

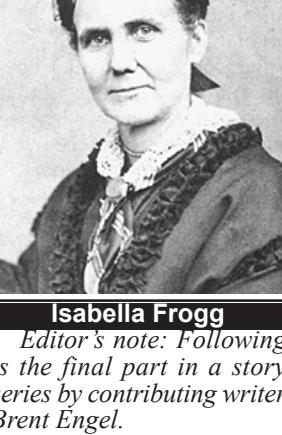
THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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Henderson Advocates For Equality In 1866



Isabella Fogg

Editor's note: Following is the final part in a story series by contributing writer Brent Engel.

John Brooks Henderson opened a can of worms when he suggested black people be given the right to vote.

So, it should have come as no surprise that the fearless lawmaker from Pike County would, in almost the same breath, declare that it was high time women cast ballots.

The Missouri U.S. Senator addressed the topics in a series of speeches in February 1866. He knew that both would require constitutional amendments similar to the one he had drafted outlawing slavery.

One catalyst for discussion of adding women to voting rolls started in the Senate on Feb. 9, with debate on whether to give Isabella Fogg a lifetime pension of \$8 a month – a little under \$200 today.

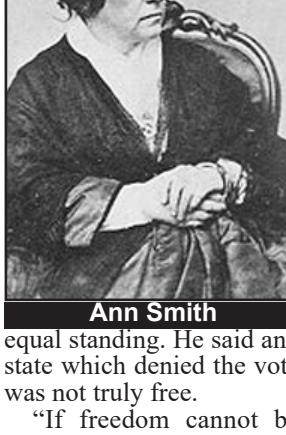
Widowed in 1860, Fogg became a tireless front-line Union nurse on 29 battlefields during the Civil War. Fired upon by Confederates at least eight times, she permanently injured her spine during an accident aboard the hospital ship Jacob Strader in January 1865 while tending to a dying soldier.

Some senators suggested the wording in Fogg's pension be changed so it would be revoked if she took a second husband. Henderson hit the roof, calling his colleagues "ungallant" and "wrong."

"Now, I do not see why that pension should cease if she should marry," he said. "We do not say that the pension shall cease if a man marries, and I do not see why the pension should cease in the case of a female should she happen to marry."

Thanks in part to Henderson's backing, Fogg became the first woman to receive a Civil War pension.

At the time, many Southern states still had not been readmitted to the Union. Henderson said that if the North wanted a constitutional amendment giving voting rights to freed slaves, it had better allow women



Ann Smith

equal standing. He said any state which denied the vote was not truly free.

"If freedom cannot be maintained without the ballot, then woman must enjoy it or be reduced to slavery," the senator boldly said.

On Feb. 21, Henderson presented a petition signed by 28 women calling for voting rights. Their leader was Ann Carroll Fitzhugh Smith, a New York abolitionist and suffragist since her marriage at age 19 in 1822 to one-term Congressman and three-time presidential candidate Gerrit Smith. Their house was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and she often used her carriage to smuggle enslaved blacks to freedom in Canada.

Smith was livid that Sen. Richard Yates of Illinois had delayed answering a Henderson inquiry as to why the women of his state were not allowed to vote. Yates was a graduate of Illinois College in Jacksonville and the state's governor during the war. Henderson knew his fellow Republican well.

"To give you an opportunity to press him on this point, I send you a petition, signed by twenty-eight intelligent women of this State, who are native-born Americans – read, write and pay taxes, and now claim representation," Smith said.

Smith also scolded Massachusetts Sen. Charles Sumner, a famous abolitionist and civil rights leader who had survived being savagely beaten in 1856 by pro-slavery Democrat Congressman Preston Brooks of South Carolina.

"After his definition of a true republic, and his lofty paens to 'equal rights' and the ballot, one would hardly expect him to ignore the claims of 15 million educated taxpayers, now taking their places by the side of man in art, science, literature and government," Smith wrote to Henderson. "I trust, sir, you will present this petition in a manner more creditable to yourself and respectful to those who desire to speak through you."

Though not mentioned in the petition, Henderson's connection to Smith likely came through the elegant Mary Foote, daughter of a

prominent New York judge and the niece of a U.S. Senator from Connecticut, who introduced them. The two would marry a little more than two years later. In his usual consequences-be-damned manner, Henderson read the document.

"I present this petition without any apology," he said in the Senate. "Indeed, I present it with pleasure. It is respectful in its terms, and is signed by ladies occupying so high a place in the moral, social and intellectual world, that it challenges at our hands at least a respectful consideration."

Henderson said he wasn't sure if Yates and Sumner could "give reasons satisfactory to the ladies" for their comments, but couldn't wait to hear them offer explanations. He also drew laughter when saying that because woman was man's better half, unmarried men such as he should probably only get half-a-vote.

But Henderson turned serious when addressing another point of the New York group.

"The petitioners claim that, as we are proposing to enfranchise four million emancipated slaves, equal and impartial justice alike demands the suffrage for 15 million women," he said.

Though forward-thinking, Henderson was still a man of his times. He might be considered sexist today when he said in 1866 that while giving women the vote was necessary, he hoped they would stay out of the smarmy, tainted political atmosphere created by men.

He was holding women up at a time when most legislators didn't acknowledge female input in national affairs at all.

"The voter from this source receives his moral and intellectual training," Henderson said. "Woman makes the voter, and should not descend from her lofty sphere to engage in the angry contests of her creatures."

The Senate did nothing with the petition, but Henderson spent the rest of his life advocating women's suffrage. The lawmaker's ideas were part of the 14th and 15th Amendments.

And while he would not live to see passage of the 19th Amendment that finally ended bans on women voting, Mary Foote Henderson served as president of the Missouri State Suffrage Association and was an outspoken national leader in the women's voting movement.

"To have intelligent voters, we must have intelligent mothers," the senator said. "To have free men, we must have free women."

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Pike County Chapter Vice Regent Cindy Blaylock is pictured presenting Michael Pratt with a Community Service Award.

Pratt Earns Community Service Award

Cindy Blaylock, Vice Regent of Pike County Chapter in Louisiana recently awarded the Community Service Award to Michael Pratt on behalf of the Chapter and the community.

A few years ago, the Pike County Chapter inherited the honorable task of placing United States flags at the graves of every known veteran in Louisiana's Riverview Cemetery and several other area cemeteries on Memorial Day. The Chapter willingly inherited that honor from a local Pike Countian and his retired school teacher wife, Kenneth and Cheryl Ward.

