



THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

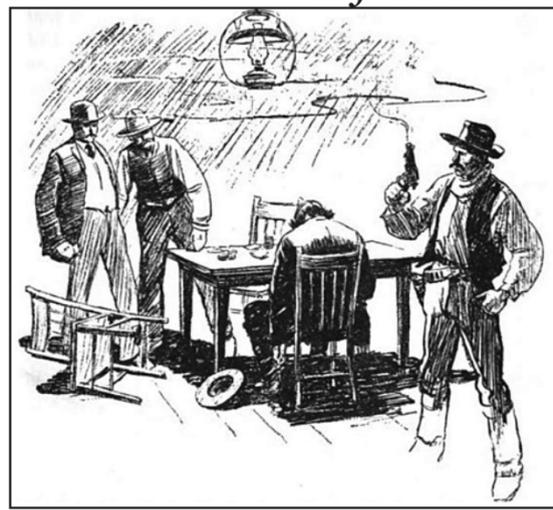
NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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Pure Gold

Man Chronicles Life As A Fortune Seeker



An artist's drawing shows the death of James "Wild Bill" Hickok by Jack McCall on Aug. 2, 1876.

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

During the gold rush of 1876, the burgeoning South Dakota town of Deadwood was about as alive as New York City.

Pike County native George Stokes, who grew up in Louisiana, was one of the miners hoping to make a fortune, and he got swept up in the craziness.

"The place was tense with excitement day and night," he later wrote in his autobiography. "It was filled to overflowing with adventurous spirits from everywhere — all fired with a maddening desire to get gold."

The town was hot and dusty, with miners' tents strewn about the hills. Stokes and a friend were luckier than most, pitching blankets at night with what he called "a motley throng" of other boarders in the dining room of the Wagner Hotel. Many "came with honest desire to dig and delve," but "others were there to prey upon the hard workers."

As had been the case before, Stokes found common sense dictated life along Deadwood creeks, where men panned for the precious metal.

"The Golden Rule works best in a lawless land — do the best with your own, but respect the rights of others,"

he said. "If you don't, look out!"

Stokes offered a detailed description of the mining process, but remained eloquent in his recollections of frontier life. He vividly recited the mood in Deadwood after the June 1876 Indian massacre of George Custer and his men at the Little Big Horn.

"It seemed incredible that the daring leader and his splendid Seventh Cavalry could have come to such a sudden, tragic end," wrote Stokes while also acknowledging the tribes were "making their last stand against the aggressions" of white settlers. "Had they won...we should have acclaimed Custer and his men heroes of the first rank. They did not win. They plunged into a desperate chance and lost, leaving a veil of mystery shrouding it all."

There were lighter moments, of course. Stokes met legends such as Valentine McGillycuddy, William "Persimmon Bill" Chambers, Moses "California Joe" Milner, James "Wild Bill" Hickok and Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary.

"Stories enough, good and bad, have been told about this notorious woman, but with all her wildness, she seemed still to have a generous and kindly heart for those in need," Stokes

said of Calamity Jane.

Hickok was quiet, well-dressed and polite. The Civil War Union veteran gambled sparingly and rarely drank. The demeanor masked incredible lawman skills.

"Bill's coolness under fire, his speed and accuracy with his revolvers, were frequently proved," Stokes noted.

Criminals still found plenty of opportunities in Deadwood and the surrounding area. Hickok was gunned down from behind while playing poker on Aug. 2, 1876.

On another occasion, Stokes was splattered with blood while catching a man who fell after being shot. Things got so bad that residents set up a vigilante committee, which drafted a list of what Stokes called "undesirables."

"Men known elsewhere to have been bad, but who had so far not been detected in iniquity here, were warned," he said. "Others were requested to clear out at once. Some well known faces around the gaming tables and dance halls became memories."

By then, Stokes was living in a modest shack on a claim he shared with another man and continued to find enough gold to pay the bills. Boyhood experience in his father's Pike County store helped Stokes supplement his income by selling merchandise he bought and transported from Denver.

Neither the flow of settlers who hoped to unearth a fortune nor the hucksters who delighted in swindling them had tempered. Deadwood was still an "untamed" place whose fame "as a paying proposition was firmly established," even though "sidewalk and roadside were lined with hairy, untidy men."

The influx and accompanying congestion led to another fight. This time, it would not be gold, but another even more valuable commodity.

Next time: Water and fire.

Clarksville Bringing Back Palate Pleaser



Linda Blakey prepares sample entries for judges to taste during the 2023 Show Me Missouri State Chili Cook-Off hosted by Raintree Arts Council in Clarksville. After a two-year hiatus, the event is returning on Saturday, June 13. Photo by Brent Engel

BY BRENT ENGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a two-year hiatus, the Show Me Missouri State Chili Cook-Off hosted by Raintree Arts Council returns June 13.

The event is from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Riverfront Park. Samples will be available, prizes will be awarded and cooks will compete to move on to the world championship.

Clarksville held a cook-off in 2023, but floodwall construction the last two years made hosting the event impractical. Organizer Linda Blakey, a Raintree board member, is excited for its return.

"Clarksville is back together now," she said. "The park is in good shape. People want the Cook-Off. It's a fun, family event."

There will be an admission charge and a fee for chili samples. Vendors, music, raffles, cold beverages and other foods are planned.

Cook compete in red, verde and homestyle categories. Each has its general guidelines, but homestyle is the closest to "anything goes." Chefs have three hours to provide about a quart of competition product from each category entered. Volunteer judges award points based upon taste, spices and color.

"What they bring to sample is amazing," Blakey said. "Come and enjoy the fun."

The sauce aficionado — and it is a sauce, not a soup or a stew — is quick to point out that zesty doesn't necessarily mean blistering. And eagerness can lead to disappoint-

ment. "Chili can get away from you if you don't watch your fire," Blakey said. "Nothing spoils a pot of chili quicker than scorching it — or being too impatient to let the spices and meat cook."

Just as in sports, competitors use every advantage they legitimately can.

"Most of the cooks keep a book of what they used in their pots every place they go," Blakey said. "Lots of things can affect a pot. Altitude is one of the biggies. Remember, they cook all over the United States."

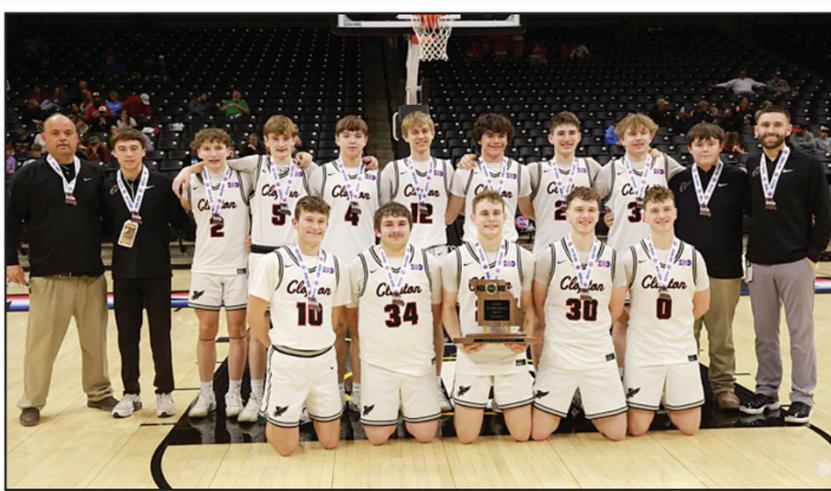
Anyone can cook at Clarksville, but all must be members of the International Chili Society. They can sign up for as little as \$10 at www.icschili.com or www.chilicookoff.com. More information is available from Blakey at 573-754-0335. Vendors and volunteers also are needed.

