



THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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Pure Gold

Man Chronicles Life As A Fortune Seeker



George Stokes

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

George Stokes was a trailblazer who epitomized fortitude.

The Pike County native lived a chapter of American history at a time when there were still frontiers to conquer.

Stokes was a miner and businessman who joined the gold rush in the Black Hills of South Dakota during the 1870s. His book about the experience is an enchanting mix of serious, humorous and extraordinary stories.

"I may be an old foggy, but I rather admire the primitive man who had to rustle to eat and to feed his mate and brood," he wrote in 1926.

Stokes was born in Louisiana in 1847, the son of a successful, but discontented, blacksmith who longed to be a merchant.

"My birthplace was a glorified loghouse," he recalled. "A coat of white-wash brightened up the interior, but it did not cover entirely the scoring of the ax on the logs."

Despite the description, two large areas downstairs

and two upstairs made for "a rather roomy and comfortable home for those pioneer days."

His father came from North Carolina and met his mother in Delaware before the couple married and came to Missouri.

One story relates that Stokes may have been related to John Witherspoon, a minister, farmer and college president who signed the Declaration of Independence. He was disappointed that relatives did not pursue confirmation. "So little did blood and family pride affect them all that I do not to this day know" if the relationship was real.

In any event, the elder Stokes eventually sold the blacksmith shop and opened a store along the Mississippi River at a popular steamboat landing two miles north of Louisiana.

Customers could find just about everything they needed, from candy and booze to clothing and guns. There were "three or four kinds of pills" and "liniment for man and beast."

A huge stove sat in the middle atop a box filled four inches deep with sand from the river bottom. Men pulled up a chair and debated the issues of the day. The conversations could get as heated as the fire, and sometimes spilled over into the community.

One example was Louisiana tobacco factory owners Walter James Van Horn and Edward Carter Murray. As the nation drew closer to the Civil War, Van Horn supported the Confederacy while Murray backed the Union. Van Horn was a Kentucky native who had

moved to Louisiana about the time Stokes was born. Murray was a former Missouri state representative.

"Neither could buy the other one out, so a chalk line was drawn through the center of the (tobacco) building," Stokes said. "The Stars and Stripes flew from the northern half of the building and the first flag of the Confederacy from the southern half."

To fuel their boilers, steamboats stopped to load large pieces of wood, which the store carried. Customers who wanted just a few chunks brought axes with them.

"Fuel for home use cost the settler nothing but the energy it took to get it and chop it up," Stokes remembered. "The old Mississippi brought down all the wood that was needed, and piled it along the shore as the high water receded."

Men and boys used skiffs to track down catfish, bass, crappie, buffalo, sunfish and pike in the shallows. "The fish helped to enrich our ordinary diet of hog, hominy and 'cracklins'" - or fried pork fat.

Also on the menu were ducks and quail. Rabbits and squirrels were "slain by the hundreds, not so much for food as to keep them from eating the corn and other crops," Stokes said.

The business was an eye-opener for a teenaged boy. Even Stokes' father finally got tired of "the quarreling and brawling" by neighbors and strangers. To "get away from all the discord, he made another move that was to set my life in vastly different channels."

Next time: Westward, ho!



Connaway Honored For Years Of Coaching

The Van-Far Indians picked up a conference win over the Clopton Hawks 34-54. Coach Pat Connaway was honored between games for his years of coaching and dedication to the Van-Far School District. Connaway was presented a decorated basketball and a framed print of him coaching at the 2018 state championship when the Indians brought home the coveted trophy. Pictured above are current and past players who played under Connaway's coaching.

Trib photos by Nancy Case



BGHS Sophomore Carter Berry Headed To Portugal

Chosen To Play For The U.S. National Select Team



Photo of Carter Berry courtesy of Simply Photos LLC.

BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

For most 15-year-olds, spring break might mean rest, a family trip, or time with friends.

For Bowling Green sophomore Carter Berry, it means representing the United States on an international stage.

Berry has earned a spot on the US Youth Soccer National Select Team and will compete in the IBERCUP in Cascais, Portugal, March 28 through April 6. The team roster is formed through the organization's Olympic Development Program (ODP). The elite tournament draws top academy teams from across Europe and around the world.

When Carter learned he had made the U.S. Youth Soccer National Select Team, the moment came in two parts.

"The coach came up to me, shook my hand and told me I made it," Carter said.

But at home, the celebration waited.

"I always say nothing matters until it's in writing," his mother, Kathleen Berry, explained with a laugh. "We kept waiting for that official email." When it finally came through, Kathleen was at work. "I opened my email in the elevator, and there it was," she said. "I walked into a meeting late and just said, 'He made it. He made it.'"

For Berry, the opportunity represents years of work and a few setbacks along the way.

Carter first tried out for ODP at the state level.

"I remember there being maybe 50 to 70 kids at the tryout," he said. "It didn't really phase me. I just try to play my game."

Kathleen explained that ODP runs alongside club soccer, giving players additional training and exposure to differ-

ent coaching philosophies.

"You make the state team first," she said. "Then you can be selected for the regional team. Then from the regional teams, they select the national team. They only choose around 16 to 18 players."

Last year, Carter made the Midwest regional team but did not advance to nationals.

"This year he went through the same cycle," Kathleen said. "And this year, he made it."

The difference? "The first year was a lot more nerve-wracking," Carter admitted. "I felt like I was just kind of holding on. This year, I felt more comfortable. I knew some of the players, and I was just able to do my thing."

At national selection events, players compete in full games while evaluators assess them individually and often move them to multiple positions.

"They want to see how you react," Kathleen said. "They're looking at soccer IQ."

"You have to know where the player is supposed to be, not just where they are," Carter added.

Last fall, Carter took a significant step in his development.

He spent a semester training at DME Academy in Sarasota, Fla., living with a host family while completing coursework online through Missouri Connections to ensure his credits would transfer back home. And while there, he competed in high-level tournaments across the Southeast.

"He trained three hours every morning," Kathleen said. "Then he'd have a break and do school in the afternoon."

The experience, Carter said, elevated his game.

"I had a coach down there, Coach JT (Jonathan Taylor), who really helped me," he said. "He helped me master my

game. Since I'm not very tall, I have to use that to my advantage. I try to dribble faster and use my brain to create space."

Before that, he had already tested himself overseas. At age 14, Berry traveled to Ireland to compete in a historic international youth tournament, and he has also played in Italy.

But the upcoming tournament in Portugal may be the most challenging yet.

In Portugal, Berry and his teammates will face European academy powerhouses. Teams such as Manchester City and other prominent club academies have competed in the tournament in past years.

Unlike many European academies, whose players train and compete together year-round, the U.S. Select Team is composed of players from across the country.

"I think we're kind of an underdog," Carter said. "A lot of these teams play together all the time. But we usually mesh pretty quickly."

Carter typically plays striker or wing and models parts of his game after his favorite player, Lionel Messi.

"I like playing forward," he said. "I like scoring goals."

A show reel featuring Carter playing while Florida shows exactly that, particularly the movement and creativity.

Berry's path has not been without obstacles.

He previously tried out for different academy programs and was not selected. Last year, he did not make the national ODP roster.

"You're not always going to be selected," Kathleen said. "You're going to make mistakes. But you can't give up."

Carter echoed that message for younger athletes who might be interested in following a similar path.

"It's about working hard and being dedicated," he said. "Train as much as you can and just learn the game."

Behind Berry's success is a tightly coordinated family effort. Carter's older sister, Bowling Green senior Layla Berry is a talented equestrian looking to attend university this fall. His two younger brothers also compete in soccer as well as other sports.

His father, Milan Berry, serves as Associate Circuit Court Judge in Pike County. With four children all active in sports and school activities, the Berry family often spends four or more evenings a week traveling for practices and competitions.

Continued To

Next

Week

Two Injured In Early Morning Shooting At New London Bar; Suspect In Custody



Gavin J. Davis

BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

Two people were injured early Friday morning after gunfire was fired into a New London bar following a disturbance, according to authorities.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is leading the investigation after the New London Police Department requested assistance from the agency's Division of Drug and Crime Control.

The shooting occurred around 1 a.m., on Friday, Feb. 13 at Tubby's Grub and Pub in New London.

