

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

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FREE



Van-Far Indians Win District Title

The Van-Far Indians traveled to Grandview High School on Friday, Nov. 14 to play in the district championship game. The Indians were victorious by a score of 22-18. The Indians will play at home on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 1 p.m., in quarterfinal play against Hayti. More photos available on our Facebook page. Article may be found on page 7 of today's Tribune.

Trib photo by Kimberly Chandler

The Lost City Of Pygmies

Editor's note: This story is the first in a series by contributing writer Brent Engel.

A century ago, Pike County had an archaeological tale that would have piqued Indiana Jones.

St. Louis excavator R.D. Burchard claimed in November 1925 that he had discovered the ruins of an ancient race of pygmies who lived 20,000 years ago near what would become Bowling Green.

The outrageous tale had some elements of fact, but there were also pieces that sounded more like a fictional movie script.

Burchard announced he'd found 43 rooms and seven connecting passageways 65 feet underground while digging for Native American treasure on the Merle Baker farm a mile north of Bowling Green. National attention ensued.

"Burchard has staked his life savings on the belief that he is on the verge of a discovery that will stagger the world," the Kansas City Times reported.

The diggers "hope to find gold, pottery and possibly mummies or skeletons of the city's ancient inhabitants," the San Antonio

Light said.

The Louisiana Press-Journal jokingly went along with the hoopla, dubbing the find "Pike County's Valley of the Kings" in reference to the tombs of Egyptian rulers near the Nile River.

The Bowling Green Times was more skeptical, saying "we wish we could find an ancient city or something else in or near this place to assist in the progress of our city," but "we do not believe that a newspaper should assist in promoting any proposition unless it is reasonably sure of the success of that venture."

Burchard could sound plausible one moment and preposterous the next. If he had a degree or extensive experience, it wasn't revealed.

The digger told reporters he'd learned about the site from a mysterious Spanish man who had heard the buried treasure story from an unidentified Indian. He found the location with the help of a divining rod, and the entrance apparently was marked by a rock in the shape of a horse's head.

A chain-like rod that the Press-Journal said was "as sensitive as a blushing deb-

utante" was placed at the entrance of the six-foot-wide shaft. In it, Burchard said he found a concrete-like material, soil anomalies and walls that appeared to have been "tamped into position" by "human hands."

The Quincy Daily Herald said a piece of leather, a splinter of wood and several other objects were found. The walls would give back "a hollow sound" when struck with metal tools.

"The 'divining rod' — a strange and almost uncanny instrument for locating gold, silver or copper — points the way to the buried treasure just as the faithful compass brought Columbus safely through uncharted seas," the Press-Journal offered.

There was one bit of comfort for local residents concerned about the big dig. At the outset, at least, Burchard was financing the operation himself at a cost of about \$20,000 — more than \$350,000 today.

Soon, however, requests for financial help would be outweighed only by doubters who thought the whole thing was a dirty boondoggle.

Next time: Scientists weigh in.



Pictured is Vandalia Fire Protection District/Vandalia Fire Department Chief Brandon Straube is pictured addressing the Vandalia City Council at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Photos by Nancy Case

Vandalia City Council Approves Sale Of Building To Fire District

With standing room only, the Vandalia City Council held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the Lange Building.

Following roll call with all council members present, the Pledge of Allegiance, and approval of expenditures. Afterwards, the floor was opened to those wishing to speak on behalf of the newly formed Van-Far Fire Protection District.

The District was approved by voters at the Tuesday, Aug. 5, election. The matter before the council concerned buying the fire station building for \$1, purchasing the trucks and equipment for \$1, and transferring \$70,000 to the District. The \$70,000 has been held in a City of Vandalia account intended for adding a training room to the Vandalia fire station. This issue was previously discussed at the October meeting and was tabled at that time.

Heather Williams of Farber was the first to speak during public comment.

"I feel strongly that the City of Vandalia should support the Fire District with the transfer of all physical and financial assets to the Van-Far Fire Protection District," she told the council. "The City of Farber and the Rural Board have already pledged their support of all physical and financial assets. Transfer of assets will only continue to benefit the community."

Following Williams, Vandalia resident Denise Chamberlin addressed the council.

"On Aug. 5, a special election was held in the City of Vandalia," Chamberlin said in part. "Voters were presented with a proposition to consolidate Vandalia and Farber Fire Departments



Pictured are members of the Vandalia City Council, from left: Larry Shaw, Kevin Motley, Christy Lowrance, Mayor Ralph Kuda, Janet Turner, John Weiser, and David Crow during the discussion on the fire department sale of building and equipment, and trucks.

into a single fire district. The voters approved that proposition, and the citizens made their decision.

"At the October meeting, it is my understanding the city administrator presented a recommendation for the council to approve the transfer of equipment and funds related to this consolidation, as well as the building. The city council chose to not approve the recommendation. That decision was not only disappointing, it was unacceptable. The voters spoke clearly. While each council member may have personal opinions, your responsibility is to represent the will of the citizens who elected you."

"The item on tonight's agenda should be approved—fully, cleanly, and without unnecessary strings attached. It aligns with the will of the voters, and it honors the people who serve this community daily."

Fire Chief of the Van-Far Fire Protection District/Vandalia Fire Department Brandon Straube was the final speaker. He noted, "The current fire station was constructed in 1994 with the intention of serving the entire Vandalia area—not only properties within the city limits, but the broader community as a whole. Much of the interior work at that time

was completed through the volunteered labor of our firefighters, who donated their time, skills, and resources to finish the building. Since its completion, our firefighters have continued to volunteer their time and expertise to perform nearly all repairs and maintenance on the facility, helping the city save taxpayer funds over the years.

"The City's capital improvement funds for the fire department were originally established with the goal of adding a training center to the fire station, with an initial amount of approximately \$40,000. Over time, that fund has been carefully maintained and occasionally supplemented, as the department has consistently practiced fiscal responsibility—spending only when necessary and striving to save taxpayers money whenever possible."

Following Straube's remarks, the council voted unanimously to approve paying the City of Vandalia \$1 for the building and \$1 for the trucks and equipment.

The transfer of the \$70,000 was tabled until the December meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Lange Building, due to remaining tasks required before approval.

Free Variety Show Is Nov. 29 In Clarksville

A wealth of talent is taking the stage in Clarksville, and it won't cost you a dime.

The Changelings theater troupe of Raintree Arts Council is offering a dozen acts as part of its annual Variety Show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, at The Apple Shed in Clarksville.

Doors open at 6, and there is no admission charge. Changelings Director Mary Lang Fournier promises an entertaining evening.