One reason chili is so popular is its versatility.

"Beans are cheap, and usually for a family it is easy to prepare," Blakey said. "It goes a long way and can make for entertainment the next day."

Blakey likes a medium to hot chili. While a request for her recipe used to be met with a dismissive scoff, she's less vigilant now. White pepper, along with lean, marbled meat and a variety of chili peppers will do the trick. Oh, and be sure to cook it "low and slow."

"I don't really have a secret," Blakey said. "If you like something, do what you want to do."



Clopton Hawks - Sectional Champions - Fourth in State

Hawks Cap Historic Season With Fourth

BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

The Clopton Hawks closed out a memorable postseason run at the MSHSAA Class 2 Show-Me Showdown last weekend, finishing fourth in the state after losses to Eugene and Penny at Mizzou Arena in Columbia.

While the final results were not what Clopton had hoped for, the Hawks' trip to the Final Four marked the program's first appearance on Missouri's biggest stage since 1989 and capped a season that saw the team fight through early struggles to finish 18-15 and make school history.

Clopton opened the state semifinals Friday night against Eugene, the defending state champion and eventual Class 2 title winner.

The Hawks battled early and got a big performance from senior Larson Hall, who scored 20 points to lead Clopton. James Matheny added 12 points, while Trey Spoonster and Tucker Salmons each scored five. Jacob Harrelson finished with two points and Adam Matheny added one.

But Eugene's outside shooting and pressure defense proved difficult to overcome.

Ethan Wunderlich led the Eagles with 28 points, including four three-pointers, while Dawson Busch added 19 as Eugene claimed a 64-45 win.

Clopton stayed within reach at times and continued battling throughout the second half, but the Eagles built a double-digit lead and never allowed the Hawks to fully

close the gap.

In Saturday's third-place game, Clopton faced Penny and struggled against the Hornets' size and early defensive pressure.

Penny built a 12-2 lead after the opening quarter and extended that advantage to 28-5 by halftime. Trey Spoonster accounted for all five of Clopton's first-half points and finished with 10 to lead the Hawks in the game. James Matheny added four points, Larson Hall scored four, Tucker Salmons finished with three, and Jacob Harrelson and Caden Simmons each added two.

Penny went on to secure the 50-25 win, but Coach Landon Hall said he was proud of the way his team responded after a difficult start.

"Rough, rough start. We're not gonna hide that," Hall said after the game. "Came out and kind of played a little gun-shy at the beginning. I think we were a little bit intimidated by their bigs, just something we hadn't really seen yet this year. But it was a good challenge for us."

Hall said the Hawks showed more of who they were in the second half.

"We obviously didn't start the way we would like to, but we finished the way we would like to," Hall said. "I think in the second half we showed a lot more heart. We dug in and played how we're capable of playing. I think we only got outscored by two in the second half. That's the brand of Clopton Hawk basketball that we pride our-

selves on, and I'm proud that these five seniors get to go out that way with one last good half. They didn't lay down. They fought until the very end."

Hall brought all five of his seniors with him to the post-game press conference — Cayden Wilson, Tucker Salmons, Larson Hall, James Matheny, and Adam Matheny — and said their impact on the program reached far beyond the stat sheet.

"They do more than what they realize," Hall said. "Whenever I took over in April, I brought all the seniors in and I said, 'What do you want? What do you want out of this season?' And I said, 'I don't want to hear Final Four.' I said, 'A lot of teams say Final Four as a cop-out answer almost, just to say they have a goal.' I said, 'So what do you want?' And they said, 'We want to prove people wrong.'"

That, Hall said, is exactly what this team did.

"We had just lost three, four really good seniors. One of them was the program's second all-time leading scorer. We went through a head coaching change, and they said, 'We just want to prove people wrong.'" Hall said. "And they did. First Final Four in 37 years, something that hadn't been done in a long time, and I'm proud of them. They showed up every day and they worked, and they have nothing to hang their heads about."

That run to Columbia See HAWKS on page 6

Vandalia Chamber Announces Prairie Days Entertainment



Bones Owens



Travis Gibson

BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

Three local natives are set to bring hometown pride to downtown Vandalia as part of the entertainment lineup for the 2026 Prairie Days celebration.

The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce recently announced that Gary Bishop and band will perform Friday evening, while Travis Gibson will open for Bones Owens during Saturday night's concert, giving this year's festival

a strong local spotlight. For Owens, the show will mark a special return to the town where his musical roots first took hold.

Owens grew up in Vandalia, spending his early years in town before moving to a farm between Vandalia and Perry. He graduated from Van-Far High School in 2002, later attended the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, and moved to Nashville in 2005 to pursue a music career. Since then, he

has built a national following with his blend of rock, country, blues, and Americana.

Gibson also brings deep local ties to the stage. Raised on a farm in rural Vandalia, he later found his calling in songwriting and performing. Since forming in 2012, the Travis Gibson Band has built a strong regional following and shared the stage with country acts including Lee Brice, Chris Cagle, Josh Thompson, Chuck Wicks, Blackjack Billy, Colt Ford, Tracy Lawrence, and Clay Walker.

With a pair of Vandalia performers featured on Saturday night and another hometown favorite kicking off the weekend Friday, this year's Prairie Days entertainment lineup is shaping up to be a celebration of local talent as much as community tradition.

Info about Prairie Days, including event dates and a full schedule of activities, will be announced by the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce at a later time.

Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

March is National Women's Month and Sunday, March 9 was International Women's Day. The impact women have made in the world and America is immeasurable.

In an age where we should be recognizing and celebrating women, unfortunately, we still find them abused, stymied by cultural traditions, and are not paid just and equal salaries. Let's esteem our women in our Country and across the world for their myriad contributions to humanity!

We also as a country should be united in patriotism as America is attempting to eliminate great evil from the world. We will always have evil because of sin in the world, but when a nation or culture is dedicated to destruction, we must take a stand against such.

The same goes for protecting our electoral process from fraud and illegal obstruction. National polling shows 71 percent of Americans are in favor of voting security and the Save America Act. This fundamentally protects that only legal Americans have the right to vote in our elections at all levels of government.

March is full of exciting activities in Bowling Green and with Spring trying to burst forth, it is an exciting time of watching trees and bushes blossoming. From fish fries to banquets and baseball season opening in little league sign-ups to Bowling Green Bobcats to the St. Louis Cardinals, it's a great time of year! I don't know about daylight savings time change though! What are your thoughts?

One of my objectives over the last six years has been to increase tourism in Bowling Green. Tourism doesn't just

happen. It is built block by block and storefront by storefront.

Attempts to invite grocery stores, a theater/cinema, a bowling alley, another motel, YMCA or other indoor community recreational facility, an Italian pasta and steak house and the list could go on.

Letters with our demographics and invitations to be a part of our outstanding community were sent out. Invitations to businesses, industry and manufacturers, to distribution centers and new and/or expansion proposals were extended. Shop local and other promos were supported by grant writing encouraging residents to support our existing businesses.

Promotions inviting tourists and visitors to Shop, Spend, Eat, Stay, and Experience Bowling Green happened.

We, as a city, have many amenities, opportunities and potential for expansion and development for all ages, races, cultures, religions, and colors! To keep taxes down it is important to bring in revenues from other sources. I believe our Municipal Airport will really assist in this effort as well.

