

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

Published Every Tuesday • Vol. 30 - No. 13 • Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 • Online at www.thepeoplestribune.com



Henderson Advocates For Equality In 1866



Isabella Frogg
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 Frogg a lifetime pension of \$8 a month – a little under \$200 today.

Widowed in 1860, Frogg 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 Frogg'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, Frogg 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-bemadned 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."



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 Me-

morial Day. Regent Sandy Orf, Secretary Alice Holtzhouser, Treasurer Liz Wallace and Chaplain Jill Perkins of the Pike County Chapter, and on behalf of the rest of their members, also assist with the placements.

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

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.

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.

Participating locations include Hardee's restaurants in Bowling Green, Troy, Lake St. Louis, O'Fallon, St. Peters and St. Charles.

All proceeds will help qualifying elderly, disabled and low-income people pay utility costs in the county in which contributions are made.

Heat Up St. Louis organizes the event, which raises money to fund heating and utility assistance programs administered by agencies in 44 Missouri and Illinois counties.

You can check locations of other participating restaurants by logging on to www.heatupstlouis.org. Bulk pre-orders of 20 biscuits or more may be made through Thursday, Feb. 12. Just be sure to name the restaurant at which you'll pick them up.

Last year's Rise & Shine event raised more than \$1,000,000 overall.



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



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

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 shaped 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-

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 love, 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."



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

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.

Around Town - Farber News

By RUTH WILLIAMS

January Board of Alderman highlights: Our January meeting was pretty uneventful. The minutes were approved and bills paid. The need for a fencing ordinance was discussed and a draft will be reviewed at the February meeting. We will have an April election for two seats on the Farber Board of Alderman. Lynn Flowers has filed for reelection with a write-in for the second seat.

Also, weather permitting replacement of a sewer manhole in the alley in northeast part of town is scheduled to be done.

Just a reminder, the scrap metal dumpster is still sitting at the city maintenance building to help you get rid of any scrap metal. Feel free to fill it up. Do you realize how lucky we are to have a very unique building in Farber?

Our two story, swiss chalet style depot, built in the late 1800's is one of last two of this style left in Missouri. The train station was in the lower level, with living quarters on the second floor. The railroad closed the Farber Depot in 1973, and it was acquired by the city in

1974. It was repainted last in 1992, and is ready for some repairs and a fresh coat of paint. It also needs a new purpose – give it some thought. Where do we start and how do we make it happen? All ideas welcomed.

More history on the depot, and the town, can be found at our Farber Branch Library history corner. Farber Flashback Question for February...Farber is listed with a population of 100 in 1876. Our current population is 255. The largest recorded population was 503 in what year? The January answer was True – no other town of "Farber". We are one of a kind. Need A Ride? OATS Transit is currently offering regular transportation services to rural residents of any age. To schedule a ride or to inquire about services available in your area, please call the OATS Transit office at 660-415-0901 or 800-654-6287.

OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age. You can also visit our website at www.oatstransit.org/audrain, where you can find your local schedule.

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.

Callaway Livestock Center

Kingdom City Feb. 5, 2026

Receipts: 688 Head

Pairs – Better Cows

7 head

1st Calf – Heifer Pairs

8 head

\$5,000 – \$5,700

3-6 Yr Old Cows (Baby to 300 lb Calves)

16 head

\$4,700 – \$5,100

6-8 Yr Old Cows (Baby to 300 lb Calves)

9 head

\$3,800 – \$5,100

Short Solid & Aged (Baby to 300 lb Calves)

7 head

\$3,100 – \$4,400

Bred Heifers

137 head

\$3,350 – \$4,975

3-6 Yr Old (2nd & 3rd Period)

100 head

\$3,500 – \$5,500

3-6 Yr Old (1st Period)

13 head

\$2,400 – \$3,125

Short Solid & Aged

80 head

\$2,400 – \$3,200

Smaller Frame

Breeding Bulls

Slaughter Bulls

11 head

\$1.90 – \$2.23 / lb

Slaughter Cows

140 head

\$1.50 – \$1.88 / lb

Jack Harrison - 573-999-7197

John P. Harrison - 573-220-1482

Roger Temmen - 573-680-4538

Justin Oberling - 217-440-7724

Claude Niemeyer - 573-470-1017

Tyler Harris - 573-220-2766

Jack Harrison, Owner

573-999-7197

Market Report

573-522-9244

24 hour recording

Carson Poe - 573-550-9133

Myles McWhorter - 573-263-3759

Glenn Stegeman - 573-619-8495

Jarrod Simpson - 573-247-0706

Chad Nickelson - 573-631-1627

Kevin Miliken - 417-588-0307

Craton Blattel - 417-650-7688

Pike To Pike ...