"The range of talent is amazing!" she said. "It's what makes this so fun. Most productions have one director and a theme. For this, everyone is allowed creative license."

Donna Grote is a longtime performer in Changelings shows. She plans to sing the humorous 1991 song "Men" by the Forester Sisters. One verse reads "They buy you dinner, open your door; other than that, what are they good for?"

"Variety shows are fun because you can do any type of performance that you want," Grote said. "And variety is the spice of life!"

Fournier likes the idea of occasionally offering a non-admission show.

"So often, we have big production costs that we need to cover and we have to charge admission so we don't land in jail," she said. "That excludes some folks from the fun. Costs are min-



Donna Grote will be one of the performers when The Changelings theater troupe presents "Variety Show" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, at The Apple Shed in Clarksville. There is no admission charge.

imal for a variety show, and so we're able to offer the fun to everyone."

Last-minute performers will be considered, but Fournier warns people need to contact her so she can "make sure they've rehearsed and have a clear vision before they are given a slot." She can be reached at 817-300-9796.

Shows at The Apple Shed date to 1979, when the Mallin family donated the former fruit processing facility and warehouse to the non-profit Raintree for use as a community and cultural center. Patrons could usually count on at least one big performance every summer, but by 2012 productions were limited.

Fournier her husband, Ricky, revived the venue's

thespian tradition in 2018. Since then, audiences have been treated to plays such as "The Last Romance," "Murder Mystery Wedding" and "The War of the Worlds." Musicals have included "Little Shop of Horrors," "9 to 5," "Willie Wonka" and "The Addams Family." The troupe has even staged outdoor Shakespearean productions such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Comedy of Errors."

The Shed also hosts community festivals, weddings and other artistic performances by outside groups.

"Theater is an inclusive art form, and we're looking forward to seeing ALL of our friends and neighbors at the Variety Show," Fournier said. "Come and join the fun!"

Jeopardy Champ With Bowling Green Ties: Meet Harrison Whitaker



Harrison Whitaker
BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

Harrison Whitaker, 27, is on a Jeopardy! hot streak and he has local roots.

Whitaker is the son of Todd and Beth McCune Whitaker, both faculty members at the University of Missouri. He is the grandson of Charlene McCune of Bowling Green.

Beth is a Bowling Green native, connecting Harrison to our area through his parents and grandparents.

A Terre Haute, Ind., native, Whitaker studied at NYU and Columbia before completing a PhD in Film and Screen Studies at the University of Cambridge. He now works in the U.K. as a researcher and has deep quiz-bowl creden-

tials, including captaining Cambridge's Darwin College on University Challenge and contributing questions to the program.

On Jeopardy!, Whitaker ended a four-game streak by another contestant on Nov. 11 and, through Nov. 14, had four wins and \$116,600 in earnings, with additional games airing after that date.

The Whitaker family is well known in education cir-

cles. Todd Whitaker is a research professor at MU and a nationally recognized author and speaker on school leadership, and Beth McCune Whitaker is a professor in MU's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis and a past recipient of the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

Keep an eye on upcoming episodes as Harrison continues his run.



Bailey Bags 13-Pointer

Ryan Bailey of Curryville is pictured with his 13-point buck he shot during opening weekend of firearms season. The buck measured 174 4/8 inches.

Community News



Pictured are Rotarians Linda Beer, Sherry McCarty and Brittany Taylor with the newest additions to the bedding supplies that are stored at Speed Commerce awaiting delivery to homes of children who need a new bed.

All-Parts Holds Bedding Drive In October

All-Parts, a division of Dorman Products that is located on Highway UU west of Louisiana, conducted a bedding drive in October in cooperation with the Louisiana Rotary Club in order to benefit the Sleep In Heavenly Peace project.

Fifteen sets of bedding and fifteen pillows were donated to the cause by All-Parts contributors, their families, and Rotarians.

Brittany Taylor serves in the human resources department at All-Parts and organized the campaign.

For more information about donating money or supplies to Sleep In Heavenly Peace or to apply for a bed, please contact Sherry McCarty at 573-470-0325.

There is a simple application form that she can help complete. Each new bed comes with a new pillow, mattress, sheets, and comforter with no charge to the recipient. Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a non-profit organization that focuses on building and delivering beds

to children who lack a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

By providing beds, SHP aims to give hope and to improve the quality of life for children in their communities.

Over 300,000 beds have been provided nationwide so far. The Louisiana Rotary Club partners with the chapter based in Liberty, Illinois which is one of over 300 chapters across the United States.

Public Safety Recruitment, Retention Act Scholarship Application Now Open For 2026-27 Academic Year

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) is pleased to announce that the application for Missouri's Public Safety Recruitment & Retention Act Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year is now open.

A key component of Governor Mike Kehoe's Safer Missouri public safety initiative, the scholarship helps cover the cost of tuition for eligible public safety personnel and their dependent children pursuing a qualifying license, certification, or postsecondary degree from a Missouri public or independent college or university or a Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) accredited training provider.

growth and retention of public safety professionals but also strengthening the foundation of Missouri's communities."

Full-time police officers, firefighters, paramedics, telecommunicator first responders, emergency medical technicians, and advanced emergency medical technicians with at least six years of service may be eligible to receive the scholarship. Additionally, the dependent children of those with at least 10 years of service may also qualify. Applicants must also meet certain eligibility requirements, including be a Missouri resident and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To apply, interested individuals must create an account and complete the application through the State Financial Aid Portal. In addition to the application, individuals will be required to upload and submit documentation verifying employment, Missouri residency, and other eligibility requirements.

The scholarship application and supporting documents must be submitted to MDHEWD by Dec.15,

2025, to be considered for the 2026-27 school year. Interested individuals must apply for the scholarship each academic year to be considered for the award.

This means that even if an individual recently completed an application for the 2025-2026 academic year, they would need to complete a new application to be considered for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Public Safety Recruitment & Retention Act Scholarship is a new scholarship established through Senate Bill 71. The scholarship application for the 2025-2026 school year was open from Oct. 1-Nov. 5. As of Nov. 5, the department has received nearly 400 applications for review and consideration.

For more information about the Public Safety Recruitment & Retention Act Scholarship, visit the MDHEWD website. Detailed information about qualifying majors, eligibility requirements, application instructions, and more is available in the Public Safety Recruitment & Retention Act Scholarship FAQs.

Five Ways To Say No To Stress

It's a tiny word that can make a big difference, says University of Missouri Extension assistant professor Karen Funkenbusch.

Yes.

It's another little word that causes stress, burnout and exhaustion.

Learn when to say "no" and when to say "yes," says Funkenbusch.

