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NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

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FREE

Hit The Road

Henderson Ousted In Whiskey Ring Case



David Patterson Dyer
By Brent Engel
Contributing Writer
Editor's note: This is the second story in a series by contributing writer Brent Engel.

David Patterson Dyer was surprised when chosen to seek convictions in the 1875 Whiskey Ring fraud. The Louisiana lawyer was not familiar to most Americans, and had limited experience with federal cases. But he was a good friend of fellow Union Civil War veteran William Belknap. Before becoming Secretary of War under President Ulysses S. Grant, the New York native had witnessed Dyer win a tax case involving the Pike County owners of an Iowa tobacco plant. Dyer also was a dedicated Republican and had been a delegate to the 1868 GOP convention that nominated Grant for his first term. On May 20, 1875, the

President named Dyer U.S. District Attorney for Eastern Missouri, where many of the cases would be tried in what author Walter Barlow Stevens called “a stupendous conspiracy.” Still, questions lingered. “I never knew and do not now know what influence brought about the appointment,” Dyer wrote in his 1922 autobiography. There was praise and criticism. “I’ll make David P. Dyer hold them and I’ll cut them all to pieces,” the Ralls County Record quoted an unidentified woman as saying about the Ring suspects. One opponent was former St. Louis Mayor Chauncey Ives Filley, a Republican bigwig who called the prosecutor a “traitor” for being too liberal. In appointing Dyer, Grant kicked to the curb William Patrick, who was instrumental in bringing to light details of the Ring and setting the stage for trials. However, Patrick ran into problems with Grant’s Justice Department, which refused to let him hire petitioners to take testimony in a separate counterfeiting case. There also were unsubstantiated claims that Patrick was chummy with some of the Ring suspects. There’s no proof Grant thought the prosecutor would go easy on the Ring suspects, some of whom

were close to the President. For his part, Dyer said the fact that many were Republicans “did not influence my action” at all. “I tried to do my duty as a sworn public officer and was not swerved from that responsibility by the cry of ‘He is hurting the party,’” he added. Dyer had his hands full, with arrests totaling 300 men from the East Coast to the Midwest. The pugnacious prosecutor asked Grant to appoint his buddy, former Missouri U.S. Sen. John Brook Henderson of Louisiana, to lead the inquiry. Grant disliked his fellow Republican. One reason was Henderson’s 1868 vote against impeaching Democrat President Andrew Johnson, a decision that ended the senator’s political career. But Grant was savvy, and knew that having a recalcitrant firebrand like Henderson onboard would likely put to rest any claims of a partisan investigation. “Let no guilty man escape if it can be avoided,” Grant said a month after appointing Henderson. “No personal considerations should stand in the way of performing a public duty.” He would regret those words. Next time: Right man for the job.

The Year Christmas Stunk



Bruce, left, and Brent Engel in front of the tree that did not stink.

Editor's note: Following is the conclusion of a two-part true story by contributing writer Brent Engel in honor of his father, John Theodore "Jack" Engel, who died on Dec. 22, 2013, at age 85, and family friend Larry Eilers, who passed on March 19, 2020, at age 80. “Come on,” Dad dejectedly said to me. “Get your coat.” The Christmas tree we brought home in the back of an old pickup Dad used to haul manure had stunk up our house. Mom ordered us to take it back to the tree farm four miles away in icy, snowy weather. Dad’s partner in the business, Larry, was not home, so it was up to Dad and me to save Christmas from reeking any further. My brother started laughing as I put on my parka. Dad and I loaded the stinky tree into the truck and fired up the engine as snow started to fall. The streets were like a hockey rink as we headed out of town. “A 15-minute trip is going to take us 45,” Dad said as we crept along. Even with the bad weather, the journey was mostly over flat ground. The worst part would be Pulaski Curve. Not only was it shaped like a slithering snake, but part of it was on a hill. Luckily, a family lived along the stretch, so if we ran into trouble we could always stop and call for help. (There were no cell phones then, dear child). I didn’t know the parents, but their kids about 10 years previously had been

in one of the classes Dad taught at our small-town high school. As we approached the curve, I could feel the back end of the truck start to slide. Luckily, no one else had ventured out. We glided sideways across both lanes until the truck nipped a “Curve ahead” sign. At that point, we were only going about five miles per hour, so there wasn’t much damage. But the impact knocked the stinky tree out of the bed and into the middle of the road. Dad was able to pull on the steering wheel and keep us out of the ditch. The truck righted itself in the wrong lane. “Oh, be joyful,” Dad said as he shook his head and guided the pickup back to the right side of the road. “Well, we’ll have to go get it. We don’t want to cause an accident.” Unfortunately, conditions didn’t make a turn-around that easy. Dad finally decided that he could swing into a y-

shaped intersection about two miles ahead, just before the turn to the tree farm, and get back to the blacktop without too much trouble. We made the turn-around without a hitch, but it took a bit to get back to Pulaski Curve. “What the...” Dad’s voice trailed off as he stared at snow falling on the empty road. “What happened to the tree?” Dad stopped the truck and we got out to take a look. We slip-walked from one side of the blacktop to the other. We checked out the ditches in front of us and behind us. Nothing. We were about to give up when Dad’s attention was caught by a trail in the snow leading up a lane to a house. It looked like something had been dragged along the ground. “It couldn’t be,” Dad said before he started laughing. “Oh, my, are they in for a surprise.” “Shouldn’t we go up there and tell them?” I innocently asked. “No,” Dad said. “Let them enjoy the aroma of Christmas. Besides, their kids were jerks in school.” Both of us laughed as we got back into the warm pickup for the trek home. The next morning, Dad got a call from Larry. “Hey, someone chucked a perfectly good tree in the ditch along Pulaski Curve,” Larry said. “Oh, really?” Dad asked. “Well, don’t...” “I picked it up on my way back from town this morning,” Larry interrupted. “It’s in the shed outside. Now, I don’t have to go out and cut one. I can just put it up in the living room.”



Santa Letter From Years Past
Anita Hearn of Bowling Green shared her husband and his sisters' Santa Claus letters from years past.

Vandalia City Council Votes To Not Transfer Funds To Fire District Approves Five-Year Hold

The Vandalia City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m., in the Lange Building with a large crowd present. A resolution was voted on to waive the water and sewer charges for one year for the new Van-Far Fire Protection District with Aldermen Kevin Motley and David Crow voting no. The resolution passed. City Administrator Darren Berry explained the action in a statement following the meeting. “A resolution was approved waiving the water and sewer bill for one year,” Berry said. “This will give the fire district one less expense to worry about as they get established. We will re-evaluate the situation next year to determine whether the waiver should be continued.” During public comment at the meeting, Van-Far Fire Protection District Fire Chief Brandon Straube asked the council to transfer \$70,000 intended for a training facility addition to the fire district. Straube said the district wanted the funds transferred so they could be invested to help further raise funds for the facility. He finished by thanking the city

for its continued support while asking the council to transfer the \$70,000. According to information shared during the meeting, the funds were given by the city at the request of the fire department in 2021 and 2022. The council approved \$40,000 in 2021, then voted to provide another \$30,000 in 2022, making up the \$70,000 total. Heather Williams, president of the Van-Far Fire District and a property owner within the community of Vandalia also asked that the \$70,000 be transferred to the fire district. Williams said the district was capable of managing the funds responsibly, allowing potential growth while awaiting capital budget development as the tax base is finalized. Williams also addressed the council’s approach to keeping the money within the city’s budget through ordinance. “I respect the council’s intention to manage funds via ordinance, but this approach introduces significant financial instability,” Williams said, adding that ordinances can be changed by subsequent councils. She also noted that with council composition set to change in

April, she believed the current direction regarding the earmark was at immediate risk.” Following discussion, the council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 25-1275 keeping the \$70,000 in the city’s budget for five years. Berry said the ordinance ensures the funds remain dedicated to the project. “The Board unanimously approved an ordinance reserving \$70,000 in the City’s Capital Improvement Fund specifically for the construction of a Fire Department Training Center,” Berry said. “These funds will remain dedicated to this project for the next five years.” Berry also clarified how the funds may be accessed during that period. “In practical terms, this means the Fire Department has \$70,000 available at any time during that period to begin work on the Training Center,” Berry said. “If construction were to start tomorrow, the full amount would be immediately accessible for the project.” In an email sent to the Tribune after the meeting, Straube described the council’s decision as disappointing. **See VANDALIA on page 11**



LCBA Beautification Award
Members of Louisiana Community Betterment Assoc. were pleased to present the LCBA Beautification Award to the Louisiana Area Historical Museum on Monday, Nov. 24. The museum recently underwent a total outside renovation. Pictured from left, top: board members Charlotte Perrine, Judy Schmidt, Mark Had-dock, Jerry Smith, Steve Moss, Ned Glenn, Pat Glenn, LCBA treasurer, Paul-ette Powelson, museum president, Brent Engel and LCBA chairperson, Diana Huckstep.

Stumbaugh Retiring From NECAC



Kevin Stumbaugh
BY BRENT ENGEL

Kevin Stumbaugh started in computers at NECAC the year the first commercial personal version was introduced. He’s leaving at a time when systems seemingly can learn, solve dilemmas and make choices. The 62-year-old Bowling Green man is retiring as Information Technology Operations Director after 42 years with the agency. “I’m ready to move on to another chapter in my life,” he said. “I’m ready to kick back, do some hunting and fishing, spend more time with my family, travel a lot and enjoy cooking on my smoker. I think I can close the door and not look back.” Early on, Stumbaugh had the foresight, attitude and boldness that can lead to success. After graduating from Bowling Green High School in 1981, he earned certification the following year in computer programming at the Control Data Institute, a technical vocational school offered by St. Louis University. Unfortunately, no one was hiring in his field, so Stumbaugh had to take odd jobs. Then, he learned from NECAC custodian John Hollingsworth that the agency had bought a com-

puter that no one knew how to use. The proverbial light bulb lit up. “I went to NECAC and asked to speak to Elliott Smith, who was the director,” Stumbaugh remembers. “He interviewed me and offered me a job on the spot.” Stumbaugh was hired as part of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program as Management Information System clerk. The Radio Shack desktop computer sat unused at NECAC’s Bowling Green administration office, then housed in a building along Main Street. “I pretty much had to teach myself,” Stumbaugh said. NECAC colleagues were immediately appreciative of their young cohort’s efforts. Stumbaugh designed a new intake assessment that helped coordinators work more efficiently with clients. He also developed a program that would print and post 500 housing department checks in four hours. Before he came along, the process had taken as much as three days. Additional modifications were made over the years, including hardware and software upgrades, introduction of the Internet, providing each employee with a computer, a phone via the Internet and linking remote offices to central administration. Another advance came around 2010, when third-party software became more affordable and fit with NECAC’s needs. The agency now uses the Cloud Services for apps and off-site data centers for storage/backups accessed through the Internet.

