

THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES

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Culwell Family Honored

At the 2026 Prairie Days on Saturday, Sept. 26 the late Shannon Culwell's family was presented a plaque naming him and his wife, Linda, as grand marshal's of the parade. Pictured, from left, Kenny Thurman, emcee; Linda Culwell, Sheila Frost, the Culwell's daughter; and Emcee Bob Giltner.

Trib photo by Nancy Case



Linda Culwell of Vandalia, wife of the late Shannon Culwell is pictured with the grand marshall plaque presented to the Culwell family on Saturday, Sept. 26 at the 2026 Prairie Days parade.

Trib photo by Nancy Case

Van-Far Grad Bontz Named Head Track, Field Coach At William Woods

**BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR**

Van-Far High School graduate Ryan Bontz has been named head track and field coach at William Woods University in Fulton, returning to a program where he previously served as an assistant coach.

Bontz, a 2007 Van-Far graduate and the son of Steve and Evelyn Bontz of Vandalia, brings more than a decade of collegiate coaching experience to the position.

"I am very grateful for the Head Track & Field Coaching opportunity at William Woods University," Bontz said. "I want to thank the President and athletics administration for the opportunity to lead the program. My long-term goal is to be competitive in the Heart of America Athletic Conference and at the national level."

Bontz began his coaching career as a volunteer assistant at his alma mater, Hannibal-LaGrange University. He later spent two seasons coaching at Ohio Christian University in Circleville, Ohio, before joining Williams Baptist College, now Williams Baptist University, in 2016.

At Williams Baptist, Bontz initially served as an assistant cross country coach. When the school added track and field, he became the program's first full-time track and field coach. During his time there, he helped coach the first two All-Conference athletes in program history as well as the school's first conference champion in running events.

In 2018, Bontz joined William Woods as an assistant cross country and track and field coach, remaining

with the Owls through 2023. During that stint, he worked under longtime William Woods coach Dan Schwab and helped coach nationally ranked cross-country teams, national qualifiers and athletes who established numerous school records.

Bontz moved to Columbia College in September 2023, where he primarily coached sprinters, jumpers and hurdlers.



Ryan Bontz

His tenure with the Cougars included an NAIA All-American in the triple jump, national qualifiers in the triple jump, high jump, 400-meter dash and men's distance medley relay, along with numerous school records.

Bontz was also named the 2025 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association NAIA Women's Track & Field South Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year.

During the 2026 season, Bontz helped coach Columbia College athletes to program records in the 4x100-meter relay, 4x400-meter relay and 200-meter dash as the Cougars captured both the American Midwest Conference indoor and outdoor track and field championships.

William Woods Vice President and Director of In-

tercollegiate Athletics Brian Spielbauer said Bontz's previous experience with the university made him a strong fit to lead the program.

"Having worked at William Woods before, Ryan brings a great knowledge of his sport and The Woods to the table," Spielbauer said. "I'm excited for our current and future Owl track and field competitors, but also for our staff and campus community."

Bontz said the coaches, athletes and colleagues he has worked with throughout his career have helped shape his approach to coaching.

"I want to thank all my coaching mentors, colleagues, former athletes for believing in me and being a part of my life," Bontz said. "All of them helped mold me into the person and coach I am today."

For Bontz, success as a coach goes beyond performances and records.

"A big part of coaching for me is helping make the athlete the best they can be but also building a great relationship with them as well," he said.

Bontz earned a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Management from Hannibal-LaGrange University in 2011 and later earned a Master of Science in Sports Administration from Arkansas State University.

He and his wife, Amy, have been married for nine years and live in Ashland with their daughters, Callie, 6, and Mia, 2, along with their dog, Charlee Rose.

Bontz takes over a William Woods program entering its second year of competition in the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

Former Louisiana Police Chief Sentenced To 29 Years In Prison

**BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR**

Former Louisiana Police Chief William Jones has been sentenced to 29 years in prison following his conviction on six felony charges stemming from a 2022 investigation involving drug trafficking, controlled substances and evidence taken from police custody.

Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway announced the sentence Thursday, Sept. 24.

Jones was convicted following a June bench trial of two counts of second-degree drug trafficking, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence and stealing a controlled substance.