Volunteers from the communities involved then and now continue the monumental (no pun intended) project of "placing" the flags a few days before Memorial Day. Regent Sandy Orf, Secretary Alice Holtzhouse, Treasurer Liz Wallace and Chaplain Jill Perkins of the Pike County Chapter, and on behalf of the rest of their members, recently retiring from that "job."

When Cindy took on the Flag Placement Project, she knew who to look to for help...and called Mike! Working together they were able to not only list veterans buried in Riverview, but located records of those who had not previously been identified as veterans and included them as well. Furthermore, in cooperation, they have been able to assist the city in updating veteran grave information and entering it in the city records.

Mike Pratt now resides in St. Charles with his wife, Debbie, but was born and raised in Louisiana. Over the years, he has become totally engrossed in genealogy as his retirement "hobby." He's active in Find a Grave, among many other genealogy-related sources.

He also served on the Louisiana R-II School District Alumni Board. Over a number of years on the board, Mike documented over 5,000 records from the beginning of the school district to present day, before

The Pike County Chapter is extremely grateful to both Michael Pratt and to Vice Regent Cindy Blaylock for their service to the memory of our U.S. Veterans.

Clarksville Sentinel Biscuits

Fundraiser Is Feb. 13



NECAC's Christina Ray buys biscuits.

BY BRENT ENGEL

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Customers at participating Hardee's restaurants in the region can help their neighbors in need on Feb. 13.

NECAC is teaming up with the restaurants and Heat Up St. Louis for the

26th annual Rise & Shine fund-raiser.

From 6-10:30 a.m., customers will be able to buy sausage or egg biscuits for just \$1. The price has never increased. NECAC staff and volunteers will also collect additional donations.



Louisiana Courtwarming

Louisiana High School held courtwarming festivities on Friday, Feb. 6. Pictured are the 2026 king Landon Brown and queen Reece Wommack.

Trib photo by Kimberly Chandler



Bowling Green Courtwarming

Bowling Green High School held courtwarming on Friday, Feb. 6. Pictured are king Michael Hays and queen Haiden Chandler.

Trib photo by Jerry Hickerson

Happy 115th Birthday Pike Chapter NSDAR

The Pike County Chapter was organized in Louisiana, Missouri on Feb. 10, 1911, with the object "to foster true patriotism and love of country" by Missouri State Regent, Mrs. Robert B. Oliver.

By 1921, the membership was at 62 members. In those days, newspaper articles covered meetings with lovely brunches, tea parties, piano entertainment and dressed-up ladies attending. But they were busy ladies... Historical preservation work by the chapter has been: raised funds to erect stone walls with an ornamental gate at the entrance to the city cemetery in 1911; replaced the damaged entrance in 2008 (see two brass plaques stating the chapter's work); organized and maintained a cemetery association for the perpetual

care of graves in the original section of the cemetery until the mid 1960's. Then the care was transferred to the city; provided stone pillars and a retaining wall for the high school (on Jackson Street—see plaques attached to the walls); erected a granite marker for Buffalo Fort (Circa 1812) in 1917 on the Pitzer Farm on Highway D, south of Louisiana; was instrumental in erecting an obelisk-type monument at the actual site of the fort—now located in the Buffalo Cemetery; and updated the city's records by documenting information on veterans interred at Riverview Cemetery.

Revolutionary Soldier graves have been marked or re-dedicated in 23 cemeteries.

See 115th on page 6

Community News

Show Your Love With Heart-Shaped Houseplants

While red roses might be the iconic gift for Valentine's Day, houseplants with heart-shaped leaves represent a longer-lived expression of affection for a special person in your life, said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

Trinklein shares several good candidates for Valentine's Day gifts.

HEART LEAF PHILODENDRON

Philodendron hederaceum has glossy, dark green leaves on twining stems that will trail or climb when trained and tied to a support. Extremely easy to care for, this species thrives in indirect light when growing in a highly organic soilless potting medium that is kept barely moist. The terminal portion of stems can be pinched for a shorter, fuller plant.

GOLDEN POTHOS

Epipremnum aureum, also known as devil's ivy, is another vining plant with variegated, heart-shaped foliage that can be trained to a support or grown in a hanging container. Golden pothos prefers bright, indirect light but will survive under very dim light conditions. It prefers a well-drained pot-

ting medium that is allowed to become moderately dry between watering.

HOYA HEART

Hoya kerrii is one of several species known as wax plant. Hoya heart is a vine with fleshy dark green, heart-shaped leaves. There also are cultivars of hoya heart with white-edged leaves. With a bit of care, plants produce an interesting umbellate inflorescence up to 1 inch in diameter. Although hoya heart is a durable plant, grow it at temperatures above 59 F. This species requires light for flowering but no more than two hours of bright sunlight per day.

STRING OF HEARTS

Ceropegia woodii has green leaves highlighted with white veins that resemble small hearts on cascading purplish stems. A variegated cultivar with white and pink foliage also is available. This succulent plant also develops interesting fountain-like flowers that are about an inch long. Flowers have a bulbous base with a tubular, pale magenta corolla. Petals are fused at the tips, forming a dark purple, crown-like structure.

CYCLAMEN

Cyclamen persicum not

only has heart-shaped leaves but also produces showy flowers available in a multitude of colors. Cyclamen flowers will persist for several months when kept in bright light and a temperature about 70 F during the day and 50 to 60 F at night. Uniform watering during flowering to keep the potting medium moist is important.

ANTHURIUM

Anthurium andraeanum, or flamingo flower, is a colorful plant with large, captivating flowers consisting of a spathe (shield-like bract) that bears a central spadix. Certain cultivars of anthurium bear vivid red spathes that are about 4-6 inches wide. Anthurium plants produce flowers continuously, with each one lasting about six weeks. Plants thrive in bright indirect light at day temperatures above 68 and 85 F, and 60 to 65 F at night.

"This Valentine's Day, consider expressing your affection for a special someone in your life with the gift of a plant with a heart. It will serve as a reminder of your endearment long after cut flowers have withered," said Trinklein.

Missouri Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education help to sponsor this program.

The Zoom sessions will be recorded and available for viewing for a limited time. For more information, contact Huchteman at 417-358-2158 or huchtemann@missouri.edu.

Register at <https://pears.io/events/mu/3621>.

Learn To Sell At Farmers Markets In March

13

from noon to 1 p.m.

Topics include marketing, business planning, resources through MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Agriculture, and regulations for selling a variety of foods, including value-added and cottage foods. MU Extension specialists will also cover how farmers market vendors should handle sales tax. Participants will hear from farmers about their marketing strategies.