According to a MSHP press release and court documents, a male subject was forcefully removed from the bar due to a disturbance. After being removed, patrons locked the doors in an attempt to prevent him from re-entering.

Investigators say the individual then fired multiple rounds through the back door of the business from the adjoining parking lot.

Two people inside the bar were struck by gunfire. Both victims were transported by ambulance to area hospitals for treatment. Authorities have indicated the injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, and both individuals have since been released.

Law enforcement officials stated there is no ongo-

ing threat to the community. Suspect Identified and Charged

The Missouri State Highway Patrol later identified the suspect as 21-year-old Gavin J. Davis of New London. Court records show Davis has been charged with:

- Two counts of first-degree assault (serious physical injury)
- Two counts of armed criminal action
- One count of unlawful use of a weapon (shooting into a building)

A warrant for Davis' arrest was issued Feb. 13 with bond set at \$250,000 cash only.

According to the probable cause statement filed in Ralls County, investigators located bullet holes in the rear door of the business and brass casings in the parking lot. The document states a minimum of 11 rounds from a 9mm handgun were fired into the occupied building.

Authorities allege Davis had been involved in a physical confrontation earlier in the evening before being removed from the business. Surveillance footage reportedly captured the sound of gunfire and later showed Davis returning to a nearby residence approximately one minute after the shooting.

The probable cause state-

Graves Secures Additional Funding For 54 Expansion

Congressman Sam Graves (MO-06) announced that he has secured \$4.9 million in additional funding for the Highway 54 Shared 4 Lane Project in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148) which was signed into law on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"We're investing in critical projects in North Missouri, while reining in the size of government," said Graves. "I'm proud to include funding to help move the Highway 54 project forward, so travelers can safely move along this important corridor in Audrain and Pike Counties."

The project will add an alternating passing lane on Highway 54 between Curryville and Farber, and ultimately between Louisiana and Mexico. Graves previously announced in July 2025 that he had secured a grant for \$24.9 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation to complete a section of the corridor from Curryville to Farber.

Community News

ORU Scholarship Applications Now Open

ORU scholarship application window now open. Cuivre River Electric Cooperative is now accepting scholarship applications from graduating high school seniors, current college students and adults pursuing continuing education in their chosen career fields.

Eligible applicants must permanently reside within the cooperative's service area and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA while enrolled in undergraduate coursework at an accredited college, university or technical school.

This year marks the fourth consecutive year the scholarship program has been offered exclusively online, a change that has led to a notable increase in applications.

The application deadline is April 10, 2026. Applications must be submitted online at cuivre.com/scholarships. Paper applications will not be accepted. Applicant requirements remain consistent with previous years. In addition to meeting GPA standards, students must submit a transcript, two letters of

recommendation, a complete Student Aid Report (SAR), and a written narrative highlighting academic achievements, community service, career goals and financial need.

Scholarships are awarded in amounts up to \$1,000 per academic year, with a lifetime maximum of \$3,000 per student. Awards are non-renewable, and applicants wishing to be considered in future years must submit a new application annually. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 11. Scholarship checks will be made payable to the student's educational institution and mailed to the student. Funds may be used for on-campus expenses such as tuition, books and housing.

In 2025, the cooperative awarded a total of \$80,000 in scholarships.

Scholarship funding is made possible through Operation Round Up, a program in which Cuivre River Electric members voluntarily round up their monthly electric bills to the

nearest dollar. These funds are administered by a seven-member volunteer board and support individuals, families and organizations throughout the service area.

For more information, contact Operation Round Up Coordinator Tim Schmidt at tschmidt@cuivre.com or 636-695-4837.

Community Calendar...

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

On Feb. 17: Pike County Democratic Club will meet at 6 p.m., at the Bowling Green Community Center.

NOTICE FOR ABSENTEE VOTING FOR THE APRIL 7, 2026, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Absentee voting for the April 7, 2026, General Municipal Election will begin Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse 115 W. Main, Bowling Green, Mo. Hours for Absentee voting are Monday-Friday 8 am-4:30 pm, with additional hours on Saturday, April 4, 2026, 8 am-12 noon and on Monday April 6, 2026, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

If you are unable to vote in person, please call 573-324-2412 (option 7) to have an absentee application sent to you. Missouri law requires requests for absentee ballots to be received by 5:00 pm on the second Wednesday prior to election (03/25/2026) if the ballot is to be mailed.

To vote in person, you must present a government issued photo ID such as a driver's license, passport or military ID.

s/Laura Stumbaugh

Pike County Clerk / Election Authority

PCADD Awarded CDBG Funds

The Pike County Agency for Developmental Disabilities (PCADD) in partnership with the City of Bowling Green recently received notification of a grant award through the Community Developmental Block Grant (CDBG) program, allowing PCADD to expand its day programming facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.

The project addresses overcrowding at PCADD's Community Living Skills (CLS) day program due to growth in this program over the years. The expansion includes renovations to the existing CLS facility to add small group spaces, quiet spaces, and a sensory calming room, as well as the construction of a new Developmental Support Center building on the PCADD grounds adjacent to Bus. Highway 161.

The new facility will include a Technology Center and multi-purpose room for persons served, as well as staff offices. PCADD is a subrecipient of CDBG funds through the City of Bowling Green. Assistance in writing the grant proposal was provided by the Mark Twain Council of Governments. The proposal was funded by the CDBG program in the amount of \$653,315, and was one of 23 projects funded statewide out of 91 proposals received; construction is planned to start sometime this spring.

Architectural and engineering services are being

provided by Poepping Stone Bach & Associates of Quincy & Hannibal.

The Missouri Dept. of Economic Development administers the CDBG program in Missouri.



THORNHILL AUCTION & REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Absolute Real & Personal Property Auction
B&B Homemade Pizza, Sandwiches, Cold Soda & Beer
Sunday, March 22, 2026 Beginning at 1:00 P.M.
 SALE SITE: 931 Business 61 N; Bowling Green, MO 63334
REAL ESTATE SELLS AT 1:00 P.M.

COMMERCIAL: ½ acre m/l in Section 23 TWP53 R3W in Pike County in the City of Bowling Green & fronting on Business Hwy 61. Improvements include a 1 story block 1530 sq. ft. building on city water, sewer & natural gas. Setup as a tavern w/wood floors, natural gas furnace, window air units, men & women bathrooms. Improvements include a new metal roof.
Open House on the Real Estate on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. or for a private showing contact David, Dusty or Bill at 636-366-4206.

RESTAURANT & TAVERN EQUIPMENT
WALK IN COOLER 110
2 VALLEY POOL TABLES 50¢ PLAY
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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Bob has been at this location for 55 years. He's 93, people have enjoyed his pizzas for generations. He states he's prepared over 1 million. See you at the sale. David, Dusty & Bill

OWNERS: BOB & JO ANN CANNON

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TROY, MO



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TROY, MO

BILL UNSELL
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FRANKFORD, MO
Troy Office: 636-366-4206




For terms on this auction thornhillauction.com

St. Clement Parish Fish Frys

Corner of Hwy. 161 & J

Feb. 20, 27 March 6, 13, 20, 27

Serving 4:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall

All-you-can-eat (Dine-in only, excludes shrimp) Carry-Outs Available

Adults \$15 • Children 6-12 \$7
Children 5 & Under Free

Fish by the pound \$15 (take out only)

Fish, shrimp, hush puppies,
cheesy potatoes or potato salad, spaghetti, cole slaw, desserts, tea/lemonade

Additional beverages are available for purchase!

Callaway Livestock Center, Inc.