The case originated in October 2022, while Jones was serving as Louisiana's police chief. Authorities began investigating after two people overdosed on fentanyl in Jones' residence. One of the individuals later died.



Williams Jones

According to the Missouri Attorney General's Office, the investigation determined Jones had supplied fentanyl to his girlfriend and had removed methamphetamine and other items from police evidence.

Jones was originally charged with several felonies, including second-degree murder in connection with the overdose death. Following a bench trial held June 22 and 23 before Judge Deborah Alessi in St. Charles County, the murder charge was dismissed, while Jones was found guilty on the six remaining felony

counts.

"Today's sentence brings accountability for a former community leader who violated the public trust and endangered the very people he was sworn to protect," Hanaway said in a statement announcing the sentence. "No one is above the law."

The case was initially investigated by the Pike County Sheriff's Office and charged by Pike County Prosecuting Attorney Alex Ellison. The Missouri Attorney General's Office was later appointed as conflict prosecutor.

Jones had served as Louisiana police chief until October 2022.

Assistant Attorneys General Michael Schafer and Corie Geary-Atkins represented the state during the June trial, along with investigator Rob Jauer.

The 29-year sentence concludes a criminal case that had remained pending for nearly four years following Jones' arrest and the investigation into the overdose death.

Moore Wins First Place Again At Lake Of The Ozarks Shootout



For the last six years Moore has had a new helmet airbrushed by local artist Mark Satterfield of Camden-ton.

Ron Moore of Vandalia competed for the 10th year in the Lake of the Ozarks Shootout held Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6.

Moore competed in his 1984 Formula 242 with a 468-engine Chevy big block with

a 671 blower. The boat has a Mercury XR drive and Bravo 25 with a pitch propeller. He won first for 10 years with a speed of 68 in the 38th annual race.

The Lake of the Ozarks Shootout is the largest unsanctioned boat race in the

United States, named one of the nation's eight "must-see" boating events according to Powerboat Magazine, the Shootout takes place for the 13th year at Captain Ron's Bar & Grill in Sunrise Beach (Lake Road 5-50, mile marker 34.5).

The event raises funds for eight Lake-area rescue teams and numerous other charitable organizations.

He won his class first time out and was hooked.

The Lake of the Ozarks Shootout is the largest unsanctioned boat race in the US, named one of the nation's eight "must-see" boating events according to Powerboat Magazine.

The charity event raises funds for a range of local charitable organizations. In 2008, the Shootout moved to Captain Ron's Bar & Grill in Sunrise Beach on the 34.5 mile marker.

Outdoor Adventure Camp Challenges Students

Bowling Green Middle School Students had an opportunity to learn life skills in a program offered over the summer.

Meagan Spegal, Middle School Language Arts teacher, reported on the camp to the R-I Board of Education at their September meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Spegal and three students, Liam Robinson, Dannilynn Blackwell and Emma Miller, told the board about the life skills they learned as they visited several state parks and other outdoor sites in the area. The camp is designed to utilize Missouri's natural landscape as a living classroom. The students transitioned from passive learners to active explorers. When asked about the "ick" factor of the outdoor events, Spegal admitted that some of the things that she and the students experienced were "definitely outside my comfort zone." Spegal and Becky Turner, Middle School Science teacher, planned the activities and accompanied the students as they learned outdoor skills.

Students at Frankford Elementary School may soon have a new sidewalk to travel from the center of Frankford to the school which is located on the north edge of town. Plans have been made to construct a sidewalk from the park to the school and the school district was asked to grant an easement to allow the construction on that part that is school property. The cost of the construction is being funded through a Safe

Routes Grant through the Missouri Department of Transportation with the help of federal monies. Matt Walker, an engineer with Hutchison Engineering explained the route of the sidewalk and how the easement would allow its construction. Carolyn Wisecarver, Director of Economic Development for Pike County, coordinated the grant application with the Pike County Commissioners and said that she hopes the project can be completed before January.

In other business, the board approved an action plan, called the Bobcat Blueprint, to improve instruction in the school as part of the district's Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). The plan was approved last spring after planning sessions involving school administrators, teachers and parents. The Bobcat Blueprint identifies

four areas for improvement and the specific actions the staff will take to meet these goals. The areas identified for improvement are: Academic Achievement, Finance, Leadership, and Facilities.