The key, however, is to have visitors and tourists come, dwell and even stay in our motel(s) then eat, shop, and fuel up. So, what other types of attractions do we have or need to increase foot traffic for year-round economic activity? How do we strengthen our current local businesses? How do we strengthen our tax base for improvements to our streets, etc. and add wanted activities and social and recreational desires? We have a new master plan. What will we do with it?



JIM ARICO, MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Pike To Pike ...



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

Birthdays and anniversaries for the week of March 18-24:

March 18 - Judy Robbins, Micah Rudd

March 19 - Brad Conkright, Kathy and Jerry Dougherty

March 21 - Marco Cooper

March 22 - Becky White, Bruce Ivers, Tonya Hickerson, Roger and Gail Walston, W.J. and Cheryl Kirk

March 23 - Lawanda Clarke, Lilly Myers

March 24 -- Mike and Velma Stickhost

Sympathy to the family of Dora Couch. I will remember her as one who remembered birthdays of lots of people and was so extremely good at sending cards.

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

Band concerts in the area:
Buggs Family Opry -- Friday, March 27 - in Pearl with the Show starting at 7 p.m.

The Big River Band - Saturday, March 28 - Pike County Senior Center - Show starts at 6:30 p.m.

By the way, updates and all kinds of things can be viewed on Big River Band on Facebook. Just join this page.

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 Pike County Herbal Chat will be meeting Saturday, March 21, starting at 10 a.m., at the Nazarene Family Center in Pittsfield. Anyone interested may attend, and the topic is to be announced.

Single Seniors + One has another "Meet, Greet, and Eat" in the works. It's never too late to be a part of this group so if you are interested in joining, just call or text 1-217-320-8438. Men

and/or women, single by choice or circumstance, you are welcome to join. Any questions, just call 1-217-320-8438. This group is Not strictly for people in Pike County. If you can drive and pay for your own meal, you will be welcomed.

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

Upcoming dates of interest:

And Easter Sunday is April 5.

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! Proverbs 16:16

Saturday, March 14, The Big River Band was found at the Red Rooster in Pittsfield having a concert for a good crowd. Besides the good crowd, there was plenty of parking, good food, and plenty of visiting. With the renovation project

going on in uptown Pittsfield, we appreciated Patty and Paul allowing the band to provide good music for everyone to enjoy.

Trivia questions for this week:

1. Which U.S. president has been commonly credited with inventing the swivel chair?

2. Who named the first woman of the creation?

3. Who are the only two men who have run effectively unopposed for president?

We Welcome Your Local News



Growing & Sowing

The cast of "Steel Magnolias" rehearses at The Apple Shed in Clarksville. The comedy-drama is being staged by the Raintree Arts Council's Changelings Theatre troupe. Showtimes are 7 p.m., March 21 and 28 and 2 p.m., March 22 and 29. Tickets will be available at the door. Pictured, from left, are cast members Donna Grote, Caramia Harrelson, Shea Williamson, Cathy Schutte, and Angela Maier. Not pictured is cast member Colleen Lilley. The play is directed by Changelings founder Mary Lang Fournier. More information is available by calling 817-300-9796.

State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

"As Missouri begins to welcome the signs of spring, it was another productive week at the Capitol. Our office remains committed to doing the work the people of our district sent us here to do."

-Speaker Pro Tem
Chad Perkins
THIS WEEK IN JEFFERSON CITY LEGISLATIVE SESSION REACHES MIDPOINT AS HOUSE PREPARES FOR BUSY SECOND HALF

The Missouri General Assembly has reached the halfway point of the 2026 legislative session. After several weeks of committee hearings, floor debate, and legislative work in Jefferson City, members of the House are now returning home to their districts for the traditional spring break. This brief pause allows lawmakers time to reconnect with constituents before returning to the Capitol to begin the second half of session.

While the break offers a short reset, the pace of the legislative process will accelerate significantly once members return. The final weeks of session are typically when legislation moves most quickly, as bills must clear both chambers and complete the legislative process before adjournment in May.

So far this year, the House has made strong progress advancing legislation. 100 bills have been passed out of the chamber and sent to the Senate for further consideration. In addition, the House has already truly agreed to and finally passed three pieces of legislation, sending them to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

One of those measures is HCS HB 2014, the supplemental budget bill for state operations. The legislation provides approximately \$3.1 billion to support state agencies and programs through the remainder of the

fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The bill includes funding for disaster recovery efforts in areas affected by the 2025 storms, transportation projects across Missouri, and support for rural healthcare programs. It also adjusts or reduces several previously planned appropriations to ensure state spending aligns with current needs.

The House has also made significant progress on the state's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Late Wednesday night, after more than nine hours of deliberation, the House Budget Committee completed markup of the 12 appropriations bills that make up Missouri's state operating budget. The committee approved a plan totaling approximately \$50.6 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, as compared to Governor Mike Kehoe proposed \$52.1 billion budget. House budget leaders moved the spending bills forward before the spring break with the goal of bringing the full budget to the House floor for debate and passage when lawmakers return to Jefferson City on March 23.

When lawmakers return, the focus will shift to moving legislation through the final stages of the process during the last eight weeks. With the second half of session underway, the coming weeks will determine which proposals ultimately reach the governor's desk before the legislature adjourns for the year.

HOUSE SENDS ANTI-TRAFFICKING & CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION TO GOVERNOR

The Missouri General Assembly has truly agreed to and finally passed comprehensive legislation strengthening laws related to human trafficking, child exploitation, and sexual offenses. The measure now heads to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

SS SCS HCS HBs 2273, 1946, 1814 & 2551 updates Missouri statutes by replacing the term "child pornography" with "child sexual abuse material," reflecting modern terminology used by law enforcement and advocacy groups. The definition is also expanded to include anatomically correct dolls, mannequins, or robots intended to resemble minors and used for sexual exploitation.

The bill establishes the offense of grooming of a minor, making it a felony for an adult to engage in a pattern of conduct intended to prepare or

manipulate a minor for sexual activity or exploitation. Individuals convicted under this provision must serve at least five years before becoming eligible for probation or parole.

The measure also strengthens penalties and legal protections surrounding child sex trafficking. Victims will have expanded ability to pursue civil damages, and individuals convicted of trafficking a child in the second degree when acting as a parent, guardian, or custodian will face life imprisonment.

To improve prevention and victim identification, the legislation requires expanded sex and human trafficking awareness training for a range of professionals, including emergency medical technicians, prosecutors, juvenile officers, social workers, peace officers, and employees of lodging establishments.

The bill further creates the Statewide Council Against Adult Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children within the Office of the Attorney General to coordinate statewide anti-trafficking efforts, collect data, and develop best practices for prevention, victim services, and prosecution. The council will also oversee education and awareness initiatives funded through a newly created Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Education and Awareness Fund.

Additional provisions strengthen penalties for offenses such as the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, expand sex offender registration requirements for certain crimes, allow prosecutors to request assistance from the Attorney General in child trafficking cases, and extend Missouri's cyber-crime investigation grant program.

