

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

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Pastor Dock Celebrates 15 Years

Pictured is Pastor Jeffrey Dock (center) along with Phil Mahsman (left) - Trinity Lutheran Church council president and John Haake (right) - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church council president accepting recognition of the 15th anniversary of his ordination and service to these two Pike County congregations.

USDA Makes \$500 Million Available For Investment, Expansion

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that Rural Development is accepting applications for the Fertilizer Investment & Expansion for Long-term Domestic Supply (FIELDS) Program. The program will provide United States farmers with more access to domestic fertilizer for producing agricultural commodities.

"Over the past 10 years, Missouri Rural Development has invested nearly \$24 million into three fertilizer investment projects," said Rural Development Missouri State Director Ben Baker. "Capitalizing on this opportunity provides our farmers and ranchers with operational independence and the competitive market access needed to sustainably boost production."

The Commodity Credit Corporation is utilizing the services of USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service to make funding available through FIELDS, with \$500 million in awards to expand domestic production capacity, promote competition, strengthen supply

chain resilience, and increase fertilizer availability for United States farmers in support of agricultural productivity and the production of agricultural commodities.

Eligible applicants include Tribes, Tribal entities, Alaska native corporations, for-profit entities, corporations, non-profit entities, producer-owned cooperatives and corporations, certified benefit corporations, and state or local government entities. Private entities must be independently owned and operated.

Projects funded through FIELDS may include expansions or upgrades of existing facilities, construction of new domestic production facilities, shovel-ready projects capable of rapidly increasing domestic supply, and on-site fertilizer terminals and transportation infrastructure that improve supply chain efficiency. The process of manufacturing fertilizer must be:

Independent and outside the dominant fertilizer suppliers;

Made in America;

Innovative;

Energy dominant and secure; and

Farmer focused. Priority will be given to projects in the later stages of development, technically feasible, financially viable, and have already identified other sources of funds.

Competitive, cost-share awards of \$15 million up to \$150 million are available to eligible entities to expand capacity, improve competition, and increase supply chain resilience within the agricultural fertilizer sector, in connection with the production of agricultural commodities. Matching funds are required under this funding opportunity.

Electronic applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026. Details on eligibility and requirements are available on Grants.gov or by visiting <https://www.rd.usda.gov/pr-ogams-services/business-programs/fertilizer-investment-expansion-long-term-domestic-supply>.

Learn more online at www.rd.usda.gov/mo.

'Fun At The Depot' Event Scheduled For Aug. 1

A "Fun at the Depot, Car Cruise, and Farber Homecoming event will be Saturday, Aug. 1.

The afternoon events will kick off with Historic C&A Railroad Depot open house with a photo booth, farmers and vendor market full of local finds and good food to keep you fueled for the evening at the Horseshoe

Bar & Grill.

Starting at 3 p.m., family-friendly fun will be held at the baby show followed by kid's games, bounce house, and much more.

From 4-8 p.m., classic and custom cars, trucks, and motorcycles will be shining in the summer sun.

At 5 p.m., a lucky party

will be held in the community building. At 6:30 p.m., an ice cream social and political meet and greet will be held.

Front Street in Farber will be the location for all events.

Everyone is invited to make this a summer tradition worth remembering.



Housing Discussion

NECAC Deputy Director for Housing Development Programs Carla Potts, from right, talks with Gracie LaFoe and Allie Bennett of Northeast Power of Palmyra and NECAC board member Glenn Eagan of Shelby County during a "Roundtable on Housing Affordability and Opportunity Zones" Thursday, July 9 in Hannibal. The event, hosted by NECAC and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, brought together government officials, business leaders, economic development stakeholders, non-profit organizations and residents to discuss housing issues and concerns in Missouri and Illinois. HUD representatives Crockett Worthington and Bruce Ladd answered questions and talked about available programs. HUD plans a follow-up visit later this year.

Fundraiser Planned For Paramedic Injured In 2023 Crash

By BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

A fundraiser meal is being planned in Vandalia to support Jason Bostic, a paramedic who was critically injured in a 2023 ambulance crash.

The fundraiser will be held Tuesday, July 21, at It's the Good Stuff, LLC, located at 300 N. Gaslight Road in Vandalia. Meals will be served during lunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and again during supper from 5-7 p.m.

Pork burger plates will be available for \$9, and hot dog plates will be available for \$6. Both meals will include baked beans, cole slaw, chips and a drink. Organizers said 100 percent of the

proceeds will go to Bostic.

Bostic was one of two Van-Far Ambulance District crew members injured in a July 4, 2023, crash on U.S. Highway 61 in New London. Bostic and EMT Leslie Dahl were returning from a call after transporting a patient to Hannibal Regional Hospital when their ambulance was struck head-on by a vehicle traveling in the wrong lane.

Both ambulance crew members were airlifted to University Hospital in Columbia with life-threatening injuries. The crash also claimed the life of the driver of the other vehicle.

According to organizers, Bostic has continued to face medical challenges since the

crash. He recently underwent another surgery and is expected to need additional surgeries.

"He's been there for us," the fundraiser announcement stated. "And once again he needs our help."

