



# THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

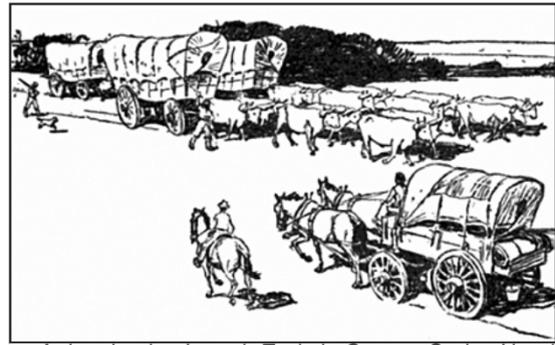
NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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## Pure Gold

Man Chronicles Life As A Fortune Seeker



A drawing by Joseph Early in George Stokes' book "Deadwood Gold: A Story of the Black Hills" depicts the wagon train that carried the author west.

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

Many people would turn up their noses at burning buffalo dung to cook food or sleeping on the hard prairie under a covered wagon with just a blanket for bedding.

Louisiana native George Stokes welcomed such rigors. The Pike County native was 14 years old when he embarked on a journey that would lead to him to become a wealthy Black Hills prospector.

"Naturally, my boyish anticipations were at their highest over this opportunity to get into new fields of adventure," he said.

Before Stokes could pan for gold in South Dakota, he had to leave Missouri. The opportunity came in October 1862, when his father asked he and his mother to join him in Colorado.

The elder Stokes had left for Denver in April 1862, giving up a successful, but stressful, career as a Pike County store owner to make a go of his first profession — blacksmithing — in an area that was flourishing after gold was discovered.

Taking a train from Hannibal to St. Joseph, Stokes and his mother were accompanied by his pony, Betty.

"All over the town,

horses, mules and oxen were being sold or fitted out for the journey across the plains," Stokes noted. "Every vacant lot had a wagon exhibit or was filled with hay, and I reckon nobody ever saw — up to that time — so much corn and oats for sale."

Mother and son bought a Studebaker wagon along with two steeds, and outfitted another wagon "full of grub and household goods." They joined a small party that first traveled to Fort Kearney in Nebraska and then followed the Platte River toward Colorado. It was a well-worn trail used by thousands of settlers who had headed West.

"During the entire trip of about 650 miles we were favored with almost ideal weather conditions," Stokes said. "We camped at ranches and stage stations. I slept on a buffalo robe under the wagon, while mother occupied the wagon box 'stateroom' overhead." Previous emigrants had stripped most of the vegetation from the river banks.

"Sagebrush and cedar made a bad-smelling fire," Stokes lamented. "So, we used buffalo chips — a smokeless, odorless and very satisfactory fuel. With two gunny sacks in hand, I would mount Betty every afternoon, ride out toward

the foothills and bring in enough of the chips to cook supper and breakfast for our little party."

The wagon train met Pawnee, Sioux and Arapaho along the trail, but they didn't live up to Stokes' expectations. It was the opposite of natives he'd encounter later.

"Instead of noble, haughty chiefs — as my youthful fantasy had painted them — I found them in a state of beggary," he said.

There was at least one reminder of how the Plains had been before settlers came along.

"On my excursions off the trail, I frequently rode within a quarter mile of grazing buffalo herds," Stokes said. "There were countless numbers of these animals, a sight which only a few living men can now remember."

The bustling city of Denver offered new experiences. Stokes ate bear steak for the first time and, when his parents weren't looking, took a peek inside a gambling joint.

"Of all the sights, however, none was quite so marvelous for a boy reared among the rolling, wooded hills of old Missouri as the snow-capped Rockies," he said.

Stokes' father had a home in Central City, about 45 miles west of Denver. It was there that the teenager would be mesmerized by a profession that could be highly profitable or very deadly.

Perhaps it was naivete, but Stokes found encouragement on the perilous and meager path through the Rockies leading to the mining town.

"Every turn of the dangerous road, indeed, brought some marvelous scene."

Next time: Bullion and bullets.

## Bowling Green R-I School District Adopts Calendar For 2026-27

BY BRICE CHANDLER EDITOR

Students in the Bowling Green R-I School District will start school a little later next school year and also end the school year a week later after the Board of Education approved the calendar for the 2026-27 school year at the board's regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

The current school year started on Aug. 18 and is scheduled to finish on May 15. The first day of school for the 2026-27 school year will be August 24 and the last scheduled day of school will be May 21.

"The State of Missouri will not allow us to start school any earlier than August 24," said Superintendent Nick Larson.

Missouri statute prohibits schools from starting classes earlier than 14 calendar days before the first Monday in September. In previous years, schools requested a waiver of the statute and the Missouri State Board of Education granted most of those waivers.

This year, the state board has denied over 130 requests for waivers and indicated that they would deny all future such requests.

In other action, the Board approved two new courses at the high school.

A course titled, Industrial Math, and another course titled, Ag Communications and Marketing, will be offered to students beginning with the next school year. Industrial math will replace a course titled consumer math and will target students who attend the vocational school or who plan to enter the trades or other occupations rather than continue with academic pursuits. Ag Communications and Marketing will be offered for those students who plan to enter training for agriculture occupations after high school.

The Board voted to hire EGL Association to guide the district through the development of a strategic plan to establish the mission, vision, beliefs, governance priorities and goals for

the district.

This will be a year-long process that seeks input from all stakeholders throughout the district and the outcome will be a five-year plan for the improvement of the educational opportunities for students of the district.

The plan is called a Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and is required of all schools in the state. Summer School will be available to students of the district and will start on Monday, June 1.

Classes will be in session on all four campuses and are scheduled to end on Tuesday, June 30.

Assistant Superintendent Stephen Hunter presented an evaluation of the school's safety programs. He noted that the district has made many improvements to the buildings to provide a safe environment for both students and staff.

The R-I School Board is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m., in the district office.

## MacLaughlin Wins 200-Yard Medley

BY BRICE CHANDLER EDITOR

The Louisiana/Clopton girls swim team had another huge season ending at the MSHSAA Class 1 Girls State Swimming and Diving Championships, finishing 14th overall out of 58 teams.

It was an impressive showing for a small-school cooperative program made all the more so when considering this is only the team's third year after the co-op formed.

Clopton senior Gracey MacLaughlin led the charge, claiming the Class 1 state championship in the 200-yard individual medley with a school-record time of 2:03.34.

MacLaughlin's winning time not only secured the gold medal but also met All-American consideration standards. MacLaughlin finished nearly a second and a

half ahead of runner-up Charlotte Brown of Villa Duchesne (2:04.98).

MacLaughlin wasn't finished.

She returned to the pool to place second in the 100 backstroke with another school-record swim of 55.82 — also an All-American consideration time — capping one of the most dominant individual performances in program history.

But this wasn't a one-swimmer show.

200 Medley Relay — 12th place (Gracey MacLaughlin, Grace Branstetter, Storie Talbert, Sophie Griffin)

200 Freestyle Relay — 13th place (MacLaughlin, Branstetter, Griffin, Talbert)

Junior Storie Talbert delivered her strongest state performance to date, finishing 10th in the 50 freestyle with a personal record of

25.20 and placing 13th in the 100 freestyle, also with a PR.

Freshman Grace Branstetter competed in her first state championship, placing 31st in both the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly — valuable experience that adds promise for the program's future.

Coaches, staff, and parents praised the community support behind the swimmers, including Peoples Bank & Trust and local boosters who helped fuel the season.

With a state champion, multiple school records, and historic relay finishes, Louisiana/Clopton proved that small numbers can still produce big results.

MacLaughlin will continue her swimming career at the collegiate level with the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

## BGHS Sophomore Carter Berry Headed To Portugal

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

BY BRICE CHANDLER EDITOR

On Sundays, Kathleen said, the family sits down together to plan the week ahead — practices, work schedules, school responsibilities and travel.

"We try to keep things balanced," she said. "We make sure the kids are eating well, staying focused on school and remembering that soccer is part of a bigger picture."

Carter is a member of the National Honor Society and has previously worked as a lifeguard while maintaining his training schedule.

Beyond trophies and tournaments, his parents say the experience is about leadership, resilience, and character.

"Not everything in life goes your way," Kathleen said. "What matters is how you respond."

For Kathleen, the value of the experience extends beyond the field.

"He's learning leadership," she said. "He's learning how to accept and thrive when things don't go his way. Not everything is going to go your way in life, and you have to learn from those experiences to become a better person."

His long-term goal is simple and ambitious.

"I want to play overseas someday," he said. "If I perform well and someone notices, that would be amazing." Barcelona, he admitted, would be the dream.

For now, however, the focus is clear.

Portugal awaits.



Carter Berry is pictured at an ODP event in Memphis, Tenn.

## Body Found Near Champ Clark Bridge

BY BRICE CHANDLER EDITOR

Authorities are investigating after a deceased male was discovered Monday afternoon near the Champ Clark Bridge in Pike County, Illinois.

According to a press release from the Pike County Illinois Sheriff's Department, Pike County Dispatch was notified at approx-

imately 12:57 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, by the Illinois State Police regarding a suspicious vehicle parked near the bridge.

An Illinois State Police trooper responding to the scene located the body of a man on the south side of U.S. Highway 54 on an embankment near the bridge. Several people have reported that the vehicle was

there much earlier in the day.

The Pike County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, and the Pike County Coroner's Office are jointly investigating the incident.

Authorities identified the man as John A. Sobie, 55, of Rockport, Ill. More details will be provided as the investigation continues.

## Louisiana Chamber Plans Home, Outdoor Show

BY BRENT ENGL, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A new event promises a look at the kind of things just about everybody uses at some point.

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first Northeast Missouri Home & Outdoor Show. The event is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Pike County Fairgrounds on Highway 54.

"The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to strengthening the local business economy, which in turn improves the lives of the citizens in the Northeast Missouri region," said Chamber Executive Director Brook Patterson.

Vendors are being signed up now. The show plans to feature home improvement contractors and remodelers, interior designers and home décor specialists, landscaping businesses, lawn care providers, outdoor living specialists, companies that offer pools, patios and decking, home automation and smart technology, furniture and home accessories dealers, heating, cooling and plumbing services, energy efficiency and solar solution providers, and home services.

The goal is to "help connect business owners and property owners alike," Patterson said.

Vendor applications are welcome and may be made by calling Patterson at 573-253-5201 or at [info@louisianamochamber.com](mailto:info@louisianamochamber.com). The cost is \$100. The public will be admitted free.

## Modern Maturity Building Needs Funds For New Furnace



Modern Maturity Building - Vandalia

The Modern Maturity Building in Vandalia has been a structure in the community for many years.

What started out as a VFW in its early years and later became the Modern Maturity Building in the 1970s.

There's been a lot of updates over the years to the building, including new roof, windows, tables, chairs, and much more. The building is used for a variety of functions like showers, sales, reunions, polling place, and much more.

With the cost of everything that keeps going up, it has become more expensive

to keep the building open.

The building is in need of a new furnace at this time. There is money to fund this, but doesn't leave much to keep operating on.

The members are all getting older, so anyone that would like to help keep the building functional please contact one of the members, they would be more than happy to have you.

There will be a basket bingo night coming up Saturday, March 14 to help keep things going.

An ad with more details is on page 16 of today's Tribune.

# Obituaries



## Paul Raymond Sprock

Funeral services for Paul Raymond Sprock, 64, of Laddonia were at 3 p.m., Thursday at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Laddonia with pastor Rick Rutledge officiating.

