



# THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

FREE

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## Hopke Announces Retirement After Foundational Leadership

The Eastern Missouri Family YMCA has announced that Branch Executive Director Debbie Hopke will retire in Fall 2026, concluding a remarkable tenure that began with the organization's founding and helped shape the YMCA into a cornerstone of the Vandalia community.

Hopke has led the Eastern Missouri Family YMCA since its opening on Feb. 11, 2019, guiding the organization through its earliest days and establishing a strong foundation of service, community engagement, and mission-driven leadership. Reflecting on her time with the YMCA, Hopke describes it in three words: community support, making a difference, and constant change—a testament to the dynamic and deeply rooted impact the organization has had on the community.

The YMCA's presence in Vandalia traces back to 2011, when Mayor Ramon Barnes formed a mayoral committee to explore the feasibility of developing a shared facility to house both a new library and a YMCA. After touring recreation centers, YMCAs, and libraries across the state, the committee partnered with YMCA of the USA and the Mexico Area Family YMCA to begin conversations around community support and sustainability.

The Vandalia Recreation Corporation (VRC) was re-organized to lead the effort, with significant support from the Rural Morris Foundation, a USDA loan, the City of Vandalia, and the Mexico Area Family YMCA serving as the home office. Under the leadership of VRC President Felicity Goodpasture-Culwell, a six-

year fundraising effort brought the vision to life.

Groundbreaking for the facility took place on Nov. 2, 2017. The 18,000-square-foot YMCA now features a full-size gymnasium, wellness center, child watch area, fitness classrooms, full kitchen, and Y Café. Following a successful membership drive and donor reception in early February 2019, the YMCA officially opened its doors at 309 South Main.

"When I accepted this position, my goal was simple—to do whatever it took to make the YMCA successful and able to stand on its own two feet, while becoming an integral part of Vandalia and the lives of those in our community," said Hopke. "The overwhelming support from our members and visitors has been truly humbling and continues to amaze me."

Under Hopke's leadership, the YMCA has grown not only in programs, but in purpose—becoming a place where people feel a true sense of belonging. She emphasized that the Y is "more than physical fitness; we are a family," and has championed initiatives rooted in service, including diaper drives, summer food programs, and community outreach efforts that reflect the heart of the YMCA mission.

"Debbie's leadership has been instrumental in turning a community vision into a thriving reality," said Brooke Oliver, CEO. "She has built not only a facility, but a culture of service and belonging that will have a lasting impact for years to come."

Known for her honest, consistent communication

and willingness to listen, Hopke has fostered a culture where staff, members, and families feel heard and valued. "Leadership isn't about having the first answer—it's about being open to better ones," she shared. "That willingness to listen and adjust has shaped me both as a leader and as a person."

Throughout her tenure, Hopke remained focused on ensuring the YMCA served the entire community, carefully balancing diverse perspectives while staying aligned with its mission. Her leadership has left a lasting imprint not only on the organization, but on the people it serves.

The YMCA will conduct a national search to identify its next Branch Executive Director. Hopke will remain in her role through the transition and has committed to supporting the onboarding and mentorship of her successor.

In reflecting on the future, Hopke shared a message for the community: "Continue to believe in the Y, in its impact, and in the value it brings to both individuals and our community. The possibilities are endless."

Additional details regarding transition plans and opportunities to celebrate Hopke's contributions will be shared in the coming months.

About the Eastern Missouri Family YMCA

The Eastern Missouri Family YMCA, located at 309 South Main in Vandalia, Missouri, is dedicated to strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

## Silex Approves Payment To Avoid Water Shutoff Following Special Meeting

BY BRICE CHANDLER EDITOR

Silex Approves Payment to Avoid Water Shutoff Following Special Meeting

The City of Silex has taken action to address its overdue water bill following a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen, avoiding a potential disruption in service.

After months without a quorum, the board convened on April 27 and voted to approve payment of the city's outstanding balance owed to the Pike County Public Water Supply District No. 1, which had issued a May 1 deadline for payment.

The decision follows concerns raised in recent weeks that the city could lose access to its water supply due to an unpaid balance of approximately \$20,000.

Mayor Lynne Luckett later confirmed in a public statement that the delinquent water bill was being paid the following day.

The April 27 meeting marked the first time in months that the board was able to conduct official business. During the meeting,

aldermen discussed the city's financial situation, including outstanding bills and limited available funds.

While the board ultimately approved the water payment, officials acknowledged that additional financial challenges remain, with other unpaid obligations still outstanding.

The water issue stems from a combination of factors, including infrastructure strain following the city's transition to the county water system and delays in approving expenditures due to the board's inability to meet. As previously reported, the city began receiving water through the county system in 2025 after shutting down its own wells due to contamination concerns.

Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Harrell intervened twice during the meeting as discussions between council members became tense. Despite the interruption, the meeting remained productive, hearing questions and comments from concerned residents and business owners.

Sheriff Rick Harrell also announced it will cancel its current contract with the

city.

Sheriff Harrell said the decision to end the agreement was not intended as a penalty, but as a way to ease financial strain on the city. The contract, which provided additional patrol coverage at a cost of about \$3,000 per month, will be discontinued.

Harrell noted that emergency 911 response will remain in place, though residents may notice a reduction in routine patrol activity.

When asked about the roughly \$9,000 still owed under the agreement, county officials said they would work with the city to determine how that balance will be handled.

In addition to addressing the water bill, the board also took action on several other items, including approval of ongoing infrastructure projects and certification of recent election results.

City officials indicated that further meetings and decisions will be necessary in the coming weeks as they continue working to stabilize operations and address remaining financial concerns.

## PACT Sponsoring National Day Of Prayer

On Thursday, May 7, a National Day of Prayer observance will be held at 12:15 p.m., under the direction of Prayer and Action in Christ Together (PACT) at the Bowling Green Church of the Nazarene.

In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and in 1988 that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

This year is a celebration of 75 years of prayer for America. The 2026 National Day of Prayer Theme is a call to stand on the foundation of faith of our Founding Fathers to "Glorify God Among the Nations – Seeking Him in All Generations" inspired from the faithful prayer of King

David recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:24 NASB, "Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."

The annual National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans to pray together in faith, standing on the promises of God.

On Thursday, May 7, 2026, millions of people will gather to intercede for neighbors and nation and pray for those who lead, and those in need. Americans across the country will gather on the National Day of Prayer in parks, churches, schools, and statehouses to lift up prayers and petitions to God. There will be an evening National Broadcast hosted by the National Day

of Prayer Task Force from the U.S. Capitol Washington D.C.

The Broadcast will be a culminating event; a prayer gathering available in every home in America to unite our hearts in prayer. It will be at 7 p.m. CT. At 12:15 p.m. that day, in Bowling Green, people are invited to gather at the Bowling Green Church of the Nazarene to unite in prayer for our country, state, county, and city. Prayers will be led by local community members.

For more information, contact Brenda Haddock, 573-470-1306, or Karen Arico, 314-941-0210. All are invited to join us and participate in this time of intercession for our nation and our fellow citizens.

## 2026 Louisiana High School Graduation Section Pages 8 & 9

## Clopton Competes In Scholar Bowl

## National Championship Tourney

On the weekend of Saturday, April 25, Clopton High School joined 153 of the top quiz bowl teams from small public high schools at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago for the 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament to determine who was the best.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. It is the national version of the game that is often locally called Scholar Bowl. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports, and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

The team, in the Traditional Public Schools Division, was captained by Finn O'Brien, who was joined by Joey Dillon, Gracie Heckrodt, Tristan Malloy, Ridge Mitchell, Wyatt Myers, Katherine Truett, and Kyle West. The team was coached by Andy Van Beber.

Clopton was one of 14 Missouri teams competing at the national champion-

ship. Clopton finished the preliminary rounds with a 4-6 record.

There were some tense moments. Clopton defeated Logan-Magnolia from Iowa by the narrow margin of 120-115 during round 9.

Clopton's shot at the playoffs ended when they lost to Shakamak from Jansville, Indiana in round 8.

The Traditional Public

Schools Division champion was the A team from Russell High School Russell, Kentucky. The Open Division champion was the A team from Park Tudor School Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament (Traditional Public Schools Division)'s field featured 88 teams from 21 states.

## CBA Farmers Market Celebrating 10 Years

May 13, 2026 will mark the opening day for the 10th season for the LCBA Farmers Market. Louisiana Community Betterment Assoc. has been hosting the Market after it was dropped by the previous managers in 2015.

brant farmers market that serves as a hub for local growers and artisans. This market provides residents with access to fresh produce, homemade goods, and



a welcoming space to connect with their neighbors. By supporting local agriculture and small businesses, the association helps strengthen the community and promote sustainable practices.

The official opening day will be Wednesday, May 13. The market is held on Wednesdays only. Hours of op-

eration are 3-6 p.m. An opening bell is rung promptly at 3 p.m., to indicate the beginning of the market. The market will be held weekly until Oct. 14, 2026. The market will be closed the week of the Pike County Fair due to many of the vendors participating in the Fair.

To celebrate the 10th year of operations, and to show appreciation to all the customers who support the vendors, the market will be featuring 10 percent off of a \$10 or more purchase, on the second Wednesday of each month beginning June 10, 2026.

For more information or to become a vendor, please contact Diana Huckstep, Market Manager at 314-640-4420 or by email at [Lmofarmers@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmofarmers@yahoo.com).

## Raintree Awards Scholarships



Raintree Arts Council Board Member Debbie Sullivan, left, awards the \$500 Jamie McIlroy Memorial Scholarship to Ella Weber of Our Lady of Good Success Academy in Louisiana. Ella is the daughter of Bridget and Doug Weber of Bowling Green. The scholarship is one of three awarded by Raintree. (Photo courtesy of Our Lady of Good Success Academy).

Raintree Arts Council has awarded three scholarships to area students for 2026.

Ella Weber of Bowling Green is recipient of the \$500 Jamie McIlroy Memorial

minor in art at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

McIlroy, who died in 2003, was a Clarksville artist and a founding member of Raintree with Bill Blakey, Pat Kerns and Jerry Epperson.

The \$300 For Arts Sake Scholarship was awarded to Taylor Kallash of Bowling Green High School. Taylor is the daughter of Kenneth and Carrie Kallash and plans to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The For Arts Sake Scholarship was established by the late Louisiana artist and former Raintree President Jon Moran. His idea was to encourage students with a passion for art.

The \$500 Performing Arts Award went to Kaycee Charlton of Bowling Green High School. Kaycee is the daughter of Kenneth and Kimberly Charlton and plans to attend Maryville University in St. Louis.