Crafters and non-food vendors are also invited to set up during the event, with a donation or percentage of proceeds going to Bostic. Breads and baked goods will be allowed. Organizers also said others are welcome to hold additional non-food or drink-related fundraisers that day, such as a silent auction or poker run.

The fundraiser announcement thanked the community for its support and prayers.



Woods Smoked Meats owner Steve Bolton is pictured with awards he received at the National Cured Meat Championships held Saturday, July 11.

Woods Smoked Meats Wins National Honors

By BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

Woods Smoked Meats of Bowling Green brought home top honors from this year's American Cured Meat Championships.

The American Association of Meat Processors announced on Saturday, July 11 that Woods Smoked Meats was named this year's overall winner. The company received the Cured Meats Excellence Award for best overall performance at the American Cured Meat Championships.

Woods also earned the Best of Show award for the top product at the competition with a country ham entered in the Cured Specialty Meats class.

The American Association

of Meat Processors is North America's largest meat trade organization, with more than 1,600 members that include meat, poultry and food businesses, as well as industry suppliers. The organization provides education, regulatory representation, networking opportunities and other support for meat processors.

The American Association of Meat Processors congratulated Steve Bolton and the entire Woods Smoked Meats team following the announcement.

The national honor adds to a long list of awards for the Bowling Green business. Woods has earned recognition at state, national and international competitions in recent years, including

awards for bacon, ham, summer sausage, smoked turkey, snack sticks, bologna and other smoked meat products.

Earlier this year, Woods also received the Cured Meat Excellence Award at the Missouri Association of Meat Processors show, along with several Grand Champion honors.

In 2025, the company announced that all 13 items it entered in the IFFA competition in Iowa received medals, including 12 gold medals, one silver medal and a Cup of Honor.

Woods Smoked Meats is located at 1501 Business Hwy. 54 in Bowling Green. Products are also available online at www.woodssmokedmeats.com.

Pike County July History Nuggets

By BRENT ENGEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
BE A DOER

In July 1916, the Bowling Green Times had positive advice. "This town is made up of two classes of people - those who 'do' and those who 'don't.' Don't be a 'don't.'"

DEMOCRAT DEITY?

In July 1911, the Louisiana Press-Journal jokingly claimed Missouri Gov. Herbert Hadley did the right thing by declining to issue a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer for rain amidst a drought. "It is very doubtful whether the Lord would pay attention to a Republican governor, anyhow."

VINO VISION

The Clarksville Sentinel of July 9, 1891, believed the reported sighting of a panther south of town likely was the result of too much holiday imbibing. "After the 4th of July, when the

(wheat) harvest is all over and the people go back to drinking cistern water, the panther will go to some other neighborhood."

FREAK JUICE

OK, it's hard to believe, but the Clarksville Piker reported in July 1911 that local resident Tom Alexander craved booze so much that he drained the alcohol from a jar that for 27 years had been used to preserve a "freak pig" once owned by his wife. The paper said the pig had been born with two heads and multiple other deformities. "Tom had been drinking for several days, and when he ran out of wet goods he tackled the pig preservative and for several days he was in rather a precarious condition," the paper said. Alas, Tom survived the hog hooch.

GRAIN OF HONESTY

The Pike County Chron-

icle of July 10, 1891, carried a promise to farmers from grain dealer Isaac Hostetter: "I will be on hand again about the middle of August to buy your wheat, and I promise not to swindle you any more than anyone else."

STILL TRUE

The Radical of Bowling Green had an editorial on July 16, 1842, that's applicable today: "It is absurd for the two great political parties to charge the distress of the country upon each other; this will not better matters any."

COFFIN NAILS

The Frankford Chronicle chastised local boys in July 1906. "The most disgraceful sight one ever sees in this town is a number of young boys, not yet in their teens, with cigarettes in their mouths. A boy behind a cigarette is a fit subject for the reform school."

Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

I am excited to announce two new initiatives coming to our small, yet mighty town this year.

First, as I was doing some research for some other projects, I realized that the city doesn't have a crest. No insignia that embodies who we are, who we've been, and who we will always be. That being said, instead of creating one, I will leave it up to the designing minds of our citizens to create a Bowling Green Crest. This symbol of pride will be placed on our website, on business cards, on city vehicles, in our city hall, and eventually on our water tower for anyone in proximity to see.

All entries will need to be turned in by Saturday, Oct. 31 at Bowling Green City Hall from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The city aldermen will choose the winning design, and the announcement will be made after the voting is done.

Secondly, the City of Bowling Green will be collecting items to be put in a time capsule. These items must be small, and they would have to be approved for entry into the capsule by city officials. Ideal items would be family pictures, newspaper articles, campaign buttons or ads, challenge coins, etc. Even sketches or renderings of what we think 2076 looks like in our mind's eye.

The time capsule will be opened on July 4, 2076 for the citizens of that time to meet the citizens of today. Some will still be around then, but many of us will not. The time capsule will be buried and all but forgotten about until that Independence Day, and our Country's 300th Birthday. I will be collecting items on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., on the site of the capsule burial. This spot has yet to be determined.



TOM THOMPSON-MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

I invite all citizens to participate in these fun and exciting new ideas. Both will show the future Bowling Green citizens what we stood for, what we held dearest to our hearts, and what our vision of their present looked like.