Together, the changes aim to enhance prevention, improve victim support, and provide stronger tools for law enforcement to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation across Missouri.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The Missouri General Assembly has given final approval to SB 888, legislation making a series of updates to the state's criminal and juvenile justice systems. The measure includes provisions intended to strengthen public safety, improve coordination

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Living room couch, nice oak end table, oak bench, interior tree, oak platform rocker, material & quilting supplies, Rainbow vacuum sweeper, nice oak cabinet looks like a pie, floor lamp with slag glass, little hand carved trunk, lot of farm and equipment implements smaller scale 1:64th and larger, display cabinet for the small-scale tractors, Case steam engine large size, McCormick Deering tractor cast iron, The Cars Case tractors cast iron, John Deere Tractors, Glider rocker and Ottoman, lot of Farmall tractors, toy tow truck, oak China cabinet, Amish made oak table and six chairs-with one leaf, world globe, meat wrapping paper holder dispenser, old soda bottles, thread spools, outdoor canopy, rods and reels, fishing tackle, granite teapot, 2-gallon pickle jar, campaign and Old Settler button, shucking peg, metal tins, suitcase, old old postcards, little Matchbox cars and trucks, old John Deere Combine, Twinkle Toes Volkswagen Bug toy, car hauler, restoration tractor and it's accessories-new in the box, toy disk, hot rod car, lot of old collectible jars, pocket knives - Kershaw hunting knives, Old Timer and others, Lot of ammo, shotgun shells and rifle shells, 20 shells, 9mm shells, 380 shells, 243, gun safe, lot of old hand tools, Snap-On socket set, squares, wood planes, hand levels, a lot of good miscellaneous hand tools, old Fordson wrench, nail puller shop like, galvanized tub, paint solvents, hammers, tile cutter, Route OH tool, Craftsman nut drivers, Butane torch set, screws, lot of miscellaneous tools, little advertising sign picture, tow truck, Wiley tow truck, Revelation Gun oil, 10 Singer oil, 10 old door lock, car polisher, Clabber Girl can, recliner, Saint Louis Cardinals collector bat, Peters Victor Ammo boxes, wooden boxes, area rugs, Craftsman 6 1/4 HP-Shop vac 16-gallon, bird feeders, camping stools, window fans, outdoor chairs, clothes hamper, portable heaters, bar stools, hay hauler International heavy metal, lot of thread, outdoor concrete planter, original Legos, outdoor wooden bench, 2 ton floor jack, Honda push mower, log chains, Honda weed eater, limb saw, small electric chainsaw, electric hedge trimmer, brand new golf cart cover, outdoor yard tools, rakes, shovels, pull behind yard trailer, live trap, some little garden fence, wheelbarrow, yard dethatcher, small 4 x 8 pull behind motorcycle trailer, cast iron kettles, BX1880 Kubota Garden Tractor with mower deck and front end loader, only 365 hours, 3 pt. blade, yard aerator, Honda 19 HP motor, Club Car golf cart in excellent condition; 2005 F-150 4-WD, 158,543 miles in excellent condition. This truck has been very well taken care of 5.4 motor.

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Obituaries

in 1967. They were married for 58 years.

He attended New Michigan Grade School, south of Vandalia. He graduated from Van-Far High School with the class of 1960. This class met yearly for get-togethers, which he enjoyed immensely. After graduation he attended the Reisch School of Auctioneering and earned the title "COL". He used the name Col. Robert L. Green at all the sales he had. He conducted his first auction, with his father, at the age of 7. He continued to have auctions throughout the community until he retired.

He joined the U.S. Navy in the fall of 1960 and was stationed in Long Beach Calif., and Yokosuka, Japan. He served on the USS Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City was a CLG5 light guided missile cruiser and the flagship of the 7th fleet. Bob was first a boiler tender on the ship and later became a cook. Most of his time was spent overseas in Asia, he was in Vietnam during the early part of the conflict. After he was discharged, he served for two years in the Naval Reserve.

He and his father started a small merchandising business in the home on the farm. This grew into Green Supply. He and his wife worked there for over 50 years, finally retiring in 2020. Green Supply first started as a store selling merchandise to the public. This changed in 1981 and the business started doing mail orders. Many lines were being sold including Browning Arms, Colt, Winchester, Marling Firearms, and Glock along with other name-brand hunting related accessories. They employed many people from Vandalia and the surrounding areas. At times his employees numbered over 100. He enjoyed working with his employees and became friends with many over the years and still kept in contact after the business closed. Bob grew the business from a regional supplier into a nationally recognized distributor.

He was a member of Ducks Unlimited. An avid outdoorsman, his hobbies included hunting and he especially enjoyed turkey hunting with his favorite Uncle Bill. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Robert was also a lifetime member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by a son, William Green and wife, Jana of Eureka; two daughters, Sandra Carter and husband Tim of Louisiana and Tammy Green who currently lives in Canada.

He has six grandchildren, Andrew Sprock of Laddonia, Cortney Shepherd of Bowling Green, and Ashley Crowder and husband, Brian of Bowling Green, Stallone Woodbury, Sophia Green, and Josephine Green of Eureka, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Richard and siblings that died in infancy, Jimmy and Doris.

Pallbearers were Brian Crowder, Andrew Sprock, Stallone Woodbury, Bob Maas, Dave Kurz, and Jacob

Martin. Memorial contributions may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Vandalia, c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home P.O. Box 54 Vandalia, MO 63382.

Dorothy Steinhage Bibb

Dorothy Steinhage Bibb, 93, of rural Bowling Green died Monday, March 9, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m., Saturday at Cyrene Baptist Church with the Rev. Jason Hoke officiating. Burial followed at Antioch Cemetery.

Visitation was from 9:30 a.m., until time of services Saturday at the church.

Dorothy was born Nov. 4, 1932, near Edgewood, the daughter of Walter and Ruth Gaw Steinhage. She married Herbert Bibb at Cyrene on Feb. 5, 1951.

Survivors include a son, Donald Bibb; two daughters, Janet Bibb, and Diane Kuntz and husband, Jim, all of Bowling Green; five grandchildren, Danny Street and wife, Lisa of Whiteside, Kelly Straube, Kevin Street, of Bowling Green, Quentin Kuntz and wife, Emma of St. Charles, and Malarie Allensworth and husband, Ricky of Bowling Green; seven great-grandchildren, Maya Rudd and husband, Dillon, Mason Street, Morgan Street, Kennedy Street, Holden Straube, Abram Allensworth, and Liam Allensworth.

Dorothy lived her entire life around the Cyrene area. She was employed by the Bowling Green Gas Company for two years. She then became a full-time housewife, devoting herself to cooking, gardening and canning, sewing, mowing the yard and helping with livestock.

The many meals she prepared, especially for holidays, were very much enjoyed by her family. She was a member of Cyrene Baptist Church, serving as Church Clerk and Secretary as well as Sunday School Treasurer for around 70 years until her recent health decline. She was very interested in family history and kept records of family births and deaths.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Herbert on Jan. 14, 2014; grandson-in-law, Aaron Straube; sister, Helen Gregory and husband, Tom; brother-in-law, Bill Bibb; and sister-in-law, Rosalie Steinhage and husband, Gene.

Serving as pallbearers were Danny Street, Kevin Street, Quentin Kuntz, Ricky Allensworth, Holden Straube, and Mason Street. Honorary pallbearers were Abram Allensworth, Liam Allensworth, Dillon Rudd, Maya Rudd, Lisa Street, Kelly Straube, Malarie Kuntz, Emma Kuntz, Kennedy Street, and Morgan Street.

Memorials may be made to Cyrene Baptist Church, Antioch Cemetery, American Cancer Society, or donors' choice.

WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS



Bethsheba Jane Wommack Haines

Bethsheba Jane Wommack Haines, 96, died at her home in Olney Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Visitation and funeral services for Betty Haines were Monday. Visitation was from 9:30-11 a.m., at St. Alphonsus Church in Millwood with the funeral service to follow. Fr. Eric Kunz officiated. Music was provided by Debbie Mudd, Marlene Sanderson Kut, Steve Sanderson, and Ryan Bibb. Burial was in the Olney Cemetery.