Raintree Arts Council congratulates each of the awardees.



## BGHS Prom King & Queen

Bowling Green High School held its 2026 prom on Saturday, April 27. Karli Dean was crowned queen and Jake Piper was crowned king.

# Community News

## MDC Encourages Motorists To Give Turtles A Brake

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages motorists to give turtles crossing roads a "brake."

Spring rains and warmer weather encourage turtles to emerge from their burrows and begin to search for food and mates. This leads some turtles across roadways — and puts them at risk of being struck, injured, and often killed by motor vehicles. Three-toed box turtles, ornate box turtles, and common snapping turtles are species often seen crossing roads in Missouri.

Turtles spend most of their lives in a small area of habitat but sometimes wander as much as six miles. Young males make up most of the travelers across roads as they search for territories of their own and for females. Females are also crossing roads in search of nesting sites.

Comfort is also a factor. Like other reptiles, turtles are cold-blooded so basking on warm asphalt feels good on cool spring days.

MDC encourages motorists to slow down when they see a turtle in the road and check to be sure they can safely steer around it. If helping a turtle cross a road, keep human safety as the number-one concern. Check for traffic and move the turtle across the road in the direction it is traveling.

For more information on turtles crossing roads, watch this short MDC video at

youtube.com/watch?v=4KaTQ66uBhY.

### Working With MoDOT On Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions

MDC is working with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) on broader wildlife safety efforts with the completion of Missouri's Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Study, conducted by HDR Engineering, Inc. and the Wildlife Connectivity Institute.

The study identifies where wildlife-vehicle conflicts occur most often and recommends strategies to improve safety while keeping animals connected to their habitats. Learn more at [modot.org/wildlife-vehicle-collision-study](http://modot.org/wildlife-vehicle-collision-study)

Alongside the study, MoDOT has launched the ROADS (Roadkill Observation and Data System) app, a citizen-science survey that allows the public to report roadkill or animals near roadways.

Reptiles and amphibians frequently cross roads as they move to breeding or hibernation sites and are often hit by vehicles without being reported. Public observations reported via ROADS will help fill important data gaps and support conservation efforts statewide. Learn more at [modot.org/roadkill-observation-and-data-system-roads](http://modot.org/roadkill-observation-and-data-system-roads)

**Leave Wildlife Wild**  
MDC also advises people to leave wild turtles wild.

Taking a wild turtle and keeping it as a pet usually ends in a slow death for the captive turtle.

While most Missouri turtles live 15 to 30 years, box turtles can live 50 to 80 years, occasionally more than 100 years. They spend their quiet lives eating plants, earthworms and insects. Their shell provides a bony shield to protect them from most natural enemies.

For more information on Missouri turtles, visit MDC's online Field Guide at [mdc.mo.gov/field-guide/full-text-search?query=turtles](http://mdc.mo.gov/field-guide/full-text-search?query=turtles).

## Put Our Classifieds To Work For You

### Elks Lodge Annual George Keith Chicken Barbecue

On Saturday, June 6 the Louisiana Elks Lodge #791 will be grilling up the chicken for the annual George Keith Memorial Chicken barbecue.

Started in 1972, this chicken barbecue raises funds for scholarships for local area students. Hungry patrons get 1/2 chicken, slaw and secret recipe baked beans.

Weather permitting, there will be a tent set up outside for the 'drive thru', and there's always indoor dining where you can sit and visit with friends.

Serving starts at 11 a.m. and limited local area delivery is also available by calling the Lodge at 573-754-5890. Advance tickets are available at the Elks Lodge at 120 N. 5th Street in Louisiana and during the bingo session being held May 13.



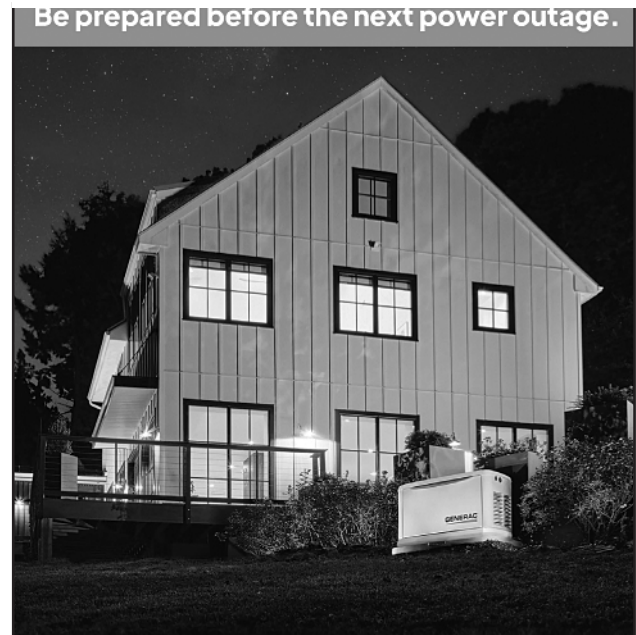
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Feeder Sale Report For 4-27-2026				Monday Receipts 2,700 Head			
1,341 Steers, medium & large				1,074 Heifers, Med. & Large			
		Computer Avg.				Computer Avg.	
22	300 & Down	650	775	18	300 & Down	600	
125	300-400	610	705	137	300-400	505	
361	400-500	530	605	293	400-500	470	
443	500-600	480	545	364	500-600	420	
234	600-700	430	467	201	600-700	380	
99	700-800	380	403	22	700-800	307	
4	800-900	310	330	23	800-900	300	
56	900-1,000	310	325.25		900-1000		
12	Bred Cows - Better Pairs	3000	3800		Others		
18		3700	4700				
					Slaughter Cows	245	
	High Dressing	170	194		Low	130	150
	Bulk	160	170		Thin	80	100
	Slaughter Bulls	200	228				
15	ALL SLAUGHTER STEERS & HEIFERS SOLD ON MON. NOON						
	Choice 2 & 3	242			Steers & Heifers		
		(Top)245			Mixed Select	236	Select
	Receiving Hours Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; on 8 a.m.						
	We appreciate your business both buyers & sellers! For more info contact						
	Jack Harrison - 573-999-3333	Jack Harrison, Owner	Myles McWhorter - 573-263-3759				
	John P. Harrison - 573-220-6197	Glenn Stegeman - 573-619-195					
	Roger Temmen - 573-680-4530	Market Repo	Jarrod Simpson - 573-247-706				
	Justin Oberling - 217-440-573-522-924	Chad Nickelson - 573-631-1627					
	Claude Niemeyer - 573-470-247	24 hour record	Kevin Miliken - 417-588-9307				
	Tyler Harris - 573-220-3333	Carson Poe - 573-550-9133	Gaton Blattel - 417-650-7688				



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**AUCTION & PROPERTY LOCATION:**  
**THE MIDDLETOWN COUNTRY STORE LLC**  
**108 MAIN STREET (HWY 161), MIDDLETOWN, MO 63359**

**PRE-AUCTION VIEWINGS:**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 | 2PM TO 4PM  
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | 2PM TO 4PM

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**Wheeler**

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**CHARLIE NORDWALD**  
**636-795-4552**  
**WHEELERAUCTIONS.COM**

## Call 324-6111 To Place Your Ads

### INVITATION TO BID

#### TWIN PIKE YMCA SIDEWALK

Sealed bids for the Twin Pike YMCA Sidewalk will be received at: Twin Pike Family YMCA, 614 Kelly Ln, Louisiana, MO 63353, until 10:30 o'clock A.M. (Prevailing Local Time) on the 12th day of May 2026, at the Twin Pike YMCA, and at that time will be publicly opened and read. All bids shall be submitted as a Hard Copy.

The proposed work includes:  
Construction of new 5 feet wide concrete ADA compliant sidewalk and ramps with handrail, along with any other work as noted in the plans. The overall project length is approximately 2,150 feet.

A digital copy of the plans and specifications may be purchased through the office of Great River Engineering (GRE), at 417-886-7171 upon payment of \$45.00, which is not refundable. All bidders must purchase plans through Great River Engineering and be on the planholder list in order to bid the project.

This contract requires payment of the prevailing hourly rate of wages for each craft or type of work required to execute the contract as determined by the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and requires adherence to a schedule of minimum wages as determined by the United States Department of Labor. For work performed anywhere on this project, the contractor and the contractor's subcontractors shall pay the higher of these two applicable wage rates. The applicable state wage rates for this contract are detailed in "Annual Wage Order 32", that is attached to this bidding document. The applicable federal wage rates for this contract are the effective Davis-Bacon federal wage rates posted the tenth day before the bid opening date and can be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations>. These supplemental bidding documents have important legal consequences. It shall be conclusively presumed that they are in the bidder's possession, and they have been reviewed and used by the bidder in the preparation of any bid submitted on this project.

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

All bidders must be on MoDOT's Qualified Contractor List per Section 102.2 of the current version of the Missouri Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, including all revisions. The contractor questionnaire must be on file 7 days prior to bid opening.

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

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

The Twin Pike Family YMCA reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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

The DBE Goal for this project is 0%.

No 2nd tier subcontracting will be allowed on this project.

**Twin Pike Family YMCA**

# Community News

## State Representative Chad Perkins Report



Rep. Chad Perkins

"As always, there's a lot of movement—especially as we near the end of session—working to get legislation to the Governor's desk that delivers for Missouri and our district."

-Speaker Pro Tem Chad Perkins

### THIS WEEK IN JEFFERSON CITY Legislation Strengthens Support For Missouri Service Members & Veterans

The General Assembly has approved a wide-ranging military and veterans measure, sending HB 2593 to the governor to expand protections, benefits, and opportunities for those who serve.

The legislation strengthens legal protections for Missouri National Guard members by extending key safeguards to those called to active state duty for more than 30 days, ensuring they are protected in employment and legal matters while serving. It also provides direct financial support by helping cover certain health insurance premium costs during extended activations.

In a major step to support veteran entrepreneurs, the bill establishes a preference for veteran-owned busi-

nesses in state contracting—helping ensure those who served have greater access to economic opportunity when they return home.

The measure also reinforces Missouri's emergency and security capabilities by creating the Cybersecurity Mission Act, authorizing the National Guard to assist in preventing and responding to cyber threats targeting public entities and critical infrastructure.

Additional provisions expand leave protections for public employees serving in the military, increase access to financial assistance through the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund, and improve higher education benefits for Guard members.

The bill further supports service members on a personal level by establishing a program to assist Guard members who become living organ donors, allowing them to serve on paid state active-duty status during recovery. It also expands recognition of military service through updated medals, ribbons, and certificates for a broader range of service members and conflicts.