Start generating ideas, and meet me on Halloween to submit them to me personally. I simply cannot wait to see what I see that day.

USDA Makes American Children Healthier

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke L. Rollins announced the second cohort of fiscal year (FY) 2026 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants, completing the largest ever single-year financial investment in the history of the grant program. This year, USDA awarded a total of nearly \$20 million to 68 projects that will empower more American farmers, producers, ranchers, and fishers to serve their local foods in school meals, summer meals, and childcare settings.

"Without a doubt, farm to school is one of the most powerful ways to Make America Healthy Again by bringing real food back to the heart of America's food culture and onto kids' lunch trays," said Secretary Rollins. "Our historic investment in farm to school projects is a win-win-win for kids, farmers, and communities - students are nourished with farm-fresh, nutrient-rich foods; producers access dependable markets through schools; and local economies are strengthened. USDA is committed to putting American agriculture at the center of our nutrition programs and that starts with our children."

The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program increases the availability of local foods in child nutrition programs and connects children to the sources of their food through local procurement, education, taste tests, school gardens, and field trips. A few spotlights from the grantees in Cohort 2 include:

Jefferson County School District will establish a comprehensive farm to school program serving high school students in Mississippi's Delta region. This project transforms underutilized greenhouses into thriving hydroponic production systems where students grow fresh vegetables and herbs year-round for school cafeteria meals. Beyond student-grown food, the school's child nutrition programs will establish purchasing relationships with four local farms, which students will visit for educational field trips. This initiative prepares students for careers in Mississippi's number one industry, agriculture, while immediately improving their daily nutrition through increased access to fresh local foods.

The WSBZ Farm to School Implementation Project will fully integrate

farm to school practices across all 11 schools within Bryant Public Schools. By embedding Arkansas-grown specialty crops into child nutrition program menus, the project will result in increased access to fresh, locally produced foods in school meals, improved nutrition and agricultural literacy among students, and strengthened economic opportunities for more growers in Arkansas.

USDA announced the first cohort of FY 2026 grantees in April. Project descriptions for all of this year's grantees can be found on the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program website.

USDA reimagined the FY 2026 Farm to School Grant program to prioritize innovative, large-scale projects built on strong partnerships, resulting in the highest number of applicants and the most money awarded in a single year of the program. Since the Farm to School Grant program first launched in 2013, USDA's Food and Nutrition Administration has awarded more than \$119 million in grants, funding more than 1,265 projects throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Approved STIP Details Future Improvements

At its July 1 meeting, The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) approved the FY 2027-2031 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The STIP, prepared annually, lists the specific construction projects MoDOT will undertake with state and regional planning agencies in the next five years. It covers \$13 billion of federal and state revenues for all modes of transportation, including highways and bridges, transit, aviation, rail, waterways, bicycle and pedestrian, and also outlines operations and maintenance programs.

This year's program is one of the largest to date and includes additional funding from General Revenue, passed by the Missouri General Assembly and signed by Gov. Mike Kehoe. Funding is allocated for improvements to interstates 70 and 44 as well as improvements to airports and roadways. Of the \$13 billion, the STIP details \$9.3 billion in contractor awards for road and bridge construction - averaging approximately \$1.8 billion per year.

MoDOT maintains 33,814 miles of highway and 10,427 bridges and culverts, which makes the comprehensive STIP approval process an important part of its mission to deliver the program and serve the traveling public. Since transportation needs outweigh funding availability, the goal with each new STIP is to work with the public to determine which projects provide the greatest return on investment to taxpayers.

The draft version of the STIP received 65 comments during its public review. The projects in the approved program highlight the top priority taxpayers have asked for: preventive maintenance improvements to keep the existing system in good condition. Other priorities include projects that improve safety and reliability, spur economic growth and provide more transportation choices.

The approved 2027-2031 STIP is now available to view on MoDOT's website.

O'Brien Makes Dean's List

Jack O'Brien, of Eolia has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must be a current member of the class of 2026 or 2027, have carried a course load of four or more graded credits throughout the semester, and earned an average GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

O'Brien, a May graduate, majored in history at Hamilton.

Pike To Pike...



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

The Nebo Community Center is the place to be this Thursday with the Big River Band bringing you good country music, like it should be, from 2-4:30 p.m. There will be 50/50 tickets to purchase and a small concession stand to purchase something to drink (water or a soda) and a candy bar to snack on. Please enter through the door at the front of the building where the Nebo Community Center sign is. Come on down to Nebo, just off the Vin Fiz Highway, and enjoy a great afternoon of music.

The Pike County Senior Citizens Center at 220 West Adams Street in Pittsfield will be holding their fundraiser fish fry also this Thursday at 4:30-6 p.m. Eat in or carry out. All ages are welcome. Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of July 8 - 14, 2026:

- July 15 - Devin Burge, Garret Robbins
July 16 - Jenny Halsey, Sharlene Smith, Brittany and Kyle Larson, Linda and Sonny Kimmel
July 17 - James Dean
July 18 - Amy Williams, Ivan Shafer
July 19 - Dakota Henry, Jerry Garner, Ashley and Jonathan Guthrie, Margaret and Brian Myers
July 20 - Sandy Garner, Adah and Dusty Helm
July 21 - Everett Dean, Mary Massie
- Mark These Dates on Your Calendar:
- July 16 Big River Band -- Nebo Community Center starting at 2 p.m.
July 25 Big River Band -- Pike County Senior Center starting at 6 p.m.
- Afternoon visitors last week at the home of Jamie Niffen and Wyvetta Davis were Chris Phipps and Mary Phyl, both of Pittsfield.
- We celebrated granddaughter Reese Davis' birthday a day early

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on Friday, July 10, by going to play bingo at the Pittsfield American Legion, and we had a blast. I especially enjoyed it when Reese won one game and she yelled, and I mean yelled bingo, and we all jumped. So funny.