“My programming skills stopped and I became the IT support where we were maintaining hardware and trouble-shooting using a help desk system,” Stumbaugh said. Not all cutting edge technology is fully welcomed. As with many, Stumbaugh has concerns about how artificial intelligence is going to be used. “It’s going to be confusing how you tell what’s real and what’s AI,” he said. “I think it can be used for bad as well as good.” Stumbaugh will miss his co-workers. He’s had three assistants over the years. The current one, Nathan Kohl, will take over for him. “I was here about as much as I am with my own family,” he said. “You create a lot of friendships and relationships. It’s like having another family.” Stumbaugh and his wife, Rhonda – who is retiring as administrator of the Pike County Health Department – have four children, six grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way in May. There is another baby in the family – Stumbaugh’s 1970 Dodge Charger. He bought the car at age 15 and meticulously restored it over the years. Car enthusiasts can spot it at area shows. “The car was my passion,” he said. “I had always liked getting my hands dirty working on a car or truck.” From time to time, job opportunities in larger communities came along. Stumbaugh is glad he turned them down. “NECAC has been very good to me and a great agency to work for,” he said.

Community News

Protect Your Identity This Holiday Season

It's the season of giving, but make sure you don't give identity thieves the gift of your personal information, says Andrew Zumwalt, University of Missouri associate teaching professor and Certified Financial Planner.

Thieves can use information such as your Social Security number, credit card data or account logins to open accounts, make purchases, drain funds or commit other fraud in your name, Zumwalt said. "Identity theft can damage your finances, credit score and

reputation, and it often takes months to repair that damage."

During the holiday season, more people are shopping, both online and in stores, which means more financial transactions, creating more opportunities for thieves to intercept data or slip in fraudulent activity unnoticed, he said. With busy schedules, gift hunting, travel and holiday stress, people may pay less attention to red flags such as suspicious emails, fake offers and other scams.

Review bank and credit

statements promptly to catch unauthorized charges.

Be suspicious of unexpected emails or texts about package deliveries, tax refunds or "holiday deals," especially from unknown senders.

Limit how much personal information you keep in your wallet or purse; avoid carrying sensitive documents unnecessarily.

When shopping online, double-check website URLs and avoid unfamiliar retailers.

Make photocopies of your credit cards, front and

back, and put in a secure location.

Use strong passwords on your computer.

Check your credit reports at least once a year. You can get a free credit report annually from annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

Make photocopies of your credit cards, front and back, and put them in a secure location.

If you suspect your identity has been stolen

File a report with the Federal Trade Commission

at www.IdentityTheft.gov or 877-438-4338.

Place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting one of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies: Equifax, 800-685-1111; Experian, 888-397-3742; or TransUnion at 888-909-8872.

Notify the fraud departments at your credit card issuers, bank and other places where you have accounts.

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 Miz-zou as we improve lives and opportunities.

Girod Family Auctions FRIDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS AUCTION & APPRECIATION DINNER

Open All Day
Friday for preview

Coins start at
7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 19, 4:30 p.m., 420 Hwy 161, Middletown, Mo 63359

Grady & Nancy Galloway are downsizing. Here are some nice clean items right out of their home.

- 2) Wind-up Wall Clocks-Very Nice
- Lots of Boxes of Unopened Baseball Cards;
- Several Framed Pictures; Lots of Fisher Price Legos and Mega Blocks
- Metal Shop Stool; Several Wooden Shelves
- 4) Stained Glass Windows; 4) Drawer Pine Chest
- White Dressing Table w/Mirror; Mid-Century 6-Drawer Chest
- Heated Pet Mat; Bucket Water Heater; Lots of Board Games
- Rinkmo Vibration Plate; Large Printers Tray
- Boxes of Sheets & Bath Towels; Totes of Yarn
- Box of New Light Bulbs; Lot of Kinex Tubs; Hull Duck Planter
- Metal Trash Can; Large Glass Dome
- Brass Duck & Peacock; 6) New Wahl Elite Pro Set Clippers
- Knitted Quilt; Mole Trap; Heated Dog Bowls;
- Green Moon & Stars Bowl; Charge Hub for Phones; Wireless Ear Buds
- Large Trash Can on Wheels; Lot Flower Planters
- Metal Granite Top Kitchen Storage Cabinet
- Vintage Luggage; Fisher Price Truck & Camper
- Vintage Salt & Pepper Sets; Roll Around Medical Cart
- Lot of New Dove Soap; Ninja Slow Cooker
- Craftsman Grill Set; Mini Cedar & Walnut Dressers
- Several Crock Pitchers; Dog Paper Weight; Carnival & Other
- Older Vases; Old Judge Coffee Jar w/Lid; Dr. Seuss Kid Books
- Louver Fan w/Rechargeable Battery
- 6) Glass Weather Stations; Lot of Sewing Thread; Bag of Coin Slips
- Carnival Bowl & Candle Holder; Glass Rolling Pin
- Disco Ball-NIB; Elf on Shelf; Renu-It Deluxe w/Table Stand
- Old Gilbert Metal Erector Set-Very Nice; Large Pickle Jar w/Lid; Bud Vases
- Several Pieces of Art Glass; Several Bubble Glass Picture Frames
- 10 Gal. Cream Can; Whirlpool Electric Dryer
- 3-Drawer Mid Century White Dresser & Night Stand
- Set of Very Nice Clean Washer & Dryer; Concrete Bunny
- Metal Tiered Plant Stand; Box of Old Photos
- Sewing Box; Lot Pyrex Bowls-Very Nice
- 2) Amish Butter Print Pyrex Bowls; Chenille Blankets
- 4) Pur Water Filters; Wooden Dove Tailed Crate
- 6' Pine Christmas Tree; New Metal Framed Storage Cabinet
- Crafting Organizer; Metal Tubs & Star; Lot of Ice Melt
- Large Concrete Planter; Rubbermaid Yard Cart
- Black & Decker Bit Set; Metal Ornament Tree
- Krackle Glass Vase; Brass Plant Stand; Green Depression Cake Plates; 4) Fold Up Rulers; Set of Fire King Fruit Design Bowls
- Green Depression Oval Bowl; 3) Metal Tool Boxes Full of Tools;
- Paint Sprayer; Craftsman & Huskey Tool Boxes Full of Tools
- Artic Air Outdoor Pro Evaporative Cooler; Midea Dehumidifier
- Cabelas Smart Heat Digital Dehydrator; Off Shore Angler Alumn,
- Fishing Cart; New Craftsman 2800 PSI Power Washer
- There will be several pallets of New Items. Come take a look!
- Mike Geery Coin Collection, Selling at 7:00 p.m.**
- 5) Unc. Washington Quarters, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1976 Bicentennial
- 17) 1776-1976 Bicentennial Kennedy Halves, Several are Unc.
- 1957 & 1958 Proof Lincoln Wheat Cents
- 1960 & 1964 Unc. Roosevelt Dimes
- 1964 Unc. Jefferson Nickel
- Large Bag of Mixed Partial US Mint Proof Sets
- 2) Rolls 2019 US Mint Unc. Kennedy Halves
- 40) 1970's Kennedy Halves, Several are Unc.
- 19) 1980's Kennedy Halves, Several are Unc.
- 6) 40% Silver Kennedy Halves
- 4) Unc. Sacajawea & 4) Unc. Susan B. Anthony Dollars
- 1960 Proof Franklin Half
- 1956, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1963 Franklin Silver Halves
- Large lot of Proof & Unc. US Coins-No Silver
- 6) Proof & Unc. Washington Silver Quarters, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 2) 1964.
- 1957 & 1962 Proof Roosevelt Dimes
- 1944 Mercury Dime,
- 1895 & 1906 Indian Cents
- 1970 US Proof Set