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home of Silex handled the arrangements.

Betty was born June 22, 1929, on the Wommack family farm in rural Millwood in the home built by her grandparents, Bethsheba Jane Moore and Thomas Phillips Miller. Betty was the fifth of seven children born to Joseph Benton and Kathryn Sands Miller Wommack. Betty's siblings include, Joseph Benton, Jr., Thomas Phillips Miller, Richard Ernest, Mordecai Miller (died in infancy), Kathryn Rebecca, and Henry Edwin Wommack.

Betty was educated at St. Alphonsus School in Millwood for grades 1-10, then continued her education at Silex High School, graduating in 1947. She was a star athlete on the basketball court and softball field.

On June 25, 1949, Betty married William Wirt Haines III, the son of Ruth Whiteside Ebaugh and William Wirt Haines II of Olney. Bill and Betty were united in marriage in a double wedding ceremony, which included her sister, Kathryn Rebecca Wommack and William Wendell Edelen. The big event was featured in the St. Louis newspaper.

Bill and Betty were married for 73 years. Bill Haines preceded his wife in death on Feb. 4, 2021. Five children were born to this marriage, William Wirt IV, Bethsheba Jane, Ernest Edwin, Rex Benton, and John Charles. They also helped raise one granddaughter, Courtney Lee.

Betty was an active homemaker married to a friendly, easy-going, true businessman. Bill sold cars for 70 years. Meanwhile, Betty was a busy lady keeping the home in order and the children in line. She was organized and active, yet also enjoyed her leisure time with neighbor ladies and family.

Whether she was fishing, playing pinochle or bridge with friends, going to bingo with her husband and other couples in the area, or going out with Howard and Myrt Sanderson, Dennis and Vivian Sullivan, or Bud and

Alice Erbe, Betty had fun. She was an energetic woman who accomplished her goals.

Betty loved traveling to wonderful places inside the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. She and Bill explored Australia, New Zealand, the Caribbean, Las Vegas, Lake of the Ozarks, and Branson just to name some of their favorites. Betty could be found many times sitting on a creekbank fishing and watching kids playing in the water. Attending her children's sports activities, and later keeping up with Courtney, the neighbor kids, and all grandchildren and great-grandchildren kept Betty happy and on the go.

Betty Haines was a country girl. She loved riding horses with her siblings, Jay, Tom, Ernie, Becky, and Hank Wommack. She enjoyed frog gigging, mushroom hunting, and being outdoors. She had many interesting sayings and was a self-proclaimed doctor to her family. She shared her husband's interest in country music and baseball. She was an avid reader and was a whiz at "Wheel of Fortune" and crossword puzzles.

Betty is survived by four of her five children, Jane Kientzy and husband, Steve of Silex, Ed Haines and

friend, Debbie Bertrand of Marion, Ill., Rex Haines and wife, Barb Kientzy Haines of Silex, John Haines and wife, Darla Sue Mudd of Mexico. Her sister-in-law, Mary Grothaus also survives.

In addition, she is survived by her nine grandchildren, William W. Haines V and wife, Sarah, Stephen Haines Kientzy and wife, Teresa, Gina Bethsheba Kientzy Harris and husband, Caleb, Benton John Haines and wife, Jessica, Courtney Lee Haines Rhodes and husband, Austin, Michael Kientzy Haines and wife, Emily, Morgan Nicole Haines Palliser, John "Jake" William Haines, and Nicholas Ernest Haines.

Fourteen great-grandchildren survive, Olivia Rebecca Haines, William "Bly" W. Haines VI, Andrew Stephen Kientzy, Natalie Grace Kientzy, Rylan Jane Harris, Kasen Dean Harris, William Benton Haines, Jackson Benedict Haines, Connor Michael Rhodes, Alizabeth "Allie" Jean Rhodes, Tripp Kenneth Palliser, Levi Daniel Palliser, George Scott Haines, and Grant Rex Haines; and one great-great grandchild, Waylon Walker Hulet, and one scheduled to arrive this month.

See OBITUARIES on page 6



Virgil Doyle Watts

Virgil Doyle Watts died Friday, March 6, 2026 after 92 years of a beautiful, full life as a husband, father, grandpa "Papa", great-grandpa, friend, musician, 7-up distributor, fixer of anything, and so much more.

A Celebration of Life and music jam session will be held at 2 p.m., at Fieldhouse 54 on Highway 54 in Bowling Green on Sunday, March 29, 2026.

Born in Ripley, Okla., one of five siblings, he grew up to become the kind of man who never met a stranger and never let a loved one feel alone. To many, he was known for his music as a gifted steel guitar player, inducted into multiple Western swing halls of fame across the United States, swinging on stages around towns and filling rooms with joy. If you could talk steel guitar or Western swing, you had a friend for life.

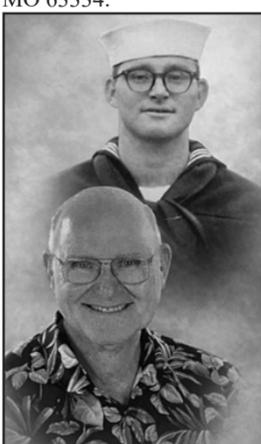
He loved playing music, fixing anything that needed fixing, and most of all, he loved his family. He believed that true wealth wasn't measured in money, it was measured in joy, purpose, and the courage to do what sets your soul on fire.

To him, being "rich" meant waking up each day doing what you love and loving the people around you deeply. He believed that life didn't have to be complicated to be beautiful. His simplicity and quiet devotion were reminders that the most meaningful things were love, faithfulness, and a song shared together are what make life extraordinary.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, June Bowen Watts; his children, Starla Queen, Clifford Watts and son-in-law, Skyler Perkins; grandchildren, Amber Charlene Sidwell, Kelsii Paige Watts, Brandii Jade Francis and husband, David, Benjamin Levi Watts and Alex Shane Perkins; great-grandson, Noah Hanafusa; siblings, Peggy Gattenby, Larry Watts, and Linda Fleming, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Virgil was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Nadine Foshee Watts, siblings, Virginia Faye Watts, Betty Jean Richardson, a daughter, Valerie Dawn Perkins; and a son-in-law, Jimmy Queen.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Zion Cemetery, c/o McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes 701 N. Business Hwy 61 Bowling Green, MO 63334.



Robert L. Green

A Mass of Christian burial for Robert L. Green, 84, of Vandalia, was at 11 a.m., Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Vandalia with Fr. Derek Hooper officiating. Burial followed in Vandalia Cemetery.

Visitation was Friday from 10 a.m., until the time of the Mass at the church.

Robert died in the early hours of Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at his home.

Robert was born on the family farm south of Vandalia on Nov. 28, 1942, to Frederick Otto and Mary Maxine Bodine Green. He married Carolyn Sue Neal

Bowling Green Elementary
Kindergarten Round-Up
April 8th at 6 PM
Bowling Green Elementary
Families, join us for an evening of Kindergarten Orientation! You will hear important information regarding your child beginning Kindergarten! Don't miss out!
Kids will explore fun stations with our teachers and PAT staff, plus enjoy a memorable bus ride. Let's make your child's first school adventure amazing!