Visitation was Thursday from 1-3 p.m., at the funeral home.

Mr. Sprock died Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026 at his home surrounded by his family.

Paul was born Feb. 25, 1961 in Troy, the son of Edward Raymond and Gertrude Mary Haarmann Sprock.

He is survived by a son, Andrew Sprock and wife, Helen of Vandalia; one brother, Mark Sprock and wife, Karen of Santa Fe; four sisters, Julie Troesser and husband, David of Rush Hill, Tina Hubert and husband, Danny of Bowling Green, Gina Kuda and husband, Bruce of Russellville, and Amanda McCurdy and husband, Michael of Middletown; three grandchildren, Mason, Lydia, and Elijah; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Tim Sprock.

Paul was a lifetime resident of the area and was well known throughout the community for his strong work ethic and love of the land. Farming was not just his occupation, but his way of life. He took great pride in working the fields and caring for his farm, dedicating countless hours to the livelihood that sustained his family and community.

Outside of farming, Paul had a deep passion for truck pulling. The sport was very important to him and brought him many lasting friendships and memories over the years. He was a proud member of the ITPA (Illinois Tractor Pulling Association), the Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pulling Association, NTPA (National Tractor Pullers Association), TPM, and Excalibur. Paul thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the truck pulling community and rarely missed an opportunity to attend or participate in an event. Most of all, he cherished spending time with his family, who meant more to him than anything else.

Memorial contributions may be made to Laddonia Cemetery or Community Loving Care Hospice and mailed to Bienhoff Funeral Home, P.O. Box 6, Laddonia, MO 63352.

Online condolences may be made at [www.bienhofffuneralhome.com](http://www.bienhofffuneralhome.com).



## Ronald Lee Richards

Ronald Lee Richards, 83, of Louisiana, Missouri died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026.

He was born Nov. 2, 1942, in Muskogee, Okla., to Garrald L. and Helen Louise Trawick Richards. He was born the oldest of three sons. After his birth, he and his mother moved back to Bellevue, Ill., where his father

was from. He made several trips in his youth between there and back to North Carolina, where his mother was from. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1960, then attended Western Illinois

University, where he majored in physical education.

His college career was cut short due to his desire to join the United States Army during the Vietnam War era. His education allowed him the opportunity to advance into the Officer Candidate School. Through his training and war time experience, he was awarded the rank of captain. This rank also became his nickname for the remainder of his life. From there, he completed the highly skilled achievement of Green Beret.

Ron's most valued skill, however, came after the Army, when he realized he loved to sing and was well known for it. He was the lead singer of many bands over the years and kept his love of music going until the end. When he wasn't singing, he made his living in carpentry and construction work.

Ron was preceded in death by both parents, and a brother, James "Jim".

He and his wife Amy Jones Richards of Louisiana were married Oct. 22, 2020. She survives.

He is also survived by a son, Joshua Richards and wife, Heather of Milton, Ill., and their two sons, Jonah and Asher. Other grandchildren that survive are Eathon Johnson and wife, Malerie of Osceola, Ark., and Paiton Stankiewicz and husband, Stanley of Nebo, Ill.; one brother, Donald Richards and wife, Pat of Louisiana; and a number of nieces and nephews also survive.

Ron took great pride in his military experience, his family, and especially his grandsons sporting events and accomplishments. He will be remembered for his quick wit and unmatched sense of humor.

Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana will be handling arrangements.

The family held a Celebration of Life from 3-6 p.m., Saturday at the 4th Street Event Center in Louisiana.



## Betty Lou Will

Betty Lou Will, 85, of Bowling Green, formerly of Louisiana, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

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

Betty was born in Louisiana on June 5, 1940. She was the daughter of Clarence J. Woodward and Melva M. Moore Woodward.

She attended high school in Louisiana, and after graduation, was united in marriage to George W. Suddarth, and to this union, there were four children, George W. Suddarth Jr., Cynthia Lou Suddarth Greenwood, Melvia Gail Suddarth, and Justine Michelle Suddarth.

Betty and George were married for 19 years, and although this marriage was dissolved, they remained friends.

She attended Pike-Lincoln Vo-Tech School where she received her degree as a licensed practical nurse. She viewed this as one of her most cherished accomplishments and embarked on a nursing career which spanned more than 30 years. Betty worked at Maple Grove Lodge, Levering Hospital and later did private duty nursing. After moving to Troy Betty worked at Community Opportunities for several years and later retired.

After retiring, Betty moved back to the Pike County area, living first in Louisiana, and then in Bowling Green, next to her daughter.

Betty was baptized and went to Dover Baptist Church as a child. As an adult, she was a member of the First Baptist Church in Louisiana, as well as Noix Creek Baptist church. However, in later years, Betty no longer attended religious

services.

Betty was a wonderful mother to her children. She enjoyed sewing and made clothing for her family, as well as other people. She was great cook and took joy in gardening and canning. She had a loving heart and a kind and generous nature.

She is survived by her children, Bill Suddarth and wife, Donna, of Louisiana, Cyndi Greenwood of Salisbury, N.C., Gail Suddarth and partner, Santos of Bowling Green, and Justine Suddarth and partner, Rick of Loudon, Tenn. Also surviving is one sister, Phyllis K. Penrod and husband, Ralph; as well as her grandchildren, Gabe Suddarth, Kyle Suddarth, Jessica Randolph, Christopher Suddarth, Marissa Hill, Cameron Suddarth, Adrian Suddarth and Sydney Ensley; great-grandchildren, Madison, Karma, Gunnar, Bella, Brenden, Will, Landon, Princeton, Dominic, Jenna, Kayla, Baden, Bella, Logan, Karlyn and Emery; great-great-grandchildren, D.J., Elijah, Amaya, Izrela, Aviana, Amari, and Giovanni.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Melva, a sister, Cleo May and one son-in-law, Steven L. Greenwood.

Collier Funeral Home is in charge of cremation rites.



## Alvin Oren Young Jr.

Alvin Oren Young Jr., 82, of Louisiana died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of faith, family, and devoted service.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday

at the First Baptist Church in Louisiana. The Rev. Gary Robnett officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery near Louisiana.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m., Tuesday (today) at the church.

Born July 13, 1943, in Columbia, Kent., Alvin lived a life firmly rooted in his faith in Jesus Christ. A skilled carpenter by trade and a minister by calling, he spent decades building not only homes and structures, but also strong churches and lasting relationships within the communities he served.

Alvin faithfully pastored Kidder Baptist Church, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Grassy Creek Baptist Church, Southside Baptist Church, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He also served as moderator and worked with the ASSIS Team for the Salt River Baptist Association, and was a member of the Louisiana Divisional Mission board. His steady leadership, servant's heart, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel left a lasting impact on countless lives.

An avid outdoorsman, Alvin loved hunting and fishing and found peace spending time in God's creation. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle with the "Road Riders for Jesus" motorcycle group. Alvin and his beloved wife, Linda, shared many beautiful trips together on their trike, creating cherished memories over their 61 years of marriage.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Linda Bozarth Young; one daughter, Melissa Young Wittman and husband, Brandon; and a son, Randall Young and wife, Tara. 6 He was a proud grandfather to Justin Sterne, Hillari Sterne, Haley Wittman, Amelia Young, Addison Young, and Blaize Young. He was also blessed with four great-grandchildren, Lola and Ashley Sterne, and Ahlana and Brylie Wilson.

Alvin's favorite Bible passage was John 14:1-6, a Scripture that reflects the faith he lived by:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God,

believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And where I go you know, and the way you know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

His family takes comfort in this promise and in the assurance that he is now home with the Lord he faithfully served.

Alvin's life was marked by unwavering faith, deep love for his family, and quiet strength. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Memorials may be made to the Pike County Home Health & Hospice.

## Tina Marie Twellman

Tina Marie Twellman, 66, of Troy died Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at her home with her loving husband, Gerald, by her side.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., with a short service to follow, at High Point Ridge East, just outside of Silex. Dinner will be served upon the conclusion of the service.

Cremation rites are under the direction of Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Tina was born Oct. 3, 1959, in St. Charles to Charles E. and Helen N. Pew Fenslage. She grew up

for the first part of her life in Florissant, moving to the Silex area between her seventh and eighth grade years of school. She was united in marriage to Gerald Twellman on June 2, 1978, at the Pike County Courthouse in Bowling Green. Gerald survives.

Also surviving are sisters, Julia Panches and Phyllis Loose and husband, Greg; along with many nieces and nephews whom Tina loved as her own.

Tina was preceded in death by her parents; and six siblings.

She spent over 20 years as a pre-school teacher at both Playmate Learning Center and later Head Start where she was responsible for four- and 5-year-olds. Tina loved being around children and witnessing their bright eyes and inquisitive minds.

Tina loved spending her free time with her family. She always enjoyed making people laugh and she had a great sense of humor. Tina loved to spend time watching the wheat blow in the wind through her front window.

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

Online condolences may be made at [www.bibbveach.com](http://www.bibbveach.com).

**Ashley Community Center Fish Fry**  
**Feb. 27**  
**March 6, 13, 20, 27**  
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**Card Of Thanks**

The family of Beatrice Gamm wishes to express their deepest gratitude for the overwhelming support, prayers, beautiful flowers, food, and generous donations during our time of loss. We have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love and sympathy shown by all of you during this difficult time. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Debbie & Angie Adams  
 Darrell & Diane Crowder  
 Dennis & Debbie Roberts  
 Darrell & Tammy Roberts

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**Feeder sale every Monday at Noon**  
**Slaughter steers & heifers sell first**  
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Feeder Sale Report For 2-16-2026				Monday Receipts 2,862 Head			
1,653	Steers, medium & large			1,027	Heifers, Med. & Large		
		Computer Avg.				Computer Avg.	
9	300 & Down	505	685	13	300 & Down	550	700
41	300-400	550	625	50	300-400	460	555
101	400-500	490	570	145	400-500	450	505
354	500-600	470	550	364	500-600	435	478
401	600-700	425	500	293	600-700	380	420
217	700-800	380	418	144	700-800	355	370
354	800-900	350	373	16	800-900	295	316
66	900-1,000	335	33850		900-1000		
10	Bred Cows - Better Pairs	2400	3025		Others		
				Slaughter Cows			
		High Dressing				Low	
		172	184			140	160
		Bulk				Thin	
		150	170			50	100
20	Slaughter Bulls	208	222				
<b>ALL SLAUGHTER STEERS &amp; HEIFERS SOLD ON MON. NOON</b>							
48	Choice 2 & 3	238	242	Steers & Heifers			
				Mixed Select		235	Select 233
Receiving Hours Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Mon. 8 a.m.-							
<b>We appreciate your business both buyers &amp; sellers! For more info contact</b>							
Jack Harrison - 573-999-7197		Jack Harrison, Owner		Myles McWhorter - 573-263-3759			
John P. Harrison - 573-220-1482		<b>573-999-7197</b>		Glenn Stegeman - 573-619-8495			
Roger Temmen - 573-680-4538		Market Report		Jarrod Simpson - 573-247-0706			
Justin Oberling - 217-440-7724		573-522-9244		Chad Nickelson - 573-631-1627			
Claude Niemeier - 573-470-1017		24 hour recording		Kevin Milliken - 417-588-0307			
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# Community News

## From The Mayor's Desk...

As we just observed Presidents' Day and our Country will be celebrating America 250, it is time to seek the truth of a matter that is occurring in the United States today.