Dr. Stephen Hunter, Assistant Superintendent, reported on the district's student transportation program. The bus fleet is composed of 25 buses with 13 regular morning and evening routes plus midday routes and routes to the Vocational School. The buses average about 200,000 miles annually over mostly gravel roads. He reported that a new bus purchase is included in this year's budget and that the bus garage is in need of a new roof.

The next meeting of the Bowling Green R-I School Board is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m., in the district meeting room.



BGHS Homecoming Royalty

Bowling Green High School held homecoming festivities last week. Pictured are the king Bennett Hickerson and queen Alli Hustedde.

Trib photo by Kimberly Chandler

Community News

Auxiliary To VFW Post 2173 To Sponsor Patriot's Pen

The Auxiliary to VFW Post 2173 met on Thursday, 10 September 2026, at the Vandalia Area Fairgrounds.

President Victoria Shaw called the 7 p.m., meeting to order. Opening ceremonies were observed.

The August meeting minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's report was given and filed for review.

Dues are currently payable in the amount of \$25 with the deadline being Dec. 31. Three members have not

paid their dues.

During the business meeting the Auxiliary members were reminded that there will be a float for the Sept. 26 Prairie Days' Parade.

Adopt-a-Vet at the Missouri Veteran's Home in Mexico was determined for Leon Dempsey, Howard Frances, Daryl Smith and Don Sprouls in the amount of \$60 for the year.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest information has been shared with Shaylin Bailey, 7th and 8th grade

communication arts teacher at Van-Far.

Closing ceremonies were observed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The six members attending were Joy Davis, Val Galloway, Judy Hull, Ruth Miller, Lionel Shaw, and Victoria Shaw.

The next scheduled auxiliary meeting is Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Vandalia Area Fairgrounds. The time of the meeting will be 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.



Fall Consignment

Auction

Ashley, MO

Saturday, October 3rd

At 9:00 am



Now Accepting Consignments for
Farm Machinery, Livestock &
Construction Equipment,
Trucks & Trailers



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Jamie Niemeyer
573-470-8810

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Joe Vomund Auction Service
573-289-0116



Matt Korman
573-257-1836

Lane Carter
573-721-8809

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WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

General Election

November 3, 2026

The deadline for NEW registrations is October 7, 2026.

You must register if you have moved into Pike County or recently turned 18 or will turn 18 on or before October 7, 2026.

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

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

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

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

Laura Stumbaugh
Pike County Clerk/
Election Authority

Callaway Livestock Center, Inc.

Kingdom City, MO

573-642-7486

Please visit our website at
www.callawaylivestock.com

Feeder sale every Monday at Noon
Slaughter steers & heifers sell first

You are welcome to come in person or watch or buy on the internet

Feeder Sale Report For 9-21-2026 Monday Receipts 1,085 Head					
669 Steers, medium & large	316	Heifers, Med. & Large			
	Computer Avg.		Computer Avg.		
0 300 & Down		6 300 & Down	523	567	
26 300-400	480 582	26 300-400	450	592	
111 400-500	464 526	106 400-500	405	450	
104 500-600	410 479	95 500-600	360	416	
122 600-700	370 430	38 600-700	335	373	
82 700-800	370 380	33 700-800	335	360	
218 800-900	340 355	5 800-900	270	319	
6 900-1,000	307 319	7 900-1000	230	258	
4 Bred Cows - Better	2700 3075	Others			
1 Pairs	2900				
		Slaughter Cows			
High Dressing	137 146	Low	90	120	
Bulk	135 145	Thin	80	100	
9 Slaughter Bulls	172 190				
ALL SLAUGHTER STEERS & HEIFERS SOLD ON MON. NOON					
Choice 2 & 3		Steers & Heifers			
Select		Mixed Select			

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

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

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



Kiffany Ardeneaux



Robert Butler

NECAC Hires Energy Counselors

NECAC has hired Kiffany Ardeneaux of Louisiana and Robert Butler of Rockport, Ill., as energy assistance counselors.