Overall, the legislation represents a comprehensive and bipartisan effort to better support Missouri's service members, veterans, and their families—strengthening both their opportunities at home and the state's readiness in times of need.

### New Law Strengthens Consumer Protections In Housing Transactions

Missouri is putting stronger protections in place for homeowners with the approval of legislation regulating complex real estate transactions and improving transparency in the housing market. SB 834 establishes

the "Missouri Residential Sale Leaseback Protection Act," cracking down on potentially predatory sale-leaseback agreements by requiring clear, upfront disclosures so homeowners fully understand the terms before signing. The measure empowers both the Attorney General and impacted individuals to take action against bad actors. The law also brings greater stability to mortgage modifications by ensuring changes do not disrupt a loan's legal standing or priority—providing certainty for both borrowers and lenders. Together, these provisions strengthen consumer protections, promote transparency, and reinforce confidence in Missouri's housing market.

### Telehealth Access Expanded For Reciprocity Licensees

The General Assembly has approved legislation to clarify that health care providers licensed in Missouri through reciprocity may deliver care via telehealth—expanding access and modernizing the state's approach to medical services. HB 2974 ensures qualified providers can practice within their scope through virtual care, eliminating ambiguity in current law and supporting continued growth in telehealth. The measure helps increase access to care for Missourians, particularly in rural and underserved areas, while maintaining existing professional standards.

### State Launches New Digital Tools To Improve Access To Government Services

The Missouri Office of Administration has announced updates to the state's digital platforms, including mo.gov and the Missouri Citizen Portal. **See PERKINS On Page 7**

## Pike To Pike ...



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

Happy Mothers' Day on May 10. Take time to remember your moms, whether she's still on this earth or in heaven. No matter how old we all get, the memories of our dear mothers will always be with us.

The Big River Band will not be playing this Saturday due to most of the band having other things going on. The Band will be playing on May 16 at the Red Rooster in Pittsfield with the show starting at 6 p.m. They will start serving food from the band menu at 5 p.m. Hope everyone comes for a great evening.

The beginning of the Band is kind of interesting I think. In December 2024, Herschel Carter asked Jamie Niffen to join Todd Vinyard and himself in a band. Then they asked John Miller and his son Johnny to join, and they played once a month at the Cardinal Inn. The Millers left the band after the April 2025 show due to too many conflicts with school and work. In March, Herschel passed away and a new band BIG RIVER BAND was formed with band members Jamie Niffen, Todd Vinyard, and Bobby Johnston and by this time they had started playing at the Pike County Senior Center, also in April, the fourth Saturday of each month as well as continuing at the Cardinal Inn. Time kept marching on with changes taking place, and in August 2025, all music was discon-

tinued at the Cardinal Inn, but that didn't stop the music as Jamie and Wyvetta met with Paul and Patty Ruble who owns Courtyard Cafe and the Red Rooster Restaurant, both in Pittsfield, and they welcomed the Big River Band who started playing the second Saturday of each month at the Courtyard and more recently at the Red Rooster. They have played at several other places Griggsville Estates, Merna's Kitchen in Bowling Green, the Pittsfield United Methodist Church, and the Eastside Healthcare Center in Pittsfield.

The Pike County Senior Citizens Center at 220 West Adams Street in Pittsfield will be holding their fundraiser fish fry on Thursday, May 14 at 4:30-6 p.m. The menu will be your choice of catfish fillet or buffalo with three set sides which will include this month potato salad, baked beans, and five-cup salad plus your choice of dessert and tea. Eat in or carry out. All ages are welcome. They thank you for your continued support. Questions? Please call 217-285-4969. They also have gift certificates available for any amount.

Pittsfield American Legion Post 152 has Bingo most every Friday evening at 7 p.m. They also have a meal that can be purchased ahead of that starting at 5 p.m. What a great way to get with others and have a good time! With all that being said, I know they will not be having bingo on May 15 because the Jeepers will be in the area.

Birthdays and anniversaries for the week of May 6-12:

- May 6 - Larry Kunzeman
- May 7 - Logan Peebles, Joe and Sue Yackley
- May 8 - Chris Schlieper, Kathy Kindle
- May 9 - Margo Winchell, Susan Shaw
- May 10 - Juanita Chapman, Linda Kimmel
- Mark these dates on your calendar:
- May 9 - Big River Band at Red Rooster at 6 p.m.

May 10 - Mothers' Day  
May 23 - Big River Band at Pike County Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.

May 25 - Memorial Day  
The Spring Fundraiser at the Pike County Senior Center went over well to a good group of people who attended. They had a free-will donation delicious roast beef meal that was enjoyed. The Big River Band provided the music which I believe was enjoyed by all who stayed and listened. In my opinion, there were a lot of volunteer hard working good help at the Center, and that was great. I certainly hope that the donations were good and will be a lot of help to the Pike County Senior Center.

Another Single Seniors + One "Meet, Greet, and Eat" has been planned, and those who have responded to the information by texts or calls, have all expressed positively about the location. It's never too late to call at 1-217-320-8438 and check into Single Seniors + One. To join, you must be single, and 55+ (although most people that attend are 65+ so the age needs to be changed to that). The group meets only once a month at a restaurant that has been chosen several weeks ahead and everyone either gets a text or a call to get that information. Everyone gets a reminder call or text about a week ahead of that date as well. Everyone that attends must be able to pay for their own meal, have their own transportation, and be courteous to others. All the attendees seem to enjoy getting together to enjoy a meal and visit. Again if you are interested in joining, please call or text 1-217-320-8438, and Jamie and Wyvetta have the total right to accept or refuse anyone admission into this group.

The "soft opening" of the newest store in Pittsfield, Cloud IX, 1073 West Washington, on April 29 was very well attended, and Nathan and Lori everyone who came out and all the positive comments.

## MDC Sets Up Migratory Game Bird, Waterfowl Seasons

The Missouri Conservation Commission approved recommendations from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its March 27 open meeting in Jefferson City for upcoming 2026 migratory-game-bird-hunting seasons and 2026-2027 waterfowl-hunting seasons, pending final federal approval.

### 2026 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

Mourning Doves, Eurasian Collared Doves, and White-Winged Doves

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 29

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in possession combined total for all three species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Sora and Virginia Rails

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 9

Limits: 25 daily and 75 in possession combined for both species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Wilson's (Common) Snipe

Season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 16

Limits: 8 daily and 24 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

American Woodcock

Season: Oct. 18 through Dec. 1

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Coots

Season: Same as duck season dates in the respective zones (See dates under Waterfowl Hunting for Ducks)

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in

possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

### 2026-2027 WATER-FOWL HUNTING

Teal

Season: Sept. 12 - 20

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks

Season:

North Zone: Oct. 31 through Dec. 29

Middle Zone: Nov. 7 through Dec. 13 and Dec. 19 through Jan. 10, 2027

South Zone: Nov. 26 - 29 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2027

Bag Limit: 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards (no more than 2 females)

3 wood ducks

2 redheads

2 canvasbacks

2 American black ducks

3 northern pintail

2 scaup for first 45 days and 1 scaup for last 15 days

1 mottled duck

Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag or 18 total, varies by species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Snow Geese (White and Blue Phases) and Ross's Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 20 blue, snow, or Ross's geese daily with no possession limit

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

White-Fronted Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Canada Geese and Brant

Season: Oct. 3 - 10 and Nov. 11 - Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 3 Canada geese and Brant in aggregate daily, 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Light Goose Conservation Order

Season: Feb. 7 through April 30, 2027

Limits: No daily or possession limits

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Methods: For the taking of blue, snow and Ross's geese, hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shells and recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of bird calls or sounds.

### YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

North Zone: Oct. 24 and 25

Middle Zone: Oct. 31 and Nov. 1

South Zone: Nov. 21 and 22

Limits: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Hours: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Requirements: Any person 15 years of age or younger may participate in youth waterfowl hunting days without permit provided they are in the immediate presence of an adult 18 years of age or older. If the youth hunter is not certified in hunter education, the adult must have the required permits and have in his or her possession proof of

hunter education unless exempt. The adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on youth hunting days.

### FALCONRY SEASONS

Falconry Season for Doves

Season: Nov. 30 through Dec. 16

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession, singly, or in the aggregate (any ducks, coots, or mergansers taken by falconers must be included in these limits)

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers

Season: Open during waterfowl seasons (teal, youth, duck) and Feb. 11 through March 10, 2027

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession, singly, or in the aggregate during the regular duck-hunting seasons (including teal and youth seasons) and extended falconry seasons (any doves taken by falconers must be included in these limits)

Hours: Sunrise to sunset during the September teal season, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during the remaining seasons

### HUNTING ZONES

Waterfowl hunting in Missouri is divided into three zones: North, Middle, and South. For a map and more information, visit MDC online at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/waterfowl/duck-zones or refer to MDC's

"2026-2027 Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest," available beginning in July where hunting permits are sold.

### NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENTS

Shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, and for other species as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Get more information on nontoxic-shot requirements, allowed types, and conservation areas requiring use at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/regulations/nontoxic-shot-regulations.

### CHANGE TO FEDERAL

mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species and select the specific species, or get MDC's "2026-2027 Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest," available beginning in July where hunting permits are sold.

## We Welcome Your Local News

## Congratulations

Dyno Nobel, Louisiana, MO plant would like to congratulate the following employees who have service anniversaries in 2026.

**MAY**  
Logan Edmonson  
5 years

## Senior Tax Freeze 2026

New applications are now available! You can pick one up at the Collector's Office or access it online at pikecountycollector.com.

If you are already enrolled in the program, renewal forms have been mailed. Please review your information carefully and return the form to the Collector's Office. Renewal is required to remain in the program.

The deadline for ALL applications and renewals is June 30, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the Collector's Office at 573-324-3281.

Thank you, Tara J. Eskew  
Pike County Collector

## Seeking Bids

Elsberry Special Road District is seeking bids for the demolition of house and removing of all trees and brush. Needs to be hauled away.

Winning bidder is responsible for all DNR and city permits. Must be licensed and bonded.

ESRD has the right to reject any or all bids. Please call 573-898-5823 for directions and questions.

Property located at 103 N. 7th St., Elsberry.

Bids must be received by May 14, 2026.

## Seeking Bids

Elsberry Special Road District is seeking bids for the removal of trees and old fenceline.

Widening of road and shaving of back down so it can be mowed.

Bids must be received by May 14, 2026.

Elsberry Special Road District has the right to reject any or all bids.

Please call 573-898-5823 for directions and questions.

# Obituaries



## Chad Dempsey

Chad Dempsey, 51 of Middletown died Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at DePaul Hospital from complications from a stroke.