- 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 US Mint Silver Proof Sets
- 1964 US Proof Set Silver
- 1966 US Special Mint Set
- 1980 Canadian Proof Set;
- 1952 Canadian Proof Set
- 1960 Small & Large Date Lincoln Cent Set
- 2016 Ronald Reagan US Mint Coin & Chronicles Set
- 9) US Mint Premier Silver Proof Sets, 2) 1992, 1993, 1994, 2) 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, Some Truly WOW Sets, Will Sell Choice
- All these Proof ASE are US Mint Coins
- 2) 2019 Proof ASE in O.G.P., 1 is Proof, 1 is Enhanced Proof
- 3) 2020 Proof ASE In O.G.P.
- 6) 2021 Proof ASE in O.G.P.
- 2) 2022 Proof ASE in O.G.P.
- 3) 2023 Proof ASE in O.G.P.
- 2) 2024 Proof ASE in O.G.P.
- US Mint 2023 Morgan & Peace Dollar Reverse Proof 2 Coin Set
- US Mint 2021 Morgan Dollar Denver Mint
- US Mint 2023 & 2024 Morgan Dollar San Francisco Mint
- 3) 2019-W First W Reverse Proof Cent NGC, Reverse Proof 69 Red
- 1957 & 1958 NGC Proof 67 & 68 Red Wheat Cents
- 1972-S PCGS MS67 Silver Ike Dollars
- 1978-S PCGS Proof 69 D Cam Silver Ike Dollars
- 2000-P PCGS Sacajawea Dollar PCGS AU58
- 2000-D Sacajawea Dollar PCGS MS62
- 3) 1971-D Ike Dollars, 2 are PCGS AU 58, one is PCGS, MS63
- 1974-D Ike Dollar, PCGS MS63
- 4) 1974-D Ike Dollar, PCGS, 2) MS62, 1) MS63, 1) AU58
- 2) 1976-D Type 1 Ike Dollars, one is PCGS MS62, one is PCGS MS63
- 1976 Type 1 Ike Dollar, PCGS MS62
- 1958 NGC Proof 64 Franklin Half
- 2005-P Marines \$1 NGC MS70
- ASE 2016-W 2019 West Point Mint Hoard Lettered Edge Proof 70 Ultra Cameo
- ASE 2016-W First Edition 1 of 5000 PCGS Proof 70 D-Cam Lettered Edge
- 2020-P ASE PCGS MS70 Emergency Issue First Day of Issue
- 2021-W ASE Heraldic Eagle T-1 First Release Proof 70 Ultra Cameo
- 2021-S ASE ANACS MS70 Emergency Production First Strike Coin
- 2019 & 2022 US Mint Congratulation Set ASE Proof Coin
- Bag of Poke'mon Trading Cards
- 3) 1953 & 1963 Series \$2 Red Seals
- 3) Series of 1976 \$2 Bills-Crisp
- 2) The Japanese Government Ten Rupees
- 2017 US Mint 225th Anniversary Enhancer UNC Coin Set
- 2012 US Mint ASE San Francisco 2 Coin Silver Proof Set-WOW
- 2019 US Mint Royal Canadian Mint Pride of 2 Nations, Limited Edition, 2 Coin Set, this is another WOW
- 2006 ASE 20th Anniversary US Mint 3 Coin Set-Beautiful
- Apollo 11 50th Anniversary, 2019-P, 5 oz. .999 Silver, First 5 oz. Comm. First Day of Issue Proof/70 Ultra Cameo
- Royal Mint Executive Proof Collection United Kingdom 2016 Proof Coin Collection
- 2) 1964 Canadian Proof Sets
- 2020 US Mint American the Beautiful 5 oz. Silver Unc. Coin
- Last, but by far not the least...*
- Here is one of the finest sets of ASE you will find, 2011 5 Coin ASE Set, 25th Anniversary Silver Coin Set
- 3) 1964-D NGC First Day of Issue Kennedy Halves, one is MS65, 2 are Choice BU out of Discovery Bag, All 3 Come with W-NGC COA
- GUNS**
- Llama Mini Max 45 Sub Compact 45 Cal. Pistol
- Taurus 9 mm Pistol w/Holster & 2 Mags
- Chiappa Rhino CO2 .177 BB Pistol in Case
- Browning Model 1911 22 Cal Pistol w/Pink Grips-NIB
- Hammerli Arms Forge H1 22 Cal. Pistol NRA, NEW in Hard Case
- G-Force Arms 516 Filthy Pheasant 12 ga. O/U Walnut Stock-NIB
- Remington Arms 243 Cal. Bolt Laminated Wood w/Iron Peak Scope-Like New;
- Ruger Charger 22 Cal. LR Pistol-NIB
- Savage Arms Model 334 30-06 Springfield Cal.-NIB
- Mossberg Patriot 308 Win Cal. Bolt Action NRA Engraving-NIB
- Stoger Model 3000 12 ga. Auto Vent Rib-Like New

Girod Family Auctions

For questions, call 573-470-3660. Hauling services available if needed. Lunch Served. Auction schedule to be announced auction morning. Everything sells where is, as is, with all faults. We act as agents only. GIROD FAMILY AUCTIONS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT *We thank you for your business. Give us an opportunity and we can earn the rest.*

Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

Only 2 and ½ weeks left in 2025 and last chance to make donations to tax-exempt organizations like the City of Bowling Green and/or many of our churches and other non-profits.

An example of how caring and giving people of Bowling Green are: a woman with four children had her car break down in our town. One of you residents approached and was willing to empty their wallet to help. The stranded mother explained she needed her vehicle repaired. So, this resident took her to O'Rielly's and purchased the car part. Our hero boldly asked if O'Riley's could do the repair in which they responded, "No, but let us call someone who might be available to do so."

The person was available and fixed the stranded visitor's car and did not charge her anything for doing so. Now that's Bowling Green and that's who we are as a community! If you're looking for a tax break and giving would benefit you tax-wise, please consider Bowling Green's 501 C (3) organizations. It could be in the form of land, cars, boats, stock/bonds, jewelry, or houses. Check with a Bowling Green financial adviser on procedures and assets possible for tax breaks

Bad weather may be a challenge, but the mayor's choices for best Christmas decorated homes and businesses will happen again this year. \$50 for best Christmas decorated house and \$50 for best decorated Christmas business. \$30 will go to each second-place house and business. And \$15 to third place choices. I've already noticed some beautifully dec-

orated abodes!

As 2026 approaches, many benefits of the big beautiful bill will kick in. That is, no tax on tips, overtime, or social security. The start of building new facilities has already begun and will greatly increase as trillions of dollars from foreign investors will start building manufacturing facilities along with AI and computer chip development.

More and more college age adults are looking to trade schools and entrepreneurship which will result in more houses and goods being made in America. This means more Americans being put to work than ever.

Alliance fulfilled 209 customer service requests and completions. Our building inspector and code enforcement department has 57 active permits with 14 single families, 2 multi-family and 1 commercial which are 17 new constructions. Bowling Green's new Plumbing Distribution Center Romar's opened its doors for business.

Our animal control officer responded to 19 various situations. Our Police Department responded to 648 calls from November to Dec. 1. While our fire department responded to 23 medical calls alone within city limits. Thanks to all who have been Ringing the Bell helping Pike County residents. Heat up Bowling Green and Pike County will be coming soon.

There are always those who need a hand up. In looking at industry leading businesses for interested manufacturers, services, sales, marketing, recruiting, and research, Bowling Green has great possibilities and potential.



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

December Library Book Review



Kasi Welborn

December 2025 Library Staff Book Review
Dating After the End of the World
by Jeneva Rose,
Reviewed by
Kasi Welborn,
Circulation Assistant-Mexico Public Library
Casey Pearson is a doctor. A good doctor.

Well, a good resident doctor. That doesn't stop her from being in the thick of things when the zombie apocalypse starts. Right there in the middle of her ER.

After months of hiding in her apartment, and now her fiancé has run off who knows where, she only has one place left to turn back: home. Home means returning to her doom prepping father, who she has tried her hardest to leave behind. But he might be the only one who was prepared for what's happened to the world.

When she gets home, she finds that her dad has become friends with the most unlikely person: her high school bully. What is a girl to do?

This is a wonderful twist to two different genres: end of the world and enemies to lovers. I devoured it and gave it five out of five stars for sure. I love the dynamic Casey has with her best friend and the redemption arc the author gives the bully.

Because every young child usually has a bully at home, and he had the decency to outgrow childish behavior. Mostly.





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Pike To Pike ...



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

Keep each other in prayer. Pray for God's guidance in each other's lives. Thank God for everything He has done for us and continues to do for us.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judae'a, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week Dec. 17-23:

Dec. 17 - Mark Welch
Dec. 18 - Larry Manker
Dec. 19 - Chris Shafer
Dec. 20 - Jessie Ward
Dec. 21 - Randy Garner
Dec. 22 - Jim Blacketer, Ken Davis, Ron Troxell 2, Trella Dunham

Tuesday, Dec. 9, I stopped to

mail some things at the Barry Post Office around 11:15 a.m. Thinking all I had to do was hand the postal worker my envelopes, and I could be on my way, I was stopped when she said one envelope did not have a stamp. I had not brought my purse in with me, so was getting ready to head out the door, when the other lady that was doing business in there, stopped me and paid for my stamp. I told her I would run out to the car to get some change to pay for that, but she graciously told me not to worry about that and said Merry Christmas.

Jamie and I called on Veneita and Ricky Blackstun Wednesday, Dec. 10, and had such a good visit. We felt so welcomed in their home.

I promised a couple the other day that I would tell you all the following. The American Legion Bingo in Pittsfield on Friday evenings at 7 p.m., is something our area should be glad we have. I did some checking, and did you know that there is no bingo in Hannibal or Quincy or at any of the towns in between? This is something that everyone can do, 18 years old on up. It's purely inexpensive clean fun where you can be around others, maybe make some new friends (I'm all about that), and actually exercise your brain while you participate. I recommend, if you have Facebook, to join the Pittsfield American Legion Post, and just check it out, in case the weather is iffy. Also they do have food that you can purchase ahead of bingo, and on that Facebook page, it tells what the food will be.

Next week I plan to put in when the musical entertainment in our area will be for the next few weeks.

Trivia Answers from Last Week:

1. In what two states does the Appalachian Trail begin and end? (Georgia and Maine)

2. The angel of the Lord told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus from Bethlehem to where to keep Jesus safe from Herod? (Egypt)

3. Once Jesus was safe (question 2), and Herod had died, the angel appeared to Joseph and after telling him it was safe to leave, where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to live? (Nazareth)

4. Which state has the most miles of the Appalachian Trail? (The state of Virginia has 550 miles of the Appalachian Trail.)

Trivia Questions for This Week:

1. Who was Zacharias' wife?

2. Which angel told Zacharias that he and his wife were going to have a baby, even though they were well into their years?

3. How long did Mary stay at Zacharias and wife's place?

4. What name did Zacharias tell the people that the name of their baby was to be?

Keep in mind that the Good News about the birth of Jesus Christ was told first to the shepherds...hard working, common men. They were given the honor of being the first to hear about the birth of the Saviour. And they got to see the magnificence of the angels in all their glory that night as well. These hard working, common men carried that memory with them for the rest of their lives. And do you know what they did after this was told to them?

They shared that good news everywhere. We, as believers, need to consider the shepherds and their example, and do likewise.

December History Nuggets

By Brent Engel
Contributing writer
WICKED HOLIDAY

The Gallatin Democrat probably got coal in its stocking for Christmas 1875. The paper berated Louisiana residents for being alarmed by a storm that produced thunder and lightning just before the holiday. "It was nothing more than a solemn warning to the denizens of that wicked city to mend their ways, and to be particularly careful not to get aboard too much of the lightning whiskey sold there on Christmas Day."

PRICE OF PIG-HEADEDNESS
The St. Louis Republic reported in December 1875 that a "hog case" had caused a big stink in Louisiana. Details were not offered, but it seems one of the two parties involved won a

\$10 verdict – almost \$300 today. Trouble was, lawyers' fees and court costs amounted to \$250 – or \$7,300 now.