There is partisan and biased reporting going on both sides. As staunch believers in the American way of life, we must rigorously pursue facts and accuracy as opposed to opinions or political posturing.

As socialist mayors and governors are subtly maneuvered into these leadership positions, illegals being protected instead of American citizens, and crime continues to go unpunished by both by naturalized and illegal people, we need to make our voices heard to our congressional men and women at both the state and federal levels. There are currently 29 professed Socialist/Communist in our Federal Government. We must maintain the freedom of thought yet stand up for values in which true American have fought and died. Voices have been suppressed or silenced and replaced with hate banners and riots.

We must stand for courageous discussions on hard topics in open communication and not through violence and destruction. Government shut-downs only hurt middle-and lower-income families and certainly hurts our airline travels, FEMA, our Coast Guard, and all U.S. consumers. Plus, it closes communication lines. Just as much of our Black History and all the powerful individuals and accomplishments were overlooked, we cannot let our current history miscues be swept under the carpet and not learn from our mistakes.

As January job numbers looked very good, interest rates lowering, inflation

decreasing, and the economy is trying to stabilize; we need to focus on unity and getting along. In the Old Testament of the Bible, there was a period when there were no kings and everyone created their own rules of behavior, thinking, actions, and self-idolatry. As history repeats itself, have we entered a time in our American history where rule of law is in whatever we think it should be and not the Law of the Land?

Thanks to Sam Graves who was able to obtain another \$4 million to the Highway 54 expansion. This will allow for more economic development in NE Missouri and for Bowling Green and surrounding towns. We must develop as society's needs and wants expand. It's not by accident that John W. Basye was issued a United States Land Patent in 1818 for Pike County and Bowling Gren was established and incorporated as a city in 1823.

It's not by accident that we were established as the County Seat and highways 61, 54, 161, and Y criss-cross in our amazing town. Governor Robert A. Campbell was elected from Bowling Green as was Governor Elliot W. Major from 1913-1917.

We all should be aware of Champ Clark as the only Missourian elected National Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1911-1919. It's not by accident that True Manufacturing and Sparks engineering ship their products around the world. Plus, Knight, Bankheads, Woods Cosmos, and others are nationally known suppliers of their product lines. Bowling Green has much to be proud of.



JIM ARICO, MAYOR  
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

## Pike To Pike ...



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

Birthdays and Addresses for the week of Feb. 25-March 3, 2026:

Feb. 25 - Ethan Dixon, Melinda Labby, Phyllis Grawe, Sadie Ward, Tiffany Love, Christina, and John Brown

Feb. 26 - Roseanne Craven

Feb. 27 - Joe Yackley, Kara and Josh Puterbaugh, Roger and Nikki Liehr

Feb. 28 - Georgia West  
Mar. 3 - Iris Evans, Martha Woodward, Mark and Becky Winner

Sympathy to the family of Lynn Baker Ballinger who passed away recently.

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

Big River Band upcoming events:

Saturday, Feb. 28 - 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.

Mark Your Calendars: Sunday, March 8 The Big River Band will be in concert at the Pittsfield United Methodist Church sanctuary at 222 North Monroe starting at 6 p.m. This local band will be playing country gospel style music. This is an admission free concert and everyone is welcome to attend.

Buggs' Family Opry in

Pearl, Ill.:

Friday, Feb. 27 will be an all cast show at the Buggs' Family Opry with the show starting at 7 p.m. There is a admission. 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.

The Barry United Women of Faith will be hosting a pulled pork and soup meal on Friday, March 13 from 4-7 p.m. The meal will consist of a pulled pork sandwich, choice of soup, and a bag of chips. Desserts will be provided. Everyone can dine in at the church in Barry or carry outs will be available. All the donations will be going to help with repairs in the church basement. They are hoping for a good gathering and that the weather cooperates so come on out and support this worthwhile cause.

Single Seniors + One had its "Meet, Greet, & Eat" on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, at the Courtyard Cafe with 27 people in attendance.

Everyone enjoyed being out and about and all the visiting. Birthday and address lists that had been updated recently were passed out to everyone.

These lists are used for those who enjoy sending birthday cards each month and the cards are appreciated by all who receive them. Single Seniors + One is a not-for-profit group, which is made up of adults 55 years old and older 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 great 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 charged. And everyone is welcome.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. Psalm 19:8

James and Amanda Niffen of Annada, son and daughter-in-law of Jamie Niffen, came over and went with Jamie and Wyvetta to Evandy's Boatel in Naples for lunch. They all enjoyed a good visit and a delicious meal.

Trivia Answers from last week:

1. What state introduced Mardi Gras to the western world? (Alabama)
  2. Which U.S. State is nicknamed "The Sunflower State"? (Kansas)
  3. Which man in the Bible was from the land of Uz, and he was described as perfect and upright and he feared God? (Job)
- By the way, if any of you have any trivia questions that you would like to share, please text or message me the questions, and be sure and include the answers. Also it would be nice to let me know who sent these, so include your name as well.

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

## State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

requirement beginning January 1, 2027, for noncommercial motor vehicles and certain low-use farm vehicles. Inspection requirements remain in place for rebuilt salvage vehicles. The bill removes the requirement that used vehicles be inspected immediately prior to sale and allows licensed motor vehicle dealers to conduct certain inspections for out-of-state vehicles. Supporters state the change reduces costs for families while maintaining enforcement authority for unsafe vehicles.

and parole eligibility requirements for certain offenses. The bill expands the definition of "dangerous felony," removes certain age thresholds for specified offenses, and clarifies that offenders convicted of a dangerous felony must serve 85 percent of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. The legislation establishes new minimum prison term percentages based on felony classification and increases minimum prison terms for certain rape offenses.

It also revises jail time credit procedures by requiring courts to record and pronounce credit for time served at sentencing and repeals certain provisions allowing sentence reductions for eligible offenders.

### House Advances Reforms to Multiple Employer Health Plans

The House passed HCS HB 2596, modifying state law governing multiple employer self-insured health plans. The bill expands eligibility to include arrangements created for two or more self-employed individuals, each with at least one common-law employee. The legislation updates reporting and financial requirements, including risk-based capital reporting and increased surplus account thresholds. Supporters state the bill strengthens oversight while preserving comprehensive coverage options for small businesses.

### House Passes Sentencing Reform Legislation

The House approved HCS HBs 2637 & 3155, modifying sentencing laws

### House Advances Personal Property Tax Calculation Reform

HB 1766 modifies how increases in personal property valuations are treated for property tax purposes. Beginning January 1, 2027, aggregate increases in personal property valuation over the previous year may not be counted as "new construction and improvements" when calculating adjustments for political subdivisions. Supporters state the change prevents year-over-year valuation growth from being used to justify higher tax rate calculations tied to new construction factors.

### Vehicle Inspection Reform Approved by House

The House passed HCS HBs 1838, 1692, 1695, 1983, 2036, 2662 & 2743, which would eliminate Missouri's safety inspection re-



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### 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

## VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

General Municipal Election  
April 7, 2026

The deadline for NEW registrations is March 11, 2026.

You must register if you have moved into Pike County or recently turned 18 or will turn 18 on or before March 11, 2026.

If you are already registered in Pike County, your registration will need to be updated if you have a name change or moved within Pike County. You may have a new polling place.

You may register or make changes at the Pike County Clerk's Office, 115 W. Main, Bowling Green, MO.

Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call 573-324-2412 option 7.

s/Laura Stumbaugh  
Pike County Clerk /Election Authority

## St. Clement Parish Fish Frys

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Feb. 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,

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Adults \$15 • Children 6-12 \$7

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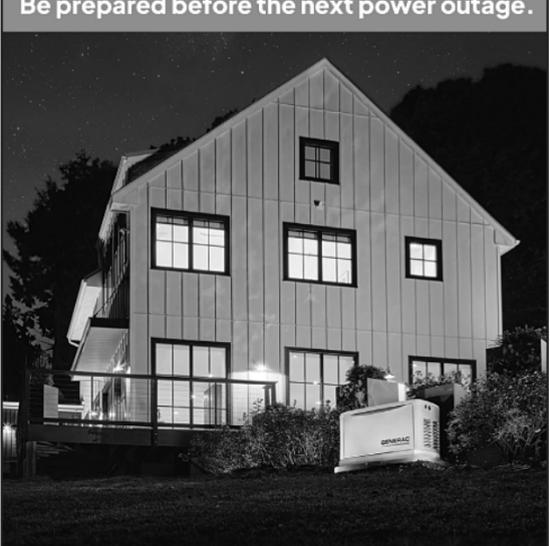
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## Van-Far High School

### Emma Freie

Parents: Tiffany & Larry Hale, Mark Freie

What are your future plans? My future plans are to attend Truman State University in Kirksville for communication disorders/pre-speech language pathology.

What is your favorite FFA memory? My favorite memory would be my very first contest. I remember some kid letting a chicken loose and the anxiety that rushed through after the contest.

What is your SAE? Placement Food Service.

How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has taught me to be ok with failing as long as I have given my all in what I was doing. I made friends and tried new things, learned new things and got to learn more about other people's experiences in the ag industry. In my last year I'm very thankful for all my ag teachers and the people that I met while in FFA.

### Breanna Resor

Parents: Julie Trower & Joseph Resor

What are your future plans? Attending a post secondary trade school for welding.

What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending contests.

What is your SAE? My job at the local nursing home.

How has FFA impacted your life? Opened my eyes to more opportunities within the ag industry.

### Easton Sharp

Parents: Kristina & Darby Sharp

What are your future plans? Attend State Tech.

What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending meetings.

What is your SAE? A placement at ACE hardware store.

How has FFA impacted

your life? I learned how to be a better person and leader.

### Alyssa Hollenback

Parents: Ericka & Marcus Coose

What are your future plans? Attend a trade school for underwater welding

What is your favorite FFA memory? Welding with my friends

What is your SAE? Entrepreneurship rabbits and chickens

How has FFA impacted your life? I have learned new things I never knew about.

### Jackson Fischer

Office: Treasurer Parents: Lara & Terrence Bell

What are your future plans? Attend Missouri Valley to play football and major in Ag business.

What is your favorite FFA memory? Walking the stage at state placing fourth in Nursery Landscape Contest.

What is your SAE? Placement at Ennis implement, Ag mechanics maintenance and repairs

How has FFA impacted your life? I've made many new friends and I've found what I love to do.

### Dalton Dameron

What are your future plans? Attend Wyoming tech and work on the family farm

What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending contests

What is your SAE? Diversified agricultural production

How has FFA impacted your life? It has pushed me to be a larger part of

my family's farm and be introduced to more aspects of agriculture.

### Jaykob Green

Parents: Brandy & Jason Green

What are your future plans? Take over the family farm

What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending National Convention

What is your SAE? Diversified Ag placement

How has FFA impacted your life? Enhanced my agricultural passion and allowed me to meet new people

### Ty Evans

Parents: Bryan Evans & Nikki Hendren

What are your future plans? Attend Wyoming tech doe diesel mechanics

What is your favorite FFA memory? Participating in contests

What is your SAE? Div. Ag Placement

How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has allowed me to create so many memories and meet people that have similar interests to me.