Kingdom City, MO
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Please visit our website at
www.callawaylivestock.com

Feeder sale every Monday at Noon
Slaughter steers & heifers sell first
You are welcome to come in person or watch or buy on the internet

Feeder Sale Report For 2-9-2026				Monday Receipts 3,705 Head				
2,211 Steers, medium & large		1,294 Heifers, Med. & Large		Computer Avg.		Computer Avg.		Top
15	300 & Down	500	670	10	300 & Down	555	615	
57	300-400	550	655	67	300-400	510	585	
272	400-500	525	602	220	400-500	480	532	
512	500-600	480	540	507	500-600	430	512	
471	600-700	425	465	411	600-700	380	416	
462	700-800	380	422	65	700-800	335	360	
198	800-900	355	369.10	9	800-900	330	349	
216	900-1,000	335	346.50		900-1000			
9	Bred Cows - Better	2950	3825		Others			
2	Pairs	2900	3050					
					Slaughter Cows	114		
	High Dressing	175	185		Low			
	Bulk	160	180		Thin			
15	Slaughter Bulls	195	227.					
ALL SLAUGHTER STEERS & HEIFERS SOLD ON MON. NOON								
	Choice 2 & 3	235	240		Steers & Heifers	36		
					Mixed Select	230	Select	222

Receiving Hours Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Mon. 8 a.m.-

We appreciate your business both buyers & sellers! For more info contact

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

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

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED PROPOSALS

for the Pike County Transportation Alternatives Program, consisting of: Construction of approximately 2,300 linear feet of new 5-foot sidewalk with paved and aggregate approaches.

Federal Project TAP-9901(305) located directly adjacent to Business Highway 61 from Ayers Oil Company South to the Northern Entrance to Bowling Green Elementary (Wisdom Street) in the City of Bowling Green, Missouri.

WILL be received until:
10 a.m., Thursday, March 19, 2026
 at the office of County Commission, Pike County Courthouse, 115 W. Main Street, Bowling Green, MO 63334 and at that time will be publicly opened and read.

Any and all bids received after the time specified above will be returned unopened.

The wage rates applicable to this project have been predetermined as required by law and are set forth in the bid proposal. When Federal wage rates are applicable and included, this contract is subject to the "Work Hours Act of 1962," (P.L.87-581; 76 Stat. 357) and implementing regulations. The higher of the Federal or State Wage rates shall apply.

The prime contractor must be on MoDOT's Qualified Contractor List per the most current version of the Missouri Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, including all revisions. The contractor must have a fully responsive questionnaire on file with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) at least 7 days prior to bid opening.

Bidders are required to submit the corresponding documentation of enrollment in the E-Verify program. This documentation includes the Memorandum of Understanding between the company and Department of Homeland Security and the Affidavit of Compliance. MoDOT will accept the first page and the signature page of the agreement as proof of participation.

The County of Pike hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The bidder will insure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will have the opportunity to participate in the performance of this contract and or any subcontracts. Goals for the amount of work to be awarded to DBE's will be 0% of the total contract price. DBE subcontractors must be on the MRCC DBE Directory prior to bid opening.

Contractors and sub-contractors who sign a contract to work on public works project provide a 10-Hour OSHA construction safety program, or similar program approved by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to be completed by their on-site employees within sixty (60) days of beginning work on the construction project.

A digital copy of the plans and specifications may be purchased from the office of Hutchison Engineering, Inc., 8965 Highway 36, Suite 5, Hannibal, MO 63401 for a non-refundable fee of fifty dollars (\$50). Hard copies of the plans and specifications may be purchased upon request for an additional non-refundable fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a total of seventy-five dollars (\$75). All bidders must purchase plans and specifications through Hutchison Engineering, Inc. and be on the planholder list in order to bid the project. Please contact Kim Harris with Hutchison Engineering via phone at (573) 240-9577 or via email at kharris@hutchisoneng.com to request plans and specifications.

ADV - 2

A certified or cashier's check or a bid bond in the amount of 5% shall be submitted with each proposal.

No 2nd tier subcontracting will be allowed on this project. Proposals must be on forms provided and all unit price bids, extensions and totals provided thereon shall be completed fully.

The project will be awarded to the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder.

Special Needs: If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Matthew Walker, at (573) 470-2187, at least five (5) working days prior to the bid opening you plan to attend.

WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

February is Black History Month. I encourage you to research the history, contributions, and impact on the development of our American culture! The more we understand each other the more we engage, interact, and accept each other!

As we find ourselves in mid-February, the new year's excitement has usually worn off and real life has kicked in. The Super Bowl has been decided, the Olympics are in full swing, Wall Street is setting new levels, and the sun is melting the snow. Some of 2026 goals have become fuzzy, momentum has slowed for such, and we're already wondering what the economy is going to do. Inflation has stabilized; interest rates have dropped, and the Federal Government may be looking at another shutdown.

The last one cost America and Americans over 11 billion dollars which again, effects food and other commodities' prices. We can look with positive eyes to realign and step into the most purposeful time in our American history as we celebrate 250 years of the most prosperous nation in the history of the world. Or we can look with critical eyes and allow fear and worry to rob us of our joy and peace. Bowling Green can focus on turning our greatest "setbacks" into our greatest "comebacks" or stay knocked down.

If 2025 was a tough year we can comeback stronger than ever! Our conversations can focus on "what's wrong with society today" or, our difficult conversations can influence others to boldly step into "working together to overcome challenges." The latter is called "coming together and working for

unity. Have a vision for Bowling Green, our State, and the United States celebrating the only country built on our "melting pot" of cultures, races, religions, color, and customs philosophy. At each level, we still have a truckload of things to work on and smooth out. There will be times when we'll want to simply quit and have zero desire to make situations better. Yet life doesn't stop because we're frustrated.

We still need to reach out, engage, make the effort to socialize, interact, put our heads together and keep the wheels turning and growing together! We can find inspiration in others, and it only takes a spark. It is time to be connected and let creative juices flow. Talk with civic leaders about what's really going on and connect authentically while building trust! Let's all participate in meeting the needs and wants of our fine town.

Thanks to all who attended the Resurrection Church fund raising dinner for Love Thy Neighbor and Options for Women. These Bowling Green programs reach out into our communities for their betterment and individual's lives.

Appreciation also, to all who attended and contributed to the Valentine Gala supporting the Pike County Home Care and Hospice Foundation. I am personally grateful for this service and the wonderful care they gave to my father and our family while in the Moore Pike nursing home.

Support our local businesses and services, please. Entrepreneurs needed in Bowling Green.



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

With six weeks of the legislative session completed, members of the Missouri House have passed more than a dozen bills out of the chamber while completing hearings on hundreds of measures. Below is a look at several of the pieces of legislation passed by the House this week.

HOUSE PASSES CHILD PROTECTION & ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

The Missouri House approved omnibus legislation strengthening the state's laws related to child exploitation, human trafficking, and sexual offenses involving minors and vulnerable individuals by a vote of 148-2. HBs 2273, 1946, 1814 & 2551 updates statutory language to replace the term "child pornography" with "child sexual abuse material" and reestablishes a state-

wide anti-trafficking council within the Attorney General's Office, along with a dedicated fund for education, awareness, and victim services. It expands training requirements for law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile officers, EMTs, and social workers on identifying and responding to trafficking. The legislation would create a new felony offense for grooming of a minor, increases penalties for prostitution-related offenses involving minors, and enhances penalties for the non-consensual dissemination or threat to disseminate private sexual images. It also expands sex offender registration requirements for new offenses, strengthens forfeiture tools tied to sexual crimes, revives grant authority for cybercrime task forces, extends the civil statute of limitations for child sex trafficking victims, and requires lodging establishments to provide annual human trafficking awareness training for employees.

HOUSE ADVANCES LEGISLATION ON MEDICAL TREATMENTS FOR MINORS

The House passed HCS HBs 2033, 1608, 1672 & 1854, which would make permanent Missouri's current prohibition on prescribing or administering puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones to individuals under 18 for the purpose of gender transition by repealing the law's expiration date. The bill also provides

that, after March 1, 2027, prescriptions for such treatments issued to minors prior to Aug. 28, 2023, will no longer be considered valid. Supporters say the legislation is intended to protect minors from irreversible medical interventions and maintain existing limits on gender transition procedures for children. Opponents argue the bill restricts physicians' ability to provide individualized medical care, limits treatment options for minors experiencing gender dysphoria, and could push families to seek care out of state. With a vote of 102-40, the bill now heads to the Senate.