FULL HOUSE
The Frankford Chronicle had some great news in December 1890. "There is not a vacant house in town," it said. "This may be a chestnut, but is also a settled fact."

HEAD OF THE PARTY
The Clarksville Sentinel reported in December 1892 that a carpenter working on a roof had fallen 30 feet and landed on his head. Instead of needing a doctor, the man got right up and kept working. "He must be one of those hard-headed Republicans whom even a Demo-

cratic pile-driver wouldn't kill," the paper mused.

STICKY FINGERS
On Dec. 26, 1890, the Pike County Chronicle had a solution for Frankford residents who didn't get enough Christmas desserts: "Candy pulling at the Town Hall Friday night. Admission 10 cents." Today, that confection is called taffy.

RESOLUTE RESOLUTION
On Dec. 20, 1895, the Clarksville Sentinel told readers to be diligent about keeping New Year's resolutions. "Do not only resolve, but carry out your resolutions, profit by the experience of the past. Do all the good you can in this world."

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Obituaries



Bradley David Stark

Bradley David Stark, 68, entered into God's eternal rest on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 at BJH Siteman Center, St. Louis with his wife, Terry, by his side.

Visitation was Friday, Dec. 5 from 4-8 p.m., at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. A rite of Christian burial was held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Louisiana with Fr. Henry Usser officiating. Burial followed at St. Clement Cemetery, Bowling Green.

Brad was born July 7, 1957 at Pike County Memorial Hospital, Louisiana to Tony and Jean Capps Stark. Brad attended the local public schools, graduating from Louisiana High School in 1975. While in high school he participated in track and football, where he was co-captain.

On Aug. 29, 1987 he was united in marriage to Terry Salfen at St. Clement Catholic Church, Bowling Green.

Brad was an electrician by trade and was conscientious of the work he did for others. He was always there to lend a helping hand. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and a member of the Elks Lodge in Louisiana.

When he wasn't working, Brad was very fun-loving, captivating everyone with his story telling. He had a soft spot for children and dogs. He was known in the neighborhood as Santa and the kids would often ask his mommy, Terry, if he could come out and play. Brad was a mentor to older kids also. The nieces and nephews all flocked to Brad at family gatherings just to spend time with their favorite uncle.

Brad enjoyed being outside, preferably in the woods hunting squirrels, rabbits or deer or just going on a hike. If he wasn't in the woods, Brad liked to go fishing on the river or going to Canada fishing and bear hunting with friends. On occasion, he could be found at the Trimble House drinking coffee with the guys or out eating breakfast with friends.

Survivors include his "Lovely Bride" Terry of 38 years; a son, Brenton Stark and wife, Jessie of Clarksville; grandchildren, Jordan and Jason Haines; a sister, Terri Clark and husband, John of Moscow Mills; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Peveler and husband, Mike of Montgomery City, Jan Kelly and husband, Chris, Columbia, and Tina Tucker and husband, David, Eolia; and brothers-in-law, Gerry Salfen and wife, Barb, Quincy, Ill., and Brent Salfen, St. Joseph, along with many nieces and nephews.

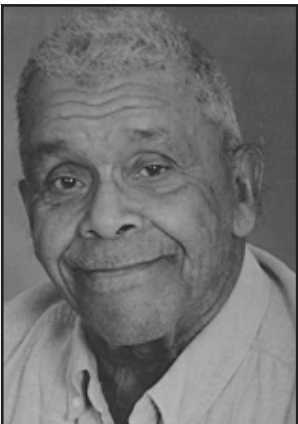
He was preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Jean Stark, brothers, Tony and Chris, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Elroy and Ginny Salfen, brother-in-law, Alan Salfen and nephew, Coleman Tucker.

Pallbearers were Caleb Tucker, Ethan Tucker, John Clark, Allan Betts, Clayton Betts, and Kyle House. Honorary pallbearers were Kristen Tucker, Dayton Betts, Chelsea Griffith, Hilari Sterne, Bruce England, Fred Bolton, Zona Peterson, and David Stark.

Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Clement Cemetery, Make a Wish Foundation or to donor's choice.

Online condolences may be sent at collierfuneral.com.

**WE
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YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



Milford Eugene Shepherd

Milford Eugene Shepherd, 86, of Harrisburg died Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at Truman Veteran's Hospital in Columbia.

A memorial celebration of life will be held Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with military honors immediately following at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory in Bowling Green.

Milford was born March 12, 1939, in Curryville to Willard and Laura "Katherine" Florence Shepherd.

He had fond memories of growing up farming with his Grandpa Murry and Uncle Orey. He enlisted in the United States Navy when he was 16, serving 21 years, and eventually retiring from active duty. As a Vietnam Veteran, Milford was very proud of his service to his country. He traveled frequently with the military. Upon returning from the Navy, Milford spent time farming the family farm with his brother, Melvin. He later settled in Harrisburg in 2007. Milford was a member of the Woodlandview Methodist Church in Harrisburg.

Milford was a member of the American Legion and VFW Post 5553 of Bowling Green, where he served as commander for five years. He was also a member of the Optimist Club in Columbia and served on the Pike County Fair Board for many years. Milford is famous for his wonderful barbecuing abilities. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing and pitching horseshoes. Milford loved to have fun, especially when spending time with family and friends.

Milford is survived by children, Andre James of St. Francisville, La., Christopher Shepherd of St. Louis, and Angela Shepherd of Bowling Green; grandchildren, Keenen Watts, Christina Berry, TJ James, and Keven James; brothers, Will Shepherd and wife, Mary of Columbia, Gregory Shepherd and wife, Debbie of Fulton, and Mark Shepherd and wife, Sharon of Columbia; a sister, Pamela Smith and husband, Larry of Cornelius, N.C.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, Melvin Shepherd, Dorothy Diann Moffet, Gordon Shepherd, and Gilbert Shepherd.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.



Claudia Francoise Barney

Claudia Francoise Barney, 100, of Bowling Green died Monday, Dec. 8, 2025, at King's Daughters Home in Mexico.

Funeral services for Claudia were Saturday at 11 a.m., at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory with Fr. Henry Ussher officiating. Burial was at Grandview Cemetery in Hannibal. Visitation will be from 10 a.m., until the time of service at the funeral home.

Claudia was born Nov. 30, 1925, in Savigny Rhone, France to Jean Claude and Marie Francoise Bussel Montermend. She was united in marriage to Norman Hamlett on Oct. 13, 1945, whom she met at age

17 during the war. He preceded her in death in 1993. She later married Charles Wayne Barney on Dec. 16, 1998. He also preceded her in death.

While Claudia was born in France, she spent most of her life in Bowling Green, moving there in 1945. Claudia was a housewife, but also served in many positions over the years. She spent time as a waitress and manager at the Imperial Gas Station and Restaurant in Bowling Green. She also spent over 10 years waitressing at the Sale Barn in Bowling Green and five years at the Sale Barn in Hannibal. Claudia was a school bus driver for the Bowling Green School District for 19 years. She loved spending her free time raising animals and farming with cattle and hogs.

Claudia is survived by daughters, Linda Robbins and husband, Norman of Laddonia and Lori Danella and husband, Andy of Lee Summit; seven grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 10 great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews in France, New Jersey, and New Mexico.

She was preceded in death by both husbands; a daughter, Christine Dieckman in 2010; one grandson, Joshua Steinman in 2010; and sisters, Janet Rosa, Claire Thimonier, and Lilliane Barlow.

Pallbearers were Cory Dieckman, Johnny Dieckman, Justin Steinman, Jason Robbins, Jeff Robbins, and Jordan Robbins. Honorary pallbearers Norman Robbins, Andy Danella, John Henry Dieckman, and Steven Dieckman.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, King's Daughters Home, or St. Croix Hospice.



Jill J. Stone

Jill J. Stone, 73, of Teoy died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 at her residence.

She was born April 13, 1952 in Dearborn, Mich., to Robert and Thelma Newman Black. The family relocated from Dearborn, Mich., to St. Charles due to her parents' work at Chrysler. She attended the local schools in St. Charles along with her siblings, Connie, Perry, and Robert.

After graduation from high school, she began working for Chrysler, just like her parents. In fact, this is where she met her soulmate, James Henry Stone. The couple was married in June 1977. Together they raised their children, James, Elizabeth, Jeremy, and Robert. About 40 years ago, the couple moved to Troy to enjoy country living. Jill was a loving, wife, mother, sister, and grandmother and cherished each and every one of her family members.

When Jill had a free moment, she enjoyed sewing, quilting, loved taking care of her chickens, and dogs and also liked tending to her flower beds. She was a very industrious woman who did not have a lazy bone in her body.

She is survived by her family members, James Stone, Jr., and wife, Misty of Bonne Terre, Elizabeth and husband, David of Vero Beach, Fla., Robert Stone and wife, Riza of Troy; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She is further survived by two brothers, Perry Black and wife, Juana of Bowling Green, and Robert Rex Black and wife, Pattie of Troy; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

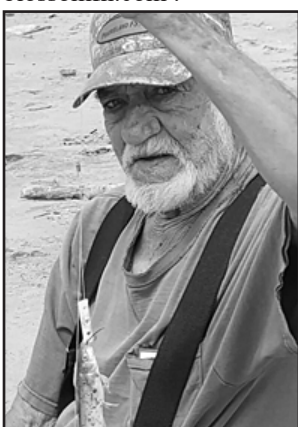
Jill was preceded in death by her husband, James Henry Stone, one son, Jeremy Brock; and a sister, Connie Basile.

Graveside services were at 1 p.m., Tuesday at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Louisiana.

Officiating was Kyle Miller.

Memorials may be made to AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, c/o McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes & Crematory, 1304 Boone St., Troy, MO 63379 or 701 N. Bus. Hwy 61, Bowling Green, MO 63334

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guestbook at: www.mccoy-blossomfh.com.



Lester H. 'Doss' White

Lester H. "Doss" White, Jr., 80, of Pleasant Hill, Ill., died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

Doss was born Oct. 25, 1945 in the bottoms near Pleasant Hill, a son of Lester H. and Edna Mae Harris White, Sr. He married Betty E. Niffen on Aug. 19, 1967 in Louisiana. She survives.