First Lady Nancy Reagan championed the slogan "Just Say No" in an antidrug campaign. If it were only that easy, there would be a lot less stress and pressure in the world, says Funkenbusch. But it's tough to say no, especially if you're a kind person.

Saying yes is a learned response for many people. From an early age, we're taught that saying "yes" is the right thing to do, whether at work, home or in the community.

Saying no makes us uncomfortable, and most of us fear rejection. But boundaries can reduce stress and create room for family, friends and hobbies that are enjoyable, she says.

Most farm family members are kind — the backbone of the community, the first to offer their time, talent and money to any cause. They're the perfect volunteers: dependable, have a good work ethic and bring casseroles, tools and equipment. And they're likely exhausted.

"Certainly, we need community volunteers and co-

workers who have a willingness to share the load," says Funkenbusch. "But there are times we need to take care of our own health by respectfully declining. Sometimes we need to shelve our guilt and put a protective shell around our physical and mental health."

Doing so gives us time to refresh and reenergize, says Funkenbusch.

Here are five ways to "just say no" to others and "yes" to yourself:

Be direct. Don't give mixed signals.

Be respectful and kind, always, but be firm. Try saying, "Thanks for think-

ing of me" or "I'd love to, but I have other commitments."

Don't feel that you must justify your answer. Sometimes your mom was right. "Well, just because."

Don't say yes if it drains you or exhausts you. Take care of you first. As you've likely heard, you must take care of yourself to take care of others, Funkenbusch says.

Say no to the request, not the person.

Funkenbusch and MU Extension offer more resources to strengthen your mental health at <https://muext.us/SMSFF>.



Clarksville VFW Attends Ceremony
Clarksville Memorial VFW Post 4610 attend the veterans celebration breakfast and ceremony held at the Pike County Health Center in Bowling Green on Thursday, Nov. 6. They had a table that was set up with lots of information, service officer information, post and auxiliary membership applications, and raffle tickets for two raffles. Attending were, from left: Auxiliary president, Mary McClintock Tarpein, VFW chaplain, Don Traynor, auxiliary treasurer, Joanne Hammuck, and jr. vice commander, Guy Traynor. It was a very inspiring event.

Rhineland Bancshares And BancStar To Merge

Rhineland Bancshares, Inc., the holding company of Peoples Savings Bank, and BancStar, Inc., the holding company of Bank Star, have jointly announced recently the signing of a definitive agreement whereby Rhineland Bancshares, Inc., will acquire BancStar, Inc.

Following the closing of the transaction, BancStar, Inc. will be merged with and into Rhineland Bancshares, Inc., with Rhineland Bancshares, Inc., continuing as the surviving entity. The transaction has been approved by the board of directors of each company and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2026, subject to customary closing conditions including shareholder and regulatory approvals.

Based on the most recent reported financials, the combined institution is expected to have approximately \$992 million in total assets and 18 banking offices across Missouri. With the announcement, Peoples Savings Bank's President &

CEO, Mark Laune, commented, "We are excited to expand our commitment to the St. Louis metro market through the merger of our two organizations.

The team at Bank Star has done an excellent job building relationships with their clients and communities, and it is our plan to deepen those existing ties. Supporting our local communities remains at the heart of our mission, and this partnership with Bank Star is a significant milestone in our journey to serve them better."

"We look forward to teaming up with Peoples Savings Bank," said Joe Stewart III, President and CEO of Bank Star. "This transaction positions us for the future of banking. We're combining the strengths of two well-respected organizations to create new opportunities for our customers, employees, and the communities we serve."

Partnering with Peoples Savings Bank allows us to continue the legacy of local decision making, relation-

ship banking and commitment to community while providing greater access to products and services."

Sandberg Phoenix served as legal counsel to Rhineland Bancshares, Inc. Olsen Palmer LLC served as financial advisor to BancStar, Inc., and Armstrong Teasdale LLP served as its legal counsel.

About Peoples Savings Bank Peoples Savings Bank, the wholly-owned banking subsidiary of Rhineland Bancshares, Inc., was founded in Rhineland, Missouri in 1935.

With 15 locations, Peoples Savings Bank's commitment of and long history of providing solid, reliable products and services secure its future as a leader of independent banks.

Based in Rhineland Peoples Savings Bank has \$801 million in total assets when including their recently-closed acquisition of FarmBank. For more info, please visit www.ourpsb.com.

Dairy Foods, Fiber: Smart Pairing

November is National Diabetes Month — a national proclamation designed to raise awareness and education about diabetes.

In the United States, approximately 38.4 million people have this chronic disease that affects how an individual's body turns food into energy.

Food choices, in conjunction with medication and physical activity, are key to managing diabetes. Protein-rich, low-fat dairy, paired with fiber-rich foods, can play an integral role in this management.

Following a meal, the body's digestive system breaks down carbohydrates — starches and natural or added sugars — into glucose, a simple sugar that is the body's preferred energy source. To provide the body's cells with this energy, the pancreas produces the hormone insulin, which allows glucose to enter the body's cells. However, when people have diabetes, they no longer make insulin (type 1 diabetes), or they make a reduced amount of insulin or do not use it efficiently (type 2 diabetes or gestational diabetes). The glucose, or blood sugar, then remains in the bloodstream, which can lead to health complications.

Protein and fiber slow rise of blood sugar

While diabetes is a complex and long-term disease, meal choices can make a positive impact on an individual's overall wellness. Including protein and fiber-rich foods in every meal, for example, will slow the di-

gestion of carbohydrate-rich foods. This, in turn, helps slow the blood-sugar rise after meals and can make diabetes medications more effective.

"Milk, cheese, yogurt and cottage cheese provide quality protein, healthy fats and varying amounts of carbohydrates," said Jessica Kassel, a nutrition educator and registered dietitian with St. Louis District Dairy Council.

"When you combine one of these dairy foods with fiber-rich foods like non-starchy vegetables, berries or whole grains, the blood-sugar rise post-meal will likely slow down. For example, a half cup of cottage cheese delivers 12 grams of protein and only six grams of carbohydrates. Low-fat dairy foods with low to no added sugar can be strategic additions to meals and snacks for diabetes management and for promoting a sense of fullness after meals."

DAIRY PROVIDES CALCIUM & VITAMIN D

Milk, yogurt and cheese are excellent sources of calcium. Milk and some varieties of yogurt and cheese are also fortified with vitamin D, which is essential for absorbing calcium in the diet. Both nutrients tie into insulin production, and some studies have shown that vitamin D may help reduce insulin resistance in those with type 2 diabetes. In addition, eating yogurt regularly, at least 2 cups (3 servings) per week, may reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes according to limited scientific evidence, per the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-

istration.