Big River Band had a very good show at the Red Rooster in Pittsfield on July 11. Our crowd was small but mightily loyal, and we appreciate each and every one. Red Rooster was hopping that evening and their new drive through is a success.

Another "Meet, Greet, & Eat" has been planned, and is it going to be a good one! Single senior adults (both men and women) ages 62+, call or text the number above if you are interested in joining this not-for-profit group which means there is no charge to be in this group. But you are required to pay for your own meal and figure out your own transportation. I have stressed this before but will do so again: This is not a matchmaking event. Come with the attitude of sharing conversations with others and making new friends. There has been friendships made in this group plus a couple couples. You never know just what might happen. Our group is made of people from all walks of life that are honest, life loving people.

Trivia Questions for This Week:

1. How many red and white stripes are on the American flag?
2. What article of clothing did Jacob wear that his siblings were jealous of?
3. Who owned the home Monticello?

Look for God's blessings everywhere you go.

**PETE NASIR
AUDIO SERVICES**

573-473-2273
pnasir1955@gmail.com

A Community Friend in Need

HE'S BEEN THERE FOR US!

AND ONCE AGAIN HE NEEDS OUR HELP!

Let's step it up and show him that small town love!

JASON BOSTIC

**FUNDRAISER MEAL
TUESDAY
JULY 21**

Held at
IT'S THE GOOD STUFF, LLC
300 N GASLIGHT RD.
Vandalia

PORK BURGER plate \$9
HOT DOG plate \$6

WITH BAKED BEANS, COLE SLAW, CHIPS & A DRINK

100% OF ALL THE PROCEEDS GO TO JASON.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Public Auction

Saturday

July 18th. 2026, at 10:00 am

405 S. 3rd, St. Louisiana, Mo. 63353

Guns, Ammo, Tools, Mowers, Collectibles

Encore Thompson Center-Remington Model 597-22 Mag, 7mm mag barrel, 209x50 magnum, 12 gauge 3 inch rifled Barrel, 30-06 Barrel and scope, These All sell as one.

Browning 12-gauge mossy oak. Shotgun with gold trigger, Remington Model 710 270, Mossberg 702 pointer 22 rifle, Maverick model. 88. 12 gauge by Mossberg, Revelation Western Auto Supply Company, Model 200 M. 30/30 Rifle, 44 caliber Civil War Replica Revolver Pistol, Assortment of shotgun and rifle ammo, \$1000 gift card for Bass Pro Shop.

Savory Granite roasting pan, Christmas decorations, Tupperware, nice dining room table and chairs, Electric lift chair like new, queen size bed, twin size bed, kitchen utensils, butcher knives, Old Hickory., lot of bedding, Dyson vacuum sweeper, Metal patio set, metal trash cans, swim, bicycle, pots and pans, keyboards, Old coffee grinder, 5 horsepower wizard rear time tiller, 12 1/2 horsepower pull behind mower, roll around toolbox, a lot of miscellaneous hand tools, Hobart. 125. Wire welder, Lincoln 225 electric Stick welder, Jack stands., Cut off saw. Small air conditioner, propane bottles, Shop vacs, barbecue grill, dressers and mirrors, chest of drawers, boxes and boxes of books, household supplies, Cream cans, battery charger, vacuum pump, Shop light, coolers, and a lot more not listed. Please be sure to join us on the 18th. We will start at 10:00 AM. And there is a lot more than what we have listed.

Owners and auction personnel not responsible for accidents, nor for items lost or stolen. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over any printed matter. Restrooms on site. We accept Cash, Good Check with proper ID and Credit/Debit card with a 4% convenience charge.
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Obituaries



John L. Gibbons

John L. Gibbons, 85, of Mexico died Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at Pin Oaks Nursing Center in Mexico.

Graveside services were at the East Lawn Memorial Park shelter on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 10 a.m.

John was born May 20, 1941 in Mexico, son of Paul F. and Delta E. Gibbons. On Oct. 15, 1977, he married Dorothy Garrett Gibbons in Mexico. He preceded him in death on Feb. 17, 2025.