### Elaina Brogden

Parents: Eureka Scott & Matthew Roed

What are your future plans? Attend Oklahoma State for children therapy and sports medicine

What is your favorite FFA memory? Attending National Convention

What is your SAE? Placement at Mcdonalds

How has FFA impacted your life? FFA made me realize that there is more to ag than just farming

### Makayla Bolin

Parents: Kristy Mcneely & Jody Bolin

What are your future plans? Undecided

What is your favorite FFA memory? Having fun

at mud volley ball

What is your SAE? Entrepreneurship small animal

How has FFA impacted your life? It's shown me how important agriculture is in the real world.

### Brandon Kurz

Office: Vice president Parents: Tim & Michella Kurz

What are your future plans? Work on the Family Farm

What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to state and competing in soils

What is your SAE? Div. crop production and placement at Next-gen Ag

How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has changed my life a lot, I have met new people, learned new skills and information, developed leadership and public speaking skills.

### Landon Flowers

Parents: Megan Trower & Justin Flowers

What are your future plans? To attend a welding school and make a career in welding

What is your favorite FFA memory? Going to state in Dairy foods

What is your SAE? Food producing placement

How has FFA impacted your life? By giving me a better understanding of agriculture and the many different aspects of FFA

### Makayla McCurdy

Office: President Parents: Jill & Charles McCurdy

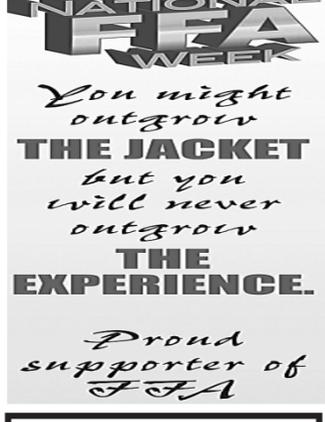
What are your future plans? Attend Northwest for veterinary school

What is your favorite FFA memory? My favorite FFA memory is the moment I realized how much I had grown through the organization. Whether it

was competing at a contest, attending a convention, or working alongside my chapter at an event, that experience stood out because it pushed me outside my comfort zone and showed me what I was capable of achieving. I remember the feeling of excitement and pride as I stood with my teammates, knowing we had worked hard and supported each other every step of the way. That memory reminds me that FFA is more than an organization, it's a family that encourages growth, leadership, and lifelong friendships.

What is your SAE? Swine Production Entrepreneurship

How has FFA impacted your life? FFA has had a meaningful impact on my life by helping me grow both personally and academically. Through FFA, I've gained confidence by speaking in front of others, taking on leadership roles, and stepping outside my comfort zone. It has taught me the importance of responsibility, teamwork, and dedication, values that I carry with me in and out of the classroom. FFA has also helped me discover my interests within agriculture and better understand how the industry affects everyday life. By participating in competitions, meetings, and community service, I've learned how to set goals, manage my time, and work toward success. Most importantly, FFA has connected me with supportive peers and mentors who have encouraged me to believe in myself and strive to be a better leader and individual.



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Vandalia - 100 Gaslight Rd.  
594-2223

**Celebrate National FFA Week Feb. 21-28, 2026**  
Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day. What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week? Whether it's in person, on the phone or via social media, be sure to share your FFA stories during FFA Week!

**Have A Great Week Van-Far FFA Members Service & Supply Cooperative**  
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## 2025-26 Van-Far FFA Chapter

Front row, (l-r): Slade Keller, Chloe Zumwalt. Second row: Claire Lavy, Jackson Fischer, Brandon Kurz, Makayla McCurdy, Garrett Hopke, Mylee Keller, and Micah Bailey. Third row: Trenton Jennings, Jordan Trainor, Isabella Strohbusch Carly Hunn, Kylee Gibson, Kylie Dameron, Meridith Wise, Adrainna Craven, Peyton Ingram, and Adyson Barnett. Fourth row: Angel Colbert, Ella Henry, Makenna Hall, Ginny Weedman, Megan McCurdy, Bailey Stringer, Makayla Bolin, and Alex Gavero. Fifth row: Rylee VanBoening, Cooper Huff, Bryson Poindexter, Slayde Teague, Tyler Carlyle, Corbin Roed, Bryce Reading, Kinize Carman, and Emma Freie. Sixth row: Elaina Brogden, Dalton Dameron, Jaykob Green, Maxx Schuckenbrock, Brady Puls, James Hays, Zane Toney, and Dillion Miller.



## American Degree

Carman Wilburn receiving her American Degree



## Mud Volleyball

Students kicked off the school year with our annual mud volleyball tournament. This is our officers rocking their muddy outfits.

# Van-Far FFA Chapter Activities For The Year

We believe in the future of agriculture. Our Van-Far FFA chapter is growing great leaders that will one day have a great impact on our community. As we move to the future, we see there is a need for leadership. Our FFA chapter is getting students ready for what is to come, teaching them how to be great leaders, and getting them involved in our community. This year, our chapter consists of 70 FFA members in grades ninth through twelfth.

We believe in leadership. This year, our 2025-2026 officer team planned some great events while celebrating FFA week to get members active and excited about FFA. From our traditional events such as the annual FFA Barnwarming, FFA Church Sunday, the Community and Supporters Breakfast, Area V Battle of the Chapters, and the annual FFA BBQ. The officer team and advisors have worked hard to make these events great! Although these all sound like fun events, our members have worked hard to go on trips by raising money from our annual fruit sales, plant sales, and the annual BBQ. These events would not be possible without the endless support of our community!

We believe in experiences. Our students have experienced many once in a lifetime trips through our chapter. Some of those trips include the State FFA Convention, National FFA Convention, FFA Camp, and soon will be traveling to Puerto Rico. This year we had FFA members participate in many different community service events including, serving at the Historical Society Card Party.

We believe in career development. This year we have high hopes for our CDE and LDE contests, as we already have members studying hard! Students will be participating in multiple CDE's and LDE's including Farm Management, Ag Mechanics, Public Speaking, and many more. Outside of contests, we have our trapshooting team. Our trapshooting team competed throughout the fall in various trap shoots around the area and will be competing at state again in April.

Have An Awesome Week  
Van-Far FFA'ers

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Have A Great National FFA Week!



## Food For America

Van-Far FFA members held their annual Food For America this fall at the elementary school. Members hosted stations to talk about agriculture and allow the students to learn about the agriculture industry.



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# Clopton High School

# 2026 National FFA Week Activities

**Sunday, Feb. 22**  
10 a.m. - FFA at Church - New Life Christian Church (food to follow that is provided by New Life Christian Church)  
**Tuesday, Feb. 24**  
Dress up Day - All American Day (wear red, white, and blue)  
**Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
Dress up Day- Duck

Dynasty Day (wear camouflage)  
**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
Dress up Day - Ag Swag Day (support your favorite local AG business)  
12 p.m. - Food for America  
**Friday, Feb. 27**  
Dress up Day - Clopton FFA Shirt  
7 a.m. - Farmer's Breakfast



## Clopton FFA Chapter 2025-26

*Pictured are members of the Clopton FFA Chapter, front row (l-r): Adam Matheny - Student Advisor, Mick Evans - Parliamentarian, James Matheny - Sentinel, Carlyn Lockard - Secretary, Tucker Salmons - 1st Vice President, Tinleigh Spoonster - President, Charleigh Spoonster - 2nd Vice President, Trey Spoonster - Treasurer, Phoebe Hayden - Reporter, Beau Beauchamp - Historian, Madelynn Willaims - Chaplain. Second row: Jacob Lovell, Jackson Hayden, John Grillo, Vivienne Woods (Junior Sentinel), Braylin Sutton (Junior Treasurer), Paisleigh Spoonster (Junior Vice President), Ava Adams (Junior President), Tessa Evans (Junior Secretary), Hailey Traw (Junior Reporter), Lilly Stribling, Josi Magruder, and Lexi Enloe.*



## Clopton 2025-26 Officer Team

*Pictured are members from left: Adam Matheny - Student Advisor, Mick Evans - Parliamentarian, James Matheny - Sentinel, Trey Spoonster - Treasurer, Tucker Salmons - 1st Vice President, Tinleigh Spoonster - President, Charleigh Spoonster - 2nd Vice President, Carlyn Lockard - Secretary, Phoebe Hayden - Reporter, Beau Beauchamp - Historian, and Madelynn Willaims - Chaplain.*



## 2025-26 Trap Shooting Team

*Front row (l-r): Bobbi Jo Kaimann, Carlyn Lockard, Tinleigh Spoonster, Phoebe Hayden, and Lilly Baker. Second row: Carter Spangler, Caden Weber, Larson Hall, Corey Couch, and Jackson Hayden. Third row: Luke Grillo, Jacob Harrelson, Trey Spoonster, and Rowan Wilson. Fourth row: Carson Wischmeyer, Bruce Stewart, Joey Henderson, Wyatt Nelson, Typer Harrelson, Bennet*



## 2025-26 Junior Officers

*From left: Vivienne Woods: Sentinel, Braylin Sutton: Treasurer, Paisleigh Spoonster: Vice President, Ava Adams: President, Tessa Evans: Secretary, Hailey Traw: Reporter.*



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## Washington D.C.

This past summer, seven Clopton FFA members (Ava Bankhead, Carlyn Lockard, Tinleigh Spoonster, Mick Evans, Adam Matheny, Tucker Salmons, and James Matheny) visited Washington DC. They had the opportunity to dive deep into the rich history of our country while also having some fun. Members were able to tour the capital, visit multiple Smithsonian's, visit major monuments on a bike tour and most importantly make memories that will last them a lifetime.



## Barnwarming

Barnwarming 2025 - From cowboy hats to dancing boots, FFA members had an unforgettable night celebrating FFA traditions and good times. FFA members danced the night away under the "Big Sky". The 2025 Clopton FFA Barnwarming King and Queen was Tucker Salmons and Tinleigh Spoonster.



## Area V Leadership Conference

FFA members attended the Area V Leadership Conference. This incredible opportunity helped enhance their leadership skills while fostering teamwork, inspiring innovation, and building lifelong connections with fellow members.



## National FFA Convention

Clopton FFA members Mick Evans, Trey Spoonster, James Matheny, Adam Matheny, Tucker Salmons, Bennet Colbert, Chase Hall, Jackson Hayden, Carlyn Lockard, Macy Enloe, Phoebe Hayden, Charleigh Spoonster, Beau Beauchamp, and Tinleigh Spoonster attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Here they had the opportunity to tour various agricultural businesses, such as Reproduction Specialty Group pictured above. Students learned how to grow as leaders and take full advantage of the opportunities that are ahead of them in FFA.





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# National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026



Special supplement to The People's Tribune  
February 24, 2026

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## Congratulations Area FFA Chapters



*We salute the  
National FFA Organization  
for continuing to make a  
positive impact in the lives of  
our students by developing their  
leadership skills through  
agricultural education*

We Proudly  
Congratulate Our Area  
FFA Chapters On  
Another  
Successful Year!

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324-3552



## Fruit Sales

Fruit sales are our winter fundraiser for our chapter.

During fruit sales, students go out to their community and sell lots of fruits such as apples and oranges. Students also sell products from our local chocolate shop called Bankhead Chocolates and products from Woods Smoked Meats.

Often, students enjoy selling products because they get an incentive if they get a certain amount of money for the chapter. When products are delivered, officers pack up boxes and later, students deliver them to their customers.

Fruit sales are a great way for the community to give back to their local chapter who does so much for them.

## Sophomore Perspective

Grant Graver

As a sophomore boy involved in both my community and my FFA chapter, I have had very positive experiences.