As Valentine's Day approaches, many are hoping for sweet chocolate and maybe even a swoonworthy smooch, not a kiss from the triatomine bug.

This insect, commonly called the "kissing bug," transmits Chagas disease by biting and then pooping around the bite, says Emily Althoff, urban entomologist with University of Missouri Extension and Lincoln University.

Althoff says interest in the kissing bug and Chagas disease has increased since the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pub-

lished a paper last September declaring that Chagas disease is endemic in the U.S.

While Missourians should understand the insect and the disease, there's no need to panic, she says. Only one locally transmitted case has been verified in the state, and that was in 2017, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Chagas disease infects humans as well as wildlife and domestic animals, especially dogs. It is mainly spread by the kissing bug, but it can also be transmitted

congenitally, orally and through contaminated food or drink. It causes fever, rashes, swelling and other symptoms in its early stages in infected persons. Left untreated, it can cause serious cardiac and digestive problems.

In the U.S., it has been reported mostly in southern states, particularly Texas, and has been found in opossums, raccoons, woodrats and armadillos.



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DNR Accepting Grant Applications

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has begun accepting applications for Source Water Protection Project Grants from eligible public water systems.

The grant offers up to \$25,000 to eligible community water systems that produce all or a portion of their drinking water from a raw water source, such as groundwater, lakes or rivers. Source water protection plan implementation projects and source water protection plan development or revision projects are eligible for funding.

Development projects are for eligible applicants seeking to develop an original, local and voluntary source water protection plan, or to update an existing plan that has an expired endorsement. Grant applicants must submit a new or revised source water protection plan to the department before they can receive reimbursement for eligible project activities.

Implementation projects are for eligible applicants that have a source water protection plan with a current department endorsement. These may include activities and best management practices to achieve action items, goals or objectives documented within an existing protection plan, coordination of outreach or educational activities or other efforts that advance goals described within a protection plan.

Community public water systems that produce all or a portion of their water from a raw source are eligible to apply for reimbursement funding through this program. Complete applications the department receives Feb. 1 through March 31, 2026, are ranked competitively and awarded in order of priority rank. Complete applications received April 1 through May 31, 2026, may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis if available funding remains.

The department is committed to helping Missouri communities protect their drinking water sources and protect human health. For more information, please visit the Source Water Protection Grant webpage at dnr.mo.gov/water/what-were-doing/financial-assistance-opportunities/source-water-protection-project-grant or contact the Source Water Protection Program Coordinator by phone at 573-526-0269 or by email at SourceWaterProtection@dnr.mo.gov.

Grant Funding For Project Prom, Graduation

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is making grant funds available to local schools located within the Northeast District that host student lock-in events for project prom or high school graduation celebrations.

To qualify, schools must include an activity or presentation that educates students about highway safety. Qualifying schools will receive a \$200 grant to help offset costs related to the event, including venue rental, food, or entertainment.

"These supervised lock-

Frankford School

A, B Honor Rolls

A HONOR ROLL

FIRST SEMESTER

Grade 3- Collyns Brandenburger, Jackson Cook.

Grade 4 - Crosby Hicker- son, Harper, Jackson, Lillie Jo Jackson, Dallas Scherder, Ayla Smith, Bo Turner, LouAnn Wood.

Grade 5 - Coy Hamilton, Sterling Schmidt.

B HONOR ROLL

FIRST SEMESTER

Grade 3 - Sophie Ak- right, Aksel Austin, Noah Baker, Rory Sparks, Brant- lee Virden.

Grade 4 - Aversyn Bar- low, Genore Grant, Clane Mahar, Emma Maxson, Easton Moiser.

Grade 5 - Pretty Adams, Wade Luebrecht, Ty Per- kin, Callie Scherder, Trip Turner.

in events provide students with a safe environment to celebrate important milestones with their peers," said Northeast District Traffic Engineer Jonathan Bruner. "The consequences of impaired or distracted driving can be life-altering in an instant. Our goal is for students to leave these events with great memories — not preventable tragedies."

Grant applications are currently being accepted through Feb. 21, 2026. Interested schools or event sponsors may apply online by visiting Project Prom-Graduation Grant | Missouri Department of Transportation (modot.org). Funding is limited and available for up to 20 schools.

For more information, contact Northeast Coalition Facilitator Gerri Jeffries at (573) 248-2502 or Northeast Coalition Representative Tina Lee at (573) 248-2517. Additional details are also available on the Northeast Coalition website at www.savemolives.com/mcrs/Northeast-Region.

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1,347 Steers, medium & large 587 Heifers, Med. & Large

Computer Avg. Computer Avg. Top

5 300 & Down 600 710 6 300 & Down 440 585

34 300-400 510 605 29 300-400 465 530

142 400-500 495 600 131 400-500 470 532

348 500-600 485 535 201 500-600 440 505

280 600-700 420 464 164 600-700 380 419

282 700-800 380 424 43 700-800 320 346

249 800-900 360 374 7 800-900 300 324

900-1,000 2550 3600 900-1000

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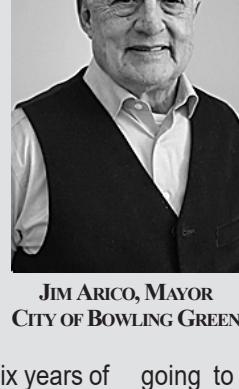
Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

As our year gets moving and trying to balance society's challenges, it's important to enjoy life and not get caught up with the busyness of life.

The striving for recognition, success, job improvement, and making more money are life's greatest idol-builders. We start to worship ourselves; our goals and philosophies are more focused on self rather than God's Laws or our Country's Rule of Law. Our religion becomes whatever we believe to be true! It's also a time of reflection as we look back on how our 250 years of American values are being questioned as to how far we've matured as a nation. We need to look back as we recognize Black History Month and think about how history, leadership, and experiences that helped shape our United States of America are being corrupted. Stand firm and pray for peace and unity for America today.

As I look back on the almost six years of being your mayor. I look back on the challenges, transparency, and the good times of trying to represent you residents. Your city's administrator and the board of alderpersons have made many great decisions which have improved our town. Many of you citizens have stepped up and responded to challenges for growth, development, and expansion to bring Bowling Green into the 21st Century. We have lost some amazing citizens over the last six years who contributed mightily to the build-



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

ing and making Bowling Green an awesome place to live, work, play, and raise a family. I have also watched amazing current and new citizens come into the community and step up and take their place and catapult our city into an interesting and exciting place to live, be engaged and be a big part of who and what Bowling Green is as a thriving town! I can look back to the historic past which has been more prominent and visible and forward to the process of preparing for the present and the future. As I look back to when Karen and I moved to Bowling Green 10 and a half years ago, it has been our pleasure to be involved and contribute in small ways in serving our blessed town! We immediately found favor and have beautiful friendships and co-workers. We fell in love with Bowling Green and its people and we feel you fell in love with us! Karen and I look forward to what God is going to do next in His City of Bowling Green and especially personally in our own lives.