Survivors include his son, Brad Gibbons and wife, Debbie of Mexico; a daughter, Tonya Thoenen and husband, Darrell of Benton City; step-daughter, Robyn Smith and husband, John of Mexico; step-son, Larry Gieseke of Martinsburg; a sister, Betty Galen and husband, Larry of Columbia; grandchildren, Jamie Pehle and husband, Jason, Tyler Gibbons, Jessica White, Amanda Swift, Samantha Winters, and Levi Gibbons. He is also survived by step-grandchildren, Brittany Landreth, Brandi Schlemmer and husband, Logan, Brock Lunceford and Hannah Rodgers, Tessa Ward, Melissa Garnett and husband, Andy, Julie Gieseke, Chris Gieseke and wife, Alexis, Jennifer Winters, Kaylee Omohundro and husband, Dane, Shelby Anderson and husband, Jason, Kimberlee Schlabach and husband, Mark, and Clint Smith; and numerous great-grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Mark Gibbons, one step-son, Timothy J. Gieseke, two brothers, Kenneth Gibbons and Dale Gibbons, one sister, Shirley Barker, as well as numerous other family members.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the Diabetes Association or the Alzheimer's Association. Memorials may be sent c/o Arnold Funeral Home, 425 S. Jefferson, Mexico, MO 65265.

Frances 'Janie' Jane Wilson

Frances "Janie" Jane Wilson, 97, of Frankford died Tuesday, June 30, 2026, in Columbia.

Funeral services were at 2:30 p.m., Saturday at Grand View Funeral Home. The Rev. Richard Epperson officiated. Burial was in Grand View Burial Park.

A visitation celebrating Janie's life was from 1:30 p.m., until the time of the service Saturday at Grand View Funeral Home.

Janie was born March 13, 1929, in Frankford to James Alfred IV and Edna Lee Green McMillen.

She was united in marriage to Melvin Mancil "Mac" Griffin on Jan. 6, 1948, in New London. Melvin preceded her in death on Dec. 27, 1960. She then met Barney O'Dell Wilson, and they were married on Feb. 14, 1963, in Hannibal. He also preceded her in death on Oct. 2, 1997.

Janie is survived by her children, daughters, Linda DeCoursey and husband, Phil of Centerton, Ark., Janice Ebers and husband, Dennis of Vandalia, Paulette Knight and husband, RJ of Curryville, Robin McGlasson and husband, Michael of Columbia, and Jane Ann Verdier and husband, Richard of Palmyra; and a son, Mark Griffin and wife, Donna of Frankford. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren, Meredith Herbert and husband, Brad, Danielle Allison and husband, Dustin, Jill Estes, Craig Estes and wife, Marsha, Jason, Knight and wife, Angie, Justin Knight and wife, Myra, Kara Haden, Shana Martin and husband, Chad, Kami Claridge and husband, Jake, Matthew McGlasson, Kelsey Verdier, Miranda Livesay and husband, Matthew, Chad Verdier, Ashley Greger and husband, Steve, Stephanie

Day and husband, Tommy, Briana Palazzolo, Stormye Wommack and husband, Daneal, Kayla Griffin, and Cole Griffin; 28 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Edna; husbands, Melvin and Barney; special friend, Joe Butler; siblings, Lloyd McMillen, Dorothy McMillen, Billy Jack McMillen, and Bonnie McMillen Schindler; and a grandson, Jarrad Wilson Verdier.

Janie was a Christian by faith and a longtime member of Frankford First Christian Disciples of Christ Church.

Janie graduated from high school and dedicated her life to her family as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She was a wonderful homemaker with a special love for her large family and all her dogs. Every grandchild has special memories of "holidays at Grandma's house."

Throughout her life, she was a member of the Rainbow Club, a bowling league in Hannibal, and a square-dancing club.

Janie was an amazing and hard-working wife and mother. She loved fishing in Peno Creek, watching cardinals fly by her window, and listening to country music, especially old-time gospel hits. She enjoyed the simple things in life, such as sitting in the calm of nature with a dog on her lap. She also loved tending to her flower displays, where she could watch birds and wildlife visit. Janie was an exceptional cook and baker. She enjoyed making a variety of dishes for her children and grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Jill Estes, Jason Knight, Justin Knight, Cole Griffin, Chad Verdier, and Kelsey Verdier. Honorary pallbearers were Mark Griffin, Phil DeCoursey, Dennis Ebers, RJ Knight, Michael McGlasson, Richard Verdier, and all her grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Frankford First Christian Disciples of Christ Church or the Jarrad Wilson Verdier Scholarship fund at Hannibal National Bank - Monroe City Branch.



Alma Jo Remley

Memorial services for Alma Jo Remley, 92, of Laddonia, will be at 11 a.m., Friday at Rush Hill Community Church with pastor Mark Sevens officiating.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m., until the time of the service at the church.

Bienhoff Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Remley died Wednesday July 8, 2026 at The

Arbors at Bluff Creek Terrace in Columbia.

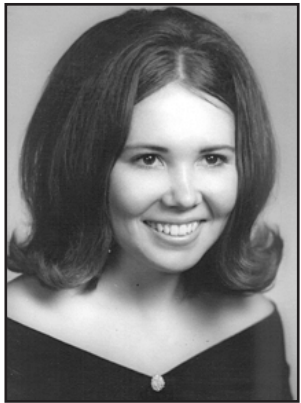
She was born Sept. 22, 1933 in the daughter of Joseph Warren and Beulah Elizabeth Cornett Bigelow. Alma Jo married Raymond Joe Remley on Dec. 14, 1952 in Rush Hill. He preceded her in death on Aug. 23, 2021.