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of Feb. 11-17, 2026:

Feb. 11 - Brandon Carle, Kyle Leahr

Feb. 12 - Jim Wintjen, Ruth and Paco Moreno

Feb. 13 - Ruby Garner

Feb. 14 - Eugenia Lyon

Feb. 16 - Joyce Fusselman, Kathryn (Burrows) Rennecker, Ryan Motley

Feb. 17 - Derrick Hankins, Veneita & Rick Blackstun

Can't think of anything to do? Read the following to get some ideas.

Big River Band area dates:

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.

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 1-217-285-4669 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

all you young at heart people that enjoy stepping out to the tunes.

Buggs' Family Opry dates:

Friday, Feb. 13 - The Buggs' Family will be having special guest Jeff Griggs at their show which starts at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27 - will be an all cast show at the Buggs' Family Opry with the show starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Do Not Forget, if the weather gets bad and/or iffy, either listen to 97.5 or 102 on the radio, or check on Facebook and look on either Big River Band or Polly Bugg or Jamie Niffen or myself Wyvetta Davis, or give someone a call, including me, at the number above to make sure the shows will be happening.

Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 108 South Main Street, in Pleasant Hill, Ill., will be hosting their Valentine Party at 11:30 a.m., Monday, Feb. 16. They will be having pizza for lunch and music by Shirley Kingery and her daughter. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Uptown Strings Band plays every Tuesday from noon-3 p.m., at the Admiral Koontz Recreation Center, 301 Warren Barrett Drive, in Hannibal. This is sponsored by the Hannibal Parks and Recreation. And everyone is welcome.

The time changes on March 8.

General Primary Election is April 17.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

Easter is April 5.

We found another local shop that's worth mentioning called Pike County Collectibles, 1271 West Washington Street, in west Pittsfield, Ill. We had been hunting for just the right gift for someone, and we finally found exactly what we wanted at Pike County Collectibles. This is another store that is worth taking your time to go through. Questions, call 1-217-285-5058.

Trivia Answers from last week:

1. What is the shortest complete English sentence? (Go.)

2. How many books are in the Old Testament? (39)

3. How many feet deep is the St. Louis Arch's foundation? (60 feet)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Take time to look for God's blessings. Pray for each other and for America.

Plants Begin To Stir Unerground In February

Winter's darkness is slowly lifting, and houseplants are beginning their quiet comeback, says University of Missouri Extension field horticulturist Kathi Mecham. Early February, according to Irish folklore, is when life begins to awaken underground.

"Beneath the frozen soil things are starting to happen," says Mecham. Tree sap begins to flow, snowdrops push upward, and roots slowly resume growth. As days lengthen and light indoors increases, houseplants respond with signs of new growth as well.

Mecham explains that during winter, the sun sits lower in the sky, bringing shorter days and longer nights. Reduced and less intense light signals plants to rest. Growth slows, water needs decrease, and in some cases, leaves may drop entirely, an expected part of the dormancy cycle.

"No need to be alarmed. This is normal, and with special care these plants will rebound in the spring," says Mecham.

Some plants that completely die back:

Caladium grows from a tuberous corm. Most thrive in the heat, but not the sun. Grown for their spectacular color, the heart-shaped leaves are red, pink and white. They bring a lot of attention to the shade garden. Caladiums are sensitive to the cold, and the tubers should be dug after the first frost and stored in moist peat in a dark place. Give them a head start by starting them indoors in April. Keep the soil above 70 degrees to keep them growing before planting outside.

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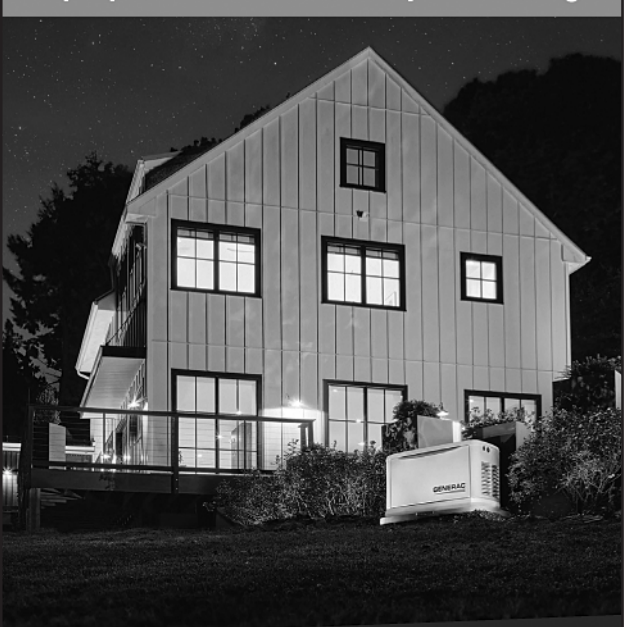
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GENERAC

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.