Ardeneaux is a 2008 graduate of Louisiana High School. She is a former executive director of the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce and served as a Louisiana City Council member. She has worked in customer service for 13 years.

Butler attended Cactus High School in Glendale, Ariz., and is working on a teaching degree from Grand Canyon University. He has experience in data entry and customer service.

Energy assistance counselors process applications to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Energy Crisis Intervention Program. The programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and distributed through the Missouri Department of Social Services, which then contracts with NECAC and other Community Action Agencies in Missouri to administer the service. Payments are sent directly to utility companies.

WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL NEWS



Troy Office: 636-366-4206
Thornhillauction.com



ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

MONDAY COLUMBUS DAY, Oct. 12, 2026

At 12:30 P.M.

SALE SITE: 16051 Pike 282; Bowling Green, MO 63334
DIRECTIONS: From Troy, MO take Hwy 61 North to the Bowling Green Hwy 161-Business 61 Ashley Exit ramp, at top of ramp, turn right, go approx. 450' turn left to 2nd place on right (#16051).

REAL ESTATE: 2 acres m/l in Section 30 TWP 53N R2W in Pike County MO. being approx. 160' wide X 544.9' deep. Exact legal to govern.

Improvements include a 25'x56' ranch home featuring 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, kitchen, & dining room. Home is on a crawl space & slab.

Updates include complete tear off & new roof approx. 2 years old, vinyl siding & updated windows, interior in the middle of remodel, kitchen appliances & laminate flooring (new in box) stay with home.

Home is on rural water w/septic and not in the city limits.
Investors take note: Finish interior for office space or rental. Tract lays nice with easy access to Hwy 61, prime business location & not in the city limits.

Terms: 10% down day of sale with the balance of cash at closing on or before 30 days after the sale with possession at closing.

For a private showing call our office at 636-366-4206 for appointment.

48' box trailer used for storage sells separately from the real estate.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Prime location, just North & East of the exit ramp, visible from Hwy 61 with commercial on each side; storage unit & wrecker service. See you at the sale. David, Dusty & Bill

OWNERS:
PAUL EDWARD GRIGSBY JR., ROWENA GRIGSBY
& HEIRS OF LAURA PARK ESTATE
Auctioneers

DAVID THORNHILL
314-393-7241
Troy, MO

DUSTY THORNHILL
314-393-4726
Troy, MO

BILL UNSELL
573-470-0037
Frankford, MO



Troy Office: 636-366-4206
Thornhillauction.com



Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

I am super excited to announce to you that I have officially partnered up with the Pike County Genealogical Society right here in Bowling Green to help bring Cotton home.

The PCGS has been located in Bowling Green since it was formed in March of 1999, but it has been located at the site of the old Pike County Jail since March of 2012. The Pike County Commissioner's gifted the building to the Society with the stipulation that a county museum was to be created.

The Mission and Vision Statements of the PCGS align with my efforts to bring the history of Bowling Green to the forefront of our citizens minds. The Pike County Genealogical Society and Jail Museum serves as the guardian of Pike County's rich history, and Cotton Fitzsimmons is a big part of that history.

The PCGS is a 501(c)(3), non-for-profit organization located at 5 East Church St. behind the parking lot of the current BGPD. The museum houses some amazing artifacts and items from our County. Do you want to see Glenn Jacobs', a.k.a. Kane's high school letter jacket? There is only one in the

world, and it is in this museum. If you want to know about your family tree, their library is jam packed with books, newspapers, periodicals, maps, you name it, if it happened in Pike County, they have it.

It is our hopes that, as a 501(c)(3), we can garner a bigger corporate response to help with our statue project, making this dream become a reality. Please help us on our mission to bring Cotton back to the streets he grew up on, the school he attended, and the place where he was inspired to become a legendary coach?

If you would like to donate to our cause, please make a check payable to the Pike County Genealogical Society, with "C.F. Statue" written on the memo line. Your donation is 100 percent tax deductible, and you will receive a receipt upon delivery. Remember that any contribution of \$1,000 or more will get your name or company name on the side of the monument for millions of people to see over the next one hundred and 50 years! With much gratitude

Tom Thompson (636) 345-2347, BG Mayor

Audrey Jones (573) 324-5810, PCGS Treasurer



TOM THOMPSON-MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Charging Up Safely For Fire Prevention Week

From smartphones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes and electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries power an increasing share of everyday life. They are efficient and convenient, but when damaged, improperly charged or used with the wrong equipment, they can overheat, catch fire or explode.

