Bowling Green died Thursday, April 17, 2025.

A full obituary to follow.

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

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook @ www.mccoyblossomfh.com.

ATS Transit Offers Transportation To Rural Residents

ATS Transit is currently offering regular transportation services to rural residents of any age. To schedule a ride or to inquire about services available in your area, please call the OATS Transit office at 660-415-0901 or 800-654-6287.

You can also visit our website at www.oatstransit.org, where you can find your local schedule by clicking on your county under the “Bus Schedules” tab. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, including seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, they contract with various agencies to serve their clients. They are also hiring drivers statewide, so please share this opportunity with anyone you know who would make an excellent driver, allowing us to continue serving our passengers. Our offices will be closed and regular service will not be operating on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

MDC Reports 243 New Cases Of CWD Found During Past Year

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports it has confirmed 243 new cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Missouri deer in 35 counties. Seven of those counties had their first CWD-positive case: Audrain, Callaway, Lewis, Marion, Miller, Morgan, and Texas.

The CWD-positive cases were found through sampling and testing of more than 36,000 deer during the past deer-hunting season and post-season targeted-removal efforts with most cases being from hunter-harvested deer submitted for sampling.

Missouri has an estimated population of more than 1.5 million white-tailed deer in the state. CWD is a 100 percent fatal disease in white-tailed deer and other members of the deer family. The disease has been attributed to significant deer population declines in other states and threatens Missouri’s deer

population, hunting culture, and economy.

Most of the new CWD positive cases were from the more than 276,000 deer harvested during the 2024-2025 deer-hunting season.

MDC confirmed an additional 70 cases of CWD found through its targeted-removal efforts of 4,768 deer after the close of the deer season in localized areas near where CWD has been found.

“The goal of targeted removal is to remove CWD-positive deer and reduce deer density in these localized areas to slow the spread of CWD and protect Missouri’s deer herd,” explained MDC Wildlife Health Program Supervisor Deb Hudman. “Targeted removal is a proven method to slow the spread of CWD and Missouri is one of several states that uses it to manage the disease.”

For more details on Post-Season Targeted Removal,

visit mdc.mo.gov/cwd.

Those new cases bring the total number of CWD positives found in the state to 815 over 46 counties since the first positive CWD case was found in wild deer by MDC in early 2012.

Although the number of CWD-positive counties increased, Hudman noted that CWD management efforts have kept infection rates low.

“Less than 1% of samples tested positive for CWD,” said Hudman.

According to MDC, hunters and landowners are critical partners in the fight against CWD and can assist the Department by continuing to deer hunt, by participating in CWD sampling, by following regulations designed to slow CWD spread, and by cooperating with targeted removal efforts. Learn more about CWD at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.



Bethel AME-Paynesville Fashion Show

Bethel AME Church of Paynesville held their annual banquet fashion show on Saturday, April 12 at Clopton High School, with ladies of the church. Preparing and Serving the meal and assisting the ladies were Amy, Grace, and John Cooke along with Shea Williamson. Attendance Prizes were Given. Vendors that attended were Simply Chic Boutique, Nana Jan Crafts, and Gypsy Soul from Bowling Green as well as Cuddles and The Rocking Horse from Clarksville. Models from Cuddles, The Rocking Horse and Gypsy Soul, were also on hand, also with Individual Models from St. Louis, O’Fallon, Desoto, Louisiana, Paynesville and other models wearing their own fashions. Entertainment for the evening were Marsha Mayfield, New London, Pastor Besong Hung, Clarksville and Louisiana Methodist Church, Gary Richardson, Louisiana, and Centennial UMC Choir from Elsberry. Narrator for the evening was sister Virginia Starks of Louisiana. Pictured below are some of the Models and Store owners in attendance for the event, it was a very enjoyable evening.

MO FFA State Convention

FFA members from across the state will meet in Columbia, April 23-25, 2025, at the 97th Missouri FFA State Convention to honor fellow members for outstanding achievements, conduct association business, elect new officers and participate in leadership workshops.

Dance with Opportunity is the theme for this year’s annual convention, which is expected to attract more than 8,000 students and guests to the Hearnes Center on the University of Missouri campus.

According to Missouri FFA Advisor Keith Dietzschold, the state association will present State FFA Degrees to 1,088 members who, as a result of their agricultural and leadership achievements, have qualified for the state’s highest FFA degree.