"According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, calcium and vitamin D are nutrients of concern as most Americans do not consume enough of these nutrients daily," Kassel said. "Calcium and vitamin D are essential for bone health throughout our lives. Vitamin D also supports the immune system and can help reduce inflammation, a trigger of type 2 diabetes. Relying on dairy for these important nutrients is helpful."

Seek a registered dietitian for nutrition counseling

Registered dietitians are uniquely qualified to help people with their nutrition journey and management of diabetes. Dietitians provide individualized counseling tailored to one's needs and goals, and work with their clients' healthcare team.

"Each person with diabetes will have their own unique response to various foods, food combinations and meal timing," Kassel said. "And every day can be different from the last, even if the same foods are eaten. Working with a registered dietitian can be incredibly helpful in navigating diabetes and nutrition. Being proactive with meal choices and activity can go a long way toward fostering health."

Visit www.stldairycouncil.org for more information on the health benefits of dairy. You may also contact Jessica Kassel at 314-835-9668 or jkassel@stldairycouncil.org. Follow St. Louis District Dairy Council on Facebook and Instagram at [STLDairyCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/STLDairyCouncil).



THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway at the barbecue fundraiser for the new furnace fund at the Modern Maturity Building in Vandalia.

Special thanks to those who barbecued, made desserts, and attended. We apologize for the long waits.

Smell Gas. Act Fast.

Natural gas is a safe and efficient fuel, but also flammable — use it safely.

Unintended releases and leaks can be hazardous and easily ignited by heat or sparks. Natural gas is also lighter than air, can migrate into enclosed spaces, displace oxygen, and cause asphyxiation.

If you **hear** a high-pitched whistle, **see** an unusual area of dead grass or **smell** rotten eggs, **leave** the building or area immediately and **call** us at 800.552.7583 to report the leak.

Ameren Missouri responds to natural gas leak calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week — and we never charge for this service.

We value your safety.

As another important safety step, make sure you install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every sleeping area.

Ameren.com/NaturalGasSafety

Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

Congratulations to former Captain Bennie Church who is now promoted to Chief of Police for Bowling Green.

He has certainly proved himself capable of performing the duties that accompany the office. This promotion is well deserved and appreciated for his years of loyalty and achievement to Bowling Green. Many thanks to his family as well as they too, have sacrificed their time and energy to support and promote our amazing city.

Thank the Lord that the federal government shutdown is ending. So many aspects of American society were and still are impacted by this unnecessary political posturing. The economic impact reaches all the way from Washington DC to local communities. The Congressional Budget Office, (CBO), estimates that the Gross Domestic Product which measures the state of the economy, has been reduced by \$14-18 Billion in the 4th quarter of 2025 alone. SNAP, formerly Food Stamps, amounts to about \$100 billion a year or \$4 billion a month to local communities.

These allotments are normally distributed a month in advance. The United States Department of Agriculture covered October but not November. More than 2 million Americans are Federal civilian employees residing in every congressional district across the United States have not received a paycheck since October 1,2025. Yet, Congress-both House and Senate continue to get paid approximately \$15,000 a month in salary despite the shutdown. So wrong! Head Start programs with nearly 700,000 children and 250,000 staff across 44 States are affected. I'm told that

Bowling Green's Head Start is covered through November. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP), assists nearly 6 million households in paying at this time of year heating bills. This lapse can result in life-threatening situations.

Medicare and Medicaid serve 60 million Americans combined and 25 percent in the last quarter rely on this coverage for medical reasons. It cost nearly \$170 million in lost revenue to the GDP by not supporting small businesses to apply for subsidies which make up over 50 percent of America's businesses. Small businesses create competition, which drives down prices, creates more jobs, and in turn increases wages.

This report estimates the economy loses on average \$371 million a month during the shutdown. These stats and figures are reported by the National League of Cities for fact-checking. Look at our airline cancellations and delays.

I write all this not to depress anyone but as I have written very often, Bowling Green and Pike County have been affected by the shutdown and now is a vital time to "love thy neighbor!" For those who "have," we need to help the "have nots." The Hope Center's supplies have been reduced by over half at this time.

NO HUNGER HOLIDAY which has supplied 200+ turkey dinners has now had so many verifiable requests that they have increased their number this year to 300. They had to cut it off at that number due to multiple pleas from across Pike County. Please help those less fortunate by donating money to No Hunger Holiday and/or Hope Center.



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Commission Awards Contracts For Projects In N.E. District

During its regular meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded the following contracts for diamond grinding, resurfacing, and seal coat projects in the Northeast District.

A \$1.1M contract was awarded to Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., for diamond grinding projects in Marion County at the following locations:

Missouri Route 168 - from 0.1 mile east of Route BB in Palmyra to 0.2 mile east of Route JJ

Route JJ - from Missouri Route 168 to the end of state maintenance

A \$3.1M contract was awarded to Magruder Paving, LLC for resurfacing and seal coat projects in Lincoln and Pike counties at the following locations:

Route B - Seal coat from U.S. Route 61 to Missouri Route 79 at Elsberry, in Lincoln County

Route EE - Resurface from Route Y to Missouri Route 47 near Winfield, in Lincoln County

Route U - Seal coat from Missouri Route 47 to 0.7 mile west of U.S. Route 61 near Moscow Mills, in Lin-

coln County
Route W - Seal coat from Route B near New Hope to Route KK, in Lincoln County

Route W - Resurface from Route KK to Missouri Route 47 near Troy, in Lincoln County

Route D - Resurface from Missouri Route 79 to U.S. Route 61 in Eolia, in Pike County

A \$686,2275 contract was awarded to Magruder Paving, LLC for resurfacing eight disconnected sections of the U.S. Route 61 Outer Road in Lincoln County at the following locations:

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road - from 0.10 mile east of U.S. Route 61 to Route KK

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road - from Route KK to end of state maintenance

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road/North Lincoln Drive - from 0.14 mile north of Estates Drive to 0.25 mile north of Woods Fort Drive

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road/Dugan Lane - from 0.02 mile east to 0.3 mile of U.S. Route 61

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road/Frenchmans Bluff Road - from 0.22 mile north of Missouri Route 47 to 0.6

mile south of Dugan Lane

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road/John Deere Drive/College Campus Drive - from Bueneman Lane to Route C

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road - from Route U to end of state maintenance

U.S. Route 61 Outer Road - from John Creech Road to end of state maintenance

Additional information, regarding timelines and traffic impacts will be released prior to the start of construction.

For more information on this and other projects in your area, please contact MoDOT's Customer Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). Work with us in the work zone! Please remember to obey all work zone signs and personnel.