THE RAINTREE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS
ENGORE
A NIGHT ON BROADWAY
April 11 at The Apple Shed in Clarksville
6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. show
Reservations are required and must be made at www.raintreeartscouncil.org.
\$30 if bought before March 27
\$35 if bought March 28 to April 3
Questions may be directed to 314-518-5637

Raintree Arts Council and The Changelings Theatre present
Steel Magnolias
The Apple Shed in Clarksville
March 21 and 28 at 7 p.m.
March 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.
Tickets \$15 for adults and \$13 for kids and seniors. Available at the door.
For information, call 817-300-9796 or visit www.raintreertscouncil.org www.changelingstheatre.com

FISH FRY Fundraiser
Good Fish. Good Cause.
Curbside Pickup, Vandalia Fairgrounds
4 p.m. - 7 p.m. or until sold out
Friday, March 27th
WHAT'S ON THE MENU?
✓ Golden fried fish
✓ Potatoes
✓ Cole Slaw
✓ Baked Beans
FISH MEAL \$13
FISH SANDWICH \$10
50/50 CASH prize - Raffle Tickets
All proceeds will benefit the Eastern Missouri Family YMCA - Vandalia 2026 ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN for membership and program development.

howard's
BUDGET
FURNITURE & MATTRESS

BUY ONE, GET ONE
1/2 OFF THE SALE PRICE!*

BOGO 1/2 OFF MANIA!

+ SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE¹
¹Restrictions apply. See store for details.



Sofa
WHY PAY \$1139 | SALE \$679
BOGO PRICE \$339⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!

Strike a balance between the indulgent comfort you crave and the contemporary aesthetic you long for. The fabulously soft, graphite-colored upholstery of this sofa takes neutrals to new heights. Plus there's plenty of room to spread out and relax solo or with your bestie.



2 Pc. Sectional
WHY PAY \$2969 | SALE \$1779
BOGO PRICE \$889⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!



Queen Poster Bed
WHY PAY \$1199 | SALE \$719
BOGO PRICE \$359⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!



6 Pc. Dining Set
WHY PAY \$1509 | SALE \$999
BOGO PRICE \$449⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!

Set includes table, 4 chairs, and bench.



La-Z-Boy
Rocker Recliner
WHY PAY \$1019 | SALE \$599
BOGO PRICE \$299⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!



essentials.
by ASHLEY SLEEP
10" Medium Hybrid 2.0
QUEEN MATTRESS
WHY PAY \$949 | SALE \$569
BOGO PRICE \$284⁵⁰
If 2nd item of equal or lesser value!

Features Gel Memory Foam



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Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5:30pm
Sat. 9am to 4pm
Sun. CLOSED

¹Restrictions apply See store for details.

*Purchase one item and get the second item of equal or lesser value half off the sale price. Offers cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount except those in this ad. Offers exclude previous purchases, Hot Buys, Outlet items, Clearance Items and any products for which the manufacturer sets a minimum selling price, such as Tempur-Pedic® and Stressless® by Ekornes®, sales tax, furniture protection plans, warranty, delivery, and service charge. We provide "Why Pay" prices in a sincere effort to demonstrate the relative value of products offered. We make no claims to having sold products at "Why Pay" prices. Although every precaution was taken in price and image specification, errors may occur in print or digital format. We reserve the right to correct any such errors. See store for details. Offer Expires 4/6/2026. © 2026 Knorr Marketing HOFU-1693 2/26



Community News

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 4

Betty is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, siblings, one son, William W. Haines IV, who died in 1999, her in-laws, Bill Edelen, Mary Eva Wommack, Anna Mae Wommack, and Rita Wommack.

Visitation and funeral services for Betty Haines were Monday. Visitation was from 9:30-11 a.m., at St. Alphonsus Church in Millwood with the funeral service to follow. Fr. Eric Kunz officiated. Music was provided by Debbie Mudd, Marlene Sanderson Kut, Steve Sanderson, and Ryan Bibb. Burial was in the Olney Cemetery.

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home of Silex handled the arrangements.

Pallbearers were Betty's six grandsons, Billy Haines, Stephen Kientzy, Benton Haines, Michael Haines, Jake Haines, and Nick Haines. Honorary pallbearers were her three granddaughters, Gina Harris, Courtney Rhodes, and Morgan Palliser.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Alphonsus Cemetery, Olney Cemetery, St. Alphonsus School, Silex R-I School, or donor's choice.



Sue L. Carr

Sue LaVerne Carr, 87, of Bowling Green died Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at Elsberry Health Care Center, surrounded by her loving family.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday (today) from 11 a.m.-12 p.m., at McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes & Crematory in Bowling Green.

Funeral services will also be Tuesday (today) at 12 p.m., at the funeral home with the Rev. Bob Knight officiating. Interment will be Fairview Cemetery Louisiana.

She was born Sept. 21, 1938 in Elsberry, the daughter of Mary Cohea Daniel and George Daniel. Early in her childhood her mother married Lloyd Carr and he became her loving dad. On May 28, 1955 in Hannibal she married Jackie Joe Carr.

Sue had worked at A&W Communications in Eolia, as long as her health permitted. She was an important part of the business and made many friends over the years. Sue loved her dogs, music and yardwork.

She enjoyed spending time with her friends at Branson and going on other trips. Sue is described by her family as, "a caregiver and kind." She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother.

Sue is survived by a son, Edward Carr of Hannibal; three daughters, Belinda Carr of Bowling Green, Kathy Capps and husband, Mike of Eolia, Stacey Stoops and husband, Ronnie of Troy; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and one-on-the way.

Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Jackie Joe Carr, a son, Kevin Carr and one grandson, B.J. Carr. Pallbearers will be grandsons, Aaron Carr, Jason Capps, Wesley Elam, Nicholas Jones, Joey Tabor, and Kyle Stoops. Honorary pallbearers will be Mike Capps, Ronnie Stoops, Jake Carr, Steven Love, Carl Brown, Chris Zumwalt, and Kyle Brannon.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook @ www.mccoyblossomfh.com

March History Nuggets

By Brent Engel
Contributing Writer
Pucker Up

Somebody at The Riverside Press in Louisiana must have had a rotten Valentine's in 1884. The March 6 edition carried this observation: "Promiscuous kissing of a person - that is, kissing everything or anything - has no real meaning. It is not, in fact, kissing. It is merely the formality of sticking your puckered lips against an object and making a smacking noise."

Cow Wow

The Clarksville Sentinel commented on a "strange freak of nature" in March 1881. An area farmer reported a calf born with four ears, two windpipes, two livers and two hearts. It quickly died, and curiosity prompted the farmer to put the carcass on a train that went through town. "Many of our citizens flocked to the baggage car to see it," the paper reported.

Birds & Bums

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

As Team Ambassadors for the City of Columbia, my wife and I had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Coach Hall, Athletic Director Streed and the entire Clopton Hawks Basketball Team during their visit to the MSHAA Final Four Tournament.

The Clarksville and Pike County community should be extremely proud of how the team represented themselves and their school. From the very get-go, Coach Hall and AD Streen were super friendly and appreciative. When we met the team as they were coming off of the bus, we instantly knew these young men were of high character. Their firm handshakes and greetings were sincere. This team has been parented and coached well.

We were equally impressed with the cheerleaders who were super friendly and enthusiastic as well as the fans of Clopton.

Well done Clopton. You should be forever proud of your school and your 2025/2026 Clopton Hawks.

Sincerely,
Kyle & Theresa
Kendrick
Team Ambassadors
City of Columbia
MSHAA Basketball
Championships



The Frankford Chronicle of March 6, 1896, assured readers that the seasons were changing. "Wild geese and tramps, harbingers of spring, are going north."