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10. Stephen McLane, adjunct instructor for University of Missouri Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI), encourages Missourians to adopt a few simple charging habits that can significantly reduce the risk of battery-related fires.

"Lithium-ion batteries pack a tremendous amount of energy into a very small space," McLane said. "That makes them ideal for modern devices, but it also means a battery failure can escalate very quickly. A few basic precautions can go a long way toward keeping families safe."

The challenge is growing as lithium-ion batteries become more common, he said. Battery fires have become one of the most significant emerging challenges facing the fire service because of the rapid growth in battery-powered devices. MU FRTI now offers first responder train specifically about fires related to lithium-ion batteries.

A report from the National Institute of Standards and Technology estimates that since 2011 there have been roughly 198,000 lithium-ion battery fires in structures nationwide and about 5,700 fires involving electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. And the number of battery-related fires is increasing each year.

Unlike conventional batteries, lithium-ion batteries can experience "thermal runaway," a chemical chain reaction that causes temperatures to rise rapidly and can result in intense fires that are difficult to extinguish.

McLane recommends the following safety practices:

Use the charger and cord supplied with the device or approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage batteries and increase fire risk.

Charge devices on hard, flat surfaces such as tables or countertops, not on beds, couches or under pillows, where heat can build up.

Stop using your device if it becomes very hot, swells, smokes or gives off a strange smell. These can be signs of battery failure.

Unplug devices when fully charged. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase stress on the battery and allow heat to build up.

Charge larger items such as e-bikes, scooters and some power tools outside

and away from exits.

"Nearly everyone has multiple lithium-ion batteries in their home, often without thinking about it," McLane said. "Because these devices are so common, safe charging habits need to become routine."

Pike To Pike...



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

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. Proverbs 21:23

This coming Saturday the Big River Band will be playing at the Pike County Senior Center in Pittsfield with the music starting at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Be sure and bring a snack and a non-alcoholic drink as there are no concession stands or meals served during the show.

The Pike County Senior Citizens Center at 220 West Adams Street in Pittsfield will be holding their fundraiser Fish Fry on Thursday, October 8th, from 4:30-6 p.m. The menu will be your choice of catfish fillet or buffalo with three set sides this month of potato salad, slaw, green bean casserole, plus your choice of dessert, and tea. Eat-in or carry-out. All ages are welcome. Questions call 217-285-4969. Gift certificates are available for any amount. The Center does not receive any federal or state funding, so everyone's ongoing support is appreciated to help keep the center up and running.

The E-Waste Recycling Event will be held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Pike County Senior Center, 220 West Adams Street, Pittsfield, and is open to the public. Questions, please call 1-217-440-9205.

Sunday, Oct. 11, starting at 6 p.m., His Little Feet orphanage choir will be performing a concert at Detroit Christian Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of Oct. 1-6, 2026:

Oct. 1 - my one and only son Nathan Davis, Shawn Haughey, Carol and Bob Barton

Oct. 2 - Candy Evans, Sue Dell, Tristan Howard, John Kroeschel

Oct. 3 - Dana Lewis

Oct. 4 - Mark and Anita Conkright

Oct. 5 - Michaela Ut-singer, Tim Brown

Oct. 6 - Miranda Brown, Scott Carnes, Marni and Brian Bradshaw

One of Jamie Niffen's sisters Mary Niffen Harrison Foiles of Louisiana, Missouri, died on Tuesday, Sept. 22. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother of seven, and grandmother (and great and great great) of 125. She will be deeply missed by all who loved and knew her.

Trivia Questions for This Week:

1. What is the ninth of the ten commandments?

2. Which U.S. President was the only ordained minister before becoming President? (thanks Bobby Johnston for this question and answer)

3. Genuine ivory comes from what three animals?

Randy and Myrna Renoud of Ottawa, Kansas, were in the area Thursday, Sept. 17 where they visited his sister and brother-in-law, Carla and Gary Furniss of Barry, and his brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Dorothy Renoud of Martinsburg. They also attended the class of 1966 reunion that was held at Fiddlestix in Hannibal.