This year has opened my eyes to many goals I want to pursue, such as becoming the president of my local FFA chapter and earning a state proficiency award. Striving for, like being the president of my local FFA Chapter or getting a state proficiency award. I have also realized that I could be a lot more involved in my community and FFA chapter.

I've also come to realize that I could be more



# THE FFA CREED

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

*The creed was written by E.M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. It was revised at the 38th Convention and the 63rd Convention.*



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Being a sophomore in FFA

# Bowling Green High School



## Chapter Banquet

Taylor Kallash

The Future Farmers of America chapter banquet is my favorite event, celebrating new beginnings and closing the year.

It happens when the school is nearing summer break, to celebrate all of the chapter's achievements for that year. There, members are awarded for their leadership and academics.

They are recognized for their involvement in competitions, especially if their team competes at the Missouri FFA State Convention in Columbia. A few scholarships are awarded to energetic seniors, who are excited for their next chapter in life.

Members and guests share a delicious meal prepared by the school's kitchen staff. Then to cap off the evening, everyone in attendance celebrates the chapter's new slate of officers for the upcoming school year.



## Freshman Girl Perspective

Macie Turner

I've always dreamed of wearing the blue corduroy jacket ever since I was little.

I never imagined that the days would come when I would have my own jacket with my name on it. My FFA experience has already exceeded my expectations throughout this first year.

I've gone to the National Convention, had so much fun at chapter meetings, and am competing on a contest team. National Convention showed me so many new things and really helped me understand agriculture around the United States.

Seeing how things work, step by step, really shows you how much work something takes. Not to mention how many new people I have met from these events.

Talking to others from different schools and seeing how their FFA experiences compare to mine is always cool. We all strive to make the program better, and are all helping in different ways.

I'm excited to see what FFA does for my future and how it's going to help me grow.

## President's Perspective

Jake Piper

Serving as chapter president this year has been both challenging and rewarding, giving me a front-row seat to the impact FFA has on our members and our community.

Throughout the year, I have watched students step outside their comfort zones, take on leadership roles, and grow through competitions, community service projects, and chapter activities.

Being part of the National FFA Organization isn't just about agriculture; it's about building character,

responsibility, and confidence. FFA Week is a time to reflect on those experiences, recognize the dedication of our members and advisors, and thank our community for the support that makes these opportunities possible.

I think I speak for all of our members when I say that without the support of our community, none of this would be possible. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, resources, and encouragement to help our chapter succeed.

## Chapter Meetings

Joey Stockton

The chapter meetings we have in FFA are extremely important to the students, as they allow us to have fun and enjoy our youth.

The chapter hosts a wide variety of different games at our meetings, and having

the games helps to encourage people to come, even if they don't necessarily do much with the chapter.

The games also help us to form a sense of community and learn about each other. We'll go out to the pumpkin

patch in Bowling Green, stay in the ag building, play broomball (hockey but with a ball and brooms), plant mums that we'll sell, and then hang out and eat some snacks afterwards.

These meetings and the

games that come with them are only a small part of our chapter, but they play a big role in getting more people to come and do more stuff with the chapter, as it's an easy way to get in the door of FFA.

## Sophomore Girl Perspective

Mya Scherder

has given me opportunities to learn, grow, develop new skills, and explore future career paths. FFA has taught me many valuable lessons and skills that everyone could benefit from. In

FFA, you get to meet many other FFA members from all over the country.

As a sophomore, I got to go to the National Convention, where I met members from ac-

ross the country and experienced many different opportunities that helped me learn more about future careers.

We also participate in many other out-of-school activities,

such as Bradford Field Days,

Competitions, and Chapter meetings. During school as a sophomore, we get to build woodshop projects, work on the AET, and weld.

## Bowling Green FFA Treasurer

Queenie Jiang

In late October, 28 FFA members from Bowling Green High School, along with the Clopton FFA chapter, attended the 98th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Ind., to receive awards on behalf of their chapter.

Numerous members were honored for their excellence in serving the chapter and community, meeting the National FFA's standards for achievement.

While in Indianapolis, students

also toured the Reproduction specialty group known as RSG. The Bowling Green FFA Chapter was recognized as a National 3-Star Chapter Award recipient. In addition, FFA alumni Clara Bailey, Delaney Feldman, Caleb Graver, Courtney Kraft, Audrey Lovell, Casey Price, and Hannah Post received their American FFA Degree, an honor earned by fewer than .5 percent of FFA members nationwide.



## Livestock Judging

Cody Aslin

Livestock judging is the process of evaluating animals based on their physical traits and genetic potential.

In a typical class, four animals are placed from first to fourth according to how well they meet industry standards, and contestants then present oral

reasons to explain and defend their decisions.

This skill is important because it helps producers identify high-quality animals and make informed decisions about which animals to keep or cull in order to improve the productivity and genetics of their operation.

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# FFA BBQ

## Camryn Miller

The FFA barbecue is an event that Bowling Green FFA hosts, where people buy tickets from FFA students to get a meal.

Students were asked to help at the FFA barbecue, and some helped cook the food throughout the school day. The meal usually includes two porkburgers or a pork steak with potatoes

and green beans, with the choice of whatever drink and dessert you would like.

To get the meals ready as fast as possible, there were four serving lines and students restocking food that ran out.

This year, we sold around 1,500 meals. We hope to sell more next year.

# FFA Week

## Josee Kraft

FFA Week is full of excitement and activities, from dress-up days to an FFA church service.

The purpose of National FFA Week is to recognize agricultural education and the impact the organization has on the community. To start the week, our FFA chapter will be attending a church service.

Throughout the week, we have dress-up days that FFA members, Bowling Green students, and staff will be able to partake in.

This year's dress-up days are Monday, "Don't Sleep on Ag" wear your pajamas, Tuesday dress as a farmer, Thursday wear your favorite hat, and Friday wear blue and gold. During this week, we will

also be hosting an appreciation breakfast. This breakfast helps us show our appreciation for the support of our community and Bowling Green School staff members. Food for America will be on Friday.

Food for America is an opportunity for Bowling Green and Frankford elementary kids to learn about agriculture and FFA. During this day, the kids will be able to plant something, see and learn about some common farm animals, and learn some other interesting things about agriculture.

FFA Week is important because we get to give back to our community, introduce FFA to people, and show the importance of FFA and agriculture.

# CDE's

## Sophia Hartwig

In the spring, FFA members live and breathe CDEs, also known as career development events.

I have participated in CDEs for the past three years of high school. I know firsthand how much hard work and dedication members put into these events.

We have practices with our advisors, we study in our free time, and we wake up early to attend practice contests to hone our skills. In my experience, hard work pays off. I was able to attend the state convention twice because my CDE teams performed so well at districts.

Through CDEs, you learn valuable skills. Personally, my favorite contest so far has been the meats CDE. Overall, CDEs are a great experience to have and something I would highly recommend.

Our meats team last year after competing at the district level in Columbia. We placed second at districts, allowing us to compete at the state level, where we placed 13th.



# FFA Camp

## Caitlin Grote

As a junior in high school, I have had the privilege of attending FFA camp several times, and each year has been more memorable than the last.

Located at the Lake of the Ozarks campground, the experience includes water games, boating, leadership activities, and the opportunity to serve as the Camp President this year. I was honored to give a speech and help my fellow members make lasting memories.

Throughout the week, we

heard from guest speakers representing organizations such as the Missouri Pork Association and Tyson, who shared valuable insights about agricultural production and leadership within the industry.

On our final day, a war veteran spoke to us, and his message left a lasting impact. He challenged us to "Live well, Love well, Lead well, and Leave well." His words inspired me not only as an FFA member, but as a leader and as a person.

# Henderson Farms

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# Pike County Fair

## Avery Schumacher

The youth in agriculture is the main subject of the Pike County Fair.

With livestock shows, horse riding events, and 4-H and FFA-focused projects located in the buildings, the kids bring the crowd to the fair. The fair creates a big turnout for all people in Pike County and neighboring counties, allowing for great opportunities to sponsor our FFA chapter.

We would love to have your support for this year's Pike County Fair from July 21 to Aug. 1, 2026!

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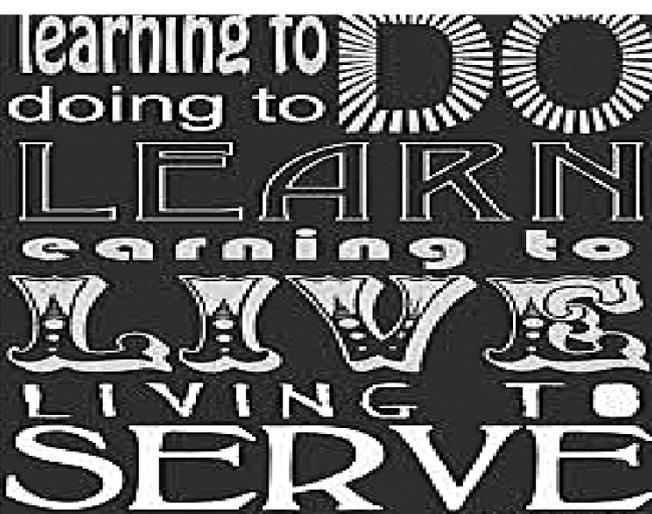
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Bowling Green





# Louisiana High School

## EARNING BLUE AT PIKE FAIR

**By Madilynn Jenkins**

Showing a horse at the fair is an exhilarating experience.

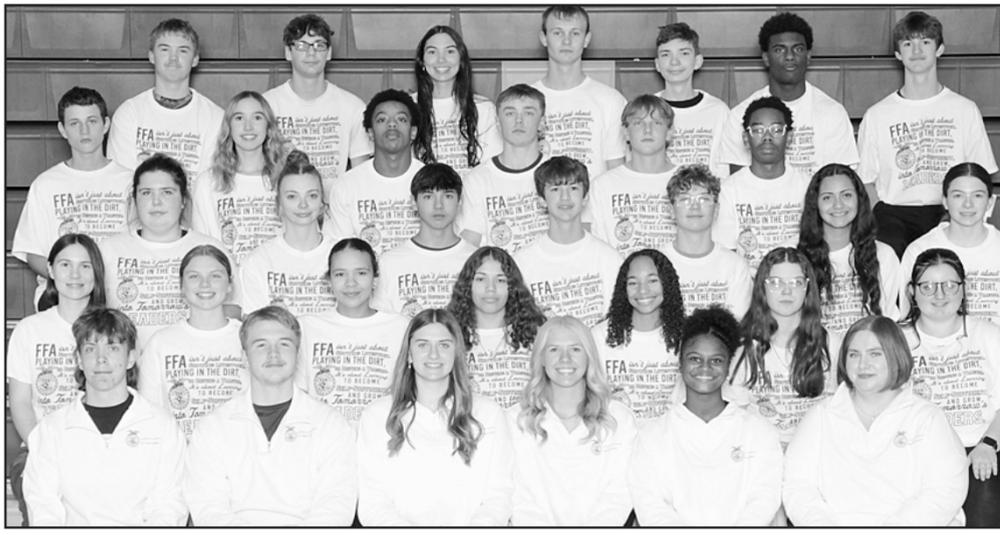
It is the perfect blend of months of preparing and the thrill of competing. The excitement starts the morning before the show, when you are busy with the task of grooming your horse.