As I am boxing up paperwork, grant applications-both accepted and rejected-communications and encouragements from so many of you, I look back with fondness and

regrets that I could not fulfill all the "things" that you requested and/or that were on my

heart to accomplish. However, as I have

stated over the past six years, "Bowling

Green is God's city and if He wants it done,

it will be done.

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State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

The Missouri House this week passed HBs 1667 and 2294, legislation that would establish the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act," requiring that a child born alive during or after an abortion or attempted abortion be afforded the same legal rights and medical care as any other child born alive at the same gestational age. This legislation mandates that health care providers exercise reasonable professional care to preserve the life and health of the child and ensure the child is transported to and admitted to a hospital, with mandatory reporting requirements for violations. The bills create criminal penalties for failure to report violations, establish that intentionally killing a child born alive constitutes first-degree murder, and authorize civil liability for conduct that causes injury or death in connection with unlawful or self-induced abortions. The proposals also specify who may bring civil actions and limit certain defenses in wrongful death and personal injury claims, while clarifying that natural and spontaneous preg-

nancy loss before fetal viability is not considered an abortion.

Supporters say that any child born alive following an attempted abortion should receive the same standard of care as any other newborn and that the enforcement provisions promote accountability and transparency in medical settings. Opponents argued that the legal definitions in the bill do not align with medical practice and could create unintended legal risks in complex clinical situations. With a vote of 103-40, the bill now heads to the Missouri Senate for further consideration.

A Look At Bills Moving Through Committees

HB 1698, HB 2120 – School Bullying and Violence Response Policies

These bills update school anti-bullying statutes by requiring districts and charter schools to revise bullying policies, limit zero-tolerance discipline for victims, and consider self-defense when determining discipline. The proposals require immediate written reporting of bullying incidents, standardized documentation of investigations, parental notification, and referrals to law enforcement or the Children's Division in cases meeting harassment thresholds. They mandate annual training for school employees and volunteers, monthly reporting of disciplinary incidents to school boards in closed session, and provide civil liability protections for staff who intervene in good faith. The measures also treat bullying and school violence as reportable abuse for mandated reporters and prohibit charter schools from expelling or transferring students solely due to bullying reports.

HB 2230 – Limits On Technology Use In Elementary Schools

This bill limits daily digital instruction for students in kindergarten through fifth grade to 45 minutes beginning in the 2027-28 school year and restricts the use of instructional technology in core subjects such as reading, math, handwriting, science demonstrations, and social studies. It requires that most assignments be completed using paper and pencil and mandates cursive instruction for grades two through five, with proficiency required by the end of fifth grade. The bill prohibits assigning technology-based homework, transporting school devices home, and using technology for classroom management or entertainment, with limited exceptions for special education and assistive technology. Districts would be required to adopt board policies and provide annual public reporting on technology use and instructional materials.

Saturday, Feb. 14 - Just talked to Patty who said she has several spaces available so just come on out to the Courtyard Cafe in Pittsfield where The Big River Band will be there with the music starting at 6:00 to listen to or enjoy dancing. Call 1-217-283-4669 with questions.

Saturday, Feb. 27 - The Big River Band plans to be at the Pike County Senior Center in Pittsfield, 220 West Adams Street, on Saturday, Feb. 27, with the show starting at 6:30 p.m.

There is a good concession stand there to purchase treats. A big dance floor for

the evening.

Friday, Feb. 13 - Don't Forget: Those of you who have made the required reservations for this evening,

The Big River Band will be playing in Bowling Green at Merna's Kitchen, 214 West Church Street, with two meal times...one starting at 5:30 p.m., and the other at 7:30 p.m., and the music starts at 6 p.m. No matter what time you reserved, you will be permitted to stay for the whole evening to enjoy the music, and there is a good space for dancing. Any questions, call 1-573-470-1113.

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There is a good concession stand there to purchase treats. A big dance floor for

the evening.

Friday, Feb. 13 - Don't Forget: Those of you who have made the required reservations for this evening,

The Big River Band will be playing in Bowling Green at Merna's Kitchen, 214 West Church Street, with two meal times...one starting at 5:30 p.m., and the other at 7:30 p.m., and the music starts at 6 p.m. No matter what time you reserved, you will be permitted to stay for the whole evening to enjoy the music, and there is a good space for dancing. Any questions, call 1-573-470-1113.

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Obituaries



Roger Lee Gaston

Roger Lee Gaston, 68, of Mexico died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at his home.

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

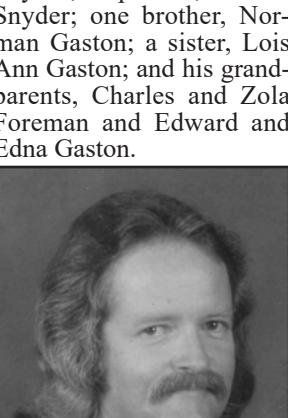
Roger was born April 17, 1957, in Mexico, the son of Curtis Edward and Olivia Ann Foreman Gaston. He was united in marriage to Sue Andreotta on Nov. 26, 1977, at Farber Baptist Church.

Roger was a 1975 graduate of Community R-6 High School. He worked in construction for many years, spending the majority of his career with N.J. Wilson Construction.

Roger enjoyed playing softball and riding motorcycles. He also loved fishing and, most of all, spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Gaston of the home; one daughter, Roxane Marie Golian and husband, Justin Matthew of Bowling Green; two sons, Heath Allen and wife, Corrie Utterback Gaston of Vandalia and Justin Lee and wife, Kallene Chism Gaston of Ladonna; 12 grandchildren, Tristin Speagle and wife, Amanda, Madison Raynor and husband, Brent, Tori Snyder and husband, Josh, Austin Speagle and wife, Hailey, Cameron Lee Gaston, Dillon Minor, Taylor Leonard and husband, C.J., Tia Gaston, Gaven Gaston, Ashton Golian, Layton Lee Gaston, and Brynlee Marie Gaston; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Roger was preceded in death by his father, Curtis Gaston; his mother, Olivia Snyder; stepfather, Melvin Snyder; one brother, Norman Gaston; a sister, Lois Ann Gaston; and his grandparents, Charles and Zola Foreman and Edward and Edna Gaston.