Survivors include one son, Mike Remley and wife, Rhonda of Laddonia; one daughter, Joyce Eisele of Columbia; three grandsons, Tony Lower and wife, Candace of Vandalia, Ryan Lower and wife, Tricia of Farber, and Brian Holden of Mexico; one granddaughter, Jami Bailey and husband, Shane of Badger, Iowa; and five great grandsons, Trevor Lower and wife, Darby, Trenton Lower, Mason Lower, Brayden and Kasen Christian.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Fielder Bigelow; three sisters, Frances Wright, Hazel Riley, and Mildred Adams, and one son-in-law, Ronnie Lower.

Alma Jo was a faithful member of Rush Hill Community Church. She found great joy in sewing, tending to her gardens, and creating beautifully decorated cakes for family and friends. Alma Jo also dedicated many years of service as a volunteer at the Missouri Veterans Home in Mexico, where she found fulfillment in caring for and visiting with the residents. Above all, she treasured the time she spent with her family. Whether gathered for special occasions or enjoying the simple moments of everyday life, her greatest joy came from being surrounded by those she loved.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rush Hill Community Church and mailed c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home P.O. Box 6, Laddonia, MO 63352.



Constance Louise Boulware Verpaele

On Tuesday, July 7, 2026 Connie Verpaele of Louisiana passed from this life to her eternal home in heaven. She was 76 years old.

It was Connie's wish to be cremated. A celebration of life for Connie will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 1 at Living Water Ministries in Eolia with a meal to follow. Family and friends are invited to attend.

A private burial service will be held at a later date in Riverview Cemetery in Louisiana.

Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana is serving the family.

Connie was born Aug. 10, 1949 in Mexico and was the oldest child of George and Reba Phillips Boulware.

Growing up, Connie attended Louisiana Public Schools, graduating from Louisiana High School with

the class of 1967. After graduation, she married Jim Cole and they had one daughter, Sena, who was the light of Connie's life. That light was joined by two others when her grandchildren were born.

Connie and Jim later divorced and Connie went on to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN). Her nursing career was not only a means of financial support to help raise her daughter, but was also an extension of her faith in Christ as she helped others who were sick and suffering. She spent decades caring for patients and their families in a variety of health care settings where she was known for her compassion, kindness, and willingness to do anything she could to help those in need.

Later in life, Connie married Jim Verpaele and they enjoyed many years together until his death. Connie and Jim were devoted Christians and freely shared their faith in Jesus Christ. Connie especially enjoyed worshipping the Lord, playing the piano, and singing. She attended church at Living Water Ministries in Colia where she and her daughter, Sena, were involved in

many activities, including using their passion for crafting as a tool to minister to and reach others with the love of Jesus.

Connie is survived by a granddaughter, Brianna Ruble; a grandson, Nicholas Goewey and wife, Celestine; a brother, Dean Boulware and his son, Wesley; one brother-in-law, J.E. Woods and his children, Lori Suddarth and husband, Gabe and Jay Woods; great-nieces, Joelin and Braxtin Woods and Bella Suddarth; and great-nephew, Gunnar Suddarth, all of Louisiana. She is also survived by extended family and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Verpaele; her parents, George and Reba Boulware; a sister, Vicky Woods; and her beloved daughter, Sena Goewey.

Memorials may be made to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607, Living Water Ministries, 125 Living Water Lane, Eolia, MO 63344, or the donor's choice.

We Welcome Your Local News

DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION

VOTE NO

ON AMENDMENT

4 & 5

VOTE NO TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH

AMENDMENTS 4 & 5 ARE AN UNPRECEDENTED POWER

GRAB, GUTTING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AS

CITIZENS AND SHIFTING MISSOURI'S TAX BURDEN ONTO

WORKING FAMILIES, ACTIVE MILITARY, AND RETIREES.

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SCAN

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VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 4

Amendment 4 would change Missouri's century-old citizens initiative process. Instead of a simple statewide majority, it would require a majority in **EVERY** congressional district — letting voters in just one district veto the will of the entire state. **Here are some simple facts:**

- Politicians have exempted themselves from this requirement, applying the rules only to citizens!
- Just **5%** of voters in one congressional district could veto the will of the statewide majority, ending One Person, One Vote.
- No other state in the country has the rules being proposed by politicians in Jefferson City.

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 5

Amendment 5 would give Jefferson City politicians permission to ignore constitutional taxpayer protections and hands them a blank check to raise taxes — **without a vote of the people!**

The amendment allows the expansion of sales tax to all services for the first time in Missouri history — and lets lawmakers potentially triple the average combined sales tax rate to 16%, or higher, **on everything you buy!**

\$545

NET TAX INCREASE

FOR THE MEDIAN

MISSOURI

HOUSEHOLD IF

AMENDMENT 5

PASSES

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Community News



First Place
Larry & Pascha Allen



Second Place
Georgia Antique Mall



Third Place
Don & Sherri Patrick

Turning Louisiana Red, White & Blue!