Doss was a hard-working and well-respected farm hand and had been employed by many area farmers including the McKinnon, Thomas, Carpenter, and Rodhouse farm families. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, and most importantly, spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Betty E. White of Pleasant Hill; three children, Lester Duane White and wife, Tammy of Pleasant Hill, Michelle Henderson of Bowling Green, and Danny White and wife, Misty of Pleasant Hill; 22 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren, with one on the way; three brothers, John Kenneth White of Pleasant Hill, Ron "Gomer" White and wife, Jorgeanna of Pleasant Hill, and Tracy White and wife, Becky of Bowling Green; two sisters, Georgia White of San Antonio, Texas, and Chris Lundberg and husband, Jerry of Hull; a sister-in-law, Marian White of Pleasant Hill; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Doss was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Robert L., Donald Wayne, and Ernie White, a sister, Dorothy Jean White, a sister-in-law, Margaret White and a grandson, Dillon Wayne White.

Funeral services were Wednesday at 1 p.m., at Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill. Burial followed at Perry Wells Cemetery near Pleasant Hill.

Visitation was Wednesday from 11 a.m., until time of service.

Memorials may be made to the Christmas Tree Wish List, c/o Pleasant Hill Community Club or Perry Wells Cemetery.

Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill handled the arrangements.



Michael 'Mickey' Davis

Michael "Mickey" Tyrone Davis, 58, of Vandalia died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, at his home.

Funeral services were Saturday at 1 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Vandalia. The Rev. Melvin McCaleb and The Rev. Steve Bramblett officiated. Burial was in Vandalia Cemetery.

Visitation celebrating Mickey's life was from 11 a.m., until the time of the service at the church Saturday.

The family is being

served by Waters Funeral Home in Vandalia.

Michael was born Oct. 29, 1967, in Hannibal, the son of Bobby Dale and Mary Virginia Wheeler Davis.

A dedicated member of his community, Mickey spent many years serving as a correctional officer at WERDCC in Vandalia, where he was known for his commitment to his work and the support he provided to those around him. His vocation extended beyond corrections, he was also a proud volunteer fireman and first responder, showcasing his unwavering dedication to helping others in times of need. Mickey's contributions to the community were not only limited to first response; he also worked at Waters Furniture, further embedding himself in the fabric of his town.

Mickey was a man of many passions. He was known for his love of fishing, cooking, and family gatherings, and was often found enjoying bonfires or listening to music with friends and loved ones. His adventurous spirit was evident in his enthusiasm for mushroom hunting, a cherished pastime that brought him closer to nature and his loved ones. Mickey's heart was characterized by its generosity - he had a heart of gold and was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Among his culinary skills, he took pride in making fish, barbecue, and chitlins, a testament to his deep-rooted ties to family traditions.

A devoted member of the Second Christian Church in Vandalia, Mickey's faith played a central role in his life, guiding his actions and his interactions with others. His baptism on Jan. 21, 2024, was a milestone he was greatly proud of. He was a beloved figure whose kindness touched the lives of many, and his absence will be profoundly felt by all who knew him.

Mickey is survived by his significant other, Enrika Fox of the home; one son, Bret Davis and wife, Meredith of Vandalia; two daughters, Samantha Higgins and husband, Robert of West Frankfort, Ill., and Tessa Fox-Davis and Kanen Lutz of Homer, Ill. He also leaves behind three brothers, David Davis and wife, Diona of Vandalia, Phil Davis and wife, Rita of Fetus, and Joseph Davis and wife, Elizabeth of New Bloomfield; eight sisters, Marcia Davis of Wilmington, N.C., Junie Davis of Columbia, Patricia Conway of Vandalia, Beverlia Conway and Gary Bishop of Vandalia, Donna Vandegriffe and husband, Greg of Columbia, Bobbie Jo Wheeler of Vandalia, Christina and husband, Mark of Henley, and Tracey Davis of

Sikeston; and a sister-in-law, Stacey Davis of O'Fallon. Additionally, Mickey is remembered fondly by his grandchildren, Braylon Davis, Maizie Davis, and Anamaria Higgins; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mickey was preceded in death by his parents, along with his brothers, Amos Conway and Bryan Davis.

His legacy of compassion, joy, and service will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Pallbearers were Alex Wheeler, Lance Wheeler, Dometric "Dee" Wheeler, Joe Resor, TJ Connor, and Errett Pargeon. Honorary pallbearers were Chuck Steele and Larry Wheeler.

Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to assist the family with funeral expenses, c/o Waters Funeral Home.

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



Louis Grote Jr.

Louis Grote Jr., 93, of Kirksville died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 with family by his side, in the Northeast Regional Medical Center, Kirksville.

Private services and burial will be held at Curryville Cemetery in Curryville at a later time.

He was born Oct. 6, 1932 in Bowling Green, the son of Charles Aloysious "Louis" and Virgie May Kelly Grote. Louis was united in marriage to Patricia Joan Sisson on Feb. 8, 1953 in Bowling Green. They had three children, Richard D. Grote, Kevin R. Grote of Alton Ill., and Brenda L. Niemeyer and husband, Dan of Edina.

Growing up in rural Bowling Green, Louis experienced the joy and adventures of a large family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Richard Grote, sisters, Thelma May, Virginia Sue, Josephine, Helen and Ruth, as infants, Garnet Mudd, Edna Kelch Kent, Dorothy Meyer, Viola Grace England, Laura Belle Vogt, Martha Higgins, Shirley Langley Moran, and Hazel Houchins Hess. Brothers preceding him in death were

See OBITUARIES on page 9

NOTICE

Fairview Cemetery annual meeting will be held on the second Sunday in January at the Grassy Creek Baptist Church starting at 2 p.m.

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Community News

Red Cross Urges Holiday Cooking, Decorating Safety

Home fires increase significantly during the holiday months, often sparked by cooking accidents, unattended candles or unsafe decorations.

The American Red Cross of Greater St. Louis urges everyone to take simple steps to stay safe while celebrating – from keeping a close eye on what’s cooking to checking holiday lights and decorations for hazards. By taking precautions now, families can help prevent tragedies and enjoy a safer, happier holiday season.

“One in five people the Red Cross assists after home fires are helped in just the holiday months,” said LaKricia Cox, Executive Director, Red Cross of Greater St. Louis. “Home fires can strike quickly, leaving you with as little as two minutes to escape. Help protect your loved ones by practicing your home fire escape drill until everyone can get out in less than two minutes.”

COOKING SAFETY TIPS

Follow these safety tips and visit redcross.org/fire for more information, including a fire escape plan to practice with your family.

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on.

Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.

Keep kids and pets at least three feet away from cooking areas.

Keep anything that can catch on fire — potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains — away from your stove top and oven or any other appliance that generates heat.

Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.

Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen.

Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving home to make sure all stoves, ovens and small appliances are turned off.

HOLIDAY DECORATING & HEATING SAFETY

December is the peak month for candle fires — which cause about 20 home fires a day on average in the U.S. — and heating equipment remains one of the leading causes of home fires.

Provide at least three feet of space for all heating equipment. This is critical because most home heating fire tragedies occur when flammable items like furniture, rugs and drapes are too close.

In addition, never leave space heaters unattended — as they’re involved in most fatal home heating fires.

If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor. Don’t place it on rugs and carpets, or near bedding and drapes. And turn it off every time you leave the room or go to sleep.

If you must use candles, keep them away from anything that could burn, and

place them out of reach from pets and children. Never leave burning candles unattended.

You can also help keep your family safe by testing your smoke alarms monthly and practicing your home fire escape plan until everyone can escape in two minutes or less.

Visit redcross.org/fire for more information, including an escape plan to practice with your family. You can also download our free Emergency app (search “American Red Cross” in app stores).

Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year. If you cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or are physically unable to install one, the Red Cross may be able to help. Contact your local Red Cross for more information.

HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN SAVES LIVES

Since October 2014, the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, working with community partners, has saved at least 2,489 lives by educating families about fire safety, helping them create escape plans and installing free smoke alarms in high-risk areas across the country. To learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved, visit redcross.org/homefires.

Don't Let Toxic Plants, Flammable Greenery Ruin Your Holidays

Ornamental plants are a great way to make your home festive for the holidays. Stealing a kiss under the mistletoe or hanging a holly wreath to welcome guests are both great holiday traditions. “What’s not so great is that both of these plants are toxic,” said David Trinklein, horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension.

Popular holiday plants that are toxic include mistletoe, holly, English ivy and Japanese yew. These plants can cause harm if ingested; this is especially true for small children and pets, Trinklein said.

Of these four, mistletoe is the most notorious. Mistletoe is toxic to the point that many retail outlets hesitate to sell it, he said. What you buy as mistletoe probably is a silk or synthetic facsimile.

Holly is a step down in toxicity. The red berries are the offensive part of this plant. If using holly, locate it where if a berry does fall off, it cannot roll onto the floor, Trinklein said. “Children tend to explore their world through taste as well as sight. A bright red holly berry on the floor might prove irresistible to a toddler.”

English ivy is slightly toxic. So is the Japanese yew, an outdoor shrub that serves as decorative greenery in many homes during the holidays.

“Yews have nice green foliage and berry-like red fruit,” Trinklein said. “The fruit and especially the seeds inside contain a toxin called taxine, which can cause nausea and vomiting.”

Decking the halls safely goes beyond using caution

with poisonous plants. This is also a time of year for fire hazards.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, holiday decorations and Christmas trees account for more than 800 structure fires resulting in \$17 million in property loss annually. Trinklein said proper placement and keeping holiday greens hydrated can help prevent many fires.

“When you bring home greenery, re-cut the stems and place it water and store it in a cool place,” Trinklein said. “Don’t rush the season. Hold off moving the greenery into the home until shortly before Christmas, and discard it as soon as it starts to dry out.”

Just a little caution will keep the holidays joyful while protecting family and friends.

Planning Can Ease Holiday Stress For Those With Allergies, Health Conditions

Holiday celebrations can be stressful for people managing food allergies or chronic health conditions. University of Missouri Extension state specialist Karen Funkenbusch says that planning and open communication can reduce anxiety and help everyone enjoy the season.