On Saturday at 10 a.m., a graveside service will be held with the Masonic Lodge brothers and family at Smyrna Cemetery. Then at 3 p.m., a casual celebration/gathering, visiting, telling stories, light food will be held at Gilbert's Grove, 9275 Pike 410, Middletown, MO. Hope everyone can attend.

Chad was born Nov. 22, 1974 to Thomas Bryson and Jean Jones Dempsey. He grew up in New Hartford, and he attended the Bowling Green School District and graduated with the class of 1993. During his last two years of high school he pursued welding studies in Eolia trade school. He was a very good welder.

In 1997 he decided to change jobs and started at the N.E.C.C. in Bowling Green, Mo. Where he put in twenty four years. Upon retirement he continued farming and helping with the hogs. In 2025 along with his brother, Alan, they opened C. & A. Tire, off of Pike 331.

Being raised on a farm with hogs and row crops, Chad developed a deep appreciation for rural life and its values.

He was also very proud of being a member of Lick Creek No. 302 A.F. & A.M. of Perry.

His proudest accomplishment was being a father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his son, Luke Dempsey and wife, Grace, grandchildren, Nolan, Becknam, and Henry Dempsey, all of Fayetteville, Ark., Xsavier Horton, Kya, Zander Horton, Adrian Horton; and one great-grandchild, August Horton.

Chad is also survived by his siblings, sisters, Elaine Dempsey, Barbara Owens, and Yolanda Maksymiw and husband, Peter; and a brother, Alan Dempsey and wife, Crystal. With a host of nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

His family brought him immense joy and pride throughout his life.

He was predeceased by his grandparents Virgil and Frances Jones, as well as Lyman and Emma Mae Dempsey.

Know for his warm personality and ability to connect with anyone he met, Chad never knew a stranger. A trait he inherited from his father. He enjoyed being around people and cherished the relationships he built throughout his life.

Chad's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. May his legacy bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.



## Clara "Marie" Kunza

Clara "Marie" Kunza, 97, of Troy died peacefully on Friday, April 17, 2026, while surrounded by her family at home.

She was born May 2, 1928, in Millwood to George Martin and Clara Catherine Miller Kientzy. Marie was married to Rudolph "Rudy" Kunza, April 23, 1949, at the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Millwood. Into this union, 10

daughters and one son were born, Janet Schieffer and the late Ron Schieffer, Carolyn McHardy and husband, Bryson, JoAnn Kunza and Harold Schulte, Evelyn Cummins and husband, Coy, Donna Walton and husband, Robert, Mary Sue Callison and husband, Robert "Bob", Phyllis Murphy and husband, Jim, Jeanne Hart and husband, Doug, Patty Pikey and husband, Rich, James Kunza and wife, Genedine, and Chris Kunza Mennemeyer and Kelly Hardcastle.

Marie graduated from Silex High School in 1946. She excelled in basketball, softball, and academics. During her lifetime, she was a devoted, tireless servant to her family, known for her delicious resourceful cooking.

She is survived by her children, 29 grandchildren, and 37 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, six siblings, one granddaughter, and two sons-in-law.

Visitation was Wednesday, April 22 from 3-8 p.m., at McCoy-Blossom Funeral Homes & Crematory.

Visitation was held Thursday, April 23 from 8:30-9:30 a.m., at the funeral home.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Troy. Officiating was Fr. Eddie Voltz. Interment followed at St. Alphonsus Cemetery, Silex.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to L.C.C.O.A (Lincoln County Council of Aging) or Sacred Heart School.

Family and friends may visit their website at mccoymblossomfh.com to sign the online guest register.

## Kenneth L. Young

Kenneth L. Young, 94, of Frankford died Monday, April 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by those who loved him.

Funeral services will be Tuesday (today) at 11 a.m., at Grand View Funeral Home, Pastor Larry Cornelius will officiate. Burial will be in Grand View Burial Park.

A visitation celebrating Kenneth will be held at 10 a.m., until time of the service at the Grand View Funeral Home.

Kenneth was born July 15, 1931, in Pike County to Harvey S. and Viola C. Barker Young. He was united in marriage to Beverly Sue Bowles on Sept. 12, 1959, at Curryville Baptist Church.

Survivors include his two daughters, Evelyn Sue Bontz and husband, Steve, and Karen Lynn Miller; grandchildren, Christopher Bontz and wife, Dona, Ryan Bontz and wife, Amy, Christa Myers and husband, John. Along with his six great-granddaughters; eight great-great-grandchildren, and two on the way.

He was preceded in death by wife, Beverly Sue, who died March 20, 2021, as well as his parents, in-laws, and granddaughter, Cassandra Bontz. Along with three sisters, Elsie Potts, Bonnie Smith, and Annie Elizabeth, and four brothers, Roy S. Young, David W. Young, Joseph Fedrick Young, and Floyd Young.

Kenneth graduated from Frankford High in 1950. He farmed for many years while working at Hercules for 31 years. He raised cows, pigs, chickens, and sheep with the help of family. Kenneth also enjoyed gardening, being in the woods, and watching humming birds. He found great joy in spending time with family and friends on the farm.

A veteran, Kenneth honorably served in the United States Marine Corp during the Korean War.

Kenneth was a member of Salem Baptist Church where he was active in teaching Sunday School.

Pallbearers will be Will Ruther, Johnathon Vesey, John Myers, Jeff Bruhl, Nick Crow, Ryan Bontz, and Chris Bontz. Honorary pallbearers will be Christa Myers, Katie Ruther, Jessica Arnold, Lindsay Bruhl, Madison Vesey, and Callie and Mia Bontz.



## Donte LaMont Burse

Donte LaMont Burse was born May 30, 1970, to Ben Burse Jr. and Vivian E. Blackwell Burse Farris. He departed this life on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ben Burse Jr.; a brother, Benny Wilkerson; one sister, Dionne Burse; maternal grandparents, Mayme Mabon and Leon Aldo Blackwell; and paternal grandparents, Ben Burse Sr. and Everlena Burse.

Donte leaves to cherish his memory his loving mother, Vivian Farris; three brothers, Ben L. Burse, Gemiel Burse, and Jason Chatman; a sister, Auriel Burse Sims; and a host of relatives and friends.

Donte was a proud graduate of Louisiana High School. He continued his education, earning a bachelor of science degree in biology with a minor in Spanish, as well as a master's degree in project management. He also obtained certifications in surgical technology and phlebotomy.

A man with a zest for life, Donte's journey carried him across the world, including travels to Africa, Australia, China, Vietnam, and Puerto Rico. He embraced new experiences and cultures with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Donte had a heart for guiding others. He founded a nonprofit counseling program for young men known as

WEROCC, where he sought to mentor, uplift, and encourage the next generation.

He loved dancing, singing, speaking, fishing, and reading. In his later days, he expressed a growing interest in culinary arts, always seeking to learn and explore something new.

He served his country in the military, a reflection of his commitment and strength.

Known for his charisma and friendly nature, Donte had a lively sense of humor that could light up a room. His presence brought joy, laughter, and connection to those around him. Though he is no longer with us in the physical sense, his spirit, his laughter, and the memories he created will live on in all who knew and loved him.

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

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

Online condolences can be sent at collierfuneral.com.



## Charles W. Grisham Jr.

Charles W. Grisham Jr., 87, of Vandalia died Saturday, April 25, 2026, at the Baptist Home of Tri-County in Vandalia.

Charlie was born to the late Charles William and Juanita Simms Grisham.

He is survived by a brother, Sherry Grisham and wife, Bernie Bradenton, Fla.; as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Charlie worked in food delivery services for the Fulton State Hospital in Fulton prior to moving to Vandalia to live with his mother. Later, he made his home at the Baptist Home of Tri-County.

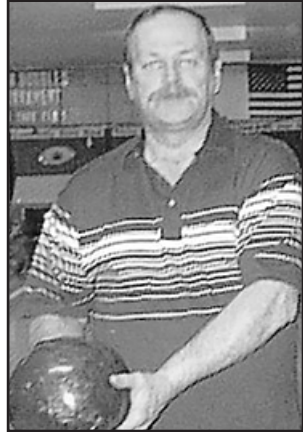
He enjoyed visiting with people, putting puzzles to-

gether, attending church, fishing, and gardening at the nursing home. He also had a special love for his brother's pet, Piper.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Steven Scott Grisham, and two sisters, Connie Moore, and Sheila Smith.

Arrangements are under the direction of Waters Funeral Home.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



## Carl Lee Yager Sr.

Carl Lee Yager, Sr., 74, of Vandalia died Sunday, April 26, 2026, at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

A private graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 16 at Vandalia Cemetery, with Bro. Kenny Haddock officiating. Interment will follow at the cemetery.

Carl was born Dec. 12, 1951, in Mexico, the son of Marvin C. Yager Sr., and Virginia A. Rinker Yager. He was united in marriage to Donna Lee Merson Yager on Aug. 4, 1972, in Baltimore, Maryland. She preceded him in death, and their years together were a source of great love and companionship.

Carl is survived by a brother, Marvin Yager and wife, Rose of Vandalia; two sisters, Carla Hobbs of Martinsburg and Janet Lynn of Farber; a daughter-in-law, Tanya Yager of Tucson, Ariz.; and two grandchildren, Gene Yager and Victoria Yager of Tucson, Ariz.; as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will sadly miss him.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, David Lee Yager and Carl "Buddy" Yager, Jr.; and one sister, Carlotta Yager.

Carl proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1970-72, fulfilling his duty with honor and dedication.

He was employed as an electrician at Harbison-Walker Refractories in Vandalia, where he was known for his strong work ethic and dependable nature throughout his years of service.

Carl was baptized at Spencer Creek Baptist Church. He found great enjoyment in spending time at the bowling alley, where he not only bowled but also visited with many friends. He had a lifelong interest in RC planes, trains, and slot cars, hobbies that brought him much enjoyment over the years. Carl also loved fishing and spending time outdoors. Above all, Carl treasured the time he spent with his family and friends, especially the moments shared with his beloved wife, Donna. His presence, stories, and companionship will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dylan Stowers, Justin Stowers, Tony Yager, Joe Resor, Zach Scrogin, Aaron Hull, and Wayne Baker.

Arrangements are under the direction of Waters Funeral Home.



## Gerald 'Gerry' L. Green

Gerald "Gerry" L. Green, 79, of Louisiana died Sunday, April 26, 2026 at Maple Grove Nursing Home in Louisiana.