The nervousness kicks in as you pull into the parking lot. The warm-up is rushed and

chaotic. Everything seems like a mess until you start the class, and it settles into a calm.

You showcase the trust between the competitor and the horse, and execute the required steps.

The moments after class are filled with a unique energy that culminates in either immense pride at receiving a ribbon or the promise to do better next time.



## Louisiana FFA Chapter 2025-26

Front row, (l-r): Carson Hobbs, Griffen Murry, Sophia Griffin, Madilynn Jenkins, Nakya Griffith, and Advisor Miss Alicia Flowers. Second row: Victoria Woods, Olivia Mooney, Brooklynn Harvey, Taetum Wallace, Alaysia Gschwender, Klaira Young, and Blake Lindley. Third row: Braylin Marks, Scarlett Fite-Karmel, Matthew Smith, Hunter Taylor, Lane Jordan, Isabella Thomas, and Grace Branstetter. Fourth row: Xander Sleet, Alyssa Christensen, AJ Gschwender, Quincy Mooney, Clayton Betts, and Kenderick Chatman. Fifth row: Bo Blaylock, Tyler Norvell, Reece Wommack, Jared Wilkinson, Austin Fite-Karmel, Donnell Griffith, and Braden Taylor. Not Pictured: Trinity Chatman and Cyrinity Chatman.

# National FFA Week

February 23-27

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**Have A Great Week FFA'ers**

## National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026

### PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of food, fiber, and natural resources systems; and

**Whereas**, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and

**Whereas**, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business, and technology of agriculture; and

**Whereas**, the FFA motto — "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve" — gives direction and purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and

**Whereas**, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation.

**Therefore**, I do hereby designate the week of Feb. 21-28, 2026, as National FFA Week.

# Community News

# Catch-And-Keep Trout Season Opens March 1

Every March 1, hundreds of die-hard anglers line the banks at one of Missouri's trout parks for opening day of catch-and-keep trout season. In past years, anglers have faced frigid winter temperatures, snow, sleet and ice, as well as sunshine and springlike weather, all in the attempt to catch an elusive lunger trout. This Missouri tradition creates lasting memories, along with some of the biggest fish stories you've ever heard!

This year, Sunday, March 1, at 6:30 a.m., marks the opening of the season that runs through Oct. 31. To participate, Missouri residents ages 16 to 64 and nonresidents 16 and older are required to purchase a

fishing permit. In addition to a fishing permit, trout anglers must also purchase a daily trout tag. Tags can be purchased at the trout parks: Roaring River State Park near Cassville, Bennett Spring State Park near Lebanon and Montauk State Park near Salem.

A daily trout tag at the three state parks costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 15 years and younger. Daily fishing permits are \$9. The daily limit is four trout, and the possession limit is eight. For more information on fishing at trout parks, visit [mdc.mo.gov/fishing/species/trout/trout-parks](http://mdc.mo.gov/fishing/species/trout/trout-parks). Anglers are encouraged to purchase their fishing permits ahead of time from any of numerous vendors throughout

Missouri, online at [mdc-web.s3licensing.com/](http://mdc-web.s3licensing.com/) or through the Missouri Department of Conservation's free MO Fishing mobile app.

Stores at the trout parks also will be open for purchasing trout tags:

- Montauk State Park:
  - Friday, Feb. 27
  - Store - 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  - Restaurant - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 28
  - Store - 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. (new this year)
  - Restaurant - 8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 1
  - Store - 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - Restaurant - 7 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Bennett Spring State

- Roaring River State Park:
  - Friday, Feb. 27
  - Store - 1 p.m.-8 p.m.
  - Restaurant - closed
- Saturday, Feb. 28
  - Store - 9 a.m.-remains open all night
  - Restaurant - noon to 9 p.m.
- Sunday, March 1
  - Store - Closing at 9 p.m.
  - Restaurant-7 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Roaring River State Park:
  - Friday, Feb. 27
  - Store - 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
  - Restaurant - 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 28
  - Store - 8 a.m.- remains open all night
  - Restaurant - 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Sunday, March 1
  - Store - Closing at 8 p.m.
  - Restaurant. - 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

permits will be busy. Visitors should be prepared with lodging units and restaurants their own water and snacks.

## HELP WANTED

The Housing Authority of the City of Bowling Green is seeking a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). This is a full-time position for the Bowling Green, Vandalia, and Frankford office. Salary will be based on experience. The Housing Authority offers a competitive benefit package that includes health, life, and vision insurance, annual leave and PTO. This position will include following rules and regulations set forth, leasing and continued occupancy. Office tasks require interested parties to be independent, have initiative, and ability to use good judgment as experience is gained. Good customer courtesy and tactfulness are required as well as ability to perform other administrative duties as required by the Chief Executive Officer.



Preview items Friday, Feb. 27

Preview items Friday, Feb. 27

# Girod Family Auctions PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m., 420 Hwy 161, Middletown, Mo 63359  
Daniel Gingrich's Personal Coin & Gun Collection.

### MISCELLANEOUS

We will have approximately 2 hours of miscellaneous items, then we will be on to selling Coins, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Guns & Ammo will follow. **Please be on time!**

- Ford Gas Pump; Royal Racer Sled; 6) Jars Old Marbles;
- Salmon Falls Crock Pitcher 50 Cal. Ammo Box; Large Collection Barbie Dolls
- Collection of Ball Cards; 2) Railroad Crossing Signs #3 Diamond Crock; Salt Glazed Bee Sting Crock #6 Blue Ribbon Crock; #5 Western Crock; ; #5 Crock Jug; 2) Canning Crock
- Galv. Watering Cans; Kraut Cutters; Large Oil Lamp Fisk Tires Metal Sign; Anheuser Beer Box-Wooden J.D. & Farmall Tractors-NIB; 2) Old Clocks Club Alumn Bowl; Crock Bowls: Several Belt Buckles Flat of Rubber Twin Wheel Casters; Small Brass Bucket Granite Ware; 4) Craftsman Tools; Anniversary Pins Collection of Longeberger Baskets
- Breyer #73 Special Fighting Bull in Original Box
- Breyer #70 Brahma Bull in Original Box; Coca-Cola Thermometer

### COINS-Selling at 11:00 a.m.

- 5) 1979 US Proof Sets
- Hamilton Mint 1976 Labor Day Medallion,1000 grain .999 Fine
- 5) 1976 Canadian \$1 Coins; 1994 World Cup USA 90% Silver Dollar
- 2) 1986 US Liberty Coin \$1, 90% Silver
- 2003 Morgan & Peace \$ Reverse Proof, 2 Coin Set; 1979 \$1 Canada Coin; 1986-2016 1 lb. .9999 Fine Silver
- 2010 5 oz Silver NGC MS69 Grand Canyon
- 2005 US Mint Silver Proof Quarter Set
- 1998 & 2010 Washington Mint \$100 Silver Proof 4 oz. .999 Fine w/COA
- 1964 Morgan 3 oz .999 Silver Round
- 2020 Cook Island 3 oz. .999 Silver Round
- 3) 5 oz. .999 Fine Silver Bars; 1959-D ANI MS67 Roosevelt Dime
- 1964 ANI MS68 Kennedy Half; 1969-D 40% Silver MS67 Kennedy Half
- 20th Anniversary Silver Eagle Set, 2006-W MS70, 2006-P Reserve Proof & 2006-W Proof 70 Ultra-A WOW Set
- 2) 2020 & 1) 2021 ASE Unc.; 1991 ASE NGC MS69
- 2) 2023 NRA ASE NGC MS70
- 2) 2020 ASE 1) Emergency Production NGC MS69, 1) 2020-W NGC MS69
- 2023 ASE NGC MS70 Don Everhart;
- 4) 2020 Unc. ASE; 1993 & 1997 UNC ASE
- 2014 & 2017 Unc. ASE in 2x2 Holder; 1986 First Year ASE NGC MS69 2020, 2022, 2024 ASE NGC MS69
- 2018-S NGC Early Release Proof 70 Ultra Cameo, ASE
- 2015-W First Strike PCGS Proof 70 D Cam ASE; 1987-1988 NGC MS9 ASE
- 2015, 2017, 2018 Early Release NGCMS69 ASE
- 2017 Early Release NGC MS70 ASE; ; 2012 ANACS First Day of Issue MS70 ASE; 1989, 1990, 2016, 2019 NGC MS69 ASE
- 2011 NGC MS69 Early Release ASE & 2012 NGC MS70 First Release ASE
- 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 NGC MS69 ASE; 1) 1999 & 3) 2000 ASE in plastic package;
- 4) 2023-S Peace Dollars .999 1 oz. Silver Legacies of Freedom US & United Kingdom, Silver Bullion Coin Set;
- 1) Morgan & 1) Buffalo .999 Silver Rounds
- 2024 ASE Unc. in Wooden Box;
- 6) Rolls 20 Mixed Date ASE
- 2017 & 2023-W NGC MS70 First Release ASE
- 2015-W NGC Edmund C. May Proof 70 Ultra Cameo ASE 994 & 1999 Unc. ASE in 2x2 Holder;
- 2018 & 4) 2023 Colorized ASE Unc.
- 1991 & 1992 Proof ASE, No Boxes;
- 2007 & 2021 NGC MS69 ASE;
- 2021 Eagle Landing T-2 Early Release MS69 ASE
- 2021-S Heraldic Eagle T-1 Emergency Production NGC MS 69, ASE;
- 2) 2016 Unc. ASE; 2013-W Early Release Proof 70 Ultra Cameo NGC ASE; 2001, 2005, 2006 Proof ASE;
- 3) 2013 Unc. ASE in OGP;
- US Mint ASE 20th Anniversary 3 Coin Set-WOW;
- US Mint ASE West Point 2 Coin Silver Set;
- 16) Proof ASE 2001-2019, Will Sell Choice
- 2) 1882-CC GSA Black Box; 3) 1883-CC GSA Black Box w/Box & Cards
- 1884-CC GSA Black Box w/Box & Card;
- 1878-S PCGS MS60 \$20 Gold
- 1894 PCGS MS61 \$10 Gold; 1861 \$5 Liberty Gold;
- 2005 ICG MS70 1/10 oz. Gold Eagle;