If you have dietary restrictions due to allergies, diabetes or conditions such as alpha-gal syndrome, inform your host early. When necessary, bring your own food to ensure safety.

Travel can also add stress. Funkenbusch recommends shopping and traveling during off-peak times, scheduling time to relax and avoiding divisive

topics. Before leaving home, pack allergy medications, a hypoallergenic pillow, and carry epinephrine if prescribed. Homes may contain triggers such as live trees, fireplaces, scented candles or pets.

Tips For Guests

Notify hosts early about dietary needs.

Politely decline food without explanation if needed.

Ask if you can bring your own food or eat beforehand.

Suggest restaurants with diverse menus.

Verify ingredients in homemade items and avoid cross-contaminated foods.

Tips For Hosts

Respect guests’ dietary restrictions.

Ask about food limitations when inviting.

Let guests choose restaurants.

Plan activities that don’t involve food.

Use disposable plates and utensils to prevent cross-contamination.

Tips For Gift-Givers

Consider dietary restrictions.

Choose nonfood gifts with a thoughtful note.

For mental health support during the holidays, call 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, or visit the MU Extension Show Me Strong Farm Families website at <https://muext.us/SMSFF> for information about free telehealth counseling.

Missouri WIC Infant Formula Manufacturer Rebate Contract Awarded

DHSS announces the Missouri WIC Infant Formula Manufacturer Rebate contract was awarded to Abbott Laboratories, Inc. WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, administered in Missouri by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

WIC federal regulations require all state agencies to maintain a competitive cost-containment infant formula rebate contract. Abbott, the awarded manufacturer, receives the exclusive right to provide its products to WIC participants requiring a standard formula in exchange for a monetary rebate reimbursed to the Missouri WIC program. The infant formula rebate maximizes the program’s ability to provide supplemental food benefits to all WIC participants.

Missouri WIC will continue to issue Similac Advance, Similac Sensitive, Similac Total Comfort and Similac Soy Isomil under the new infant formula rebate contract. WIC provides participants with these standard contract brands of formula, unless a specific medical condition requires an exempt formula or a WIC-eligible nutritional. Information about prescribing an exempt formula for infants or a WIC-eligible nutritional can be found on the WIC Health Care Providers web page.

WIC recognizes and promotes breastfeeding as the optimal source of nutrition for infants. In Missouri, 75.2 percent of WIC mothers initiated breastfeeding in 2025. However, for women who are unable to fully breast-

feed or choose not to, WIC provides nutritionally appropriate iron-fortified formulas to eligible infants.

To qualify for the WIC program, participants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a pregnant, breastfeeding or new mother; an infant up to age one; or a child up to their 5th birthday.
- Be a resident of Missouri.
- Meet income eligibility requirements.

Missourians interested in learning about the benefits of WIC may visit WIC.Mo.Gov or call TEL-LINK at 1-800-835-5465 to find the WIC local agency in their county.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication

for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442;
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

NE MO Genealogical Society To Meet

The Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society will hold a special meeting for all members and potential members on Saturday, Dec 20 at Halls Hall, 220 South Main St., Palmyra.

Donna Lawson, president of the Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society, will conduct the business meeting. With Jim O'Bryan's passing we need to discuss adding additional people to our accounts, suggestions to fill the Query Editor seat, locations of future meetings and any other business that comes before the Officers.

Make arrangements to attend this meeting so your voice and vote can be heard. Current officers are: Nancy Tiemann, vice-president; Travelle Whitaker, secretary; Ann Guymon, treasurer.

The Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society serves 14 counties in northeast Missouri and the quarterly meetings are scheduled at various locations to make it possible for the outlying members to attend. A 33-page quarterly is published each April, June, August and October and is dedicated to the collection of genealogy materials, both published and unpublished.

The public and those interested in family research are welcome to attend. For more info about the meeting or info about the Society, call Duane Harsell at (573) 288-4200.

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12 yrs



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10 yrs



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5 yrs



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5 yrs



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*From all our employees at our 15 branches
at Peoples Savings Bank.*

Merry Christmas



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5 yrs



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Universal Banker
5 yrs



Melissa Love
Universal Banker
4 yrs



Chandra Vandillen
Universal Banker
4 yrs



Larry Gamm
Reg. SVP/Loan Officer
4 yrs



Tera Grote
Loan Admin
4 yrs



Pamela Harrell
AVP/ Loan Admin. Spec.
4 yrs



Linda Adams
Customer Service Rep.
4 yrs (farmbank)



Rebecca Kavanagh
Universal Banker
4 yrs



Rhonda Search
AVP/Branch Mgr.
4 yrs (farmbank)



Denita Williams
Universal Banker
4 yrs (farmbank)



Jessica Armstrong
AVP/Branch Mgr.
4 yrs



Duane Kraettli
Field Inspector/Courier
3 yrs



Cristina Brundage
CST Rep
3 yrs



Matthew Kallmeyer
AVP/COO
3 yrs



Michelle Riley
Universal Banker
3 yrs



Janice Houska
Customer Service Rep.
3 yrs



Marissa West
Loan Admin
3 yrs



Tiffani Stoops
Universal Banker
3 yrs



Amanda Hendricks
Universal Banker
2 yrs



Lainey Lewis
Universal Banker
2 yrs (farmbank)



Daphne Raterman
Customer Service Rep.
2 yrs



Courtney Granger
Universal Banker
2 yrs



Tiffany Lewis
Universal Banker
2 yrs (farmbank)



Michelle Butler
Customer Service Rep.
2 yrs (farmbank)



Jennifer Noah
Universal Banker
2 yrs



Amanda Yates
Ops. Assistant
2 yrs



Angelina Chaney
CST Rep
1 yr



Sabrena Daume
Universal Banker
1 yr



Deb Davis
Loan Admin
1 yr (farmbank)



Tanner Smith
AVP/Branch Mgr.
1 yr



Emma Edwards
Universal Banker
1 yr



Kacie Holtman
Accounting Clerk
1 yr



Ariana Maddox
IT Support Tech I
1 yr



Spencer Nothum
AVP/Loan Officer
1 yr



Desirae Prinster
Universal Banker
1 yr



Nan Webber
Universal Banker
1 yr



Rebecca Williams
Customer Service Rep.
1 yr



Gina Brakensiek
Customer Service Rep.
1 yr



Grace Cregan
Loan Admin.
1 yr (farmbank)



Jason Dimmit
Loan Officer
1 yr (farmbank)



Davion Lopez
Ops. Assistant
1 yr (farmbank)



Holly Neal
Universal Banker
1 yr (farmbank)



Bre Reeves
Universal Banker
1 yr



Ashley Speckhals
Universal Banker
1 yr



Emma Thomas
Loan Admin
1 yr



Sonja Curtis
Universal Banker
1 yr



Ethan Fordyce
Credit Analyst
1 yr (farmbank)



Bob Darr
Loan Officer/Wealth Mgmt
1 yr



Tyler Schebaum
Facilities Mgr.
0.5 yrs



Maranda Burke
Universal Banker
0.5 yrs



Olivia Williams
CRA Program Admin
0.5 yrs



Russann Adams
Customer Service Rep.
0.5 yrs



Natalie Kopp
Customer Service Rep.
0.5 yrs



Jillian Powers
Customer Service Rep.
0.5 yrs



Katelynn Zamora
Universal Banker



Rachael Hoffmann
Customer Service Rep.



Craig Daily
VP/Loan Officer



Zabrina Ellis
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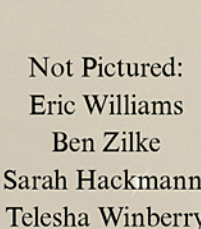
Kara Lincoln
Customer Service Rep.



Jake Schannuth
Loan Officer



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Not Pictured:
Eric Williams
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Community News

Obituaries

Continued from page 4
Brothers preceding him in death were Raymond, William, Harry Robert, and Johnny. Louis is survived by two sisters, Betty Kordus of New York, and Francis Grosvener of North Carolina. Also surviving are a number of nieces and nephews.

Much of the joy of his life was family. A responsible and reliable steward of the land provided the opportunity to give their children and grandchildren a foundation in agriculture, solidly rooted in faith and integrity.

Louis is survived by his wife of 72 years, Patricia; and two of their children, Kevin and Brenda. Also grandchildren, Allison Grote of Alton Ill., Mitchell Grote of Bourbon, Joshua Niemeyer of Parkville, and Jared Niemeyer of Edina; and great-granddaughter, Jo-leigh Smith of Alton, Ill.

Louis and Patricia raised their family in Curryville. Louis was a progressive agriculturalist in a robust and diverse family farm. Louis was a member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church. Their home was known for having an open door to family and friends. Actively engaged in the community, Louis was known to quietly lend a hand in countless ways.

In his retirement years, Louis was property manager in one of the largest condominium complexes in the St. Charles area. He was also engaged in real estate construction and improvement which took him from the St Louis area to Kansas City.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Edina.

Memorials may be made to the Curryville Cemetery. Memorials may be left at or mailed to Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1, Edina, Mo 63537.

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

Join MDC For Virtual Winter Birding Program Dec. 22

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites the public to curl up with a mug of hot chocolate and tune in for a virtual bird program Dec. 22.

The virtual program, “Birds in Winter and a Warm Cup of Cheer,” will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 22.

Register here: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/213367>

Open to beginners and seasoned birders alike, this program is designed for everyone seeking a nature-filled pause during the holiday season. This free online event brings the joy of winter birdwatching home while offering identification tips, feeder advice, and bird sound recognition.

Participants will learn to identify common winter birds

Christopher Lee Beer

Christopher Lee Beer, 52, of New London died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

Cremation rites are being provided by Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana.

A graveside service and urn burial will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday at Fairview Cemetery near Louisiana.

Memorials may be made to the family, c/o the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent at collierfuneral.com.

Barbara Jo Paiyou

Barbara Jo Paiyou, 77, of Dunedin, Fla., died Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 at the Accent Care Hospice Center in Dunedin.

Interment will be in Bowling Green at a later date.

Barbara was born April 28, 1948 in Louisiana to Charles Denton and Hilda Irene Peecher LaBrier. She married William C. Brewer on Dec. 27, 1966 in Bowling Green and Samuel O. Paiyou on Oct. 29, 1987 in Hollywood, Fla.