Recently we went to the Harvest Ridge Market in Independence, Ill., and really enjoyed going up and down the aisles. So many things to tell you about. Lots of deli meats and other meats as well. Also lots and lots of different spices. Just a variety of different things. Worth your trip to see.

Jamie and I enjoyed attending the Bowling Green Homecoming football game last Friday evening. Grandson Michael Niffen is on the team.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Saturday, Oct. 3 - Big River Band - Pike County Senior Center - music at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 17 - Big River Band - Pike County Senior Center - music at 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL COW SALE

Callaway Livestock Center, Inc.

Kingdom City, MO

573-642-7486

Thursday, October 1st

Sale - 6:00 PM

Early Consignments

COWS AND BRED HEIFERS
JNC Cattle

- 40 fancy Angus cows, 3-4 years old
- 20 will have fancy Angus calves by side
- Remainder will be 3rd-stage bred

Jones

- 25 fancy Angus cows, 3-4 years old
- Fancy black calves by side, 200-300 lbs

Collard

- 15 fancy black or black-whiteface cows, 3-5 years old

- Black calves by side, 300-400 lbs
- Rebred to Angus bulls

Becker

- 16 black or black-whiteface cows, 8-10 years old

- Calves by side, 200-300 lbs

Brewster

- 10 Hereford cows, 10 years old

- Fancy black-whiteface calves by side

Combs

- 38 black and black baldy cows
- Weighing 1,000-1,050 lbs
- Bred to low-birthweight bulls

- Start calving December 1 for 45 days
- Complete vaccination program

- On RIO-MAX® tubs

K & J

- 50 fancy Angus first-calf heifers
- AI bred to a +15 CED Angus bull

- Cleaned up with low-birthweight Angus bulls for 50 days

- Due to start calving December 1
- Complete vaccination program

- Very gentle

Korsmeyer Farms

- 40 bred heifers, 1,200-1,300 lbs
- Complete vaccination program

- Reproductive tract checked

- Bred to registered black Angus bulls from Kranjec Farms

- Low-birthweight, calving-ease Show-Me-Select bulls
- Top-quality bulls

- Start calving October 25

For More Information Contact:

Jack Harrison, Owner
573-999-7197

Market Report - 573-522-9244

(24-hour recording)

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

Vandalia Barber Shop

215B S. Main - Vandalia

573-594-3521

Tuesday - Wednesday -

Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday By Appointment

All haircuts \$10

Harold Williams

Second Missionary Baptist Church
West Hwy. 54 - Vandalia

FISH FRY

Friday, Oct. 2 - 11 a.m.-?

\$14 Serving catfish, fried potatoes, baked beans, cole slaw
Carry-Outs • Delivery Call 594-2146

Personal Property of the Late Al & Wanda Lehenbauer

TERMS: Cash or good check with proper ID • Lunch Served
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Obituaries



Reva Darlene Epperson

Reva Darlene Epperson, 93, of Curryville died Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at Baptist Homes of Vandalia.

Funeral services were Friday at 11 a.m., at Bibb-Veach Funeral Home & Crematory in Bowling Green. Burial was at Berkley Cemetery in New London. The Rev. Richard Epperson, officiated.

Visitation was Friday from 10 a.m., until the time of service. B

She was born Nov. 12, 1932 in Monroe City, the daughter of Ted and Bessie Jefferson Allen.

Darlene grew up in Monroe City; moving to Center in sixth grade and graduated from Center School. She was a Christian by faith, baptized in Annada and a member of Frankford Christian Church.

She worked at the circuit clerk's office right out of high school, where she would meet her future husband, Ralph Donald Epperson, when he came in to get a deer tag in 1950, going on their first date in his new stock truck. They married April 21, 1951, in Hannibal. Darlene was a stay-at-home mom raising her family and helping on the family farm.