With an increased number of highway work zones in Missouri, we urge all drivers to pay attention every second while driving, especially through a work zone. Be informed of your route by checking the MoDOT Traveler Information Map before you travel.

Pike To Pike ...



By Wyvetta Davis-Niffen
1-217-320-8438

Saturday, Nov. 22, the Big River Band will be at the Pike County Senior Center, 220 West Adams, in Pittsfield, with the show starting at 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome and a concession stand is provided to purchase goodies. There will be a 50/50 drawing during the second half of the show. There is a wonderful dance floor there for people to dance the evening away. They hope to see you there.

By the way, this is their last show at the Pike County Senior Center for 2025, and their next show there will be Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026. If the roads get bad due to bad weather, either call us at the number above, or check on Facebook under our names, or we might be able to put an announcement out on either WBBA or KJFM. Since I told you that this will be their last show for 2025 at the senior center, I might as well tell you that the Band will not be playing at the Courtyard Cafe until New Year's Eve so plan to come then.

A week from this Sunday, Nov. 30, the Detroit Christian Church will be hosting a Hymn Sing, which includes both Thanksgiving and Christmas music, from 3-4 p.m., followed by cookies and hot chocolate. Everyone is welcome to attend. We attended one of these, and besides being well attended, the congregational singing all those won-

derful precious hymns was just beautiful.

Gloria Castleberry wanted me to put in the column that on Dec. 6, there will be a Meet & Greet Santa Claus at the New Salem Town Hall. There will be a parade at 6 p.m., kids' activities that start at 4 p.m., decorate your house and a pie contest, and prizes. Anyone can join the Pie Contest, and the pies need to be at the town hall by 4:30 p.m. The prizes to be given away, the winner must be present to win. Any questions, contact Gloria.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week Nov. 19-25, 2025:

Nov. 19 - Berlyn Thomas, Timothy Blacketer
Nov. 20 - December Butler, Elizabeth Lipcamon, Kara Puterbaugh, Nicole Bedenbender

Nov. 21 - Jonathan Scott
Nov. 23 - Bobby Hutton
Answered prayers are answered in God's time, not ours. Try to remember that when you are praying for each other and special needs.

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:12-13

Trivia answers from last week:

1. How many miles long is the Appalachian Trail? (2200 miles)
2. How many days and nights did Jesus fast before He was tempted by Satan? (40 days and 40 nights)
3. How many states does the Appalachian Trail cross? (fourteen)
4. Since Jesus was hungry after having fasted all that time in question 2, what did Satan want Jesus to change into bread? (stones)

Saturday, Nov. 15, the Detroit Christian Church hosted their Thanksgiving dinner at the Pike County Senior Center in Pittsfield to

a very good crowd. The main meal was prepared by Becky and Mark Winner, and several ladies from the congregation brought in other dishes and desserts to add to the meal. Delicious.

Singles Seniors + One is having their last "Meet, Eat, & Greet" for the year 2025 this week. They are taking off the month of December due to all the events and Christmas get togethers. But they will be starting again in January. Single Seniors +

One is a not-for-profit group of senior adults from 55 years old on up that are single for one reason or another. They all meet at a restaurant that has been chosen by the two of us, and we make reservations on a date and time that is least busy for this restaurant.

Everyone seems to enjoy getting together to eat a delicious meal and visit, and everyone is required to pay for their own meal and transportation. We have anywhere from 13-23 people that attend. Both men and women are encouraged to attend. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Call 217-285-4880 if sincerely interested.

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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.

Additionally, they contract with various agencies to serve their clients.

Offices are closed, and regular routes will not be running on Nov. 27-28 for Thanksgiving and Dec.24-25, 2025 for Christmas.

Registration Open For 2026 Master Gardener Online Course

Registration is open for the University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener online spring 2026 course. The 15-week class runs Jan. 2-April 27.

The online core training course is designed to provide in-depth horticultural knowledge, says MU Extension Master Gardener state coordinator Debi Kelly. The course includes presentations and weekly discussion forums.

To become an Extension Master Gardener, participants must complete the training and volunteer at least 30 hours in the first year and 20 hours per year afterward through MU Extension.

Gardening is an activity with many rewards, Kelly says. "One of those rewards is the satisfaction of sharing your plant knowledge with others." The Extension Master Gardener program provides in-depth horticultural training to individuals who then help others learn about gardening and the environment, she says.

"The program's motto, 'helping others learn to grow,' emphasizes service to others as the program's main objective," Kelly says.

Participants will learn about the mission of the Extension Master Gardener pro-

gram and gain a working knowledge of the fundamentals of gardening and its terminology, she says. The course provides a foundation in plant structure and function, soils and plant nutrition, plant propagation, fruits and vegetables, herbaceous and woody plants, insects plant diseases, landscape design, lawns and safe pesticides use.

Core training is the first step toward Extension Master Gardener certification. After core training, participants complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer service. Local coordinators help on-line trainees find volunteer opportunities to meet the service requirement.

Since its inception in 2013, more than 4,800 people have gone through MU Extension online Master Gardener training. Extension Master Gardener programs are offered in every U.S. state and most Canadian provinces.

Participants will receive a copy of the Missouri Master Gardener Core Manual as part of the registration fee, says Kelly.

Register at <https://muext.us/MGspring26> by Jan. 2, 2026. For more information, contact Kelly at kel-lyd@missouri.edu.

MU Extension is the link between the University of Missouri's proven research, knowledge and resources and Missouri's 6.2 million citizens. With state and local partners, we deliver real-world solutions to address our state's grand challenges around agriculture, economic opportunity, educational access and health and well-being. Faculty and staff in 114 counties and the city of St. Louis work to empower people, strengthen communities and develop leaders. True to our land-grant mission, we serve Missouri and deliver Mizzou as we improve lives and opportunities.

Community Calendar...

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

On Nov. 18: Pike County Democratic Club will meet at 6 p.m., at the Bowling Green Community Center, 201 W. Locust. Pike County Democrat Central Committee will hold a business meeting following.

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Community News

The Buzz On How MU Extension Helped A Veteran Grow Her Business

Jessica Johnson's experiences with University of Missouri Extension have been as golden as the honey she sells.

Johnson, the owner of Ladybird's Bee Yard, participates in MU Extension's Missouri Heroes to Hives program for U.S. military veterans, which aims to improve financial and personal wellness through free professional training and community development centered around beekeeping.

A Marine Corps veteran, Johnson was introduced to Heroes to Hives in 2024 by MU Extension natural resources specialist Joni Harper, also a beekeeper.