Surviving are a daughter, Kristi Brewer Wong and husband, George of Dunedin, Fla.; a brother, Richard LaBrier and wife, Phyllis of Bowling Green; along with nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Preceding Barbara in death were her parents, both former husbands, and siblings, Jerry LaBrier and Jean Willis.

Barbara grew up in Bowling Green. She owned Hiles Shoe Store in Bowling Green before moving to Florida. She returned several years later and was employed at Orscheln and later at Crossroads General Store before retiring and returning to Florida.

She enjoyed playing bingo, going to the beach, sea shelling, Jimmy Buffet concerts, and traveling with her daughter.

Donations may be made to the donor’s choice.

MDC Sets Deer, Turkey Hunting Dates For ‘06-’07

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recently set turkey and deer hunting dates for the 2026-2027 seasons. The hunting dates were approved by the Missouri Conservation Commission at its Dec. 12 open meeting at MDC headquarters in Jefferson City.

The Commission also gave final approval to regulation changes that will reduce the nonresident harvest limit from two bearded turkeys in the spring to a single bearded bird in the spring. Non-resident landowners will maintain a harvest limit of two bearded birds with only one allowed to be harvested during the first seven days of the season.

2026 SPRING & FALL TURKEY HUNTING DATES
Spring Youth Portion: April 11-12

Regular Spring Turkey Season: April 20 through May 10

Fall Archery Turkey Portion: Sept. 15 through Nov. 13 and Nov. 25 through Jan. 15, 2027

Fall Firearms Turkey Portion: Oct. 1-31 (in open counties)

2026-2027 Archery Deer Hunting Dates

Sept. 15 through Nov. 13 and Nov. 25 through Jan. 15, 2027

2026-2027 FIREARMS DEER HUNTING DATES
Firearms Early Antlerless Portion: Oct. 9-11 (in open counties)

Firearms Early Youth Portion: Oct. 24-25*

Firearms November Portion: Nov. 14-24

Firearms Late Youth Portion: Nov. 27-29

Firearms Late Antlerless Portion: Dec. 5-13 (in open counties)

Firearms Alternative Methods Portion: Dec. 26, 2026-Jan. 5, 2027

*The Commission approved changes to allow the early youth portion to be moved one week earlier in years when it overlaps with Halloween.

Detailed information on the upcoming seasons and portions, managed hunts, and conservation area regulations will be included in the MDC 2026 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet and the MDC 2026 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet, available closer to the seasons.

The booklets will be available where permits are sold and online at mdc.mo.gov.

The Holidays Make Scents

It’s Beginning To Smell A Lot Like Christmas

The holidays are filled with familiar sights and sounds, but it’s the aromas that often evoke some of the most vivid memories of the season.

Many of these aromas are from spices used in holiday cuisine, said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. “The holiday season simply would not be the same without the traditional foods and beverages associated with it. Many of these foods are special because of the use of certain spices or flavorings.”

Spices have had a profound influence on civilization, he said. Demand in Europe for spices led to a lucrative spice trade in which vast fortunes were made.

When the spice routes from the East Indies to Europe faltered because of political turmoil, the demands of spice-hungry European aristocrats had to be met in other ways. Explorers such as Columbus, da Gama and Magellan sailed west in search of a shorter route to the Indies. Thus, the New World was discovered.

Cinnamon, the ‘granddaddy’ of spices

Perhaps the oldest and most sought-after spice in history is cinnamon, Trinklein said. Now a key ingredient in many holiday treats, cinnamon goes back thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians used it to embalm the dead, and it remains a common ingredient in incense for sacred ceremonies.

True cinnamon comes from the bark of several species of tropical ever-

greens in the genus Cinnamomum. Most are small, bushy trees native to Sri Lanka and India. The outer bark of harvested branches is scraped off, then the inner bark is removed in sections that tend to curl into sticks as they dry. Bark that does not curl properly is made into ground cinnamon.

Cloves once used to treat bad breath

Another popular holiday spice is clove, the dried flower bud of a tree in the myrtle family native to Indonesia’s Molucca Archipelago, also known as the Spice Islands. Flowers of the clove tree bear a long calyx that ends with four spreading sepals and four rudimentary petals forming a ball in the center of the sepals. The buds are bright red but become reddish-brown when dried.

Cloves were among 16th- and 17th-century Europe’s most precious commodities, worth more than their weight in gold. Magellan’s ill-fated trip around the world, which began in 1519 with 250 men in five ships and ended in 1522 with a single ship and just 18 men, was still considered a financial success because of the 26 tons of cloves and cinnamon carried by the sole surviving ship.

Clove was once used to mask halitosis. Today, it is a characteristic flavoring in Christmas holiday fare such as wassail and mulled cider. Cloves are strongly pungent because of eugenol, a substance extracted by distillation to yield an oil that is widely used to relieve pain.

The holidays a good ex-

cuse to use nutmeg

Nutmeg comes from the seed of a tropical evergreen tree native to the Moluccas. The dried lacy covering of the seed (the arillus) is the source of mace, another important spice. Most consider nutmeg the sweeter of the two, but mace has a more delicate flavor.

In ancient times, nutmeg was used as an amulet to protect against a wide variety of evils and dangers, Trinklein said. Today, its somewhat pungent fragrance and warm, slightly sweet taste lends itself to use in many holiday baked goods, main dishes and beverages such as eggnog.

Ginger no longer found in the wild

Ginger, another spice associated with the holidays, comes from the rhizome (underground stem) of Zingiber officinale, an herbaceous plant native to southeastern Asia. It is thought to be one of the first spices exported from Asia to Europe. Ginger is an example of a “cultigen.” This means there is no wild ginger to be found today, and it is only because of human intervention that it exists. Gingerbread cookies, cakes and loaves are classic holiday treats that feature ground ginger for its warm, spicy flavor. Also, ginger ale is a common mixer for holiday punches.

“So, this holiday season, when traditional foods are enjoyed, consider the spices that make them so flavorful and the role they played in the discovery of the land we call home,” Trinklein said.

MDC To Host Program On Bark Tanning

Dec. 18 Webinar To Go Over Process

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites the public to tune in for a virtual program that explains how to tan a deer hide using tree bark.

The webinar, “Introduction to Bark Tanning a Deer Hide,” will be held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., on Dec. 18. This online event is open to all ages, and registration is required.

Register here: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/214115>

Twin Pines Conservation Education Center will host the webinar. Staff will cover the process and materials needed to tan a deer hide using tree bark. This is an informational program only

and not hands-on. Additional information will be provided after the virtual session.

For more information on the Dec. 18 webinar or other events at Twin Pines Conservation Education Center, call 573-325-1381. The education center is located at

20086 Highway 60 in Winona.

Staff at MDC facilities across the state are holding virtual and in-person programs throughout the year. A listing of these programs may be found at <https://mdc.mo.gov/events>.

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Feeder Sale Report For 12-8-2025					Monday Receipts 2,905 Head				
1,794		Steers, medium & large			817		Heifers, Med. & Large		

Community News

Attorney General Warns Missourians To Stay Alert

Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway is urging Missourians to stay vigilant this holiday season as scammers use fake delivery notices, bogus sales, AI-generated messages, and fraudulent charities to steal money and personal information.

"Staying alert and informed is one of the best defenses against holiday scams," said Attorney General Hanaway. "We are committed to protecting Missouri families, and remain on guard against scammers throughout the holiday season. If you've been the target of a scam, reach out at 800-392-8222 or at ago.mo.gov. We are here to help."

Common Holiday Scams to Watch For:

Scammers send fake delivery texts, emails, or AI-generated calls posing as USPS, UPS, FedEx, or Amazon.

Criminals create fake charities or social-media fundraisers to exploit holiday generosity and collect donations that never reach a real cause.

Fraudulent online shops and social media sellers advertise steep discounts but

often ship counterfeit items or nothing at all after taking payment.

Scammers place fake QR codes on event signs or parking meters that redirect consumers to malicious sites or steal payment information.

Fake airline and hotel websites imitate real booking platforms to capture personal and financial information for nonexistent travel deals.

Some "Letters from Santa" promotions are legitimate, but others collect children's or families' personal information for identity theft.

Red Flags That Signal a Scam:

Deals or discounts that seem unrealistic

Messages with spelling or grammar mistakes

Websites with no phone number or address

Links in texts or emails you weren't expecting

Sites without https:// security

High-pressure requests for immediate payment

Requests for payment by gift card, wire transfer, crypto, or payment apps

Smart Tips to Stay Safe from Scams:

Always verify a link before clicking by hovering over it or navigating directly to the retailer's official website.

Use a credit card when shopping online, as it provides stronger fraud protection than other payment methods.

Take a moment to research unfamiliar sellers by searching their name along with terms like "scam" or "reviews."

Review the refund and return policies on new or unfamiliar websites before making a purchase.

Avoid making online purchases while connected to public Wi-Fi, which may not be secure.

Never share personal or financial information in response to unexpected calls, texts, or messages.

Scan QR codes only from trusted businesses or official materials to avoid being redirected to fraudulent sites.

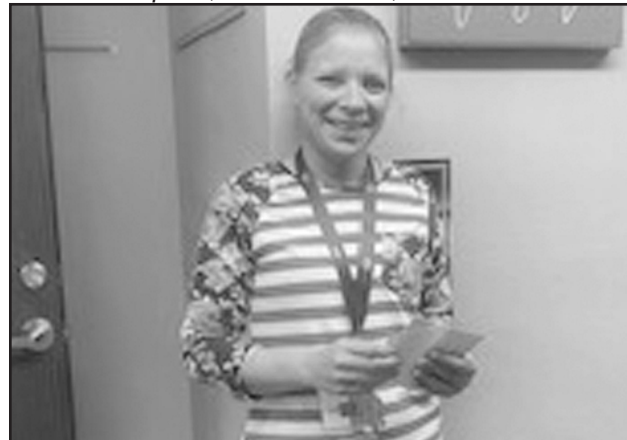
If you believe you have been targeted or lost money to a scam, contact the Missouri Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-392-8222 or file a complaint at ago.mo.gov.