Those who submitted your decorating entries for the Turning Louisiana Red, White & Blue Decorating Contest it was deeply appreciated. The judges stated that driving around Louisiana to see all of the decorations was such an uplifting experience! The final three decisions have been made and the winners are: first place - 120 North 7th St., second place - 515 Georgia St., third place - 1906 Georgia St. All winners will be contacted for check presentations. Please take some time, if you have not, as of yet, and drive around Louisiana to see all of these beautiful decorations, that are celebrating the birth of the greatest nation on earth. God Bless America and Happy 250th Birthday. Please remember during this festive time of celebration, all the men and women, who gave their service to not only create this wonderful nation, but also all of those who have and continue to serve to keep us free.

Ted Shanks Tops MDC's Recommended Frog Giggling Spots

ORIGINAL ARTICLE BY MADDIE EST

Get outside and discover nature this summer during frogging season! The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) invites the public to go frog giggling at these four conservation areas in northeast Missouri.

"Frog giggling is a unique tradition that gives people the chance to experience conservation areas after dark," said northeast Protection Captain Ric Bishop. "Northeast Missouri offers great frogging opportunities, especially our conservation areas with great habitat for frogs."

Frogging season begins June 30 at sunset and runs through Oct. 31. In northeast Missouri, staff recommend frogging at the following conservation areas:

Ted Shanks Conservation Area (CA) in Pike County
Locust Creek CA in Sullivan County
Atlanta CA in Macon County

Frost Island CA in Clark County

The daily limit is eight frogs of both species, bullfrog and green frogs, combined and the possession limit is 16 frogs of both species combined. Anyone may go frogging with a fishing or small game hunting permit, however, children 15 and younger and Missouri residents 65-years and older are not required to have a permit.

Those using a fishing permit may harvest frogs by hand, handnet, atlatl, gig, bow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing, or pole-and-line.

With a small game hunting permit, frogs may be taken using a .22-caliber or smaller rimfire rifle or pistol, pellet gun, atlatl, bow, crossbow, or by hand or hand net. The use of artificial light is permitted when frogging.

Learn more about frogging regulations at <http://short.mdc.mo.gov/och>

Path To 100,000 New Apprentices

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) is excited to announce a new statewide goal of serving 100,000 new apprentices in Missouri by September 30, 2027. This target reflects the department's continued commitment to expanding high-quality apprenticeship pathways and strengthening Missouri's registered apprenticeship system.

MDHEWD will lead this work by supporting local workforce teams, helping more employers create new apprenticeship programs, connect Missourians to opportunities, and share information about how apprenticeships benefit workers, businesses, and communities.

Registered Apprenticeship enables employers to grow their own workforce by providing education and hands-on learning tailored to meet their workforce needs, aligning with MDHEWD's vision of empowering Missourians with the skills and education needed for success. Since 2019, over 70,600 new apprentices have engaged in training across various occupations and industries — including the skilled trades, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and education — and over 25,000 apprentices have completed training, achieving journeyman-level status in their respective occupations.

The department offers several statewide resources available to support registered apprenticeship, including the Missouri Apprentice Connect portal, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding and services, and the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant. MDHEWD is also working to implement the new federal Workforce Pell Grant. Other statewide resources include the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's support of consultants serving high schools and career and technical education centers aimed at growing the use of the registered apprenticeship training model for high school students and the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Intern and Apprentice Tax Credit. Other key statewide apprenticeship goals include:

- Increasing the number of active apprentices to 25,000
- Registering 100 new apprenticeship programs or occupations
- Achieving three percent growth in educational services, healthcare, and manufacturing apprenticeships

Missouri is focused on supporting the Trump Administration's national goal of surpassing 1 million active apprentices. The goals established for Missouri and planned effort align with the federal and state's commitment to expanding high-quality training pathways and preparing more Missourians for in-demand careers.

MO Annual Maternal Mortality Report

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has published A Multi Year Look at Maternal Mortality in Missouri: 2019-2023 Annual Report on behalf of the state's Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Board, a multidisciplinary board of experts from across the state tasked with examining the causes and contributing factors associated with maternal mortality and ultimately forming recommendations that could prevent these deaths from occurring in the future. The report is an aggregate of five years' worth of the PAMR Board's work and is based upon the most recent data available.

The 2019-2023 report contains data, including the timing and leading causes of pregnancy-related deaths, and factors that contributed to these deaths, such as mental health conditions and substance use disorders. The report also reflects the disparities that exist in our state and among our most vulnerable populations, including our Black and publicly insured communities.

Analysis of data and related patient records indicates cardiovascular diseases and mental health conditions (including substance use disorders) were the leading underlying causes of pregnancy-related deaths, followed closely by infections (pneumonia, COVID-19, etc.). An average of 68 Missouri women died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy each year over 5 years (2019-2023), with the highest number recorded in 2020 (85 deaths).