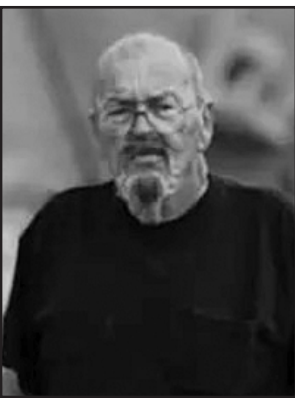
She enjoyed riding horses and taking care of cattle, she was a 4-H mom, club leader and served on the extension counsel. Her family was her greatest hobby.

Those left to carry on her legacy include her children, Jerry Epperson and wife, Janet of Vandalia, Sherry Glover and husband, Jack of Shelbyville, Sandy Klott and husband, Mark of Curryville and Cathy Scherder and husband, Rob of New Hartford; grandchildren, Janelle Ricketts and husband, Seth, Jena Sowers, Jordan Epperson and wife, Kylie, Wes Glover, Max Glover, Ty Glover and wife, Leah, Austin Noble and wife, Lauren, Anah Entwistle and husband, Dalton, Ben Klott and wife, Amanda, and Ella Klott and Austin Victor; 14 great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 2006 and a daughter, Dinah Fay Noble in 2007.

Memorials may be made to Pike County 4-H, Pike County Youth Fair (donations to be used for new livestock barn and show ring) or Anne's Anchor in lieu of flowers.

Online condolences may be left at www.bibbveach.com.



Elliott Jackson 'John' Appling

Elliott Jackson "Jack" Appling, 81, of Mexico died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026 at University of Missouri Hospital-Columbia.

He was born March 27, 1945 in Mexico, the son of Elliott Lee and Marjorie Helen Jackson Appling.

Survivors include one son, Michael Appling and wife, Melissa of Mexico; one step-son, Bruce Inlow of Kansas City; a siste, Evie Fielder and husband, Larry of Farber; three grandchildren, Lizzy, Clayton, and Caitlin Appling; one great-grandson, Ezekiel Gooch; three nieces, Tonya Fielder, Helen Munford, and Debbie Rogers; one nephew, Del Rogers; two great-nephews, Larin Fielder and Ryan Wilson; along with other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two

sisters, Sharon Rogers and Carolyn Evans.

Jack was a lifetime area resident who enjoyed fishing and spending time working on cars and trucks. He especially treasured time spent with his family, and his grandchildren held a very special place in his heart.

There are no services planned at this time and Bienhoff Funeral Home is assisting the family with cremation rites.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mexico Missouri Veteran Home and mailed c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home P.O. Box 6, Laddonia, MO 63352.

Online condolences may be made at www.bienhofffuneralhome.com.



Mary Lou Shaw

Mary Lou Shaw, 80, of Eufaula, Ala., died Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026.

Visitation was from 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesday at Waters Funeral Home in Vandalia.

Graveside services were at 1 p.m., Wednesday at Vandalia Cemetery.

Local arrangements are being handled by Waters Funeral Home of Vandalia.

Mary Lou was born June 24, 1946, in Mexico, the daughter of the late Joseph Arnold and Emma Wilma Kraft Rutherford.

Survivors include her daughters, Amy Shaw Priest and Cathrine Shaw Ritter, both of Eufaula, Ala.; grandchildren, Hana Marie Priest, Mary Parker Priest, and Joseph T. Ritter; a brother, J.A. Rutherford and wife, Connie; one sister, Linda May Waters and husband, Ronnie; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Shaw was preceded in death by her husband, Terrence Eugene "Terry" Shaw.

Pallbearers were Joseph Ritter, Brian Drawdy, Kelly Shaw, Kevin Shaw, Tyler Shaw, Ronnie Joe Waters, Lee Scrogin, Zach Scrogin and Jay Orr.

Online condolences may be made to the family on Mary Lou's memorial page at www.watersfuneral.com.



Kenneth Patrick Goree

Kenneth Patrick Goree, 57, of Louisiana died Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 at the Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal.

Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana is in charge of cremation rites according to his wishes. No services are scheduled.

He was born Nov. 22, 1968 in Columbia to Joseph L. and Laura L. Niffen Goree.