He was born May 18, 1946 in Louisiana to Daren and Katherine Turnbough Green. Gerry attended the local schools with his sister, Karen. After attending college, he joined the Army National Guard Reserves, where he served in the military police. Gerry had four children, Laura, Jarrod, William, and Valerie. He enjoyed the special times spent with his family and friends, especially the times spent with his sister, Karen, who helped take care of her "little bro".

Gerry was a talented woodworker and could make anything he set his mind to. Fishing, boating, going on cruises and working in the yard were things he loved to do. Most of all, he was kept company by his faithful cat companions, Boo Boo, Patches, and Little Bit. Gerry worked on the Louisiana Police Force in the early 1970's. He then entered the construction field until he retired as a construction superintendent. He was employed for many years with Brandt Construction in Indiana. Once he retired, Gerry moved back to Missouri to be closer to family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother who will be sadly missed and long-remembered by all those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by four children, Laura Shellhorse and husband Mark, Jarrod and Tammi Green, William Green, and Valerie Green and husband, Sergey Grechukhin; four grandchildren, Ashley Heigl and Robbie, Brian Shellhorse, Molly Green, Katie McConnell, and Buster; six great-grandchildren, Lane Shellhorse, Camden Heigl, Carter Heigl, Ellie Heigl, and Anna and Tommy McConnell; a sister, Karen Green Cashman; one nephew, Jeff Cashman; other relatives and friends.

Gerry was preceded in death by his parents, a nephew, Troy Green and wife, Sheryl.

A private memorial service to be held.

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



## Penny Darlene Fry

Penny Darlene Fry, 64, of Missouri died peacefully Sunday, April 12, 2026, at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

She was born Sept. 21, 1961, in St Charles to Robert and Shirley Byington, who preceded her in death.

Penny was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.

She is survived by her six children, Sandra Morrison, Shane Fry, Shannon Fry, Susan Blair, DeWayne Clark, and Dawn Robertson. She also leaves behind a large and loving family of grandchildren, Nicholas, Zackery, Steven, Anthony, Isabella, Johnathon, Cadessa, Lucian, Aspen, Easton, Charlie, Isaiah, Atticus, Damien, Krusoe, and one precious grandchild expected in September 2026.

She is also survived by her siblings, Patty, Gayle, Chris, and Lawrence.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Marshall "Butch" Byington and David Byington.

Penny spent much of her life in Missouri, where she dedicated herself to caring for her family. She found great joy in babysitting her grandchildren and being a constant, loving presence in their lives.

She had a deep love for animals, especially her beloved dog, Gus. She also enjoyed researching her family tree, taking pride in learning about her roots and preserving her family history.

Penny will be remembered for her selfless heart and her willingness to help

others, even when she had little herself. For many years she was known affectionately as the "Mother of Brookstone," a reflection of the care, strength, and compassion she showed to those around her.

Above all, Penny was a dedicated and hardworking mother who did everything in her power to provide for her children. Though life was not always easy, she made sure her family always had a roof over their heads, a bed to sleep in, and food on the table. Her strength, resilience, and unconditional love will never be forgotten.

Penny's legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and all those whose lives she touched. She will be deeply loved and greatly missed.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Penny's life on Saturday starting at 12 p.m., at the Bowling Green Public Library & Community Center.



## Stephen Edward Scherder

Stephen Edward Scherder, 72, of New Hartford died Sunday, April 26, 2026, at his home.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday at 10:30 a.m., at St. Clement Catholic Church with Fr. Henry Ussher officiating. Burial was in St. Clement Catholic Cemetery.

A memorial visitation was Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the church.

Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory handled the cremation rites and arrangements.

Stephen was born May 24, 1953, in Mexico to Wilmer and Joyce Brown Scherder. They both preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death was a brother, Tom Scherder.

Those surviving to carry on Stephen's memory are his sons, Eric Scherder and wife, Kayla of Huxley, Iowa, Curtis Scherder and wife, Christina of Lake St. Louis, and Matthew Scherder and wife, Mary Ann of New Hartford; grandchildren, Reese, Rylee, Abigail, Mason, Addison, and Isabelle Scherder; a brother, Frank Scherder and wife, Nancy of New Hartford; nieces and nephews, Wesley and Ryan Scherder, Trent Straube, Christina Hays, Jason Straube, Ricky Allessworth, Carmen Charlton, and Seth Straube; along with many cousins and extended family.

Stephen grew up and lived his entire life in the New Hartford community. He attended St. Clement Catholic School and graduated from Bowling Green High School in 1971 where he was active in FFA and the yearbook staff. Stephen was a self-employed farmer along with his brother, Frank, until 1998. He later worked at Central Elevator, Royster Clark, Co-Op, and Nutrien in crop service industries. Stephen was a member of St. Clement Church and the St. Clement Knights of Columbus. He served on the FFA Advisory Board and was the Pike County Farm Family of the Year in 1992. Stephen also served on the St. Clement Equipment Board.

He was an avid hunter, hunting deer, dove, and quail. He maintained an impressive pocketknife collection. You could often find Stephen cooking at the Pike County Fair, Pike County Pork Days, and the Knights of Columbus picnic. Stephen loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, whom he adored.

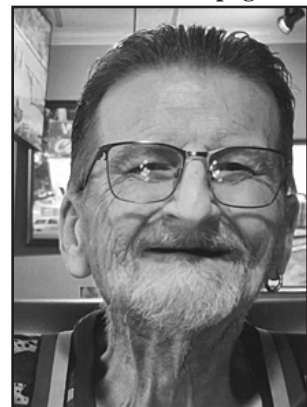
Memorials may be made to Farm Safety Day, c/o Pike County Farm Bureau or Nutrien.

**See OBITUARIES on page 5**

# Community News

## OBITUARIES

Continued from page 4



### Ronald 'Ron' Marion Singleton

Ronald "Ron" Marion Singleton, 68, died peacefully at his home on Thursday, April 21, 2026 surrounded by his family and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on April 11, 2026 in the form of a block party. No other services will be held.

Ron was born Jan. 7, 1958 in Mason City, Iowa to Walter and Tillie Skinner Singleton. He grew up in Bowling Green.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Eileen England Singleton; sons, Bradley Singleton and wife, Roseann, Jeffery Singleton and wife, Dena; a daughter, Heather Burse; grandchildren, Tyler Singleton, Denell Burse, Parker Burse, Francis Singleton, Asher Singleton, and Levi Singleton; sisters, Linda Beasley and husband, Larry and Lisa Koester and husband, John; brothers, Tim Singleton and John Singleton and wife, Sandy; along with many nieces, nephews, and other special relatives. Also, a special friend, Ryan Richards that helped him with anything.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Michael Singleton, a special granddaughter, Secara Burse, and a sister, Charlotte Singleton Omer.

Ron served in the Army National Guard and left with an honorable discharge. He worked for Vigortone Feed as a warehouseman in Mexico. He then was employed with Geri Systems of Louisiana working in the warehouse, packing orders, making deliveries to nursing homes, and delivering oxygen. He left employment when his health failed him.

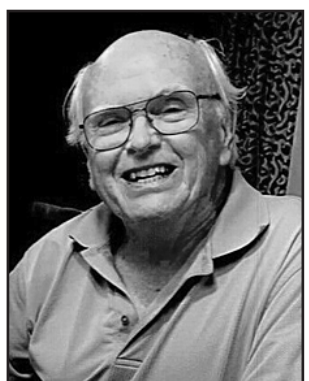
Ron was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He cherished his family above all else. Ron was known for his warm smile and gentle heart. He also had a witty and quick sense of humor. His house was also known as the cinnamon house since he loved to keep the house smelling nice at all times.

He enjoyed bowling, fishing, hunting, and his

days of being in the Fantasy Football League serving up the hottest wings around. He will be remembered fondly by everyone that knew him.

Ron's legacy of love, strength, stubbornness, and devotion will live on in the hearts of his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him. He will be deeply missed.

Memorial donations may be made to donor's choice, c/o Collier Funeral Home in



### Stanley Lee Hager

Stanley Lee Hager, 79, of Little River, S.C., died Monday, March 23, 2026.

He was the beloved husband of Mary Hager. They were married for 50 years.

Stan was a loving and beloved husband, father, and member of the community.

He grew up on farms in Illinois and Missouri. He attended the University of Illinois as an undergraduate and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He lived and worked in West Virginia as a polymer chemist and earned numerous patents and awards for his work before retiring with his wife, Mary to South Carolina.

Stan was involved in the community, volunteering as a coach for his children's Little League teams for many years. Once moving to South Carolina, he and Mary volunteered with the North Myrtle Beach Sea Turtle Patrol and Current Transitions as well as helping his son, Steven with his small business. Stan was also a devout, longtime parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in North Myrtle Beach.

Stan is survived by his wife, Mary; a brother, David; many cousins; his children, Jean, Steven, and Janet; and a grandson, Alex.

The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Current Transitions or the North Myrtle Beach Sea Turtle Patrol.

A Blessing service was held at Lee Funeral Home and Crematory in Little River, S.C., on March 28, at 11 a.m.

Visitation followed at Lee Funeral Home and Crematory in Little River, S.C., on March 28 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.



### Victoria 'Vicki' Waggoner

Victoria "Vicki" Ries-Waggoner, 82, took her last journey on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

She was born May 17, 1943, in Wisconsin and spent her life building a legacy of love, faith, and kindness. Vicki lived in several places throughout her life, including Louisiana and Jacksonville, Fla. In her later years, she stayed with her daughter in Clarksville, where she was surrounded by the love of family.

She was preceded in death by a son, Curtis, and one grandson, Tommy; as well as her parents. And some siblings.

Vicki was a devoted mother to her four children, Tammi and husband, Craig, Curtis and wife, Candy, Thomas and wife, Susan, and Matt. She was a proud grandmother to Jeffrey Ries and wife, Jodie, Kirstin Ries, Katlyn Ries, Craig Dixon and wife, Hope, McCaylee McPike, Maleek McPike, Curtis Ries, and Ashlie Waggoner. She was also a cherished great-grandmother to Greyson Lindsay, Dallas Ries, Anniston Ries, Jalaya Ries, Javon Ries, Jaylen Ries, Latrell Weber, Leah, Bailey, and Jackson, the newest addition to the family. She is also survived by 14 brothers and sisters, along with many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Vicki was a dedicated and hardworking woman. She owned and operated a clothing store in Louisiana for many years, where she built lasting relationships in the community. Later, she moved to Florida and worked as a kitchen designer, sharing her creativity and talent with others.

She will be remembered for her strong faith, her love of life, her kind and caring heart, and a smile that could light up any room. Vicki had a special gift for making people feel welcome and valued, and her presence will be deeply missed.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday from 3-5 p.m., at the 4th Street Event Center in Louisiana.