House Advances Peace Officer Licensure Standards

The House passed HCS HB 1866, authorizing the Director of Public Safety to deny a peace officer license or entry into a basic training course if an applicant previously had a license or certification revoked or surrendered. The bill also permits denial of licensure if the applicant is not a United States citizen. The bill strengthens public safety by allowing Missouri to deny licensure to individuals with serious disciplinary histories in other states and clarifies authority to deny licensure to non-citizens, noting that some states allow licensure for permanent residents. With a vote of 101-36, the bill now heads to the Missouri Senate.

Pike To Pike ...



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

Birthdays and Addresses for the week of Feb. 18-24, 2026:

Feb. 18 - Shari Bush
Feb. 19 - Shirley Straus, Steve Shelton, Tanya Wyatt
Feb. 20 - Angela Kirk, Sally Lipcamon

Feb. 21 - Austin Francis, Cindy Lawber, Emma Hanks, Susan Collins

Feb. 22 - Ron Phipps
Feb. 23 - Philip Armistead
Feb. 24 - Bruce Huffman

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

Big River Band area music: Saturday, Feb. 28 (make sure you fix your calendars for this date since I goofed and put in the wrong date last week)--

The Big River Band plans to be at the Pike County Senior Center in Pittsfield, 220 West Adams Street, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 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 music dates:

Friday, Feb. 27 - will be an all cast show at the Buggs' Family Opry with the show starting at 7:00. There is a admission fee. Everyone is welcome.

O'Brien Named To Hamilton College Fall Dean's List

Missouri State University awarded 1,426 degrees to students in fall 2025.

The commencement ceremonies took place Dec. 12, 2025, at Great Southern Bank Arena.

Kylie Lucas of Eolia graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing.

Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Lucas Graduates From MO State

Missouri State University awarded 1,426 degrees to students in fall 2025.

The commencement ceremonies took place Dec. 12, 2025, at Great Southern Bank Arena.

Kylie Lucas of Eolia graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing.

Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

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.

Single Seniors + One will be having another one of their "Meet, Greet, and Eat" get-togethers this week. This not-for-profit group, which is made up of senior citizen young at heart adults and are single for one reason or another, has been in existence since March 2024. Lots of people in this age group are not fond of going to a restaurant and eating a meal by themselves. This is why I started this group...to solve that problem. We are NOT a match making group at all, but this a way to meet others in this age group and make new friends and enjoy a meal together once a month at different restaurants. Each person must be able to pay for their own meal and provide their own transportation. If anyone is interested in being a part of this group, please call my number at the beginning of the column.

Upcoming Dates Of Interest:

The time changes on March 8 - move clocks one hour ahead.

The General Primary is March 17 - same day as St. Patrick's Day.

And Easter is April 5.

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. Admission fee. Everyone is welcome.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. Psalm 19:7

Trivia Questions for This Week:

1. What state introduced Mardi Gras to the western world?

2. Which U.S. State is nicknamed "The Sunflower State"?

3. Which man in the Bible was from the land of Uz, and he was described as perfect and upright and he feared God?

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

Big River Band enjoyed playing at Merna's Kitchen in Bowling Green, Friday, Feb. 13, where 73 people were served. Then they played again Saturday evening, February 14th, to a great crowd at the Courtyard Cafe in Pittsfield. It was a very busy weekend for the Big River Band who enjoys playing the tunes, and it's great that they all get along.

Sunday, Feb. 15, the family of Mary Foiles of Louisiana, Missouri, all met at the Pleasant Hill Community Center to surprise Mary for her 90th birthday hosted by her children, and she was very much surprised. There were plenty of people there to share food and watch Mary unwrap her gifts. Good music was provided by Mary's son Roy Harrison and her brother Jamie Niffen. Mary's sisters are Laura Goree of Bowling Green, Brenda Culp of Boonville, Missouri, and Shirley Robinson of Guatemala, and her brother is Jamie Niffen.

Ashley Community Center Fish Fry
Feb. 20, 27
March 6, 13, 20, 27
April 3
4:30-8 p.m.
Adults \$14 • Kids 11-5 \$7 • 5 & Under Free
Dine-In or Carry-Out
Catfish & Buffalo Served

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Obituaries



Lisa Marie Pitzer

One in a Billion
Lisa Marie Pitzer will never be forgotten by those she knew and helped throughout her lifetime. She was the epitome of selflessness, showing friendliness, love, and empathy in all aspects of her life.

A memorial visitation was held from 1-5 p.m., Sunday at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana.

Lisa was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in June 2025. Though understandably scared, she remained optimistic as she began her treatment journey. In July 2025, she underwent emergent, life-saving surgery, followed by several months of chemotherapy supported by the unwavering love of family and friends.

Lisa died peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, due to complications from her illness at the age of 66.

She was born Feb. 20, 1959, in Louisiana. She grew up in Clarksville with her parents, brother, and sister. She was a dedicated student, cheerleader, and a member of the band, graduating with the Clopton High School class of 1977.

After graduation, she moved to Monroe City to live and work full-time before later returning home to Clarksville to help care for her sick mother. She then pursued a career in nursing at St. Mary's College in O'Fallon, graduating in 1988.

Lisa was deeply passionate about her nursing. She began working at Pike County Memorial Hospital (PCMH) in 1988 as a nurse on the medical/surgical floor. In 1993, she expanded her service to the community by joining the Pike County Health Department, where she served in many roles, including field staff hospice nurse, hospice coordinator, and community health coordinator.

She later returned to PCMH in 2008, working as needed before being promoted to medical/surgical nursing director from 2010-2018.

In 2018, she transitioned into grant writing and later served as infection prevention coordinator during the COVID-19 pandemic. After stepping away from full-time hospital work in 2021, Lisa continued writing grants remotely for PCMH.

In 2022, she began working with Community Asset Builders as a grant writer supporting healthcare needs in Pike County and other rural communities. Her talent helped secure hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit local healthcare. She continued this meaningful work throughout her illness.

While Lisa was devoted to her profession, her greatest dedication was to her family. She was a loving wife to Clint for 34 years and a proud mother to her two sons, Ryan and Greg. She often shared how much her family meant to her. Lisa and Clint met in 1989 and married in 1991. Ryan was born in 1992 and Greg in 1994. They raised their family in Louisiana.

Lisa was a shining example of motherhood - teaching right from wrong, making sure ball practices were never missed, and always putting her family first. She found joy in life's simple pleasures: days on the water, her cats and grand-dog, attending her sons' ball games, Coca-Cola, Mizou tailgates, and playful debates with her husband.

Lisa was kind, funny, and unwavering in her beliefs. She was a daughter of God. Faith was an important part of her life - it was who she was as a wife, mother, nurse, and friend. She upheld Catholic values and was seen as

a pillar of faith to her family.

She is survived by her husband, Walter Clinton Pitzer; her children, Ryan and Gregory Pitzer; one brother, John Boyd Seward and Todd S.; and a sister, Linda Rose Seward Black. Although she had no grandchildren, Lisa deeply loved her many cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as her son's dog and her two cats.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Gregory Seward Jr., her mother, Marie Agnes Spalding Seward, and one brother-in-law, William "Rusty" Black.

Lisa will be tremendously missed not only by her family and friends but also by the many people in the community whose lives she touched. Her spirit will live on through all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Online condolences can be sent at collierfuneral.com.

Memorials may be made to Foundation of Pike County Memorial Hospital, 2305 Georgia Street, Louisiana, MO 63353.

Collier Funeral Home is in charge of cremation rites.



Martha Jane Couch

Martha Jane Wyatt Couch, 83, of rural Louisiana died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026 at SSM St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Wednesday at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. The Rev. Tom Cooper officiated. Burial was at Riverview Cemetery in Louisiana.

Visitation was from 11 a.m., until time of service Wednesday at the funeral home.

Martha was born Oct. 12, 1942 to Hurschel and Edith Wyatt. She was married to Richard Couch on May 12, 1973 in Bowling Green. He preceded her in death on Jan. 24, 2017.