Horse & Hog

The Bowling Green Times reported in March 1901 that Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Joseph Sibley sent Champ Clark's son, Bennett, a Shetland pony for his 11th birthday. "The little fellow is prouder than a pig with two tails," the paper said.

Growl For Me

Apparently there are times when a card just isn't enough. Discussion in March 1916 focused on dedicating a day to mothers-in-law (by the way, in 2026 it will be on Oct. 25). All of the

talk got the editor of the Louisiana Press-Journal wondering if "married men at such a time would be expected to wear a tiger lily as appropriate to the occasion."

Buy It Here

In March 1926, the Bowling Green Times offered a basic reminder about how to make the local economy thrive. "The next time you are tempted to buy away from home, just remember your merchant-neighbor is entitled to a reasonable profit on his wares, that he is assisting to make this community a good place in which to live and also that your dollar spent at home is reasonably sure to come back to you."

PERKINS

Continued from page 3

between agencies, and establish clearer procedures for law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts.

Several provisions focus on the juvenile justice system. The bill updates fingerprinting requirements so that individuals under the age of eighteen who are taken into custody for certain felony offenses must have their fingerprints submitted to the state's central repository. While these records will remain closed to the public, the change helps ensure law enforcement agencies maintain accurate records when addressing serious offenses involving juveniles.

The legislation also modifies the process used when courts consider whether a juvenile should be certified to stand trial as an adult. Certification hearings are more specifically tied to serious offenses such as class A or B felonies, felony sexual offenses, or repeated felony conduct within a short period of time. Prosecutors are given a greater role in the review process, and additional coordination between juvenile officers and prosecutors is required.

SB 888 also updates policies related to juvenile detention. Counties will have expanded authority to work together to establish and operate juvenile detention facilities, subject to rules established by the Missouri Supreme Court. Participating counties may also approve a

local sales tax of up to one percent to support operations. The bill further limits the use of leg restraints for juveniles unless they are charged with the most serious felony offenses or present an immediate safety or flight risk.

In addition, the legislation makes several changes to Missouri's criminal sentencing laws. The bill establishes updated parole eligibility guidelines based on felony classification, ensuring individuals convicted of more serious crimes serve a greater portion of their sentence before becoming eligible for release. The definition of "dangerous felony" is also expanded to include additional offenses, including certain human trafficking crimes and child sexual trafficking.

With final passage by both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly, SB 888 now heads to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

Department Of Revenue Warns Of Text Message Scam

The Missouri Department of Revenue is warning Missourians to remain alert as another surge of phishing text messages has been reported. The messages often claim to be from the Department of Revenue, the Department of Motor Vehicles, or the DMV and may threaten penalties for unpaid traffic violations, toll charges, or other fines.

Officials say the messages are scams and are not sent by the Department of Revenue. The department does not request payments or personal information through text messages.

HAWKS

Continued from front page
looked unlikely early in the winter.

The Hawks opened the season 1-4 and later entered district play as the No. 5 seed. But Clopton continued to improve, finished the regular season 13-13, and then put together a postseason run that ended with a state quarterfinal win over Westran and a long-awaited trip to Columbia.

"It's been awesome," Hall said. "We've experienced a little bit of everything. Obviously starting out 1-4, we struggled a little bit early, and then we were able to kind of pick it up at Christmas break. We found a stretch of wins. We ended up finishing the regular season 13-13, so right at .500, took the five seed in our district and then just took it with pride and said, 'All right, here we go.' And then we just worked."

Hall made clear the credit belonged to his players.

"Not myself. These guys, everybody else, they worked, and they earned it," Hall said. "They've got nothing to hang their heads about, and I think

this is the true definition of fight and never giving up, no matter what your record is or what your seed is in districts. Like I said, they proved people wrong."

The state appearance also carried special meaning for the Hall family.

Coach Hall and senior Larson Hall, brothers, shared one final season together that ended with a trip to the Final Four, something their father had once chased himself.

"Our dad raised us in a basketball household," Coach Hall said. "Something he was never able to do was get to a Final Four, and he fell short two or three years in a row. Then he said the only thing that would make it better is if his kids made it."

Larson said sharing the experience with his brother made the moment even more meaningful.

"This is our last year together, so I think it's special that we both made it," Larson said. "It'll definitely be something I'll remember for the rest of my life, obviously. Being able to do it with your brother is one of the best feelings you could ever have. I think it's brought us closer as

brothers, too. It has really helped, and it's really been a great opportunity."

Even with a senior-heavy roster graduating, Hall said the example those players set should continue to shape the program.

"Not only do these guys play hard, but they lead great as well," Hall said. "They hold people accountable in practice when things aren't going the way they need to be going. They hold them accountable off court when people might not be acting how they need to be acting. Those younger guys that have been around the program now and experienced this leadership that these five gave, I think it kind of sets them down the right path of this is who we are, this is what we need to do, and this is how we need to do it."

For Clopton, the weekend in Columbia did not end with a trophy game victory.

But it did end with something the program had not seen in nearly four decades: a Final Four banner, a fourth-place state finish, and a team that delivered one of the most memorable seasons in school history.

Deadline For Century Farm

If your farm has been in your family since Dec. 31, 1926, you can apply to have it recognized as a Missouri Century Farm.

The University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, MU Extension Ag and Environment team and Missouri Farm Bureau sponsor the program.

Applications to be recognized as a 2026 Missouri Century Farm opened Feb. 1.

Deadline is May 1.

To qualify, the same family must have owned the farm for 100 consecutive years. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings and nephews or nieces, including through marriage or adoption. The farm must be at least 40 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

Since the program began in 1976, more than 10,000 Missouri farms have received the Century Farm designation.

A fee covers the cost of a certificate, a metal farm sign and booklet for approved applicants. County MU Extension centers present these items.

Details and online application. You can also contact your local MU Extension center with questions.

**24th Annual Spring
PIKE AMISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**

Auction Site: 8778 Pike 478,
Bowling Green, MO 63334

Saturday, May 9, 2026 @ 9 AM
Antiques, Machinery, Guns, Quilts,
New & Used Tack, Flowers, Coins,
Furniture, Poultry etc.

**ONE
DAY
ONLY!!!**

**NO
HORSES**

Consignments wanted for the
**24th annual
(Antiques & Machinery Auction)**

NOTE: No tires, storm windows or junk, PLEASE!

For Saturday's auction please consign your antiques, quilts, flowers, furniture, and misc. merchandise.

Sale bill deadline April 11th Please Consign early.

Consignment Contacts or for more information write:

Guns & Coins
Jacob Eicher
19862 Pike 476
Bowling Green, MO
63334

Quilts
Wilmer Eicher
8217 Pike 466
Curryville, MO
63339

Commissions: 20% up to \$25; 15% for \$26-\$150;
10% for \$151-\$500; \$50 flat fee for \$501-\$700;
7% for \$701+ Minimum \$3.00 per ticket

For more information call Mitzi at 573-213-1355
Thank you for your past support at the auction. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

NOTICE

Farber Cemetery Association is asking all winter flowers at the Farber Cemetery to be removed by Wednesday, April 1 or they will be discarded for spring mowing to start. Thank you.

THORNHILL AUCTION

& REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Absolute Real & Personal Property Auction
B&B Homemade Pizza, Sandwiches, Cold Soda & Beer

Due to Bob's health, Bob has closed his business & will sell the following at Public Auction on
Sunday, March 22, 2026 Beginning at 1:00 P.M.
REAL ESTATE SELLS AT 1:00 P.M.
SALE SITE: 931 Business 61 N; Bowling Green, MO 63334

COMMERCIAL: ½ acre m/l in Section 23 TWP53 R3W in Pike County in the City of Bowling Green & fronting on Business Hwy 61.