Mark William Steen

Mark William Steen, 70, of Louisiana died peacefully at his home with his wife of 37 years by his side, after winning so many health battles since 2011.

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

Mark was a gentle soul who loved restoring classic vehicles. He was born in Sacramento, Calif., and attended school in Sacramento. He then moved to San Leandro, Calif., where he worked making lenses for glasses.

He was talented and could do many things so he opened a small construction company and worked it until 2007. He fell in love with Louisiana, and him and his wife bought a home here in 2005 and moved here in 2007. He loved working on his vehicles. He had many friends here in Louisiana, so being here was a gift. His favorite things to do was fishing in Baja, Calif., going to car shows and car races.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother.

He was married to his wife, Jeannette on Feb. 14, 1988. She survives. He is also survived by a daughter; two brothers; a sister; one niece; and a nephew, all of California.

Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana is in charge of cremation rites.

Online condolences may be sent at collierfuneral.com.



Beatrice Gamm

Today we celebrate the life of Beatrice Gamm, 92, of Bowling Green who went to meet her heavenly Father on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026.

Visitation was Monday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes & Crematory in Troy.

Funeral services were Monday at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Don Amelung officiating.

Beatrice also known as Bea was born Nov. 21, 1933 in St. Louis County to Julius Erbe and Luella Schuette. She graduated Silex High School in May 1951. Afterwards she began working at Lemp Shoe Factory, which later became known as the Glove Factory.

It was during this time Beatrice met John Roberts and married at the tender age of 17. From this union five children were born: Dwain Roberts and wife, Debra, Debbie Adams, Diane Crowder and husband, Darrell, Dennis Roberts and wife, Debbie, and Darrell Roberts and wife, Tammy.

Bea later moved to Hawk point and began working at Monsanto in St. Peters for several years. She retired from Monsanto in the late 70's and moved to Eolia where she met John Gamm. They married and Beatrice gained five wonderful step-children. Beatrice worked at Walmart and Kroger in Louisiana for a while before deciding to retire for good.

She loved gospel music and was a Baptist by faith. She loved dancing in her earlier years to country music. Her hobbies included gardening, canning, playing cards, cooking and eating and planting flowers in her yard to attract hummingbirds. As age slowed her down, she enjoyed sitting on her porch swing with her little dog, Sophie, watching the hummingbirds eat from her flowers. She loved to feel the warm sun on her face, the gentle breeze and the sounds of nature.

Bea lived a good long life and enjoyed the simpler things, but most of all she enjoyed and loved her children, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her two husbands and her loving parents, her siblings, and her granddaughter Jennifer Roberts.

Donations may be made to Community Loving Care Hospice, 1310 S. Business Highway 61 Suite B, Bowling Green, MO 63334.

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



Joshua Lee Parks

Funeral services for Joshua Lee Parks, 36, of Ladonna, will be at 2 p.m., Saturday at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Vandalia with Pastor Mark Drazba officiating. Burial will follow in Lick Creek Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 12 p.m., until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Mr. Parks died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at University of Missouri Hospital-Columbia surrounded by his family.

He was born Jan. 13, 1990, in Columbia the son of Larry Keith Parks and Brandy Braudaway Gustafson.

Josh is survived by his parents, Larry Parks of Ladonna and Brandy Gustafson of St. Louis; his daughter, Madelyn; his grandmother, Linda C. Jawort of Montana; his siblings, Ashley (Michael) Graham and husband, Michael, Phillip Austin Parks, Ryan Keith Parks, Malorie Gustafson and husband, Joshua, Robbie Gustafson, and Rebecca Gustafson, along with other relatives and a host of friends.

Josh loved being outdoors and riding four-wheelers. He enjoyed the time he spent on the trails and making memories along the way.

Most of all, Josh loved his family. He especially treasured time with his daughter, Madelyn, who meant everything to him. He will be deeply missed and always remembered with love.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Parks, Austin Parks, Robbie Gustafson, Jr. Graham, Wyatt Graham, Jared Berlin, Matthew Donaldson, and Josh Murray.

Memorial contributions may be made to assist the family with funeral expenses and future expenses for his daughter. Checks may be made and mailed to Bienhoff Funeral Home, P.O. Box 427 Perry, MO 63462.

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



Rebekah Karen Lovelace

Rebekah Karen Lovelace, 68, of Vandalia died Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 at her home in Vandalia.

A celebration of life visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday (today) at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Vandalia.

Rebekah was born Dec. 27, 1957 in Mexico, the daughter of Marion Washington and Dorothy Viola Elliott Colbert. She married Virgil Eugene "Gene" Lovelace on Jan. 16, 1993. He preceded her in death on Sept. 23, 2015.

Survivors include one son, Lonnie Selby and wife, Amber of Vandalia; a step-son, Sean Lovelace and wife, Wendy of Jefferson City; one brother, Clyde Colbert and wife, Evalyn of Mexico; seven grandchildren, Jerica Selby, Christopher Hays, Alyssa Hays, Ayanna Hays, and Jaxon Selby, all of Vandalia, Missouri Hays of Bowling Green, and Zachary Lovelace of Columbia; three great-grandchildren, Aurora Hays, Camden Hays, and Nova Hays; along with nieces; nephews; other relatives; and a host of friends.

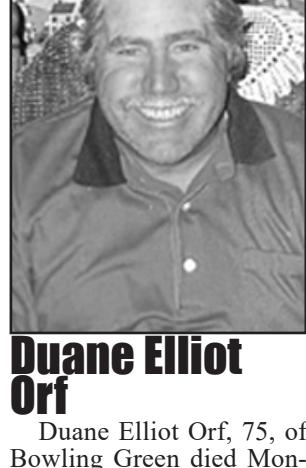
She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Valerie Lynn Hays, a step-son, Chris Lovelace, one brother, Walter Marion Colbert, and a sister, Mary Lucinda Colbert.

Rebekah was a Baptist by faith and had a caring heart for others. She spent many years serving her community as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and worked at several different places throughout the area. In her

free time, she enjoyed crossword puzzles, tending to her plants, playing bingo, and visiting the casino to try her luck at games of chance. Most of all, she loved her family and treasured every moment spent with her grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home P.O. Box 54 Vandalia, MO 63382.