She is survived by two sons, Lewis Motley of Lavaca, Ark., and Tony Motley of Louisiana; five daughters, Celia Gerber of Louisiana, Penny Roan of Louisiana, Elizabeth Bowen and husband, Clifton of Bowling Green; Marcy Burleson and husband, Rod of Louisiana, and Toni Shepard and husband, Lew of Louisiana; 21 grandchildren, Terry Couch, Ashley Grisham, Lance Mitchell, Brice Motley, Laura Jennings, Rebecca Jennings, Malarie Motley, Kayden Motley, Jeffrey Clayton, Zach Whitehead, Justin House, Katie Cannon, Jesse DeCamp, Jason DeCamp, Kristen Shepard, Brooke Shepard, Ann Gonzalez, Stacy Pablo, Crystal Gollaher, Lonnie Gollaher, and Rachel Whitaker, 34 great-grandchildren; a brother, Wayne Wyatt and wife, Joanne of Monet; three sisters, Janet Lynch and husband, Willard of Kinderhook, Ill., Vicky Hart and husband, Stuart of Kinderhook, Ill., and Brenda Davie of Quincy, Ill.; sisters-in-law, Gloria McDonald of Hull, and Martha Caldwell and husband, Donald of Ashburn; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hurschel and Edith Wyatt, husband, Richard Couch, husband, Larry Motley, two children, Marcia and Larry Arthur Motley, two brothers, Jack McDonald and Roger Wyatt, and two grandchildren, Paula Rose Motley and Andrew Mitchell.

In her early years she worked at Motorola and then she was a stay at home mom and grandmother. She was a Baptist and woman of faith, reading her Bible daily. She enjoyed bird watching, puzzles, and search words. She also enjoyed horseback riding and was a member of Road Riders for Jesus.

Honorary pallbearers were Brice Motley and Terry Couch II. Pallbearers were Lance Mitchell, Zachary Whitehead, Justin House, Jeffrey Clayton, Kayden Motley, and Jason DeCamp.



Connie Land

Connie Land (Constance Janice Larson), of Revere, left her earthly body for her eternal home in Heaven with Jesus Christ on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026.

Connie was born Feb. 17, 1943, in St. Paul, Minn., to parents, Phillip James and Catherine Barbara Sanska Greski Larson. The family relocated to Monrovia, Calif., (a suburb of Los Angeles) via train to start a new life in southern California.

On this journey, Connie would walk up and down the aisles of the passenger cars gathering apples, oranges, and candies from returning service members coming home from WWII.

She attended Monrovia public schools, graduating from Monrovia High School in 1960. She then attended Pasadena City College during which she gained employment at Sven's Danish Bakery, where she would meet the love of her life Jesse "Sonny" Edward Land, Jr., who had a sweet tooth for the pastries she made there.

Connie's time at the bakery contributed to her becoming the world's best pie maker. Her handmade flaky pie crust was her signature that nobody could duplicate. Connie made many pies, but her favorite secret was her homemade "pumpkin" pie, which was actually made with the sweeter butternut squash that she grew in her garden. She would let the secret out to her guests with a sly grin and a smile.

Jesse and Connie were united in marriage June 1, 1963, in Pasadena, Calif. To this union were born two sons, Alan Wayne Land and Joseph Michael Land. During this time, she gained employment as a payroll/accounting clerk at the central offices of the Pacific Bell Telephone Company for 17 years, which later became AT&T.

The family relocated to Jesse's hometown of Keokuk, Iowa in 1977, then in 1978 purchased the family's pride and joy, a beautiful farm north of Revere along the Des Moines River. She joyfully resided on the Land Farm the rest of her days.

Connie quickly converted from a city girl to a country girl seemingly overnight. Connie loved every animal in sight and tended to cattle, pigs, goats, chickens, turkeys, guineas, ducks, and literally every stray dog and cat that were dropped at the front of the property. She happily made a home for anything with legs. Just two years removed from the Los Angeles area, she was milking two cows a day by hand, birthing calves, goats, piglets, puppies, and kittens. One of her more notorious ventures was raising a runt piglet "Pinky" inside the home until it was ready to go outside, at which time was the size of a small dog and cuddled with her just like one.

Another love of Connie's was the massive gardens she and Jesse would grow along with the help of her children, many grandchildren, friends, and family. The Land garden was known for miles around and many families both helped in it and benefited from it. So many people have spoken over the years about the memories made in that garden. Connie cooked and canned until the wee hours of the morning, long after everyone else had retired for the day. She would also store the goods in her root cellar underneath the old farmhouse.

Genealogy was another love of Connie's. She spent

countless hours and miles on the road researching not just her own family, but those of others out of pure love and compassion. She was tremendously proud of her research and connecting people with their pasts by helping create their family trees, often many generations back. One of her pet peeves was poorly written obituaries which create challenges for genealogists. It is for this reason that she wrote much of this one.

Connie's greatest wish in life was that everyone she came in contact with would eventually come to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Through all of life's struggles, Connie's faith in Christ never wavered and she imparted these values on to her family and anyone else who would hear. Her perseverance in her faith is a true testament of her love of Christ that gave her strength that she exhibited even in the final weeks leading up to her departure from this earth.

Connie will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and pets. Connie wanted to recognize those that stepped up and helped her during her final difficult days, Alan and Jolene Land, Michael and Amy Land, her grandchildren, her sister, Barbara and niece, Gina, and finally her special neighbor and friend, Carol White who opened her home to personally care for Connie prior to her illness. The outpouring of love and support for Connie has been overwhelming and so greatly appreciated by the Land family.

Connie is survived by two sons Alan Land and wife, Jolene and Michael Land and wife, Amy of Hannibal. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Nathan Land and wife, Elizabeth, Jacob Land, Caleb Land and wife, Amy, Rebekah Williams and husband, Dustin, Sara Newberry and husband, Daniel, Allison Poffenbarger and husband, Michael, Michaela Boyer and husband, Aaron, Emily Pluebell and husband, Eli, and Hydee Boecker. Also great-grandchildren, Abigail, Eden, Anastasia, Sergius, Jesse, Juliet, Rosalie, Ezra, Maverick, Leila, Jacob, Ella, Canaan, Silas, Adah, Noah, Eleanor (due April 2026), Kody, and Aiden.

Connie is also survived by a brother, Ron Larson and wife, Emilie of Anaheim, Calif.; and a sister, Barbara Wolfe and husband, Larson of Kyle, Texas.

Connie was preceded by her parents, Phillip and Catherine, her husband, Jesse, his brother, John, and her brother, Daniel Larson. Connie was also preceded by her special friends and brother and sister in Christ, Leonard and Fern Huffman, whom she enjoyed scrapping metal with and loved dearly.

Visitation was at 10:30 a.m., Thursday at Bible Baptist Church in Kahoka where Connie faithfully worshiped and proudly served meals with the Young At Heart team. Pastor Glen Yoder officiated with services provided by Bibb-Veach Funeral Home of Bowling Green.

Private interment immediately followed at Revere Cemetery next to her husband, Jesse and his brother, John V. Land.

The men who proudly carry Connie to her final resting place were Alan, Michael, Mark, Nathan, Jacob, and Caleb Land. Honorary pallbearers were Michael Taylor of Farmington, New Mexico and David Stewart of Luray; grandchildren, Nathan Land and wife, Elizabeth, Jacob Land, Caleb Land and wife, Amy, Rebekah Williams and husband, Dustin, Sara Newberry and husband, Daniel, Allison Poffenbarger and wife, Michael, Michaela Boyer and husband, Aaron, Emily Pluebell and husband, Eli, and Hydee Boecker; and great-grandchildren, Abigail, Eden, Anastasia, Sergius, Jesse, Juliet, Rosalie, Ezra, Maverick, Leila, Jacob, Ella, Canaan, Silas, Adah, Noah, Eleanor (due April 2026), Kody, and Aiden.

Memorials may be made to the family, c/o Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory.



Bonnie Sue Magee Turner

Bonnie Sue Magee Turner, 89, of Louisiana died Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026 at Maple Grove Lodge in Louisiana.

Funeral services were at 12 p.m., Friday at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. The Rev. Beomsoon Hong officiated. Burial was at Riverview Cemetery in Louisiana.

Visitation was from 10 a.m., until time of service Friday at the funeral home.

She was born in Curryville on March 27, 1936 to Howard and Iva Margaret Annis "Marge" Walker Magee. As a teenager, Bonnie worked at Mattingly's which is where she met the love of her life, Forest, who worked down the street at Western Auto and made trips to Mattingly's to see her.