Johnson learned about bees from her grandfather, Alton Gilmore, a U.S. Army Korean War-era veteran and beekeeper. The hum of home was never far away, even when she lived halfway across the country from her grandfather. When Jessica and her husband, Cory, packed up their Texas farm to move to Cory's family farm in Stover, Mo., her grandfather set the young couple up with their own hive.

After her grandfather's death, she obtained his hives and honey-processing equipment.

Jessica, Cory and their children live on a Missouri Century Farm that has been in Cory's family since 1885. The process obtaining a Century Farm designation was her introduction to the local MU Extension center, which led her to explore Heroes to Hives and MU's Missouri Agriculture, Food and Forestry Innovation Center (MAFFIC).

The idea for a small family-run business began with the bees and honey but soon grew to include value-added products like beeswax candles, lotion bars, fresh-cut garden flowers and more.

Harper showed Johnson how to use the MAFFIC website to find help to scale her business dreams.

As part of the business-building process, MU agribusiness counselor Whitney Schmidt guided Johnson through developing a customized enterprise budget, an essential tool for understanding startup and operating costs while rightsizing her business for long-term feasibility.

Together, they explored potential markets and demographic trends in her area using the Ag Intel Market Intelligence tool, layering that information with Johnson's own observations to ground her plans in real-world opportunities. Schmidt also introduced the Break Even Pricing tool, helping Johnson see how thoughtful pricing can sustain and grow a business over time.

During the slow season, when the bees stay close to their queen in their hive, the plan is to draw on all the data collected from Jessica's first year of sales to craft financial

projections, explore possibilities for enterprise stacking with cattle and refine pricing strategies across different market channels. "Our goal is always to ensure resources are aligned with both profitability and purpose, and I'm confident that Jessica has the grit it takes to persevere," says Schmidt.

Throughout, Johnson continued to tap into MU Extension programs, including Missouri Beginning Farmers, Master Pollinator Steward, the Pearls of Production livestock program for women and 4-H. She also serves on the MU Extension Council in Morgan County.

She frequently checks the county extension page and MAFFIC's website and uses MU Extension enterprise budgets. Harper's office in the Morgan County Courthouse is a frequent source of information.

"Jessica has done an excellent job utilizing the resources that extension offers and putting them into progressive action," says Schmidt.

Johnson's latest adventure is writing a series of children's books. The first, "Ladybird's Bee Yard," focuses on Ladybird, "a beloved bloodhound," one of six family dogs. The

book tells the story of when Ladybird mysteriously grows flowers from under her doghouse and then grows an actual garden. She takes the flowers to market and follows the path to becoming an Extension Master Gardener.

Johnson says MU Extension programs complement her military training to build a balanced home and work life.

"The Marine Corps taught me resilience and self-discipline, and that has stayed with me as a valued resource. I carry those values into my current life as a farm wife and a stay-at-home mom of three wonderful daughters, whom I homeschool. Parenting, like military service, requires adaptability, leadership and strength. Those skills now show up in everything, from how I run our household to how I run our business."

Johnson, her husband and three daughters are intentional about sourcing supplies locally from produce and flower auctions, farmers markets and other small businesses. Through MAFFIC and Heroes to Hives, they've learned the importance of value-added products to boost revenues. They've also tapped into advice and mentoring from

friends, relatives and neighbors.

"Starting and growing this enterprise has been a journey of lifelong learning, and the University of Missouri Extension has been an essential partner every step of the way," says Johnson. She credits Harper and Schmidt with supporting her and bringing the reliable, unbiased research of MU to her rural area.

"I wouldn't have pushed beyond my comfort zone without the encouragement of MU Extension specialists like Whitney Schmidt and Joni Harper," she says. "They cheered me on when I was ready to give up and saw promise where I saw a mess. They helped bring my dreams to life."

She appreciates the acquaint-

ances and experiences she's had through the early days of her business and hopes she can eventually help other young entrepreneurs. "My biggest piece of advice for anyone starting out is this: Never stop learning. Dive deep into books on your passion, attend local and even distant meetings about bee-

keeping," she says.

"Seek out every bit of knowledge you can. There's always something new to learn. I'm constantly amazed by the abundance of knowledge housed within our extension office, and I encourage everyone to begin exploring it."

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7 OAKS ANGUS | 38 hd of 3-4 y/o Angus Based Bred Cows | Bred to Calve March 24th to May 24th | MO
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Please RSVP by Dec 1st so we can prepare.

Call B&S Insurance @ 573-769-2086

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Check us & our event out on our Facebook page for more details!

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

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Louisiana Area Historical Museum Holding Wreath Decorating Contest

The Louisiana Area Historical Museum is encouraging participation in its first annual wreath decorating contest that is open to local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Wreaths will be sold to the highest bidder with proceeds from the sale to be used in the ongoing restoration of the museum.

The donated wreaths may follow a theme or dazzle with their beauty. All entries will be labeled with the

sponsoring group and numbered, then photographed for the museum's Facebook page.

Bids will be taken in advance on the museum's Facebook page with a final chance to place a last-minute bid in person at the museum from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 29, the date of the annual downtown Christmas parade and Santa's visit to the museum.

Wreaths will be on display in the museum's front window starting Nov. 22

and until such time as bidding is complete on Nov. 29. Winners will then be able to take the wreaths home.

Entries are to be dropped off at the museum, 304 Georgia Street in Louisiana, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 22. There is no entry fee.

Please add color and Christmas cheer to the museum windows by contributing your very special wreath to this fundraiser.

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Good 'Ol Fashioned Turkey Dinner

The Frankford First Christian Church is hosting its annual Ol' Fashioned Turkey Dinner & Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 4-7 p.m., in the church's fellowship hall.

The menu for the dinner includes: turkey, homemade dressing, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, homegrown Pike County sweet corn, hot rolls, cranberry relish, the dinner's signature apple salad with pineapple dressing and your choice of pie or cake.

Tickets to the dinner can be purchased at the door.

All proceeds from the ticket sales, church bazaar and quilt raffle will benefit the ongoing restoration of the church's 26 stained glass windows, which date back to 1893 when the church was built.

Proceeds from previous Ol' Fashioned Turkey Dinners have helped pay for the restoration of the three large stained glass windows in the church sanctuary.

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Community News

Van-Far Claims First District Football Title In 25 Years With Thriller At Grandview

BY BRICE J. CHANDLER
EDITOR

After two hours on the road, four quarters of grit, and one last defensive stand, the Van-Far Indians are district champions again.

For the first time since 2000, Van-Far brought home the Class 1 District 2 Championship on Friday night after outlasting Grandview 22-18 in a dramatic finish that kept the crowd on edge until the final whistle.