Family and friends are invited to come, share memories, and enjoy a light meal together in celebration of Vicki's life. (Side dishes,

desserts are welcomed and can be dropped off at event center.)

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

Online condolences can be sent at collierfuneral.com.



### Rheva Tiller Tratchel

Rheva Tiller Tratchel died Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the King's Daughters Home in Mexico, at the age of 100.

Memorial services will be held at 12 p.m., Thursday, May 7, at Arnold Funeral Home, with burial to follow in East Lawn Memorial Park.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 10 a.m., until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Rheva was born Sept. 6, 1925, on a farm south of Vandalia to Hurley Grant and Leah Ruth Angel Beedle. She married Everette Tiller on June 14, 1946, in Vandalia, and together they raised four children, Richard, Steven, Rebecca, and Kevin. Everette preceded her in death on June 30, 1987. On May 14, 1988, she married Robert S. Tratchel and was blessed with an extended family through the Paul and Genevieve Barker family. Robert preceded her in death on Feb. 19, 2007.

A 1943 valedictorian of Vandalia High School, Rheva began her strong

work ethic early, working at the Ben Franklin five-and-dime store during her junior and senior years. During World War II, she moved to Kansas City to work at the Pratt & Whitney defense plant. She later devoted herself to her family as a homemaker until her husband's injury prompted her to return to the workforce. Rheva worked at Audrain Medical Center and later served as a bookkeeper and receptionist for Dr. Charles Garcia. She then worked for Dr. Harry Koehn until her retirement in 1989.

Rheva was a devoted member of First Baptist Church, where she faithfully served in many roles, including Sunday School teacher, department director, class secretary, nursery worker, ABC group member, and president of the Women's Mission Group. She was also active in the Helping Hand King's Daughters Circle, serving as secretary for several years.

She generously gave her time as a volunteer at the Missouri Veterans Home and Audrain Medical Center.

Rheva found great joy in her family and treasured the time spent with them. She enjoyed playing cards and games, attending country music shows, dancing, reading, volunteering, and

being involved in her church and church family.

She is survived by two children, Steven Tiller and wife, Georgia of Mexico, and Rebecca Guethle of Arizona; a daughter-in-law, Melania Tiller of Olathe, Kan.; four granddaughters, Lisa Smith and husband, Rick of Mexico, Amy Payne and husband, Jason of Mexico, Jennifer Koehn and husband, Randy of Olathe, Kan., and Sarah Endres and husband, Dave of Arizona; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren, with one on the way; one sister, Betty Abbington of Vandalia; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husbands, Everette and Robert she was preceded in death by two sons, Richard Tiller and Kevin Tiller; her siblings, Eugene Beedle and wife, Alma, Donald Beedle and wife, Sue, William Beedle and wife, Alger, Wesley Beedle, Viola Potter and his, Calvin, and Juanita Brenemann and husband, Leland and a brother-in-law, Raymond Abbington.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church or the King's Daughters Home, c/o Arnold Funeral Home, 425 S. Jefferson Street, Mexico, MO 65265. See OBITUARIES On Page 10

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia shall conduct a public hearing to discuss the Agency's 5-year (Annual) PHA Plan, CFP Plan, ACOP, & HOTMA Updates, and to invite public comment regarding the plan. The hearing shall be conducted at the Housing Authority's office located at 200 S. Main, Vandalia, MO 63382, on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 1:30 p.m. The proposed plan will be available for inspection on July 10, 2026, at the housing authority's office.

All public comments will be considered before the plan is adopted.

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All public comments will be considered before the plan is adopted.

**Put  
Our  
Classifieds  
To Work  
For  
You**

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Merger of the Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia and the Housing Authority of the City of Bowling Green

Effective October 1, 2026, the Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia will merge with the Housing Authority of the City of Bowling Green.

Upon completion of the merger, all Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs previously administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia, will be merged with and administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Bowling Green.

This strategic merger is in the best interest of the Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia and its residents. By combining resources, operational expertise, and administrative capacity with the Housing Authority of the City of Bowling Green, the merger will deliver greater efficiency, improved service delivery, enhanced program stability, and stronger long-term sustainability for all participating families and communities.

Residents, and program participants will continue to receive uninterrupted services during and after the transition. All current leases, contracts, and assistance will remain in full effect, with the helpful and attentive administration continuing to aid both locations.

For questions, comments, or additional information, please attend a public meeting scheduled at the Housing Authority of the City of Vandalia on Wednesday July 15th 1:30 p.m.. Any comments should be submitted in writing.

This merger represents a positive step forward for affordable housing in our region. We appreciate the continued support and patience of our residents, partners, and stakeholders as we work together to build a stronger, more effective housing authority.

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This merger represents a positive step forward for affordable housing in our region. We appreciate the continued support and patience of our residents, partners, and stakeholders as we work together to build a stronger, more effective housing authority.

# The People's Tribune

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# THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES



# Community News

## Pike DAR Chapter Honors First Responders

Each year the Pike County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honors the First Responders in Louisiana, Clarksville and Eolia with an Appreciation Certificate and treats at one of their meetings.

This year these were presented once again to the following First Responders: Louisiana Police Department and Louisiana Fire Department; Buffalo Township Fire Department; Pike County Memorial Hospital EMS/EMT Department;

Clarksville Volunteer Fire Department; and the Eolia Volunteer Fire Department.

The Pike County DAR Chapter only has five active members and two inactive members who live in Louisiana. The remainder of the total number of 19 members are spread from Texas to Florida.

However, all the Chapter members are very supportive of the work DAR and our Chapter does and, therefore, are financially generous with our many projects. The chapter is excited in

that they currently have a family of five ladies and four other possible new members, who are in the process of gathering their papers, etc., to join.

The current members say they can hardly wait.... "Many hands make light work!"

Regent Orf said the Pike County DAR Chapter greatly appreciates the work of the First Responders each year as they continue to protect the homes, businesses, farms and people of Pike County."



Pike County Chapter DAR Treasurer Liz Wallace is pictured presenting to Officer Kaitlyn Alexandro and Chief Josh Baker.



Pike County Memorial Hospital EMS Director Chris Smith with presenter Pike County DAR Chaplain Jill Love Perkins.



Clarksville Volunteer Fire Department, Clarksville, Firefighter Scott Hipes with presenter Pike County Chapter DAR Secretary Alice Middleton Holtzhouse.



Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Department members, Joey Cox and Cole Chidster with presenter Pike County Chapter DAR Vice Regent Cindy Blaylock.



Eolia Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter Ben Cobb. The presenter was Pike County DAR Chapter Regent Sandy Orf.



Pictured is the Louisiana Fire Department, front row, (l-r): Hailey Merida, Kyle Smith, Ryan Chatman, Cameron Alspaw, Cory Hoffman, Josh Blair, Mark Starman, and Fire Chief Clinton Keller. Second row: Jeff Snyder, Amber McIntire, and Clayton Alspaw. Presenter was Pike County Chapter DAR Treasurer Liz Wallace.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS**

**SCHOOL READY?**  
**BGE Kindergarten Screening**

Must be 5 by Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Book your screening today for May 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>

ECC students were already screened

## Perkins

Continued from page 3

provides a secure, personalized dashboard where users can track applications, view renewals, and access frequently used services in one place.

State officials say the goal is to improve the overall user experience by making government services more accessible and responsive. Feedback tools are also available on the website to help guide future improvements.

Users can access my.mo.gov by selecting "Login" on mo.gov or visiting the portal directly, and AskMO is available through the chat icon on the website.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS**

**PETE NASIR AUDIO SERVICES**  
 573-473-2273  
 pnasir1955@gmail.com

**Cut Rate Plumbing, Sewer & Drain Service**  
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 "Specializing in home repair, plumbing, drain cleaning & service work"

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 Plumbing • Electric  
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 Concrete Vanity & Kitchen Tops - Window & Door Replacement  
 Tex Ceiling Fix  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
 Call Ty Hume - Cell 573-470-6148

# Louisiana High School


## Commencement Ceremony

### Friday, May 8 7 p.m.



**Brown's Tire & Auto**  
Bowling Green • 573-470-8170  
*proudly presents*

**Weston Parker Deters**



*Weston Parker Deters is the son of Eric and Ashley Deters of Bowling Green. He plans to seek employment in heavy machinery.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Mattie Erin Chandler**



*Mattie Erin Chandler is the daughter of Amber Hawthorne and Matt Chandler of Louisiana. She plans to attend DI or OZ college to play softball and major and exercise science.*

**Kimberly Chandler Photography**  
Louisiana • 573-470-6900  
*proudly presents*

**Emilie Diane Chandler**



*Emilie Diane Chandler is the daughter of Brice and Kimberly Chandler of Louisiana. She plans to attend Flagler College in Florida to study film production.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Levi Mason Gamble**



*Levi Mason Gamble is the son of Jessica Gamble and Steve Gamble of Louisiana. He plans to seek employment.*

**River City Towing & Repair**  
Louisiana • 573-754-2642  
*proudly presents*

**Claire Alivia Crigger**



*Claire Alivia Crigger is the daughter of Jennifer Guertzgen and John Crigger of Louisiana. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to major in elementary education.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Jordyn Elizabeth Boehlein**



*Jordyn Elizabeth Boehlein is the daughter of Brooke Rogers and Matt Boehlin of Louisiana. She plans to attend MACC-Hannibal for one year then transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia to major in animal science.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Madilynn Elizabeth Jenkins**



*Madilynn Elizabeth Jenkins is the daughter of Ashley and Tim Jenkins of Louisiana. She plans to attend MACC-Hannibal for one year then transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia to major in animal science.*

**Allparts**  
Louisiana • 573-754-4545  
*proudly presents*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*


**Michela Jo Lesley**



*Michela Jo Lesley is the daughter of Charles and Denise Lesley of Louisiana. She plans to attend State Fair Community College-Sedalia to study dental hygiene.*


**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Henry Kane Mayfield**




*Henry Kane Mayfield is the son of Tasha Mayfield and Lawrence Griffith of Louisiana. He plans to work in HVAC.*

**Braedon Daniel Cox**



*Braedon Daniel Cox is the son of Stephanie Miller and Brandon Miller of Louisiana. He plans to seek employment and attend college.*

**Gwendelynn Rain Reed**



*Gwendelynn Rain Reed is the daughter of Tommy and Amber Reed of Louisiana. She plans to study dental hygiene.*

**Lynn's Heritage House**  
Louisiana • 573-754-4020  
*proudly presents*

**Brooklynn Nicole Harvey**



*Brooklynn Nicole Harvey is the daughter of Lynn Harvey and Teresa Gill of Louisiana. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to master in speech, language, and hearing sciences to become a speech therapist.*