Improvements include a 1 story block 1530 sq. ft. building on city water, sewer & natural gas. Setup as a tavern w/wood floors, natural gas furnace, window air units, men & women bathrooms. Improvements include a new metal roof.

Terms: 10% down day of sale with the balance of cash at closing on or before 30 days after the sale with possession at closing. **For a private showing contact David, Dusty or Bill at 636-366-4206.**

RESTAURANT & TAVERN EQUIPMENT SELLS IMMEDIATELY AFTER REAL ESTATE

True stainless steel 2 door under counter cooler, like new; Bakers Pride stainless steel pizza oven, 220; Electric grill, 110; 3 Refrigerators; 1 Whirlpool, 2 Ropers; 6, 1950's Formica Top 4 chair bar tables; 40 Restaurant chairs; 6 Bar stools; Pizza pans & accessories.

WALK IN COOLER, 110, 2 VALLEY POOL TABLES, 50¢ PLAY

BAR LIGHTS & ADVERTISING 2 Budweiser pool table lights; Miller Lite neon bar light; Bud Light bar light; Miller Lite bar mirror; Pepsi menu sign; Budweiser Select electric clock; Bar glasses.

SPORTS MEMORABILIA 1967 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals Team; Ozzie Smith Cardinals #1 Wizard, Hall of Fame, '02; 2011 World Champion Cardinals banner; Cardinals World Series clock; Lot St. Louis Cardinal memorabilia; Lot Vintage baseball trophies; Lot Vintage pool trophies.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Pike County Landmark Bob has been at this location for 55 years. He's 93, people have enjoyed his pizzas for generations. He states he's prepared over 1 million. Bob & Jo Ann have celebrated 63 years of marriage. Please be on time Real Estate sells first, approximately 30 minutes of smalls. See you at the sale. David, Dusty & Bill

OWNERS: BOB & JO ANN CANNON

DAVID THORNHILL
314-393-7241
TROY, MO

DUSTY THORNHILL
314-393-4726
TROY, MO

BILL UNSELL
573-470-0037
FRANKFORD, MO

Troy Office: 636-366-4206

For terms on this auction; thornhillauction.com

Classifieds

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

MOBILE HOMES

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

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

FOR RENT

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

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

FOR SALE

USED washer & dryer. Vandalia Firestone & Appliance. 594-6624

LOOK FOR upcoming sale on furniture items. Starting March 25, 2026.

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

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

FOR SALE

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)

NO HUNTING

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

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

SERVICES

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

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)

SERVICES

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As State's Bear Population Grows, MU Extension Offers Guidance

A new publication from University of Missouri Extension looks at black bears, their ecology and how research by the Missouri Department of Conservation helps us better understand their behavior and growing numbers.

"Ecology and Management of Black Bears in Missouri" is available for free download at <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g9458>.

The black bear is the most abundant bear species in North America, says Robert Pierce, MU associate extension professor and state wildlife and fisheries specialist. Pierce says Missouri's black bear population has gradually increased in the past several years, with current numbers estimated at about 1,000. Most bears in Missouri are found in the oak-hickory forests of the Ozark region of the state.

Black bears are native to Missouri. They were abundant here until the 19th century, when unregulated harvest and loss of forest habitat reduced the population.

During the 1960s, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission captured 254 black bears in Minnesota and Manitoba, Canada, and released them in the Ozark and Ouachita mountain ranges in northern and western Arkansas. Missouri numbers have increased as bears traveled northward, gradually edging north of

the Missouri River. "The growth of Missouri's bear population should be considered a significant conservation success story," says Pierce. "Now that a sustainable population is in place, a highly regulated hunting season has been established in certain areas of the state."

Adult male bear can range in weight from 130 to 600 pounds, with an average of 280 pounds. Adult females range from 90 to 296 pounds and average 179 pounds. They have life expectancies of less than 20 years.

Known for their black coats and brown muzzles, black bears occasionally have white chest markings. Missouri bears can range from black to brown to reddish brown or cinnamon to blond. They use their sharp claws for climbing to escape danger or to dig and forage. The wear of their teeth is an indicator of their age.

Bears have good eyesight, a keen sense of smell and strong hearing. They are also excellent swimmers.

They hibernate for much of the winter in caves, hollow trees, tree stumps, brush piles or underground. They will abandon a den that has been disturbed and mate

from mid-May to mid-July. Cubs are generally born in the den during late January to February after a 230-day gestation period. They are about the size and weight of a can of soda when born.

From research conducted by MDC, an estimated 60% of female bears in Missouri reproduce each year, and they have an average of two cubs. About 70% of the male cubs and 90% of female cubs survive their first year of life.

Research has found that bears in Missouri are very adaptive and as the population increases, they may be more likely to use marginal habitats such as forested areas that are fragmented by agriculture and residential areas. "Bears can move large distances, and research indicates that young bears may travel into these types of areas in search of adequate habitats," says Pierce.

MDC has a Bear Management Plan to guide future decisions about black bears. Current regulations allow up to 40 bears to be harvested in the state each year, but as the population continues to grow, the 40-bear harvest quota limit will likely be adjusted, Pierce says.

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Community News

Fugitive Captured For Trafficking Drugs Operation Relentless Pursuit



Kenadi Lovelace



Joseph Lovell

On Tuesday, March 10, while conducting fugitive apprehension efforts as part of Operation Relentless Pursuit (ORP), an Audrain County Sheriff's Deputy was actively searching for Kenadi Lovelace, a fugitive from justice wanted on three (3) felony Audrain County arrest warrants.

During the investigation, information was developed that Joseph Lovell, was actively assisting her in avoiding law enforcement and concealing her at a Mexico, Missouri motel.

While conducting surveillance, Lovell was observed leaving the motel property in a vehicle. After an observed traffic violation, the vehicle containing Lovell was stopped, and during the course of the traffic stop Lovell was found to be armed with a firearm. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of approximately 195 grams of methamphetamine and psilocybin mushrooms. During the stop, Lovell confirmed Lovelace was in their shared motel room.

A search warrant was ob-

tained for the motel room and executed. Kenadi Lovelace was located inside and taken into custody without incident. During the search

of the motel room, deputies located trafficking amounts of fentanyl capsules along with miscellaneous drug paraphernalia.

Lovell and Lovelace were arrested and transported to the Audrain County Jail pending the formal filing of charges by the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

The Audrain County Sheriff's Office was assisted in the Investigation by the East Central Drug Task Force.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Meet & Greet Ward 3 & 4, March 25th 6-8pm at the American Legion

THANK YOU

We, (Gary and Barbara), of Art's Flea Market, would like to thank everyone who has shopped in our store through the years and made our business worthwhile. We have made many treasured friendships and have been grateful for your support.

We have sold our business to Ron and Jan Calvin of New London. The new business name will be Rustic Roots Resale. They will continue the traditional concept of the store, providing a wide variety of inventories to serve the community. They will also have a Facebook page for on-line purchases and store updates. Reopening will be the weekend of March 21, 2026. We would sincerely appreciate you welcoming and supporting them, as you have us.

We are confident that we have made a wise choice for new ownership. The Calvins have made stepping away a little easier. Their excitement is great and they are looking forward to meeting you!

We truly enjoyed serving you. We will miss each of you.

Thank you for your business and friendship,

Gary & Barbara

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