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PIKE COUNTY FAIR

BOWLING GREEN, MISSOURI

July 28-August 1, 2026

Saturday, July 25
6 pm - Fair Queen Pageant

Sunday, July 26
Noon - 4-H Gymkhana
3 pm - Gospel Sing

Tuesday, July 28
Adults: \$20;
Children 12 & Under Free
9 am - Poultry Show
5 pm - Goat & Lamb Show
5 pm - Food Pavilion Music by JW Fulton
5 pm - Petting Zoo Open
6 pm - Carnival Rides Open
6 pm - Little Mr. & Miss Contest
7 pm - Motocross Dirt Bike Races
8 pm - Rodeo by Outlaw/5J

Admission Price
All Inclusive for Carnival & Events

Wednesday, July 29
Adults: \$20; Children 4-12: \$10
5 pm - Swine Show
5 pm - Food Pavilion Music by Open Road
5 pm - Petting Zoo Open
6 pm - Carnival Rides Open
6 pm - Western Fun Horse Show
6 pm - Talent Contest
7 pm - Motocross Quad Races
7 pm - Truck Pull - EMTP

Thursday, July 30
Adults: \$20; Children 4-12: \$10
10 am - Rabbit Show
5 pm - Cattle Show
5 pm - Food Pavilion Music by Avenue the Fallen
5 pm - Petting Zoo Opens
6 pm - Carnival Rides Open
6 pm - Western Speed Horse Show
6:30 pm - Baby Show
7 pm - Truck & Tractor Pull - Xcaliber

Friday, July 31
Adults: \$25; Children 4-12: \$15
5 pm - Food Pavilion Music by A Side of Country
5 pm - Petting Zoo Opens
6 pm - Look-A-Like Contest
6 pm - Carnival Rides Open
6 pm - Power Wheels
7 pm - Pike County 4-H & FFA Sale
7 pm - Demolition Derby
8 pm - Beer Garden Music by DJ

Saturday, August 1
Adults: \$25; Children 4-12: \$15
9:15 am - Clover Kid Pet Show
9:45 am - Cat & Dog Show
11 am - Horseshoe Tournament
12 pm - Cornhole Tournament
2 pm - Pedal Tractor Pull
3 pm - Carnival Rides Open
5 pm - Petting Zoo Opens
5 pm - Food Pavilion Music by The Accidental Entertainment Co. presents Pike County's Vocal Talent
7:30 pm - Side-by-Side Races
8 pm - Beer Garden Music by DJ

Season Tickets
Adults: \$50 • Children 4-12: \$30 • Children 3 & Under Free
Purchase at Main Gate or the following outlets

• **Bowling Green** •
Community State Bank • HNB Bank • Peoples Bank & Trust
HOMEBANK • Peoples Savings Bank • Fastlane C-Stores

• **Louisiana** •
Peoples Bank & Trust • HNB Bank • Fastlane The Jug & At the Bridge

• **Eolia** - Fastlane C-Store

Rodeo
Tues. July 28

Truck & Tractor Pull
Wed. & Thurs. July 29-30

Demolition Derby
Fri. July 31

Side-by-Side Races
Sat. August 1

Find us on **facebook**

See Event Details at www.pikecountyfair.org

Pike County Fairgrounds - Hwy 54 East between Bowling Green and Louisiana, MO

Classifieds

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

GARAGE SALES
HUGE MOVING SALE – Part 1! Wednesday, July 15, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., 514 E. Walsh Blvd., Vandalia. Collectible dolls, art, figurines, quilts, afghans, decorative pillows, home décor, & much more! Priced to sell - come early for the best selection.

MOBILE HOMES

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

FOR SALE

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

WINDOW ACs in stock. Vandalia Firestone & Appliance, 594-6624.

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

FOR SALE

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

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

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT SITE MANAGER, part-time, could turn into full-time. Starting pay \$15 per hour, 10-15 hours a week. To be in office 8 a.m.-noon, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting. Do books, expenses, receipts while in office and take calls, pay bills. Cannot take rent money nor do leases. Will to take the classes needed and learn for future advancement. Roughly \$225 a week; \$900 a month. Resume and application to be looked over by board members and hiring done by them. Turn in resume at 522 Tella Jane Lane, Louisiana. (c2-34)

HELP WANTED

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

NO HUNTING

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

NO HUNTING

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

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

NAME DOILIES - Hand crocheted by Ann Hecox. Make great personal gifts. 217-656-3654 an-nahcx-@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES
Continued from page 6
isiana, Roger Sidwell and wife, Jan of Pittsfield, Rick Sidwell and wife, Janet of Bowling Green, Joseph William “Jody” Antone of Vancouver, British Columbia; and Audra Lynn Sapp and husband, Josh of Louisiana; grandchildren, Noah Gamm and Allison, Avery Gamm, Emerie Sapp, Jessica Clark, Tiffany Sidwell and husband, Sam, Ricky Sidwell and wife, Lorie, Ashley Sidwell and husband, Joshua, Amy Sidwell, and Jeremy Sidwell and wife, Rebecca; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.
Jim was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Gary Sidwell and LeRoy Sidwell; two sisters, Linda Martin and Carolyn Moore and his first wife, Lois.
Funeral services were Saturday at 11 a.m., at the Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill conducted by Pastor Bill Maupin and Bro. Jerry Gamm. Burial followed at Mooney-Marion Cemetery near Atlas.
Visitation was Saturday from 9:30-11 a.m.
Memorials may be made to the Community Loving Care Hospice in Bowling Green or Mooney-Marion Cemetery.
Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill, Ill., is handling the arrangements.



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Must pass criminal background check and have clear financial history for insurance bonding.
Applications can be picked up at the library or downloaded from district website.
For more information, contact Director Christal Bruner at 573-581-4939 or email hr@mexico-audrain.lib.mo.us.
Applications accepted until the position is filled.



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