**Congratulations, Graduates!**




**Isabella Brae Lentz**



*Isabella Brae Lentz is the daughter of Kevin and Christina Lentz of Louisiana. She plans to finish nursing school then attend medical school to become an anesthesiologist.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Reece Madisyn Wommack**



*Reece Madisyn Wommack is the daughter of Daneal and Stormye Wommack. She plans to attend Neosho Community College to play basketball and become a pediatric respiratory therapist.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*


**Tyler James Norvell**



*Tyler James Norvell is the son of Heather Horton and Jud Norvell Louisiana. He plans to become a union electrician.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Jared Andrew Wilkinson**



*Jared Andrew Wilkinson is the son of Tom and Lisa Wilkinson of Louisiana. He plans to own a business.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*


**Abigail Elizabeth Miller**



*Abigail Elizabeth Miller is the daughter of Emily Miller and Randy Miller of Louisiana. She plans to attend college to study interior design.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Jericho Thomas Olson Hoaglin**



*Jericho Olson Hoaglin is the son of Lydia Hoaglin of Louisiana he plans to attend UMSL to become a forensic analyst.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*

**Sheamus Matthew Schepard**



*Sheamus Matthew Schepard is the son of Jacqueline McLaughlin and Auston Schepard Louisiana. He was plans to take a gap year than attend state Tech-Linn to study HVAC.*

**Louisiana Bulldog Boosters**  
Louisiana  
*proudly presents*


**Quincy Michael Mooney**



*Quincy Michael Mooney is the son of Josh and Michele Mooney of Louisiana. He plans to seek employment.*

*No Photo Available*

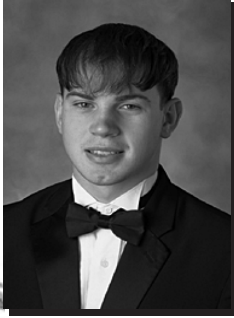
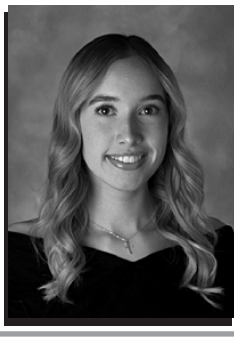
**Alivia Lynn Perrine**



*Alivia Lynn Perrine is the daughter of Carmen Ford and Andrew Perrine of Louisiana. She plans to attend Missouri S&T-Rolla to major in biology.*

**Kimberly Chandler Photography**  
Louisiana • 573-470-6900  
*proudly presents*



**William Allen Chidster**  
*William Allen Chidster is the son of Mike and Tina Chidster of Louisiana. He plans to attend MACC then transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia to major in physical therapy*

**Alyssa Rene Christensen**  
*Alyssa Rene Christensen is the daughter of Sean and Kristen Christensen of Louisiana. She plans to attend MACC for two years, then transfer to the University of Missouri-Columbia to become IVF/fertility nurse.*

**Poage Ford**  
Bowling Green • 573-324-5130  
*proudly presents*

**Jocelyn Kay Gray**  
*Jocelyn Kay Gray is the daughter of Chris and Elaine Gray of Louisiana. She plans to attend Culver-Stockton College-Canton with a goal of opening her own bakery/café.*

**Noah Matthew McDowell**  
*Noah Matthew McDowell is the son of Edward and Ashley McDowell and Megan Love-ridge of Louisiana. He plans to seek employment.*

**Hickerson Shoe Repair**  
Bowling Green • 573-324-3866  
*proudly presents*


**Jackson Cole Fite-Karmel**  
*Jackson Cole Fite-Karmel is the son of Tracy Fite and Keith Karmel of Louisiana. He plans to study orthopedic surgery and engineering.*




**Makayla Marie Bolin**  
*Makayla Marie Bolin is the daughter of Charles Turnbaugh of Louisiana. She plans to study phlebotomy.*

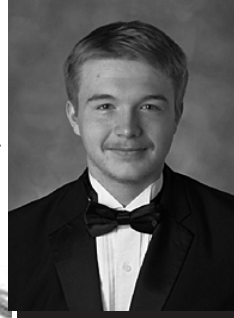
**The People's Tribune**  
Bowling Green • 573-324-6111  
*proudly presents*

**Shyann Nicole Shade**  
*Shyann Nicole Shade is the daughter of Amy Shade and James Shade of Louisiana. She plans to study dental hygiene.*



**Kimberly Chandler Photography**  
Louisiana • 573-470-6900  
*proudly presents*

**Griffin Thomas Murry**  
*Griffin Thomas Murry is the son of Seth Murry and Heather Winchell of Louisiana he plans to attend a junior college then attend a four-year school.*



**Maple Grove Lodge**  
Louisiana • 573-754-5456  
*proudly presents*

**Garrett Santiago**  
*Garrett Santiago is the son of Courtney Woolridge and Valerio Santiago of Louisiana. He plans to become a registered nurse.*



**State Representative Chad Perkins**  
Paid for by Chad Perkins 4 Missouri Letha Ingram, Treas.  
*proudly presents*


**Isabel Grace Parsons**  
*Isabel Grace Parsons is the daughter of Rob and Heather Parsons of Louisiana. She plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to earn a bachelor degree in elementary education.*



**Wishing The Class Of 2026 Best Of Luck!!!**


**People's Bank & Trust**  
Louisiana • 573-754-5517  
*proudly presents*

**Landen David Cox**  
*Landen David Cox is the son of Joey Cox and Meagan Cox of Louisiana. He plans to seek employment.*





**Brice J. Chandler, Author Louisiana**  
*proudly presents*

**Benjamin Lee Macleay**  
*Benjamin Lee Macleay is the son of Diana Macleay and Gordon Macleay of Louisiana. He plans to enter the United States Marine Corps.*



**The People's Tribune**  
Bowling Green • 573-324-6111  
*proudly presents*

**Victoria Jaelin Woods**  
*Victoria Jaelin Woods is the daughter of Jesse Woods and Teresa McKinnon of Louisiana. She plans to attend MACC for two years, then transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia to obtain a bachelor degree in business.*


**Braedon Daniel Cox**  
*No Information Provided*



**Luciano Navarro**  
*Luciano Navarro is the son of Jessie Perez-Navarro and Jennifer Werner of Louisiana. He plans to join the United States Marine Corps and attend a trade school after his service.*

**River City Towing & Repair**  
Louisiana • 573-754-2642  
*proudly presents*

**Leah Kyndal Baker**  
*Leah Kyndal Baker is the daughter of Jodie Ries and William Baker of Louisiana. She plans to become a professional photographer and attend UCMO.*



**State Representative Chad Perkins**  
Paid for by Chad Perkins 4 Missouri Letha Ingram, Treas.  
*proudly presents*

**Emma Katherine Nikole Nevis-Norvell**  
*Emma Catherine Nikole Nevis-Norvell is the daughter of Lance Norvell, Libby Nevis, and Heather Flanagan of Louisiana. She plans to seek employment.*

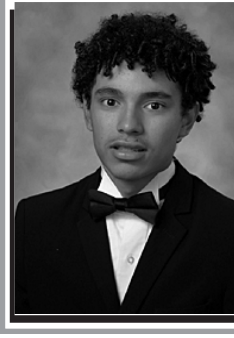


**The People's Tribune**  
Bowling Green • 573-324-6111  
*proudly presents*

**Kaleb Matthew Smith**  
*Kaleb Matthew Smith is the son of Amy Smith of Louisiana. He plans to become an artist.*



**BEST WISHES TO THE LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026**



**Xabhit Aaron Ulloa-Argueta**  
*Xabhit Aaron Ulloa-Argueta is the son of Milagros Argueta and Francisco Ulloa of Louisiana. He plans to attend a community college to study accountancy.*



**Watch Next Week's Tribune For Bowling Green, Clopton, Silex & Van-Far Graduates**

# Community News

## MO State Fair Livestock, Competitive Exhibit Entries Now Open For Exhibitors

Entries for all Missouri State Fair livestock shows and competitive exhibits are now open. Complete rules and regulations for all shows and contests are available in the online Premium Guide.

All entrants must register at MissouriBuys, powered by MOVERS website to receive premium payment(s) or complete a Vendor Input Form found on the Fair's website. Premium checks will be issued after Aug. 23, 2026, and must be claimed prior to Dec. 31, 2026.

Important competition updates include:

**Poultry** – Addition of the 4-H & FFA Market Turkey Show.

**Boer Goats** – Percentage Buck classes have been added for open, 4-H & FFA divisions.

**Carcass** – Market heifers will now be accepted in the beef carcass shows.

**Poultry, Rabbit, Floriculture, and Dorm** entry fee increases.

**Show-Me Stars & Stripes/America 250**

**Livestock:** Stall & pen decorating contests for all livestock species.

**Dairy Cattle:** Red, White, and MOO. Fun Contest

**Horticulture:** Patriotic Presidential Spuddy Buddy Contest

**Home Economics:** Threads of Freedom, Americana Treasures, Deviled Egg Derby, Sewn in the USA

Learn about other competition updates on the Fair's website.

Important rule updates include:

**Vendor Payment Registration** – Vendor payment registration with the State of Missouri is required for individuals to be able to receive prize money from the Missouri State Fair. Exhibitors must register at MissouriBuys, powered by MOVERS website. Vendor Input Forms will be accepted, but we encourage exhibitors to go ahead and register in MissouriBuys, powered by MOVERS.

**Entry Deadline** – The livestock entry deadline is July 13 at 5 pm. No late entries will be accepted. All shows and competitions have entry deadlines listed within the rules of each department on the Fair's website. They are also included on the Fair's Entry Deadline webpage.

**Animal Health** – Updated rules and regulations provided by the Missouri Department of Agriculture Animal Health Department. Animal health rules require cattle and swine exhibitors

to provide a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), completed by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the show. Cattle and swine must also be identified with an official form of identification. Swine will require a NUES tag and cattle will require an AID/RFID tag.

**Exhibitor Admission** – Exhibitors age 12 and under will again be admitted free to the 11-day Fair and will receive a wristband, sponsored by MFA, Inc. Exhibitors age 13 and older will be able to purchase up to 40 single-day exhibitor admission tickets at a special price of \$8. New for 2026, exhibitors may also purchase a season pass exhibitor wristband, sponsored by Bomgaars, for \$88. One wristband provides admission for all 11-days of the Fair. Discounted exhibitor tickets and season pass exhibitor wristbands are available at time of entry and from the Fair's Business Office through Aug. 12. These tickets and wristbands will not be available at the gate and do not include exhibitor parking.