She married William Forest Turner on Aug. 7, 1955 at the First Baptist Church in Louisiana. They built a house at the corner of Douglas and B streets in Louisiana. They moved into the basement in 1955 while they continued building the upstairs. They moved upstairs in November of 1962, and Bonnie lived there until the last three months of her life.

She is survived by her children, Janet Sue Levin and husband, Thomas of New Bloomfield, Patricia Ann Schrag and husband, Len of Golden Eagle, Ill., and William Forest Turner, Jr., and wife, Rae of Centerville, Ga.; a brother, Howard "Gene" Magee; grandchildren, Richard Gregory Brummell, Jennifer Lynn Spann and husband, Brad, Amy Watring and husband, Tom, Chris Schrag, Amanda McCarthy and husband, Kevin, Courtney Morrison and husband, Brian, Maggie Turner-Phillips and husband, Wesley, Brittany Kimlinger, and Elijah Levin; 11 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58½ years, her parents, and a great-granddaughter.

She spent time at home with her children until the youngest started school. Then she worked in retail at Pamida Gibson and P.N. Hirsch. She also worked part-time in the Louisiana school cafeteria.

One of her favorite hobbies was sewing. She made clothes for her children when they were young. Later in life, she took up crafting, creating holiday door hangings, fleece blankets, aprons, hanging kitchen towels, table runners, and more. She spent weekends for many years setting up craft fairs in Louisiana, Belle, Jefferson City, and more. She also did clothing alterations for others.

She enjoyed spending time with her family. She travelled different places to visit her friends, and during the winter months, she and Forest would go to Texas where they would also see other friends from Louisiana

wintering there. For many years, the whole family would travel to numerous other states by travel trailer.

She loved plants and could even bring a dying plant back to life for others. She especially loved the iris planted outside her house.

Bonnie liked spending time with her children and husband at the Pike County Country Club during the summers. She and the children enjoyed the pool while Forest played golf. Another favorite was flying on Sundays after church. She would pack a picnic and the family would enjoy the afternoon flying with Forest as the pilot.

Church was important for Bonnie. For many years she taught the nursery school class at the Centenary United Methodist Church. She also volunteered as a Girl Scout leader for several years.

The highlight of her later years were her grandchildren. Her oldest was born when she was almost 45. She would attend many football and basketball games watching the grandkids, and she usually brought treats to share. Because of that, she became "Grandma Bonnie" to many of her grandkid's friends and neighborhood kids.

Memorials may be made to the Centenary United Methodist Church, 691 S. Carolina St., Louisiana, MO 63353, American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741, or the PKD Foundation, P.O. Box 871847, Kansas City, MO 64187.



Linda Lou Ince

Linda Lou Ince, 88, formerly of Louisiana, died peacefully at her home with family on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 in Columbia.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m., Saturday at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. The Rev. Art Moore officiated. A private family graveside service was at Riverview Cemetery.

Visitation was from 12 p.m., until time of service Saturday at the funeral home.

Linda was born Nov. 24, 1937 on the family farm in the New Hope Community near Elsberry. She was the daughter of Wallace James and Nellie T. Dodson. Linda was united in marriage on March 23, 1957, at the Elsberry Methodist Church to Robert "Bob" Henry Ince of 58 years. He preceded her in death on Nov. 2, 2015.

To this union there were three children, one heavenly, and two earthly, Joseph Darin Ince and wife, Laura of Louisiana, and Jerri Ince John of Columbia.

Linda's life can be best described by her devotion to her faith, family, community and friends. In her younger years she enjoyed sewing, and was very active in church activities, volunteering with Sunday and bible school. She also volunteered with Pike County Hospice, started the first ostomy support group, and helped in the hospital gift shop. She also enjoyed helping with the

See OBITUARIES on page 6

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Community News

DNR Now Accepting Entries For Drinking Water Week Poster Contest

In recognition and celebration of Drinking Water Week, May 3-9, 2026, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Section American Water Works Association are holding a poster contest for students in the fifth grade.

The department is now accepting entries, which must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2026.

This year's poster theme is "Save It, Don't Waste It!" Posters should show ways to save and conserve our drinking water. Entries should be no larger than 11 x 17 inches, and artists may

draw with any color or physical media, such as crayon, marker or pencil to create their posters. Digital media submissions will not be accepted. Entries will be judged on three criteria: How original the entry is, how well the concept is executed and how well the poster relates to public water supplies.

Judges will choose a first, second and third place winner. Prizes include \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place. The American Water Works Association provides the prize money. The department will feature winning

entries on its social media platforms and website. Posters will not be returned after the contest.

Posters should be submitted to Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Drinking Water Branch, Attention: Tena Hale, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176.

For more information or for questions about the contest, contact Tena Hale at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 573-526-2180 or Twilia.Hale@dnr.mo.gov or visit dnr.mo.gov/water/get-involved/drinking-water-week.

100th Annual Soils, Crop Conference

The 100th annual Audrain Soils & Crops Conference is 6:20-8:40 p.m., Monday, March 2, at the top floor of the Hart Career Center, 905 Wade St., Mexico.

The event originally was set for January but was rescheduled due to inclement weather, said University of Missouri Extension agriculture business specialist Mary Sobba. MU Extension specialists, Extension

Master Gardeners, representatives of USDA and Soil & Water Conservation districts and Audrain counties with alpha-gal syndrome will give the presentations.

Topics include:
Weed management
Drones
Soybean cultivars
Soybean pests
Warm-season grass
Tax issues

Straw bale gardening
Alpha-gal syndrome

The event is free, but conference organizers request that attendees register by Feb. 27 to get an accurate count for meals and materials, said Sobba. Register at <https://pears.io/events/mu/4225>, or contact the MU Extension Center in Audrain County at 573-581-3231 or audrainco@missouri.edu.

Born Strong, Stay Healthy Program

Expecting and new parents can build strength, reduce stress and feel more confident in their changing bodies through Born Strong, Stay Healthy, an exercise program offered by University of Missouri Extension.

A new series of online classes begins March 23.

Born Strong, Stay Healthy is a research-based strength and movement program designed to help people prepare for and recover from childbirth, says

Melissa Cotton, MU Extension field specialist in nutrition and health.

The program supports physical and mental well-being before, during and after pregnancy, with the goal of healthier outcomes for both parents and babies, Cotton says.

The online classes meet 11-11:45 a.m., on Mondays and Wednesdays from March 23-April 22. Sessions are held via Zoom and are led by an MU Extension nu-

trition and health specialist. A second instructor attends each class to provide form checks and safety cues.

The program is open to pregnant individuals, postpartum participants with medical clearance, partners and families with infants. All fitness levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to talk with their health care provider before starting a new exercise program.

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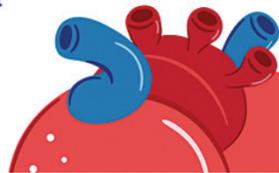
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Eastern Missouri Grid
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

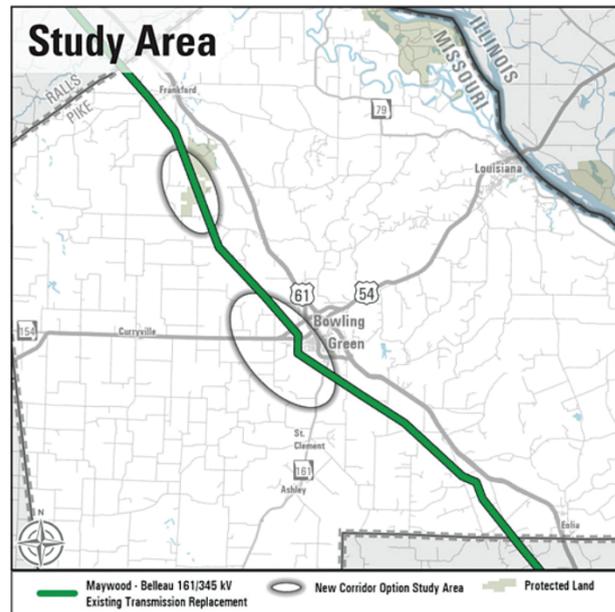


EASTERN MISSOURI GRID TRANSFORMATION PROJECT IN PIKE COUNTY

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.**

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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 Eastern Missouri Grid Transformation Project
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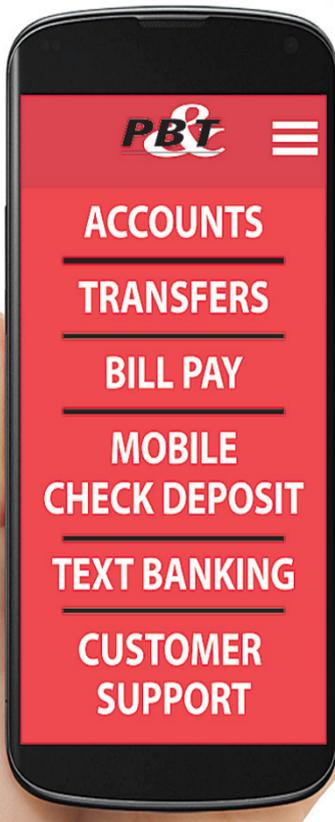
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Community News

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 4
PICO food pantry and local flower shop. Linda assisted with many things associated with "gentlemen's" farming and owning livestock alongside her husband, Bob.