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



Duane Elliot Orf

Duane Elliot Orf, 75, of Bowling Green died Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake St. Louis, surrounded by his family.

A 1969 graduate of Bowling Green High School, Duane lived most of his life near his family farm off Hwy. Y, south of town.

Visitation was Friday at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory in Bowling Green, from 5-8 p.m. A morning Mass was held Saturday at 11 a.m., at St. Clement Catholic Church with Fr. Henry Ussher officiating.

Those who knew Duane understood his love of three things – family, sports, and socializing. The third oldest of 13 children of James A. and Vera I. Nelson Orf, Duane grew up with siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Whether it was helping dad build a homemade sled to hold the oldest six or getting in trouble having corn cob fights with brothers against sisters or trying to touch the top of the barn hanging from the silo, or stealing watermelons from the neighbor, he was up for anything. In later years the siblings knew he could be counted on to drive the tractor for hayrides in the fall, protect them from storms, and Uber them to the KC picnic.

After graduating, Duane worked on the family farm until retirement. He also worked part-time at the local sale barn for many years. This wasn't just a job for Duane because he took great pride in helping others with his knowledge of livestock. He also enjoyed shooting the breeze with his coworkers and the feeling was mutual.

Duane loved sports. He particularly loved baseball. Every younger sibling was coached in all the fundamentals and finer points of the game. Almost every day, weather permitting, there was a baseball game in the front yard. The only drawback was the damage done to the front windows of the house.

He was a proud member of the Goose Hill Gang softball team and had evidence to prove it, and like most Missourians he was a die-hard Cardinals fan, and, in his case, he had no choice because his mother was one too.

Socially, Duane could party with the best of them.

He loved to brag about how

he held the attendance record at Fungo's Bar in St. Clement. During those days after a few 7&7s he would treat the crowd to what was locally known as "The Doo Doo Shuffle."

Duane is survived by his siblings, Paula Hester and husband, David of Ottumwa, Iowa, Pam O'Donnell of Phoenix, Ariz., Jeff Orf of Bowling Green, Barb Shinn of Bowling Green, Dwight Orf and wife, Tammy of New Hartford, Shari Tullock of Troy, and Valerie Edwards and husband, Joe of Chattanooga, Tenn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings, Sandy Orf, Ronnie Orf, Patricia Orf, Scott Orf, and Aaron Orf.

Pallbearers were his nephews, Tyson Geissert, Ashley Holtsman, Drew Orf, Cass Shinn, Cole Shinn, Jason Orf, Shane Orf, and Dustin Tullock. Honorary pallbearers were his brothers, Jeff Orf and Dwight Orf; and his nephews, Travis Shinn and Matthew Orf.

Memorials may be made to the St. Clement Cemetery.



This undated photo shows the former Louisiana railroad depot. The sign is now housed at the Louisiana Area Historical Museum. (Photo courtesy of Archie Hayden).

Valentine's Day Murder

Pike County Officer Gunned Down In 1900

BY BRENT ENGEL

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

More than 125 years have passed since the crime, and there's still a sense that justice was not served.

Louisiana Police Officer Lowell Pew was shot to death early on St. Valentine's Day in 1900.

The popular officer had been on the force for six months, and was responding to a burglary call outside the Louisiana train depot.

The bullet severed an artery and Pew bled out before help could arrive.

Bulletins were issued throughout Missouri and Illinois, and trains on both sides of the river were stopped and searched.

Prosecutors sought first-

degree murder charges against three suspects. One ended up spending less than three years in prison and the other two escaped before their trials.

Eight months later, the escapees were implicated in the murder of Hannibal Police Officer Raphael Girard. Again, no one was brought to justice.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Pew is the only Louisiana officer to die in the line of duty.

The most recent death to affect the department was Police Chief Rich Hughes, who died at age 43 of a heart attack in his home on July 2, 2014, not long after his shift ended.

NOTICE

VANDALIA CEMETERY

All winter memorials & decorations

must be removed from graves by

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Any items not removed by this date will be removed by the

cemetery association & disposed of

The People's Tribune - The Area's Only Locally Owned & Operated Newspaper

MCCOY-BLOSSOM FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORIAL

Bowling Green

MODERN FACILITIES

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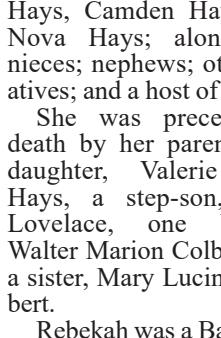
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McCoy-Blossom

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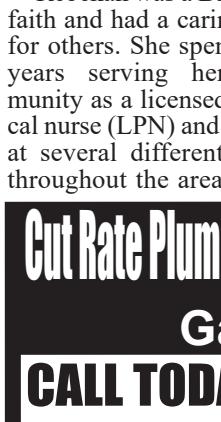


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Community News

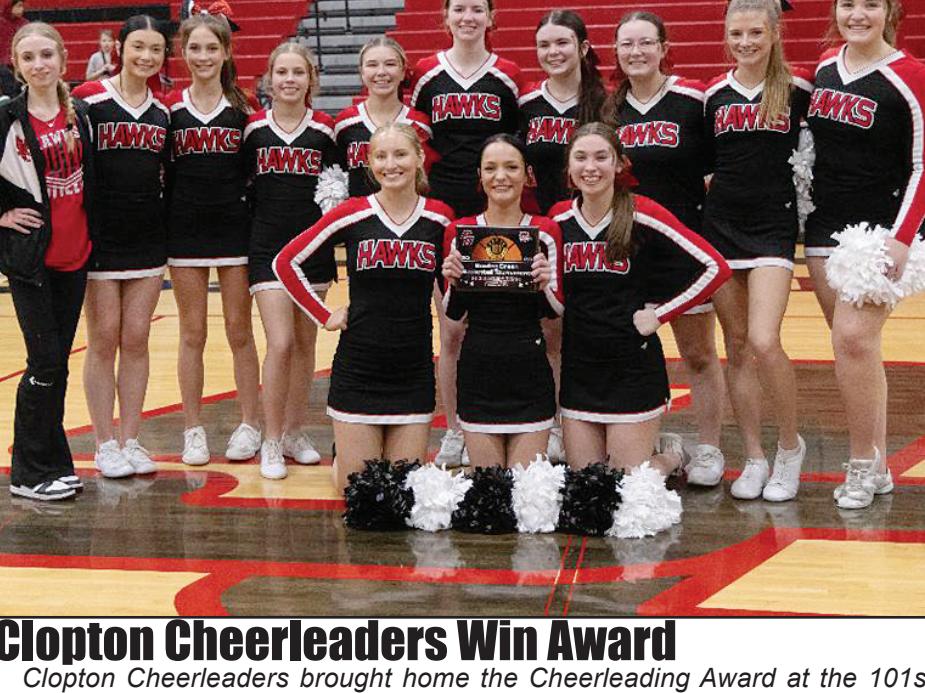
Bowling Green Invitational Hoops Highlights

Photos By Kimberly Chandler



Clopton Hawks Capture Second Place

The Clopton Hawks brought home the second-place trophy in the Bowling Green Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 31. Pictured, front row, (l-r): Camden Lilley, Trey Spoonster, Caden Simmons, and Austin McNeese. Second row: Jason Hoffman, manager, Jacob Harrelson, Wyatt Myers, Larson Hall, Tucker Salmons, James Matheny, Adam Matheny, Kaden Wilson, and Corey Couch, manager.