- 2009 ANACS MS70 ASE 1897-S PCGS G-6 Barber Half, Key Date;
  - 10)1921-P Morgans AU
  - 10)1900-P Morgans AU; 7) 1885-P Morgan, All AU-MS
  - 7) 1889-P & 2) 1889-O Morgans AU; 1879-S Morgan 1884-S Morgan;
  - 1890-S, 1892-S, 1894-S Morgan Key Tough Dates, Sell Choice; 3) 1891-S & 1) 1891-O Morgans Tough Date
  - 1880-P-O Morgan; 1881-P-S Morgan;
  - 1884-P-O Morgan
  - 1883-O, 1888-P, 1890-P Morgans, Sell Choice;
  - 20)1921-P Morgans, AU
  - 2) 1886-P Morgans; 1887-S Morgan; 1884-CC Morgan Raw AU
  - 1884-S-O Morgan AU; 2) 1892-S Morgans, Sell Choice, Tough Date Key
  - 1894-S Morgan, Tough Date Key; 2) 1879-S Morgan MS 1895-O Morgan, Touch Date Key;
  - 2) 1899-S Morgans, Sell Choice, Semi Key
  - 1880-S Morgan, High Grade, Easily MS64; 1884-S Morgan, Key Date
  - 3) 1882-O & 1) 1882-S Morgans, AU;
  - 4)1896-P Morgans, AU
  - 1995 & 2014 Unc. ASE; 1896-P PCGS MS62 \$20 Liberty Gold
  - 1907 PCGS MS63 \$10 Liberty Gold; 1882 \$5 Liberty Gold
  - 1901 PCGS MS62 \$2 1/2 Liberty Gold; 1986 NGC MS69 1/10 oz. Gold Eagle
  - 1894-O Morgan; 2) 1897-S & 1) 1897-P Morgans; 1890-S & 1898-S Morgans
  - 1900-S Morgan; 1901-O Morgan VF & 1902-O Morgan AU
  - 1904 P-S Morgan, 1904-S is a Key Date Coin;
  - 1921-P Morgan, AU
  - 1834 Bust Half Full Liberty;
  - 16) 1923-P Peace Dollars Gem BU
  - 2) 1923-S Peace; 2) 1923 Peace, Both Graded MS65
  - 1923-1923-S Peace Genuine Cleaned AU Details;
  - 1922-P Peace MS68;
  - 1922-P Peace NGC MS63; 1922-P Peace MS64;
  - 6) 1925 Peace Dollars
  - 5) 1922-P Peace Dollars AU; 1922-S-O Peace Dollars
  - 2) 1934-P Peace Dollars & 1934-S Peace; 2) 1935-S Peace Dollars
  - 2) 1879-CC Morgan, Both Very Nice; 1882-CC Morgan 1884-CC Morgan MS64; 2) 1922-P Peace AU; 2) 1923-P Peace, 1 is Cleaned
  - 1925-P Peace BU; 2) 1926-S Peace AU; 2) 1927-D Peace Key
  - 2) 1928-S Peace; 2) 1935-S Peace Key;
  - 1898-S PCGS MS61, \$20 Liberty Gold
  - 1926 PCGS MS63 \$10 Liberty Gold;
  - 2010 1/1 oz Gold Eagle
  - 1906 MS63 \$2 1/2 Liberty Gold; 2) 1889-CC Morgan, Sell Choice, Key Date
  - 3) 1890-CC Morgan, 1 Is AU;
  - 1892-CC Morgan-Rare;
  - 1878-P ANACS AU53 Morgan 7 TF;
  - 1881-S & 1882-S, Both NGC MS64; 1904-S NGC MS62 \$20 Liberty Gold; 1882-S Morgan ANACS MS63;
  - 1883-CC Morgan in NGC Holder
  - 1884-O Morgan, Out of Rocky Mountain Hoard ANACS MS64
  - 1891-CC Top 100 VAMS, Spitting Eagle NG CXF40-WOW
  - 2) 1893-P Morgans 1 in PCGS XF45 1 is ANACS, VF25 Key
  - 1896-P Morgan BU NGC Original Bag Series;
  - 1902-O Morgan, ANACS MS61
  - 1853 Type 1 \$1 Liberty Gold; 1853 \$2 1/2 Liberty Gold
  - 1907 NGC MS61, \$20 Liberty Gold
- What a Set of Coins, \$20 Gold pcs are Rare and we have 5 Graded Ones in this Auction. Don't Miss this Outstanding Set of High Grade Coins, All Out of One Collection.**
- 1893-S Morgan, Key Date, Very Rare, Easily G8-10

### GUNS

What a Collection, All One Owner Collection. This is a Closed Auction. No consignments!

Remington Model 514, 22 Cal. S-L-LR Cal

Henry 22 Cal. Lever, Ocagon Barrel

Remington Model 241 Speedmaster 22 cal. Butt Tube Feed

Browning XBolt 6.5 Creedmor Wood Stock, Gold Trigger -WOW

Hatfield 410 ga. Vent Rib

Winchester Model 67 S-L-LR 22 cal.

Remington Wingmaster Model 870 LW 20 ga. Vent Rib

Mossberg Model 183-T 410 ga. 3" Full Choke-Very Nice

Marlin Model 336 BL 30/30 Win Cal Lever Laminated Wood-Like New

- Remington Arms Sportsman 78 243 6 MMx284 w/ Scope
  - Marlin Model 39-A Lever 22 Cal. Gold Trigger
  - Browning Bar 22 Cal. Made in Belgium, Butt Tube Feed
  - Remington 700 22-250 Rem Cal. Bull Barrel Nikon Scope
  - Taurus Model 63 22 Cal. LR Butt Tube Feed-Nickel
  - Ruger #1 220 Swift Cal. Lever-WOW
  - Marlin Model 336W 30/30 Lever, New Gun, Have No Box, Browning Model SL22 22 Cal. S-L-LR Lever, Rear Wheel Sight, Rare, Like New-WOW
  - Ruger M77 30-06 Springfield Cal. Nice Clean Gun
  - Browning Bar 22 Cal. Butt Tube Feed, Beautiful Gun, Rear Wheel Sight Rare
  - Winchester Model 94AE 30/30 Win Cal. Lever, Like New
  - Remington Model 1100 LT 20 ga. Vent Rib, Very Nice
  - Ruger M-77 Hawkeye 22/250 Rem. Cal w/Scope Mounts
  - Ruger M-77 270 Win Cal. w/Scope Mounts-WOW
  - Marlin Golden 39-A 22 Cal. Lever w/Saddle Ring
  - Ruger M-77 6MM Rem. Cal. w/Bushnell Scope
  - Ruger M-77 Mark # 223 Rem. Mag, Like New
  - Ruger M-77 243 Win Cal. w/Nikon Scope, A True WOW
  - Henry Model H009 30/30 Cal Lever w/Scope-NIB
  - Remington Model 700 BDL 222 Rem. Cal w/Leupold Scope-Beautiful Gun
  - Remington Model 700 BDL, 270 Win Cal. w/Leupold Scope-Like New
  - Ruger M-77 22 Cal. w/Scope Mount, Like New
  - Remington Model 700 BDL 223 cal. Bull Barrel, Like New
  - Savage 24 Series 22/20 ga. Over & Under
  - Remington Model 700 ADL 243 Win Cal w/Leupold Scope-Like New
  - Kimber Model 82 22 Cal. Hornet Clip Feed-Very Nice
  - Winchester Model 190 22 Cal. Auto Tube Feed
  - Remington Arms Model 121 22 S-L-LR Pump, Very Nice
  - Winchester Model 1890 22 Cal. Pump, Octogon Barrel, Super Nice & Clean
  - Savage Arms Model 72 22 cal. Lever, Very Nice
  - Stevens Model 30 22 Cal. Lever, Like New
  - Remington 22 Cal. Pump Octogon Barrel, Super Nice
  - Winchester Model 61 22 Cal. S-L-LR Pump, Super Nice
  - Winchester Centennial 66 3/30 Cal. Lever-NIB
  - Parker Bros Double Barrel 20 ga. Coach Gun Pat'd 1878
  - Remington Model 700, 223 Rem. Cal. Bull Barrel
  - Laminated Thumb Hole Stock w/Box
  - Stevens Model 30 17 HMR Cal. Lever-NIB
  - Henry Golden Boy 22 Mag-NIB
  - Henry Golden Boy Silver Eagle 22 LR-NIB
  - Remington Model 700 Varmint 223 Rem. Cal.
  - Laminated Wood, Bull Barrel-NIB
  - Browning A-Bolt Medallion Boss 30.06 Springfield-NIB
  - Browning BL-22 22 Cal. S-L-LR Lever-NIB-WOW
  - Browning SA-22 22 Cal. Auto S-L-LR-NIB-WOW
  - S & W Model 10-5 38 S & W Special
  - Colt Police Positive 38 Special Revolver
  - S & W Model 686-6 357 Mag w/Box
  - Stoeger Conder 410 ga. O/U Vent Rib, Like New, Very Nice
  - Baikal 12 ga. O/U Vent Rib w/Box, Gold Trigger-Very Nice
  - Ruger New Model Single Six 22 Cal. -NIB
  - Colt Official Police .38 Special Cal.
  - Taurus Raging Hunter 44 Mag Cal.
  - Ruger New Model Black Hawk 45 Ca. 2 Cylinders-NIB
  - Ruger GP100 357 Mag Stainless-NIB
  - St. Louis Bicentennial Colt Single Action
  - Frontier Scout 22 LR in Wooden Colt Box
  - Ruger New Model Single Six 22 Cal. New in Hardcase
  - Colt Diamond Back 22 LR Pistol
  - Colt King Cobra 22 LR 4.25" Barrel, New in Colt Hardcase
  - Colt King Cobra 22 LR 6" Barrel 10 Shot, New in Colt Hardcase
  - Colt Python 357 Mag. Stainless 3" Barrel, New in Hardcase
  - Colt Python 357 Mag. Stainless 4.25" Barrel, New in Hardcase
  - Colt Python 357 Mag Stainless 6" Barrel New in Hardcase
  - 2 of the Take Down Brownings 22 Cal. Have Rear Wheel Sights-Rare Find!
- This is Daniel Gingrich's Personal Coin and Gun Collection. All High End Guns and Coins. Daniel collects nothing but the best and it shows. Lots of Rare Items here. We will be on the Coin Collection by 11:00 a.m. This is a Closed Auction, No other Consignments! See you there,**

Enos

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# Classifieds

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

## MOBILE HOMES

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

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

## FOR RENT

GOOD SIZE apartment. See to appreciate. \$600 month plus deposit. 636-345-1925. (x3-13)

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

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

FOR SALE PUPPIES - Miniature Australian Shepards, 10 weeks old, up to date on shots, \$250. 636-448-6713.

RUGER RXM 'S starting at \$355.84. MO. Firearms Co. 573-470-9111. (X4-14)

## FOR SALE

FREE 6-week-old puppies to give away to good homes, 2 males, 1 female. Border Collie Aussie, possibly Blue Healer mix. Text 573-470-2582 if interested. Raised indoors. (x2-14)

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

REFURNISHED COMPUTERS, parts, accessories. Call Geeky Hillbilly Computers 573-324-7176. (tf)

GOOD used tires, passenger & light truck, \$15 & up. Vandalia Firestone & Appliance, 594-6624.