Pictured, from left: Monica Gregory, G.F.W.C. Heir Study Club member, and Katlyn Holcumbrink, first grade teacher at Bowling Green Elementary.



Pictured from left: Monica Gregory, G.F.W.C. Heir Study Club member and McKinley Hull, Food Services, Bowling Green High School. Not pictured is Laura Thompson, Title 1 teacher, Frankford School.



Elisabeth Schroeder, seventh and eighth grade teacher at St. Clement School.



Pictured, from left: Monica Gregory, G.F.W.C. Heir Study Club member, and Andrew Martinson, seventh grade social studies teacher at Bowling Green Middle School.

GFWC Heir Study Club Recognizes School Personnel

G.F.W.C. Heir Study Club recently recognized the dedication of school personnel during November's American Education Week by holding a drawing for gas cards among all school personnel in each of the Bowling Green, Frankford, and St. Clement schools.

Elisabeth Schroeder, St. Clement seventh and eighth grade teacher; Katlyn Holcumbrink, Bowling Green Elementary first grade teacher; Andrew Martinson, Bowling Green Middle School seventh grade social studies teacher; McKinley Hull, Bowling Green High School Food Services; and Laura Thompson, Frankford School Title 1 teacher, each received gas cards.

Bowling Green's Heir Study Club is associated with General Federation of Women's Clubs (G.F.W.C.), which is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service, and by engaging in activities that promote art and culture, education and libraries, the environment, and health and wellness.

G.F.W.C. Heir Study Club's community projects include providing funding to school libraries to purchase books, providing Missouri Day information to elementary students, sponsoring Art Awards in the school system, working in the school food stands, sponsoring the Sophomore Pilgrimage student each year, providing scholarships to Bowling Green High School seniors, providing paper products to Anne's Anchor and canned goods to the Hope Center, collecting old jewelry for Monarch Jewelry that assists survivors of sex trafficking, and providing assistance and supplies to Missouri Girls Town.



Say Cheese This Holiday Season

Nothing says the holidays are here quite like a table decked out with good cheer and a platter of cheese. From velvety brie tucked under cranberry chutney to aged cheddar cubes ready to spear with a toothpick, cheese has earned its spot as a true holiday classic.

"Cheese is one of those foods that brings people together," said Jessica Kassel, nutrition educator and registered dietitian with St. Louis District Dairy Council. "It's comforting, versatile, and it just feels special during the holidays."

But beyond its indulgent reputation, cheese also packs a surprising punch of nutrition. "Cheese is often thought of as a treat, but it provides key nutrients we need for good health," Kassel said. "It's an excellent source of high-quality protein; calcium, which supports strong bones; and important vitamins, such as vitamin B12 and vitamin A."

For many, cheese is more than a flavor enhancer for their favorite dishes, it is also nutritious and satisfying. The balance of protein and fat helps keep people full longer, which can make navigating the other holiday dishes on the buffet a little easier. When paired with fruit, veggies or whole grain crackers, it makes for a balanced and festive addition to dishes and snacks during the holiday season.

Hosts love cheese for its endless holiday possibilities. A simple wedge can be dressed up with a drizzle of honey and a sprinkle of nuts, baked into bubbly casseroles or set out on

colorful cheese boards that double as table décor. It can star on appetizer platters, melt into cozy soups, or even elevate desserts when paired with honey or dark chocolate. So, as the carols play and glasses clink, don't forget to raise a toast to cheese whether it's creamy, crumbly or melted. Cheese is the perfect addition to meals and will make the holidays a little brighter and healthier. "After all, the holidays wouldn't be complete without a little cheese," Kassel said.

Visit www.stldairycouncil.org for nutritional handouts on cheese, the Pleasing Pairings with Cheese guide, recipes and more. 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.instagram.com/STLDairyCouncil).

St. Louis District Dairy Council, a nonprofit nutrition education organization funded by local dairy farmers, serves 131 counties in central/southern Illinois and eastern Missouri.

Holiday Cheese Ball

Looking for a new cheesy recipe? Add some pizzazz and a punch of cheesy nutrition to your holiday spread with this delicious cheese ball recipe!

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

12 ounces cream cheese, softened

2 Tablespoons sour cream

1 ½ cups shredded sharp cheddar, divided

1 Tablespoon smoked paprika

½ teaspoon garlic powder

¼ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

8 slices cooked bacon, minced, divided

¼ cup pecans, chopped, divided

4 green onions, chopped fine, divided

¼ cup chopped parsley, divided

Instructions

Place softened cream cheese, sour cream, smoked paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper into a medium-sized mixing bowl. Use a spatula to mix spices into the cream cheese and sour cream.

Add half the cheddar, half the bacon, half the chopped pecans, half the chopped onions, and half of the parsley to the bowl. Mix into the cream cheese, making sure the ingredients are evenly distributed. Use the spatula to press the cheese mixture into a loose ball. Set aside.

Place the remaining ingredients – bacon, cheddar, pecans, parsley and green onions – on a large piece of plastic wrap spread on the kitchen counter. Use your fingers to toss the ingredients so they are well mixed.

Place the cheese ball onto the plastic wrap. Roll the ball into the loose ingredient mixture, pressing the ingredients onto the surface with your hands while forming a more even looking cheese ball. (There will be extra loose ingredients. Save for another use, such as a topping for a green salad.)

Serve immediately or wrap tightly in plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator for up to four days.

Auditor Fitzpatrick Begins Audit Of Audrain County

A regularly scheduled audit of Audrain County is now underway according to State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick.

His office launched the audit with an entrance meeting with county officials on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

"The audit process is vital to promoting efficient and effective government operations that are transparent and accountable to taxpayers," said Auditor Fitzpatrick. "We look forward to getting to work on behalf of Audrain County residents and encourage them to reach out to our Whistleblower Hotline if they have any information that may be useful to our audit team."

The Missouri State Auditor's Office last issued a regularly scheduled performance audit of Audrain County in 2018. The audit gave the county a rating of "good" but also noted several areas for improvement, including findings to ensure financial oversight of specific funds within

the sheriff's and prosecuting attorney's offices.

Individuals may provide information confidentially for consideration during the audit

of Audrain County to the State Auditor's Whistleblower Hotline by calling 800-347-8597, emailing moaudit@auditor.mo.gov, or by visiting www.auditor.mo.gov/hotline.



Jingle & Mingle

A big crowd was on hand as Donna Grote, left, and Angela Maier of the Raintree Arts Council sang holiday hymns and seasonal songs Saturday, Dec. 6 as part of Christmas in Clarksville. The event featured a parade, community tree lighting, a visit by Santa Claus, a cookie walk and activities by local businesses and organizations.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION

The City Of Paynesville announces the filing for 4 board members.

3 board members - 2-year terms

1 board member - 1-year unexpired term

Filing opened on Dec. 9 and will con-tinue until Dec. 31, 2025.

Filing for these offices will take place at the Laura Stumbaugh, county clerk's of-ice in Bowling Green. Hours 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The election will be held April 7, 2026.

LaMont Davis, City Clerk

VANDALIA

Continued from front page ing but acceptable. "While the council's decision not to transfer the funds directly to the Fire District is disappointing, the compromise to hold the \$70,000 for five years with the understanding that it will be released to the District when we add on to the building—its original intended purpose—is accept-able," Straube wrote. "Ideally, we would have preferred to place those funds ourselves to grow them over the next five years, but we appreciate the council's agreement that the money should ultimately support an addition to the fire station."

Straube also thanked the council for waiving water and sewer charges for the district for the first year. "This gesture is helpful and appreciated as we continue transitioning and planning for future improvements," he wrote.

In a letter read to the mayor and council during the meeting, Straube thanked the council for its previous vote transferring equipment and the fire sta-tion to the fire district. He then requested continued support through transfer of the building addition fund to the district. "Transferring the \$70,000 to the District allows us to place it in a dedicated fund where it can grow and ultimately be used for its intended purpose—an addition to the fire station," Straube said.

In that same letter, Straube also addressed pub-lic perception surrounding the district's formation. "It has been said that the

fire department is 'breaking away' from the City. I do not believe that to be an accu-rate characterization," Straube said. "The fire de-partment is not leaving the City. We will continue pro-viding fire protection to the City and its residents."

Straube stated that what had changed were "the funding mechanism for fire protection, the governing board overseeing it, and the unification of fire protection services for our Van-Far community." He also said that from a service stand-point, "very little changes moving forward," and noted that the city's "\$26,000 an-nual burden for operating a fire department has been eliminated."

Additionally, the council unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing the mayor to sign a Special Warranty Deed selling a tract of land in the City of

Vandalia to the Van-Far Fire Protection District for \$1.

"An ordinance was ap-proved, authorizing the mayor to sign a Special Warranty Deed, selling a tract of land in the City of Vandalia, Missouri to the Van-Far Fire Protection Dis-trict for a sale price of \$1.00," Berry said. "This also passed unanimously."

Straube said the district intended to continue work-ing with the city and serving the broader community, in-cluding hosting events such as the Project Prom Pancake Breakfast and serving as a central location for the Angel Tree program.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Middletown Community Fire Pro-tection District announces the filing for 1 open Board seat begins Dec. 9, 2025 and ends Dec. 31, 2025. Anyone wishing to file for candidacy may do so at at the Middle-town Community Fire Protection District's office during regular business hours. Mid-dletown Community Fire Protection Dis-tricts Board Member being elected will serve a 6-year term.

You must live within the Middletown Community Fire Protection Districts cov-erage area to serve on the board.

CITY OF FRANKFORD NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Frankford City Council has decreed a General Municipal Election to be held in Frankford on April 7, 2026, for the purpose of electing the following:

Alderman: 2 -Year Term

Alderman: 2 - Year Term

The filing date for these offices begins Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 at 8 a.m., and will close at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025. Residents wishing to file for one of these offices may do so at city hall during regular business hours.

City hall will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24, 25 & 26, 2025.

City hall will reopen Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025 at 8 a.m.

No person shall be elected to any of the above prescribed offices who are in ar-rears of tax, lien, forfeiture, or defalcation in office at time of declaration of candi-dacy. Candidates must be registered voters in Pike County.

Marilyn L. Frazer, City Clerk City of Frankford

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