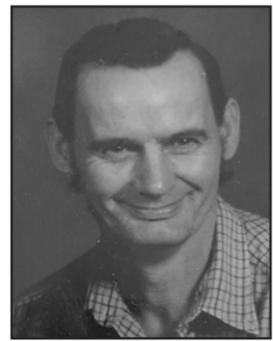
Although she worked at various places throughout her life (Wells-Lamont glove factory, Louisiana Plastics, Stark Bros. Nurseries). Her most treasured job was working as a pre-school teacher at the First Baptist Church in Louisiana for many years. Later in life Linda enjoyed her love of birds, painting, gardening and a healthy competition of "trivia" with her late afternoon frappuccino.

Her greatest pride and joy were her four grandchildren, Kendra John Breen and husband, Josiah of Tucson, Ariz., Dr. Rylan John and wife, Annika of Grants Pass, Ore., Alexis Ince, and Anna Ince, both currently attending universities in Missouri; and great-granddaughter, Rhode Breen.

Linda was preceded in death by her husband, a son, William Dean Ince, and her parents, plus a sister, Ruby June Watkins.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Centenary United Methodist Church or donor's choice.



Frank Henry Koster

Frank Henry Koster, 81, of Silex died at his residence, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, with his wife by his side.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m., Friday at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes in Silex with Pastor Steven Gamble officiating. Burial was in St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Silex.

Visitation was from 10 a.m., until time of services on Friday at the funeral home.

Frank was born at his family's home in rural Silex, Feb. 10, 1944, the son of Isaac Henry and Pearl Welch Koster. Born and raised in Silex, Frank attended Silex School until the age of 16 years old, when he left school to begin his first job working on cars for Remferd Mudd. Frank continued his working career for Bill Logan, Stanley Polman, Mick Mehler, and Dick Thompson, before he began working on buses for Denny Miller, where he began working full-time in 1985 and retired in 2015.

Frank married Bonnie Lee Overall on May 18, 1974, at the New Salem Baptist Church in Winfield, and together they raised a family that Frank was proud of. He became a Christian by accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior in 2017 and was a follower of the Assembly of God faith.

He enjoyed welding, working on cars and junking. His prize vehicle was a 1966 GTO that he painted red. In his free time, Frank enjoyed watching old westerns, especially John Wayne movies, and listening to classic country music. He and Bonnie traveled to the PTL Club (Praise The Lord) in South Carolina and enjoyed camping.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie of Silex; two sons, Frank Koster, Jr., of Elsberry, and Joshua Nathan Koster of Silex and daughter-in-law, Lisa of Illinois; a daughter, April Dawn Koster of Silex; grandchildren, Christian Hart Koster, Caleb Rennecker, Navida Roed, Timothy Lee Roed II, Evan Wyatt Roed, Lucius Kelvin Roed, Avianna Marie Richardson, Selena Dyess, Christopher Dyess Jr., Leia Rose Dyess, Chloe Anita Channell, Ehtan Koster, and Alaina Jolie Koster; great-grandchild, Aurora Rosielynn Lewis Dyess; siblings, Shirley Walton of Silex, Dora Stoffel of California,

Henrietta McSherry of Camden Point, Ella Gillogly and husband, Gene of Kansas City, Angie Boston of Bradley, Fla., Margie Rowlings of Excelsior Springs, Maggie Ross of Shawnee, Kan.; along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, baby son, Jeremiah Koster, a daughter, Diana Lynn Roed, and one, sister Gertie Rose.

Serving as pallbearers were Denny Miller, Tristan Hickman, Tim Nothaker, Gene Nothaker, Neal Nothaker, and George Mehler.

Memorials may be made to the family, c/o Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes in Bowling Green.



Anna F. Hufty Raufer

Anna Francis Hufty Raufer, 82, of Pike County died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at Parkside Manor in Bowling Green.

Funeral services for Anna were Friday at 11 a.m., at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory with the Rev. Tom Hufty officiating. Burial was in Green Lawn Cemetery.

Visitation was Friday from 9-11 a.m., at the funeral home.

Anna was born July 23, 1943, in Hannibal to Jack and Mary Hufty. She was the oldest of three siblings.

On Sept. 10, 1961, she married the love of her life, Billy E. Raufer. Together they built a life centered on family, hard work, and simple joys.

Anna was a devoted homemaker for many years before later working at Ruth Jensen Village, where she remained until her retirement. She had a creative spirit and loved painting and crafts. She enjoyed helping on the farm and found immense joy in her dogs. Anna also had a deep love for music and especially enjoyed playing the piano. She cherished visiting with family and spending time talking on the phone with those she loved.

In addition to her parents, Anna was preceded in death by her husband, Billy E. Raufer.

She is survived by a son, Mark Raufer and wife, Jennifer of Bowling Green; grandchildren, Kayla Moore and husband, Steven of Thousand Oaks, Calif., Morgan Raufer of Chattanooga, Tenn., Hilary Gordy and husband, Garrett of Bowling Green, and Brent Potter and wife, Jenny of Bowling Green; and great-grandchildren, Briggs, Beau, Reese, Levi, and Lane; and her siblings, Jodi Harness and husband, Billy of Bowling Green, Kent Hufty and wife, Peggy of Silex, and Tom Hufty and wife, Rhonda of Glen Carbon, Ill.

Pallbearers were Steven Moore, David Harness, Alex Harness, Brent Potter, Tom Phillips, and Doug Stevenson

Memorials may be made in Anna's name to the John Cotton Memorial Animal Shelter.



Anna Miner

Anna Mitchell Miner was born Feb. 5, 1952, in Los Angeles, Calif., to William and Marion Mitchell. She died peacefully Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at the age of 74.

Memorial services for Anna will be held Tuesday (today) at 4 p.m., at Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and

Crematory in Bowling Green.

Visitation will be Tuesday (today) from 3-4 p.m., at the funeral home.

Anna grew up in Redondo Beach, Calif., and graduated from Fountain Valley High School, where she excelled both academically and creatively. She was a state-winning typist and a talented violinist - accomplishments that reflected her dedication and discipline from an early age.

She later married Paul "Skip," and together they welcomed their daughter, Jennifer. Though Anna and Skip eventually parted ways, they shared the blessing of their daughter and many meaningful years together.

Anna built a fulfilling career as a paralegal, working with law firms and within the court system. Her intelligence, strong work ethic, and keen attention to detail served her well throughout her professional life.

Anna is survived by a daughter, Jennifer Miller and husband, Clete; cherished grandchildren, Jenny and husband, Dalton, Brian and wife, Kaity, and Ryan, all of Bowling Green, and Brandon and wife, Brittany of Fairbanks, Alaska; treasured great-grandchildren, Beckham and Lakelynn; a brother, David of Las Cruces, N.M.; and many nieces and nephews who will remember her fondly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Marion Mitchell of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and her sister, Marilyn Mitchell and husband, Freeman of Tucson, Ariz.

Anna had a deep love for Ireland and its rich history, and she found great joy in reading novels by John Grisham. She also had a special fondness for ducks and anything associated with them, which brought her simple happiness throughout her life. She will be remembered for her intelligence, her quiet strength, and the love she shared with her family and friends.