The game, held at Grandview High School, opened with early fireworks as both teams reached the end zone in the first quarter. Grandview struck first at the 8:35 mark, but the Eagles' missed point-after attempt proved costly. Van-Far answered minutes later on a quarterback keeper by Kasen Christian, followed by a successful two-point run from Gaven Gaston, giving the Indians an 8-6 lead that held until halftime.

From there, the night became a defensive slugfest.

Van-Far's defense repeatedly collapsed the pocket, sacking the Eagles' quarterback several times and stuffing runs behind the line of scrimmage. Senior wide receiver Pacey Reading, who led the team with six tackles, said the mentality was simple: refuse to bend.

"It was a dog fight," Reading said. "I'm proud of how we responded. We fought until the end. We drove two hours here, and we weren't going to come

home without the title."

The Indians forced Grandview into turnover-on-downs situations throughout the game, including a critical stop on 4th-and-short early in the third quarter. But Van-Far struggled to capitalize, fumbling twice in the second half to keep Grandview within striking distance.

That changed in the final quarter, where all the night's tension finally broke loose.

Van-Far extended its lead to 16-6 with 9:29 left in the game when Evan Utterback punched in a short touchdown run, followed again by a successful two-point run from Gaston. But Grandview answered quickly with a touchdown through at the 7:31 mark, cutting the lead to 16-12.

Momentum seemed to swing toward the Eagles when they recovered a Van-Far fumble with 4:30 remaining, threatening to take their first lead since the opening quarter. The Indians' defense responded with perhaps its biggest stand of the game, forcing an incomplete pass on 4th down inside the Van-Far 20.

Two plays later, the Indians' ground attack finally broke free. Gaston sprinted 41 yards for a touchdown with 2:18 left, giving Van-Far a crucial cushion at 22-12.

Grandview wasn't done. The Eagles found the end zone again with 43 seconds remaining but once more missed the extra point,

bringing the score to 22-18. When Grandview recovered the ensuing onside kick, the home crowd came alive, and the Indians found themselves defending their season one last time.

Grandview moved the ball with short passes, but Van-Far's relentless pressure held when it mattered most. The Eagles' quarterback was chased backward and forced to throw the ball out of bounds on consecutive plays. A final intentional-grounding call pushed Grandview even farther behind the chains, and the last-second heave fell incomplete as time expired.

Assistant coach Cale Utterback said the win reflects years of dedication by this senior group.

"These kids had so much heart," Utterback said. "You could tell they had nothing left, but they just kept pushing. It's been about 25 years since the last district title, and these boys earned it. They've been working since they were freshmen."

Reading said winning for the community was its own motivation.

"We wanted this for Van-Far," he said. "It's huge for us and for everyone back home."

The district championship win extends Van-Far's postseason run and their record to 7-4.

They host 6-5 Hayti on Saturday, Nov. 22 with opening kick-off at 1 p.m.

Obituaries

Continued From Page 4

Joseph Suddarth Sr.; her children, Joseph Suddarth Jr., and wife, Beth and Mary Lou Hausmann and husband, Jerry; grandchildren, Randi Schindler and Joe Alberts, Alissa Horton and husband, Jamie, Noah Suddarth, and Hope Suddarth; and four great-grandchildren, Bentley Walker, Haleigh Horton, Makenna Schindler, and Harper Horton.

Dewanah was actively involved in Campers on Mission, Missouri Baptist Builders, and Windermere Baptist Camp, where she enjoyed serving others and sharing her time and talents.

Her favorite pastime and lifelong love was attending the Missouri State Fair, the people, the places, and lifelong friends that were made. She will be remembered for her faith, dedication, and love of family.

Her parents and two brothers, Wayne and Guy "Judge" Elgin preceded her in death.

Memorials may be made to Pike County Home Care & Hospice.



Karen Sue Riley

Memorial services for Karen Sue Riley, 75, of Vandalia, will be at 11 a.m., Tuesday (today) at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Vandalia, with Pastor Jamie Franke officiating. Burial will follow in Vandalia Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Tuesday (today) from 9:30 a.m., until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Mrs. Riley died Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loved ones.

Karen was born Oct. 19, 1950, to Raymond and Loretta Moore Roberts in Gazette. She was united in marriage to George A. Riley on July 29, 1972. Karen was the youngest of five girls.

Karen grew up in Vandalia and attended Van-Far Schools and graduated with the class of 1968. Early in her career, she worked at the garment factory in Laddonia

and Vandalia. She spent 13 years with the help of Brenda Scrogin delivering the St. Louis Post Dispatch around the City of Vandalia. Karen finished her career working for Waters Furniture for over 20 years. She was known by many for her great customer service while assisting them with their furniture selections.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, George; two sisters, Shirley Benz of St. Louis and Linda Fern Grote of Bowling Green; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. Though they were blessed with children, there were many dogs that received their loving care.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Rosetta Joyce Botts and Martha Charlene Busch, brothers-in-laws, Phillip Grote, Louis Botts, Bill Riley, and sister-in-law, Alma Shaw.

Memorial services may be made to the Vandalia Cemetery or to the donor's choice, c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home, P.O. Box 54, Vandalia, MO 63382.

Online condolences may be made at www.bienhoff-unclearhome.com.

Farber News

By RUTH WILLIAMS

Darby Sharp, Jeff Terry and Bob Branstetter hauled and spread dirt, and spread the grass seed donated by MFA.

Welcome to our new Reach Community Church, 303 Main St., who meet every Saturday at 5 p.m. We also have weekly Sunday services at our Baptist Church, 107 E. Hickory St. with Sunday school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m., and our Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Oak St. worship 9 a.m., Sunday school 10 a.m.

Community Impact Grant - Big or small, every great idea starts somewhere. Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments is offering funds to help cities make it happen. Ideas needed - email or call Ruth Etta. This isn't for city maintenance, but to spark something creative, improve public spaces, address local challenges and enhance community vitality.

Messy Art Saturdays will continue through the winter. Stop by the library and ask Brenda for details or call 573-249-2012.

Mark your calendars: Santa is coming to the Farber Fire Station on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. Everyone welcome!

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Vandalia Salvation Army seeks holiday helpers Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 through Dec. 20 for our Red Kettle Campaign. Individuals or groups interested in volunteering to help Salvation Army Kettle Collection may call 573-594-2146, leave message or contact Janyce Holt, campaign chairperson at 573-594-3260.