METAL ROOFING. Wagler Metals: 21764 Pike 409, Bowling Green. (tf)

## HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER wanted. Light house keeping. 573-324-5343. (x2-15)

## NO HUNTING

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

## NO HUNTING

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

## SERVICES

PREMIERE PRESURE WASHING - Outside house cleaning, soffits, driveways, decks, patios, fence cleaning, farm equipment, and trailers. Free estimates. 573-253-8811. (tf)

## WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS

**JAY HURD TREE SERVICE**  
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## 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)

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)

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754-3265 or 754-0508

## SERVICES

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

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

## SERVICES

NAME DOILIES - Hand crocheted by Ann Hecox. Make great personal gifts. 217-656-3654 annahcx-@gmail.com. (tf)

**CALL 324-6111 TO PLACE YOUR ADS**

## SPECIAL COW SALE

**Callaway Livestock Center, Inc.**  
Kingdom City, MO

**Thursday Night, March 5 6 p.m.**

**Estimating: 600-700 Head of Bred Heifers, Cow/Calf Pairs & Breeding Bulls**  
Early Consignments  
1st Calf Heifers  
Conroe

- 45 Outstanding Registered Angus 1st-Calf Heifers (No Papers)
- Early January calves by side
  - Black calves AI-sired
- Black-WF calves cleaned up with Hereford bulls
- Big, outstanding udders & very gentle Temmen
- 18 Fancy Black or Black-WF 1st-Calf Heifers
- Fancy December Angus calves by side
  - Very gentle set McCory
- 45 Fancy Black 1st-Calf Heifers
  - AI bred to Angus
  - Due March 16
- Cleaned Up - 30-day window COWS Turnkey
- 45 Black or Black-WF cows
  - 3-4 years old
- Bred Black — start March 20 Arens
- 45 Black or Black-WF cows
  - 3-5 years old
- Bred Black — due April 1 Canyon
- 45 Black or Black-WF cows
  - 3-5 years old
- Bred Black or Red bulls
  - Due to start March 20 Lyman
- 10 Black, 3-year-old cows
  - Bred Angus
- Due March 10 for 45 days Kruger
- 45 Black or Black-WF cows
  - 6-12 years old
- Bred Black — start March 20 Hendricks Dispersal
  - 45 Mixed cows
  - 5-10 years old
- Few with calves by side
  - Bred to Black bulls

Several More By Sale Day  
For More Information Call

Jack Harrison - 573-999-7197	Jack Harrison, Owner	Myles McWhorter - 573-263-3759
John P. Harrison - 573-220-1482	<b>573-999-7197</b>	Glenn Stegeman - 573-619-8495
Roger Temmen - 573-680-4538	Market Report	Jarrod Simpson - 573-247-0706
Justin Oberling - 217-440-7724	573-522-9244	Chad Nickelson - 573-631-1627
Claude Niemeyer - 573-470-1017	24 hour recording	Kevin Miliken - 417-588-0307
Tyler Harris - 573-220-2766	Carson Poe - 573-550-9133	Craton Blattel - 417-650-7688

**Scherder Autobody LLC**  
Phone: 573.324.6023  
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5.4 miles from St. Clement on Hwy J (call for directions if needed)

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Must be 21 years of age & have a Class B license with airbrake  
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EOE

**Spring Consignment Auction**  
Ashley, MO 63334  
**Saturday, March 7**  
Now Accepting Consignments for Farm Machinery, Livestock & Construction Equipment, Trucks & Trailers  
Early Partial Listing Includes:  
JD 6105e Tractor, 433 hours NH T5.120, 1338 hours CHH 5140, 6259 hours CHH 5250 JD 4450 Travalong Livestock Trailer, 6'8" x 24", in good shape, all lights work, brakes work, tires in good condition, has 2 divider gates and back one has a sliding gate in it  
Ranger Side by Side, 926 miles, 187 hours  
Wheeler, 301.5 hours  
For updated Listing and Photos:  
www.auctionzip.com Joe Vomund Auction Service #14584  
For More Information:  
Claude Niemeyer 573-470-1017  
Jamie Niemeyer 573-470-8810  
AUCTIONEERS:  
Joe Vomund Auction Service 573-289-0116  
Matt Korman 573-257-1836  
Lane Carter 573-721-8809  
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610 W Hwy 54  
Vandalia  
573-594-2235  
FEWallace@ShelterInsurance.com

# Community News

## MU Extension New Guidelines To Manage Alpha-Gal

As cases of alpha-gal syndrome continue to surface across the Show-Me-State, University of Missouri Extension has released five new publications to help individuals and families understand, prevent and manage the condition.

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a potentially life-threatening food allergy triggered by the bite of the lone star tick. The tick can transmit a carbohydrate known as alpha-gal (galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose), which is found in meat and products derived from mammals such as beef, pork and venison. Symptoms, which typically occur two to six hours after eating, range from hives and digestive distress to severe anaphylaxis.

Missouri has one of the higher reported rates of AGS, making public awareness especially important. MU Extension's interdisciplinary alpha-gal syndrome team is led by Eden Stewart, MU Extension nutrition and health specialist. They are available in print and as free downloadable PDFs.

"Together, the guides are designed to provide practical, research-based information that helps reduce confusion and give people clear next steps," Stewart said.

### Alpha-Gal Syndrome Awareness (N1350)

Because there is no cure, prevention is emphasized. The guide provides step-by-step tick-avoidance strategies, including protective clothing, use of EPA-approved repellents, permethrin-treated gear, post-outdoor tick checks and proper tick removal techniques.

### Cooking With Alpha-Gal Syndrome (N1351)

"Cooking with Alpha-Gal Syndrome" (https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/n1351), by former MU assistant extension professor Sarah Wood, outlines common trigger foods, including red meat, organ meats, certain dairy products, gelatin, broths and gravies made from mammalian sources.

It explains that sensitivity varies widely. Some individuals react only to red meat, while others must avoid dairy or even cross-contact from shared cooking surfaces. The publication describes areas where cross-contact may occur, such as

grills, fry oil, meat slicers, cast iron pans and shared utensils.

The guide offers lists AGS-friendly options such as poultry, fish, eggs, legumes, nuts, seeds, soy products and plant-based dairy alternatives. A detailed chart helps readers understand how to meet daily protein needs without red meat.

The publication also encourages open communication when dining out and with family members, reinforcing that education and planning can reduce risk and stress.

### Shopping For Alpha-Gal Syndrome (N1352)

For many people, the grocery store becomes one of the biggest challenges after diagnosis. "Shopping for Alpha-Gal Syndrome" (https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/n1352), by MU Extension nutrition and health specialist Eden Stewart, focuses on reading labels carefully and identifying hidden ingredients.

The guide explains how ingredients such as gelatin, collagen, glycerin, lard, suet, beef or pork broth and certain "natural flavors" may contain mammal-derived components. It provides examples of where these ingredients may be present unexpectedly, including poultry products, snack foods, baked goods, pantry staples and protein powders.

In addition to food, the publication addresses personal care items and medications. It advises individuals to inform physicians, dentists and pharmacists of their diagnosis, since some capsules, supplements, vaccines or ointments may have mammalian byproducts.

### Alpha-Gal Syndrome Food Substitutions (N1353)

For those who enjoy cooking and baking, "Alpha-Gal Syndrome Food Substitutions" (https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/n1353), by former MU Extension community health specialist Shelby Yake, provides practical alternatives for commonly used mammalian ingredients.

It suggests poultry, fish, shellfish and plant-based proteins as substitutes for beef and pork. For baking and sautéing, it lists options such as olive oil, coconut oil, vegan butter and other plant-based fats. It provides alternatives for milk, buttermilk, cheese, cream cheese

and meat broths, including plant-based milks, vegetable stocks and creative flavor enhancers like miso, nutritional yeast and vinegars.

The guide encourages readers to try substitutes in small amounts, research proper ratios and explore different grocery stores or ethnic markets for allergy-friendly products. It also reminds readers to check labels every time, since processing methods and ingredients can change.

### Alpha-Gal Syndrome Nutrients Of Concern (N1354)

When people eliminate red meat or dairy, nutritional gaps can occur. "Nutrients of Concern" (https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/n1354), by MU Extension community health specialist Emily Poncher, explains which nutrients may be affected, including iron, vitamin B12, zinc, calcium, vitamin D and protein.

The guide describes why each nutrient matters and lists AGS-friendly sources. For example, iron can be found in beans, leafy greens and seafood; vitamin B12 in fortified cereals, eggs and fish; and calcium in fortified plant milks and certain vegetables. Practical tips are included to help incorporate these foods into everyday meals.

All five guides are available through MU Extension as free downloadable PDFs and as print handouts.

## MoDOT Crews Shift Focus To Repairing Potholes

Punxsutawney Phil's shadow may have signaled six more weeks of winter but that hasn't stopped warmer weather in Missouri. MoDOT crews are taking this opportunity to focus on pothole repairs.

Potholes form when temperatures warm up during the day but continue to be cold at night. Moisture left from rain and snow seeps into cracks and joints in the pavement. Frozen water trapped in cracks and under the surface causes pavement to bulge and bend. Then when ice melts, the pavement contracts and leaves gaps or voids in the surface under the pavement. When vehicles drive over the bulging pavement, it weakens

the roadway, eventually causing chunks of pavement to pop out, creating potholes.

MoDOT prioritizes pothole repairs throughout the spring months. Motorists can help crews maintain the roads by reporting the location of potholes on state-maintained roads using the following tools:

Call the 24/7 Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-375-6636).

Fill out the Report a Road Concern form on MoDOT's website.

Use the hands-free reporting feature within the Waze app, where available, and receive real-time digital alerts on where crews are

working.

Potholes on city streets or subdivisions should be reported to local city or county maintenance.

In 2025, MoDOT patched more than 650,000 potholes at a cost of \$20 million. This season, MoDOT will have approximately 300 pothole patching crews working statewide to fill potholes based on historical data of where they form as well as reports from the public. As our pothole patching crews are out making repairs, the public is asked to slow down, move over and give our crews room to do their jobs. Work with us to keep Missouri roads as smooth and safe as possible.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS**

## FISH FRY Fundraiser

Good Fish. Good Cause. Two Chances to Join Us.  
Curbside Pickup, Vandalia Fairgrounds  
4 p.m. - 7 p.m. or until sold out

**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**AND**  
**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**50/50 CASH prize - Raffle Tickets**

**FISH MEAL \$13**

**FISH SANDWICH \$10**

**WHAT'S ON THE MENU?**

- Golden fried fish
- Potatoes
- Cole Slaw
- Baked Beans

All proceeds will benefit the Eastern Missouri Family YMCA - Vandalia 2026 ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN for membership and program development.

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## Modern Maturity Fundraiser

Proceeds go to buying a new furnace

**Saturday, March 14**

**Catholic Church Parish Center**  
**800 S. Lindell St., Vandalia**  
Doors open at 5:30. Games begin at 7

**20 games for \$20**  
**Extra cards \$10**

**Reserve a table for 6, pay ahead of time**  
**& get 5 free cards for each person**

**Raffle & Silent Auction Items 50/50 Drawing**

**Food - BBQ burgers, Marlene's famous chicken salad, homemade desserts & drinks**

Kids welcome  
Cindy Evans 573-473-9000  
Marlene Fischer 573-473-2753

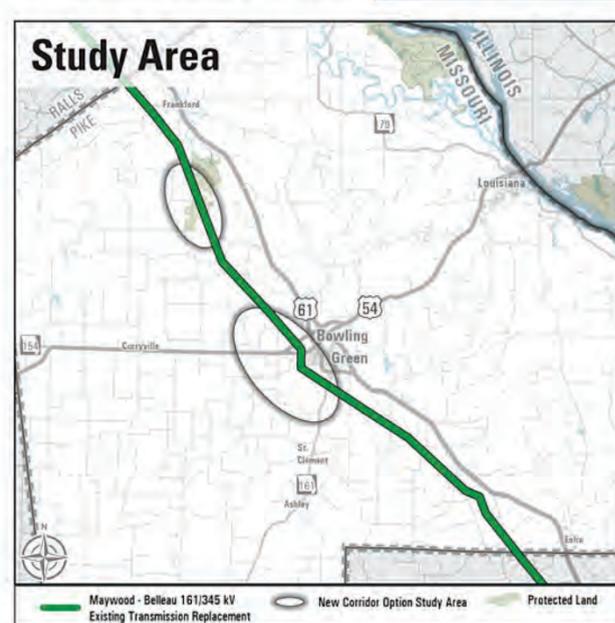
## Eastern Missouri Grid Transformation Project in Pike County

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

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

VFW POST 5553  
505 VFW ROAD  
BOWLING GREEN, MO 63334

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



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

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

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