The 2026 Missouri State Fair, themed "Show-Me Stars & Stripes" is Aug. 13-23, in Sedalia.

## From Teen Years To Menopause: Dairy Supports Women's Health

May is Women's Health Month — a time to highlight the important role nutrition plays in supporting women at every stage of life.

From the teenage years through menopause and beyond, nutrient needs shift, but one thing remains consistent: Building and maintaining strong bones, muscles and overall health require a steady foundation of key nutrients.

"Dairy foods, such as milk, yogurt and cheese, provide a unique package of calcium, vitamin D, high-quality protein and other essential nutrients that support women's health across the lifespan," said Jessica Kassel, nutrition educator and registered dietitian with St. Louis District Dairy Council.

The foundation for lifelong bone health begins early. Nearly 90 percent of peak bone mass is built by the late teen years, making adolescence a critical time for calcium and vitamin D intake. However, many teen girls fall short of meeting recommended calcium levels. Milk, yogurt and cheese provide calcium, phosphorus and protein, which all work together to build strong bones. Establishing consistent dairy habits during these years can help reduce the risk of osteoporosis later in life.

During the childbearing years, women's bodies require adequate protein and essential nutrients to support overall health, and, during pregnancy, fetal growth and development. Dairy foods provide high-quality protein with all nine essential amino acids and are a major source of iodine in the American diet, a nutrient important for thyroid function and fetal growth. Simple additions to meals, such as a yogurt parfait at breakfast or a smoothie made with milk, can help women meet their daily nutrient needs.

As women enter their 30s and 40s, maintaining muscle mass becomes increasingly important. Women naturally begin to lose muscle with age, and adequate protein intake, combined with strength-building activities, can help preserve lean body mass. Dairy protein contains leucine, an amino acid that helps stimulate muscle protein synthesis. Including protein-rich foods at meals, especially breakfast, may also support steady energy levels and appetite control throughout the day.

During perimenopause and menopause, declining estrogen levels can accelerate bone loss, increasing the risk of osteoporosis. Adequate calcium, vitamin D and protein become even more important to help slow

this process. In addition, nutrients found in milk, such as potassium, support healthy blood pressure, an important consideration since heart disease remains the leading cause of death among women. By incorporating nutrient-rich dairy foods as part of a balanced eating pattern, women can take meaningful steps to support strength, vitality and long-term health at every stage of life.

Visit [www.stldairyCouncil.org](http://www.stldairyCouncil.org) for more information on the health benefits of dairy. You may also contact Jessica Kassel at 314-835-9668 or [jkassel@stldairy-council.org](mailto:jkassel@stldairy-council.org). Follow St. Louis District Dairy Council on Facebook and Instagram at [STLDairyCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/STLDairyCouncil).

The St. Louis District Dairy Council (SLDDC) is a nonprofit nutrition education organization funded by local dairy farmers. Since 1932, SLDDC has served 131 counties in central/southern Illinois and eastern Missouri as the go-to educational resource and advocate for the role of dairy foods as part of a healthful diet.

As the Nutrition Education People, we are proud to spread knowledge to local communities, bridging the gap between local dairy farmers and consumers.



Sandy Orf

## Pike Chapter DAR Regent Delivers Lap Blankets

Pike County DAR Chapter Regent Sandy Orf delivered crocheted lap blankets, handmade by Chaplain Jill Perkins, to the Missouri Veterans Home in Mexico on National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29).

This is the third year Jill has made these gifts for the veterans. The Chapter has donated these and other gifts to the veterans for many years to

show appreciation to the men and women residents for their Service to America.

Handmade crocheted lap robes for residents on National Vietnam War Veterans Day at Missouri Veterans Home in Mexico were presented by Regent Sandy Orf, Pike County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Louisiana.

## May History Nuggets

BY BRENT ENGEL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
Blame The President

The Clarksville Sentinel played the blame game on May 15, 1896: "Sunday was a scorcher and reminded one more of the very hottest days of July than of the pleasant sort of May we used to have before (President Grover) Cleveland betrayed the Democratic party. Nothing has gone right in the country since that old sinner has polluted the seat of Jefferson. Even the seasons kick and go off at a tangent."

**She Owes, He Owes**

In May 1906, the Bowling Green Times got a letter from a Curryville man who said he would not be responsible for his wife's debts. In a letter of response, the wife replied that "he will do well to pay his own debts."

**No Prurient Pedalers**

The Frankford Chronicle had a warning for readers on May 29, 1896: "The clergyman who is declaring that bloomers are the proper costume for feminine bicyclers must not be understood as inclining to loose habits."

## OBITUARIES

Continued from page 5



### Ovalta Bell

Ovalta Bell, 61, of Wentzville died Saturday, April 11, 2026. He was born Feb. 14, 1965, in Louisiana to Joyce Jean and James Rudolph Bell, Sr. He was preceded in death by his father and brother, Kevin Pierre Ward.

Ovalta was a man defined by his strength and his heart. He was sweet, considerate, and deeply compassionate—someone who would help anyone however he could, without hesitation. His presence brought comfort, and his character left a lasting mark on everyone fortunate enough to know

him.

He dedicated much of his life to his career as an electrician mechanic with Ameren, where he began working in 1989. Over the years, he built not only a respected career but also meaningful relationships, earning the admiration of coworkers through his work ethic and integrity.

Outside of work, Ovalta found peace and joy in fishing—time spent near the water was one of the places he felt most at ease. Even more than that, he cherished moments with those closest to him. He deeply loved his family and treasured time spent with close friends, especially his mother and his two daughters, Taylor and Camille Bell, who meant everything to him.

He is survived by his beloved daughters, Taylor Bell of St. Louis and Camille

Bell of St. Peters; his mother, Joyce Bell of Louisiana; a brother, James R. Bell, Jr., and wife, Gezil of Louisiana; an uncle, Norman Smith and wife, Sonia of Wentzville; and a circle of family and friends who will continue to carry his memory forward.

Ovalta's legacy is one of quiet strength, generosity, and unconditional love. He will be remembered for the way he showed up for others, the kindness he extended so freely, and the steady presence he provided to those who needed him most. His love and memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to individual charities of choice.

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### Community Calendar...

Submit upcoming events by calling 324-6111 or e-mail to: [peopletribune@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peopletribune@sbcglobal.net)

**On May 8:** First Presbyterian Church barbecue, 11 a.m., serving pork steaks, pork burgers and sides. Homemade brownies and cookies served. Located at 205 W. Centennial, Bowling Green.

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GOD IS HOLY

"Be ye holy, for I am holy" I Peter 1:16

GOD IS LOVE

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinner, Christ died for us"

GOD IS ACCESSIBLE

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" Acts 2:38

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# Classifieds

All classified ads are payable in advance. 40-cents per word, \$4 minimum. Deadline: Monday at 9 A.M.

## GARAGE SALES

**G A R A G E SALE** beside of Woods Smoked Meats - Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Twin bed frame, deck sprayer, oak jewelry cabinet, quilts, Singer sewing machine, decorations, household, clothes, baby walker, men's 3 XL shirts, camping mat, propane deep fryer, bikes, suitcase, end tables, lots of misc. Stewart, Orf, Raufer & Graver.

## MOBILE HOMES

**USED DOU-BLEWIDE DUTCH.** Amish built in Indiana, excellent condition, 3 bed., 2 bath. **FINANCING.** Call for info 573-249-3333, marktwinmobile-homes.com. (tf)

## MOBILE HOMES

**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 MA-TURITY BUILD-ING** - Vandalia - Family reunion, shower, birthday. Call Art Wiser, 594-3224. (tf)

## FOR SALE

**NEW AC units** have arrived! Stop in to see what is in stock. Vandalia Firestone & Appliance, 594-6624.

**METAL ROOF-ING.** Wagler Metals: 21764 Pike 409, Bowling Green. (tf)

## FOR SALE

**REFURNISHED COMPUTERS,** parts, acces-sories. Call Geeky Hillbilly Com-puters 573-324-7176. (tf)

**GOOD used** tires, passenger & light truck, \$15 & up. Vandalia Fire-stone & Appli-ance, 594-6624.

## NO HUNTING

**NO HUNTING OR TRESPASS-ING,** Murry Shep-herd Farms. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for inju-ries or acci-dents.

**NO TRES-PASSING OR HUNTING** on the property of Cher-lyn Boots. Vio-lators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for accidents on property.

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

**GEEKY HILL-BILLY COM-P U T E R SERVICES LLC** - B.G. computer re-pair & recycling, 573-324-7176, 573-567-6164. (tf)

## SERVICES

**B&J SEPTIC PUMPING** - Com-mercial or res-idential, septic pumping & repair, grease trap repair, grease trap pumping and porta potty rentals. Butch Menne, 573-384-5536.

**B R O W N ' S SEPTIC PUMP-ING** - 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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## MAINTENANCE WORKER II

The Public Works Department of the City of Vandalia, Missouri is accepting applications for a full-time Maintenance Worker II.

A valid Missouri driver's license and a commercial driver's license are required. This is an entry-level position. Construction, demolition, and public works-related experience is preferred, but not required. Pay depends on qualifications and experience.

This is a labor-intensive job and requires working outdoors, occasionally in inclement weather, and may involve the following types of activities; constructing and maintaining City streets, right of ways, storm sewers, and parks; cleaning gutters and drop inlets; mowing, raking and spraying weeds; patching and chip-sealing streets; ditch maintenance; storm sewer construction; concrete pouring and finishing; asphalt mixing; culvert construction; snow removal; street sanding; street sign maintenance; and general park maintenance.

The ideal candidate for this position should be a reliable, dependable, self-motivated worker who is eager to learn new tasks, enjoys variety in his/her work, and takes directions from supervisors. All applicants must be able to complete a pre-employment physical and drug screen.

The City of Vandalia offers competitive benefits including LAGERS retirement, health insurance, paid vacation, and sick leave.

Applications are available online at <http://vandaliamo.net/2186/employment-opportunities> and can be picked up in person at City Hall located at 200 East Park Street, Vandalia, MO 63382. Completed applications can be mailed to the same address (attention City Clerk Brandie Gay), dropped off at City Hall or scanned and emailed to Brandie Gay at [brandieg@vandaliamo.net](mailto:brandieg@vandaliamo.net). Position is open until filled. The City of Vandalia is an equal opportunity employer and participates in E-Verify.

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- ◆ Solid mechanical skills.
- ◆ Basic welding skills.
- ◆ Committed to working safely.
- ◆ Good communication skills.
- ◆ Positive work record/Good attendance record
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