THANK YOU

The BONCL R-X School District and PTO extend a heartfelt thanks to our generous community, local businesses, and dedicated staff for making our Annual Chili Supper a success. Your support is deeply appreciated. The students at BONCL directly benefit from your generosity and we are truly thankful. Advanced Eyecare, AJ's Tex-Mex, AllParts, Ashley Jenkins Shelter Insurance, B&B Movies, Denise Foster Bowling Green Medical Group, Bibb Veach Funeral Home, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Suddarth, Mr. Bill Wahl, Twin City Bowl, Bowling Green Lumber, Brown's Auto Body, Brown's SmokeHouse Meats, Buff City Shop, Buffalo Fire Department, C.H. Logging, Carquest - Bowling Green, Caseys, Charlotte Schaffer, Centenary UMC, CMC, Community State Bank, Barnes Roots and Herbs, Creative Therapy, Diffy's Pumpkin Patch, Doris Cadwallader, Doris Love, Dorothy Janes, Dos Primos - Louisiana, Dyno, Xpressions, Fin's Tattoo Studio, Finns, Five Below, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Gambinos, Gordy Farms, Greg's Glass, Handmade Harvest, Henny Penny, High Noon Beauty Company, The Ince Family, Ink Therapy, It's So Good, Jessie Stark, KC Place, Sugar Bean Cookie Company, Kustom Works, La Rootz, LaCrosse Lumber Louisiana, LaCrosse Lumber Bowling Green, Louisiana Flowers and Gifts, Lynn's Heritage House, Mash, Menemeyer Orthodontics, HNB Bank, Meyer Implement, Mississippi Marketplace, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Pam Todd, Pat Schneider, Paula St. Clair, The St. Clair Family, People's Bank and Trust, Pepsi, Pike County Fair Board, Pike Grain Company, Pike 43 Flower Company, Prairies Edge, Raintree Shopping, Rex Bradley Law, River City Towing, Riverside Salon, Gladney Motors, Sarah Haines, Sharon Love, Show Me HH Farms, Mr. and Mrs. Sommer, Spark Maintenance/ Legion Industrial, Spring Hollow, Wayne B Smith Inc., St. Louis Cardinals, Stark Brothers, Cindy Blaylock State Farm, Street Sips, Viki Cadwallader Real Estate LLC, Sudzy Tub, Tara's Cookies, Taste of Philly, Taylor's Bait and Tackle, The Keely Center, The Griffith Family, The Pierre, White Insurance Agency, The Robbs, Tractor Supply Louisiana, Two Rivers Marina, Two Scoops and Backdoor Brick Oven, Veolia, Walmart, Weber Automotive, Worthington House, Twin Pike YMCA, Kathy Miller, Chanda Henderson, Lindy Wood, Dorothy Brown and Darla Coomer.

Louisiana Area Historical Museum Sponsoring Gingerbread House Contest

The Louisiana Area Historical Museum is sponsoring its second annual Gingerbread House contest with a first place prize of \$200 being offered.

The second place winner will win \$100. The prize money is being donated by a local business to encourage participation in the contest to help Louisiana celebrate "the Magic of Christmas".

The houses can be made of any material such as cardboard, Legos, recycled materials, food, etc. Last year's winner was the classroom of Kendall Robb at BONCL School with a creation made from empty water bottles.

Drop-off time at the museum, located at 304 Georgia Street in Louisiana, will be on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Houses will

then be on display in the museum's windows.

Members of the public will be able to vote during the annual Christmas parade through downtown Louisiana on Saturday, Nov. 29 and during the time Santa is visiting the museum. Voting is free. (One vote per visitor, please.)

Come join in the magic of Christmas at the museum.

Claudia Barney Turning 100

Claudia Barney of Bowling Green will be celebrating her 100th birthday with an open house at the Bowling Green Visitor's Center.

The celebration will be held Sunday, Nov. 30 from 2-4 p.m. Family and friends are invited to attend the milestone.

Area Runners Close Out Cross Country Season

BY BRICE J. CHANDLER
EDITOR

Bowling Green boys finish 9th in Class 3; Van-Far boys 7th in Class 1; Clopton pair earns all-state; multiple PRs across area.

Runners from Bowling Green, Van-Far, Clopton, and Silex wrapped up their seasons at the MSHSAA State Cross Country Championships at the Gans Creek Cross Country Course in Columbia on Nov. 7-8, turning district berths into solid state finishes.

Bowling Green's boys closed out the year with a 9th-place team finish in the Class 3 race.

Senior Brendan Finnegan led the Bobcats, placing 46th in 17:26.4. He was followed by teammates Logan Pontius (53rd, 17:33.0), Dallas Bair (81st, 17:53.1), Nathan Schellman (84th, 17:54.8), and Eamon Finnegan (105th, 18:16.7) in the scoring pack. Stephen Smith (152nd, 19:34.6) also competed for Bowling Green.

On the girls' side, Bowling Green's qualifiers each finished in the top half of the field. The Bowling Green cross country program noted that McKinley Vanhooser placed 50th at state with a 40-second personal best, while Harley Haywood finished 61st overall and ran right at her personal best. The team congratulated both athletes and the boys squad on a great season.

Clopton had a big weekend at Gans Creek, with both a boys and a girls runner earning all-state honors and one more school record falling.

Jason Hoffman raced to 4th place overall in the Class 1 boys race with a time of 16:46.2, once again breaking the Clopton school record. On the girls' side, Beau Beauchamp finished 21st in 21:25.8. Both Hoffman and Beauchamp were

named to the Class 1 All State Team.

Clopton's girls also placed as a team at state, with additional finishes from Briley VanBebber (105th, 24:27.9), Charlotte Haskins (143rd, 28:04.3), Trinity Marler (144th, 28:08.3), and Katherine Truetken (155th, 32:08.1). The Hawks program noted that many of their runners beat their personal records and offered congratulations to all of their athletes on a great season.

Van-Far's boys capped their postseason with a 7th-place team finish in the Class 1 race, highlighted by three medalists and a new school record.

Junior Slade Keller broke his own school record with a new personal best time of 17:12.3, good for 10th place. He was joined on the medal stand by teammate Garrett Hopke, who placed 29th in 17:38.6. Completing the Indians' scoring were Jaydon Hug-Hernandez (86th, 18:49.8), Brady Puls (104th, 19:06.4), and Cristian Sastre (127th, 19:38.6), with Tyler Carlyle (139th, 20:10.9) also competing.

On the girls' side, Van-Far's Khloe Wallace medaled with a 30th-place finish in 21:49.9, and teammate Kylee Gibson finished 98th in 24:09.9. The program celebrated the day by noting that Slade, Garrett, and Khloe all medaled, the boys placed 7th, and there were "lots of PRs again today" in what they described as an amazing state performance.

Silex senior Joey Noxon returned to the state meet and turned in another solid run in the Class 1 boys race. Noxon placed 52nd overall in 18:07.9.

The Silex program extended its congratulations on social media, noting Joey's 52nd-place finish and "great job and great season."

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