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



Doris 'Jeanne' McKee

Doris Jeanne Rolle McKee, known to family and friends as Jeanne, 80, of Bowling Green died peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, with her three loving daughters by her side.

Visitation will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday at the Second Baptist Church, 319 West Church Street, Bowling Green, with the funeral service to follow at 3 p.m.

Jeanne was born Oct. 1, 1945, in Mexico. She graduated from Van-Far High School in 1963. As a young woman, she dreamed of joining the Peace Corps or attending college to become an English teacher, however, life took her in a different direction that same summer when she married her high school sweetheart, Robert Earl McKee, in August of 1963. Together they built a life centered on devotion, perseverance, and deep love for their family. "Bobby Earl" preceded her in death in June of 2020.

For most of her career Jeanne worked as a banker at Community State Bank in Bowling Green, where she was known not only for her professionalism and dedication, but for her warm smile and welcoming spirit. She truly never met a stranger, and her kindness left a lasting impression on customers and coworkers alike.

She was an active and faithful member of the Second Baptist Church, where she found great joy in fellowship and worship. Jeanne loved singing in the church choir and faithfully taught Sunday School, sharing her love of Scripture and her gentle guidance with generations. She also had a deep love for gardening, finding peace and satisfaction in tending her flowers

and nurturing beauty from the soil.

Jeanne was a devoted mother and the steady heart of her home. She is survived by her three daughters, Melanie Jane McKee Alderson of Bowling Green; Kelly Ann McKee and Mike Smith of Savannah, Ga., and Vicki Lynn Jennings and husband, Raymond of Estes Park, Colo.

She was a proud and loving grandmother to John Curtis Alderson and wife, Angela, Daniel Clark Alderson, and Matthew Colby Alderson and wife, Heather, all of Bowling Green; Brooke Evangeline Hagan and husband, Zach of Waxahachie, Texas; Katelyn Jennings Perez and husband, Marcos of Bentonville, Ark.; and Alex Brinkley Dorsey of Savannah, Ga.

She was also blessed with nine great-grandchildren, Trenton Alderson, Landon Alderson, Landon Taylor, Harper Alderson, Rowan Alderson, Austin Jo Alderson, Wesley Hagan, and Elsie Mae Hagan, along with the newest addition, Paisley Kate Perez, born a Valentine's baby, on Feb. 14, 2026

Jeanne will be remembered for her intelligence, gentle strength, unwavering faith, and deep devotion to those she loved. Whether at the bank, in the choir loft, in her Sunday School classroom, in her garden, or at home surrounded by family, she made people feel seen, welcomed, and valued. Though her early dreams reflected her adventurous and thoughtful spirit, her proudest accomplishment was the family she nurtured and the generations who will carry her love forward. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

After suffering from a brain injury in 1994 and a subsequent stroke in 2015, Bob and Jeanne bravely faced the challenges of Jeanne's vascular dementia. Robert, in true "Bob" fashion, devotedly and stubbornly cared for Jeanne until he could no longer, and after his death, Jeanne required full-time memory care and then later skilled nursing care. The staff at Tri-County Baptist Homes in Vandalia has provided exceptional care, kindness, and dignity over the past three years.

Memorial donations may be made to Tri-County Baptist Homes in Vandalia, or to Second Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Pallbearers will be John Alderson, Daniel Alderson, Matthew Alderson, Alex Dorsey, Raymond Jennings and Mike Smith.

Proverbs 31:28-29: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.'"

We Welcome Your Local News



Elaine Karol Dameron

Elaine Karol Stone Dameron, 74, of Curryville went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, after courageously battling a prolonged illness. Although this illness may have slowed her down, she continued to live a life full of everything that brought her joy.

Elaine was born June 14, 1951, in Hannibal to Harry Eugene and Isabel Sutton Stone. She was slightly older than her twin brother, Eddie, and that was often noted as they grew up together on the family farm near Laddonia. As a young girl, she accepted Christ and attended the West Cuivre Baptist Church in rural Laddonia.

Elaine married the love of her life, Floyd "Chub" Dameron, on June 12, 1971. Afterward, the couple lived near Olney for a time before purchasing a farm and moving to the Curryville area. From that union, two children were born, Anthony "Tony" William Dameron and Angela Lynn Dameron Maier. Anyone who knew Elaine knew she was so very proud of her children's accomplishments. As her children grew and married, she gained a daughter-in-law, Shera Talbert Dameron, and a son-in-law, Paul Maier, whom she loved as if they were her own. Her family was her pride and joy and became even more so once she was blessed with grandchildren.

She was the loving grandma to Paige Elizabeth Dameron Teasley and husband, Payton and Kylie Jane Dameron; nana to Michael William Maier and Gabriel Matthew Maier and fiancé Amanda File-Zite; and great-grandma to Margaret Mae Teasley and Charlotte Elizabeth Teasley.

Elaine loved her grandchildren beyond measure and rarely missed an opportunity to support them. She could be seen attending dance recitals, sitting on the sidelines at ball games and other sporting events, ringside at pig shows, and at any musical event or play where the grandkids were performing. Once she was unable to attend these events, she would be sure to watch Game Changer or on video so as not to miss a thing.

She graduated from Community R-VI High School in 1969 and attended Hannibal-LaGrange College, where she earned an associate's degree in English in

1971. Proudly, Elaine later returned to HLG and earned her BS in business administration in 1998. She was so happy to say that three generations of her family graduated from HLG.

Elaine helped her husband on the farm, driving tractors and often delivering grain to local elevators, even while nine months pregnant with her son. She also worked as a substitute teacher from time to time. She worked at G&S Chicken Products for nearly 30 years as an HR/payroll manager. After retirement, she began volunteering with Options for Women.

She was a member of the Curryville Baptist Church, where she played the organ and taught Sunday school and Bible School for many years.

Elaine was an active member and the treasurer of the Susanna Randolph Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Vandalia. She was an avid reader and participated in the DAR's book club.

She was a very talented crocheter, making lovely gifts for friends and family over the years. She often made blankets, dresses, and clothing for the grandkids when they were young. She could also quickly make and alter costumes when they were needed for school performances.

Elaine had a love for all flowers and plants. She grew beautiful flower beds of lilies and roses. She was able to care for and nurture even the weakest plants, restoring them to their full beauty. She also enjoyed canning and preserving vegetables from the garden.

She served as a leader of the 4-H club and also volunteered to judge projects at the local 4-H fairs.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Isabel Stone; her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Margaret and James O. Dameron; her brother-in-law, the Rev. Otis Dameron; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Charles E. Dameron and Debby Dameron.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband of 54 years, Floyd "Chub" Dameron; a son, Tony Dameron and wife, Shera; daughter Angela Maier and husband, Paul; a brother, Eddie Stone and wife, Susan; brother-in-law, James Dameron and wife, Donna; sister-in-law, Regina Dameron; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Pallbearers will be grandsons Michael Maier, Gabriel Maier, and Payton Teasley, and nephews Jimmy Dameron, Bobby Stone, and Chuckie Dameron.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday at Curryville Baptist Church, with Bro. Jerry Gamm officiating. Burial will be in the Curryville Cemetery. The family will receive friends, family, and others whose lives were touched by Elaine from 4-7 p.m., Friday at the Bibb Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

Memorial donations may be made, c/o Bibb-Veach Funeral Home to the Curryville Baptist Church or to Options for Women.

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Friday, March 6

Girod Family Auction Center, 420 Hwy. 161, Middletown

Fish Fry Dinner 5:30 p.m. • Live Auction 7 p.m.

Raffles & 50/50

Items & donations can be dropped or mailed to Dowell's Body Shop, 11275 Audrain Road 657, Wellsville, 573-594-6247 or Paul & Cindy Evans, 2963 Hwy. 54, Farber, 573-473-9000

Please make checks payable to Tasha VonVain

Classifieds

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

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NO HUNTING OR TRESPASSING, Murry Shepherd Farms. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for injuries or accidents.

NO TRESPASSING OR HUNTING on the property of Cheryl Boots. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for accidents on property.

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

SERVICES

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)

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

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