Louisiana cheerleaders show off their impressive stunts during a timeout in the 101st Annual Bowling Green Invitational Jan. 26-31.



Louisiana Bulldog Donnell Griffith goes airborne toward the basket against the Winfield Warriors.

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Eastern Missouri Grid
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

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EASTERN MISSOURI GRID TRANSFORMATION PROJECT IN PIKE COUNTY

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) and Ameren Missouri are working together to build a more reliable and resilient energy grid for the future. The Eastern Missouri Grid Transformation Project includes more than 130 miles of new or upgraded transmission lines through six (6) Missouri counties, including Marion, Ralls, Pike, Lincoln, St. Charles and St. Louis counties, as well as the City of St. Louis, with a targeted in service date of 2032. This Project consists of five (5) segments, including the **Maywood-Belleau** segment within Pike County. The Project will prepare the grid for the future by replacing aging infrastructure, adding transmission capacity to ensure reliability and resiliency, and promoting more access to a balanced mix of energy sources for communities. Join us at the open house to learn about the Project in Pike County and share your input.

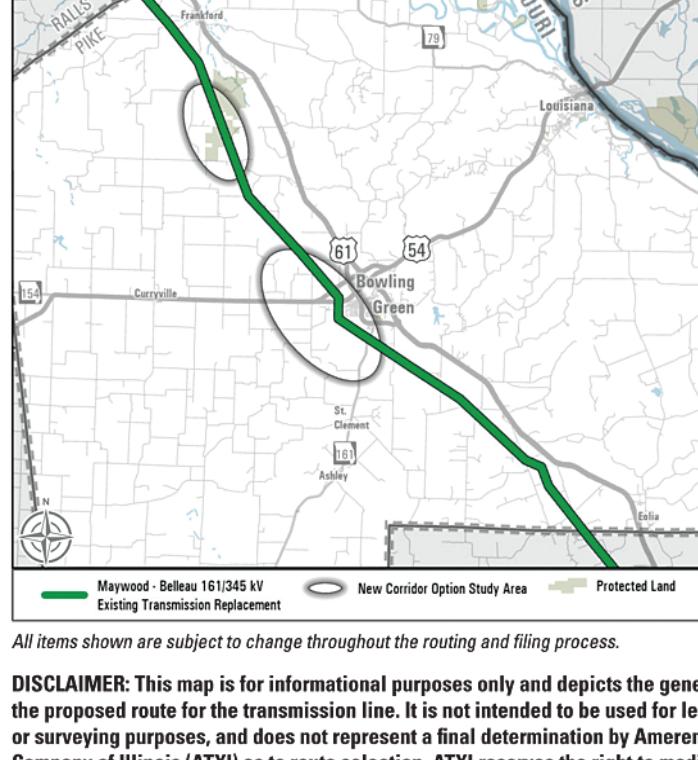


**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2026
11 AM-1 PM AND 5-7 PM**



**VFW POST 5553
505 VFW ROAD
BOWLING GREEN, MO 63334**

Scan this code to learn more and sign up for email alerts.



All items shown are subject to change throughout the routing and filing process.

DISCLAIMER: This map is for informational purposes only and depicts the general location of the proposed route for the transmission line. It is not intended to be used for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes, and does not represent a final determination by Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) as to route selection. ATXI reserves the right to modify, adjust, or consider new or alternative routes contingent upon Commission approval. The information may be subject to change, and ATXI does not guarantee the accuracy of the data shown.

Ameren.com/EasternMOGrid

(877) 468-1823

Connect@EasternMOGrid.com

Eastern Missouri Grid Transformation Project

Attn: WSP
701 Emerson Road, Suite 250

Creve Coeur, MO 63141

80th Celebration



Pike County Soil & Water Conservation District

80 Years -- Established 11/6/1945

Thursday, February 12, 2026

**Pike County Fairgrounds – Bowling Green, MO
(15884 US-54, 63334)**

Doors open at 12 noon for Board Supervisor election voting opportunity.
The voting period for board supervisors is February 1-20, 2026.

Program:

4:00pm – 4:45pm Rusty Lee - "Drone Establishment of Cover Crops"

4:45pm – 5:30pm Brandon Holley & Kim Schroeder – "Farming for Tomorrow"

5:30pm – 6:00pm Supper

6:00pm – 6:45pm Christopher Hudson – "Virtual Fencing"

Our speakers:

Rusty Lee – Field Specialist in Agronomy – MU Extension in Montgomery County

Brandon Holley – County Executive Director, Farm Service Agency

Kim Schroeder – District Conservationist for Lincoln, Montgomery, Pike and Warren Counties

Christopher Hudson – Local grain and livestock farmer, utilizing virtual fencing in their beef cattle operation

If you need an accommodation to participate in this activity or event, please contact Pike County USDA Service Center at 573-324-3201 ext. 3 or email kimberly.schroeder@usda.gov or karen.becker@swcd.mo.gov by January 29, 2026.

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.

Community News



Patriot's Pen Sixth Grade

Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay sixth grade winners are, from left: Ellis Hickerson, first place; Dawson Crane, second place; and Jacob Wilson, third place.



Patriot's Pen Seventh Grade

Patriot's Pen Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay seventh grade winners are, from left: Brynlee Schumacher, first place; Brylin Ann Garner, second place; and Aubree Cannon, third place.



Patriots Pen Eighth Grade

The eighth-grade winners for Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay contest are (l-r): Strong Adams, who earned first, and Rayna Stewart, who won second place, and Sophia Gilbert, who won third place.