During the annual convention the State Star Farmer, the State Star in Agribusiness, the State Star in Placement and the State Star in Agriscience will be named. In addition, 519 FFA members will receive awards in 45 agricultural proficiency areas for development of their supervised agricultural experience program (SAE). The proficiency areas are varied and include production, management and communications disciplines. SAE programs in Missouri generated more than \$69 million in student income.

FFA members will also participate in a number of organization program areas, including career and leadership development events such as agricultural sales, floriculture, livestock evaluation, and speaking competitions.

The Missouri FFA Association will recognize several adults and groups for their support of agricultural education and FFA. This year 25 Honorary State FFA Degrees will be presented. An additional 16 honorary degrees will be given to parents of the retiring Missouri FFA State Officers.

Three FFA chapters will be chartered during the Thursday afternoon convention session. The new chapters are Brashear, Launch and Lawson.

National FFA President Thaddeus Bergschneider from Franklin, Ill., will address FFA members and guests during the first general convention session Wednesday evening. Additional details and the convention program can be found at <https://convention.missouri-ffa.org>

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The family of Ralph John Niemeyer would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, flowers, food, and memorials.

Markie, Susan, Mike, Randy and families

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Garage Sale - 504 S. Penn, B.G., Wednesday & Tuysr-day, 8 a.m.-?.

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ELECTRIC dryer, \$175. Vandalia Firestone, Appliance & Furniture, 573-594-6624.

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

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

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Community Calendar...

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

On April 24: There will be a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Pike County Health Department, Home Health and Hospice Agency at 8:30 a.m., in the conference room at 1 Healthcare Place, Bowling Green.

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MO Ag Hall Of Fame Inducts Six Members To Hall Of Fame

Six agricultural innovators were celebrated at the 2025 Missouri Agricultural Hall of Fame ceremony on Tuesday, April 8 at the Capital Bluffs Event Center in Jefferson City. The 2025 inductees, recognized for their outstanding contributions to Missouri agriculture, are:

Dave Baker – Former MU Extension State Agricultural Safety Specialist and Missouri Department of Agriculture leader who brought a new approach for safety culture to the Midwest and led multiple initiatives through University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Richard Kampeter & Gary Schell – Co-founders of Diamond Pet Food Co., which grew from humble beginnings in Meta, Mo., to the world's fourth-largest pet food manufacturer, always emphasizing family values and Missouri-sourced ingredients.

Lowell Mohler – A lifelong leader in Missouri agriculture, from Missouri Farm Bureau to Director of Agriculture, and champion of conservation and the University of Missouri, leaving a legacy of agricultural leadership and support for youth programs and the Missouri State Fair.

Mike Parson – Missouri's 57th Governor, a third-generation farmer and U.S. Army veteran, who advanced agriculture through emphasizing its value to the state and supporting economic growth through infrastructure investments like the \$2.8 billion I-70 expansion and workforce development initiatives that created thousands of new jobs.

Eddie Sydenstricker – A transformative figure in cattle genetics and the farm equipment business, growing an industry-leading local then re-

gional John Deere dealership and delivering advances in Angus performance genetics nationwide.

Governor Mike Kehoe met with the honorees during a private reception at the Missouri Governor's Mansion before addressing the 425 industry leaders gathered for the induction ceremony.

"These six individuals represent the heart and soul of Missouri agriculture—hardworking innovators who have built legacies that strengthen our state's economy and communities," Governor Kehoe said.

Established in 2023, the Missouri Agricultural Hall of Fame honors farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness leaders for their exceptional impact on the state's agricultural landscape. Inductees are selected by a committee and celebrated annually. Each recipient received a custom sculpture by Missouri artist Clay Gant of "Cowboy Bronze" in Cross Timbers, featuring a beef bull, wheat, and corn—symbolizing the power and diversity of Missouri agriculture.

The celebration is hosted by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and the Missouri Department of Agriculture with MFA Incorporated and MFA Oil serving as presenting sponsors. Additional support is provided from key partners including ADM, Allstate Consultants LLC., Missouri Electric Cooperatives, Dairy Farmers of America, CFM Insurance, Central Missouri AGRIService, Kinetic Design + Development, Nabholz, and Missouri State University Foundation.

For more information, visit the Missouri State Fair Foundation at www.mostatefairfoundation.net.

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