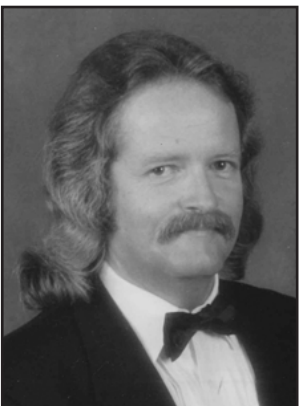
Roger was born April 17, 1957, in Mexico, the son of Curtis Edward and Olivia Ann Foreman Gaston. He was united in marriage to Sue Andreotta on Nov. 26, 1977, at Farber Baptist Church.

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 Ladonia; 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, Dillion 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 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 Lempe 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 begin 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 stepchildren. 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 by 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 Ladonia, 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 Ladonia 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.bienhoff-uneralhome.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.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 stepson, 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.bienhoff-uneralhome.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

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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.



Clopton Cheerleaders Win Award

Clopton Cheerleaders brought home the Cheerleading Award at the 101st Bowling Green Basketball Tournament. Front row, (l-r) Ava Bankhead, Addyson Johnson, and Teagan Craig. Second row: Maddison Berardino, Kailey Jones, Savannah Mills, Haley Wright, Karsyn Hallows, Siena Carnahan, Madalyn Thompson, Alaina Henderson, Amber Caplin, and Phoebe Hayden.



Van-Far senior Gaven Gaston puts up a one-hand shot in the 101st Bowling Green Invitational held Jan. 26-31.



Bowling Green Bobcat Dallas Henderson prepares to put up a shot in the 101st Bowling Green Invitational held Jan. 26-31.



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

TRANFORMATION PROJECT



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.



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.**

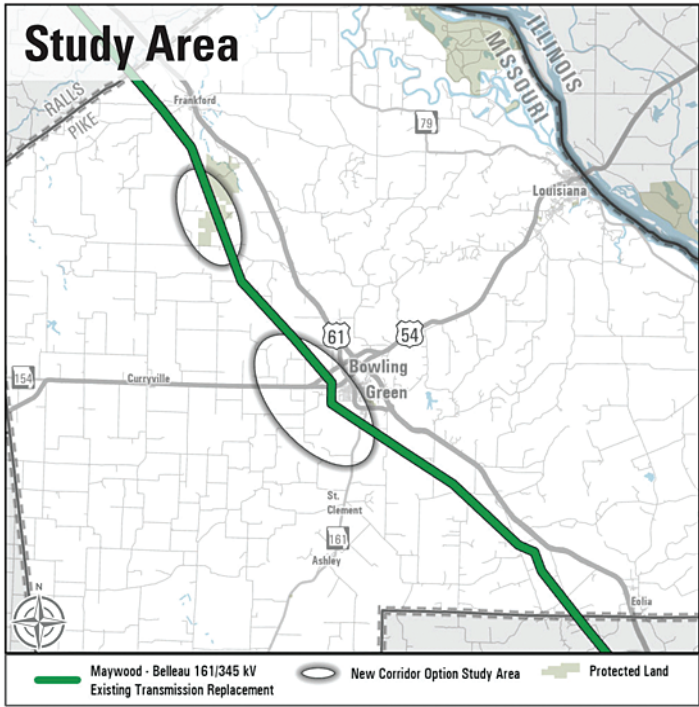
Program:

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.



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.



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Eastern Missouri Grid Transformation Project
Attn: WSP
701 Emerson Road, Suite 250
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

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.

In 2024, the "Sexton's Shed," erected in 1916 by DAR at the Riverview Cemetery, was completely refurbished culminating in a combination city and DAR service.

In 2025, the Nancy Ross Chapter was invited to become a joint member with five other Missouri and Illinois chapters to celebrate "Flag Day" together. And in 2026, the Buffalo Fort monument is scheduled for re-

pairs and landscaping by the Pike County Chapter.

There are 20 members in the current Louisiana Pike County Chapter, with five to eight others doing paper work to join. Thirteen of the other members are located from Texas to Florida and places in between.

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.

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...



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.

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Noodles, Baked Beans, Potato Salad,
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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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