115TH

Continued from front page

Cash awards, lapel pins and certificates are presented to outstanding "Good Citizen" students at Louisiana and Clopton Awards Assemblies; various holidays are celebrated in news media; wreaths are laid on appropriate holidays; Veterans, past and present, have been and are honored by DAR attendees on holidays at the Louisiana Schools, American Legion, Elks and Boy Scout troops; and annual donations are made to First Responders in Louisiana, Clarksville, and Eolia, Missouri Veterans Home, Indian Schools, Honor

Flights, The Food Pantry, Anne's Anchor, Louisiana,

BONCL and Clopton school libraries and to several other recipients.

In October of 2023, the Nancy Ross Chapter in Illinois (which had been organized by those 62 Louisiana members in 1921) and the Pike County Chapter both were designated as "Lantern Chapters" by NSDAR.

The current officers in the Pike County Chapter are Regent Sandy Orf, Vice Regent Cindy Blaylock, Secretary Alice Holtzouser, Treasurer Liz Wallace, Chaplain Jill Perkins and Registrar Ann Keller (of Bolivar), formerly of Louisiana.

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This all amounts to a lot of things accomplished by the Pike County Chapter, NSDAR since February 10, 1911! With many thanks to the Louisiana and Pike County people...

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Voice Of Democracy

Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary in Bowling Green held their annual awards banquet for the 2025-26 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Competition. The competition provides scholarships and award money to middle and high school students. This year's Voice of Democracy winners were; Elijah Bryant, first place; Angel Harrison, second place; and Nakya Griffith, third place.



Teacher Of The Year

Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary in Bowling Green held their annual awards banquet for the 2025-26 on Monday, Feb. 2 where they announced the post's and auxiliary's Teacher of the Year Award. This year's recipient was a Bowling Green Middle School teacher, David Bierly.

PIKE AMISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



AUCTION SITE: 8778 PIKE 478
BOWLING GREEN MO 63334

Happy Valentine's Day

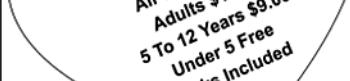
Join us for our annual

Valentine Dinner

Friday February 13, 2026

Start Serving at 4:30 P.M.

Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Noodles, Baked Beans, Potato Salad,
Homemade Bread, Apple Butter,
Chocolate Cake & Homemade Ice Cream



Prices:
All You Can Eat!
Adults \$16.00
5 To 12 Years \$9.00
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WEEKLY
RAFFLES

Dolan Wilcox

New Inventory Arriving Daily!



Patriot's Pen Sixth Grade

Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay sixth grade winners are, from left: Ellis Hickerson, first place; Dawson Crane, second place; and Jacob Wilson, third place.



Patriot's Pen Seventh Grade

Patriot's Pen Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay seventh grade winners are, from left: Brynlee Schumacher, first place; Brylin Ann Garner, second place; and Aubree Cannon, third place.



Patriots Pen Eighth Grade

The eighth-grade winners for Champ Clark Memorial VFW Post 5553 and Auxiliary's Patriot Pen essay contest are (l-r): Strong Adams, who earned first, and Rayna Stewart, who won second place, and Sophia Gilbert, who won third place.

115TH

Continued from front page

Cash awards, lapel pins and certificates are presented to outstanding "Good Citizen" students at Louisiana and Clopton Awards Assemblies; various holidays are celebrated in news media; wreaths are laid on appropriate holidays; Veterans, past and present, have been and are honored by DAR attendees on holidays at the Louisiana Schools, American Legion, Elks and Boy Scout troops; and annual donations are made to First Responders in Louisiana, Clarksville, and Eolia, Missouri Veterans Home, Indian Schools, Honor

Flights, The Food Pantry, Anne's Anchor, Louisiana,

BONCL and Clopton school libraries and to several other recipients.

In October of 2023, the Nancy Ross Chapter in Illinois (which had been organized by those 62 Louisiana members in 1921) and the Pike County Chapter both were designated as "Lantern Chapters" by NSDAR.

The current officers in the Pike County Chapter are Regent Sandy Orf, Vice Regent Cindy Blaylock, Secretary Alice Holtzouser, Treasurer Liz Wallace, Chaplain Jill Perkins and Registrar Ann Keller (of Bolivar), formerly of Louisiana.

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This all amounts to a lot of things accomplished by the Pike County Chapter, NSDAR since February 10, 1911! With many thanks to the Louisiana and Pike County people...

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ST. CLEMENT PARISH DRIVE THRU FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

MENU:

- THE KC'S FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN
- MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
- CORN
- DINNER ROLL

WHEN

Friday, February 13, 2026
4:00pm - 7:30pm or while supplies last

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

MOBILE HOMES

USED DOUBLE-WIDE - DUTCH. Amish built in Indiana, excellent condition, 3 bed., 2 bath. FINANCING. Call for info 573-249-3333, markt-wainmobilehomes.com. (tf)

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

FOR RENT

GOOD SIZE apartment. See to appreciate. \$600 month plus deposit and security. 636-795-1808. (x2-13)

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

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

FOR SALE

MO. FIREARMS CO. call for best prices. 573-470-9111. (c8-11)

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NO HUNTING - 12812 Hwy. VV, B.G. & 12970 Hwy. VV, B.G. No hunting or fishing on the property of Anthony Bommarito. Violators will be prosecuted. (x12-1)

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ING OR HUNTING on the property of Cherlyn Boots. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for accidents on property.

SERVICES

GEEKY HILL-BILLY COMPUTER SERVICES LLC - B.G. computer repair & recycling, 573-324-7176, 573-567-6164. (tf)

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RICK'S LAWN

EQUIPMENT & GOLF CARTS - Sales, service, and parts. Used golf cars and mowers. Hwy. 54 West, Louisiana, MO 63353, 573-754-5055. (tf)

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

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

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NOTICE

The Public Water Supply Dist. #1 of Pike County, Missouri is accepting bids for the service and maintenance of the District. This includes repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure as well as new service connections and waterline extensions. Bid specifications may be picked up at the District office located at 1106 W. Adams St., Bowling Green, Missouri or call 573-324-3221. Bid deadline is 12 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

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HELP WANTED

The BONCL R-X School District has an immediate opening for a part time custodian.

An Application for Employment may be obtained on the district's website at www.bonclbluejays.com or by contacting BONCL R-X School at 573-754-5412.

Review of application will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled. Applicants should submit an application via email to: employment@bonclbluejays.com or by mail to: BONCL R-X School District, Attn: Leslie Lovell, Superintendent 23526 Pike 9247 Louisiana, MO 63353.

The BONCL R-X School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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