He is survived by his mother, Laura LaVerne Goree of Bowling Green; three sons, Ryan Tussy of Arizona, Christopher Goree of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and Kyle Goree of Casa Grande, Ariz.; three daughters, Samantha Kellerman of Sierra Vista, Ariz., Shantelle Rammel of Clinton, N.C., and Madison Goree of Clinton, N.C.; his grandchildren, Shayne Kellerman of Sierra Vista, Ariz., Scarlet Kellerman of Sierra Vista, Ariz., Henley Goree of Virginia, Waverly Goree of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and Chandler Goree of Sierra Vista, Ariz.; a brother, James W. Goree of Kansas City, Kan.; and a sister, Lisa Verzosa of Southern Pine, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph L. Goree, and two brothers, Joseph W. Goree and Kevin L. Goree, and a son, Tyler

Goree.

Kenneth worked as a fast-food manager most of his career. He also attended college for an associate degree in general studies. He was an avid fisherman, loved the St. Louis Cardinals, the St. Louis Blues, and the Arizona Cardinals football teams. He will be remembered as a loving son and father.

Online condolences can be sent to the family at collierfuneral.com.



Lisa Lea Branstetter

Memorial service for Lisa Lea Branstetter, 60, of Farber, will be at 6 p.m., at Bienhoff Funeral Home in Laddonia with pastor Chris Atkinson officiating. Private family burial will take place in the Laddonia Cemetery at a later date.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m., until the time of the service at the funeral home in Laddonia.

Lisa died Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 at her home.

She was born Nov. 26, 1965 in Mexico, the daughter of Jackie Lee Snyder and Barbara Francs Stanford King.

Lisa is survived by a son, Chad Branstetter and wife, Kayelee of Perry; her mother, Barbara King of Laddonia; one sister, Angie Snyder of Laddonia; two half-brothers, Charles Snyder of Martinsburg and Rick Chism and wide, El-donna of Laddonia; one grandduaghter, Natalia Branstetter; nieces and nephews, Amber Snyder and Nathan Pargeon, Josh Snyder and wife, Victoria, Dustin Chism and wife, Mackenzie, Calla Davidson and husband, Zach, Derek Chism and wife, Nikole, and Kalene Gaston and husband, Justin; great-nieces and -nephews, Kade and Barrett Pargeon, Aubree, Oaklee, and Onyx Snyder; along with other relatives and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, a sister, Penny Sue Snyder, and her beloved dog, Bullet.

Lisa was a lifetime area resident and a 1984 graduate of Community R-6 High School. She worked for 17 years at the local brick plant and, most recently, cleaned many homes and businesses throughout the area.

Lisa greatly enjoyed her dogs and had a special place in her heart for her current companion, Star, her favorite three-legged friend. She loved socializing with friends, especially while sharing good conversation over a cold beverage. Above all, Lisa treasured her family and the time spent with them. Her granddaughter held an especial special place in her heart and brought her great joy.

Memorial contributions may be made to Laddonia Cemetery and mailed c/o Bienhoff Funeral Home, P.O. Box 6, Laddonia, MO 63352.

Online condolences may be made at www.bienhofffuneralhome.com.



Mary Edith Harrison Foiles

Mary Edith Harrison Foiles, 90, of Louisiana died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026 at her home in Louisiana.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday at Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana. Burial will be at the Riverview Cemetery in Louisiana.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m., Friday at the

funeral home.

Mary was born Feb. 16, 1936 at home in Alexander County, Ill., to George Lester and Laura Wintjen Niffen. She grew up in Louisiana and later met Roy Alexander Harrison and they were married on April 10, 1952 at the First Baptist Church in Louisiana. They then moved to Illinois where they had and raised seven children. After Roy's retirement they moved back to Pike County until Roy died on Nov. 14, 1994. She later married Douglas Carl Foiles on Aug. 2, 1997 in Louisiana. He preceded her in death on April 29, 2009. She then lived the rest of her life with her family, finally settling back in Louisiana where she spent her last years.

She is survived by three sons, Roy A. Harrison and wife, Maggie of Vandalia, Lester E. Harrison and wife, Roxy of Louisiana, and David H. Harrison of California; three daughters, Angela Reddick of Hannibal, Lydia M. Weissenfluh and husband, Paul of Woodriver, Ill., and Kathy D. Tepen and husband, John of Louisiana; and including her bonus babies, she had a combined number of 125 grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great- great-grandchildren. She also is survived by a brother, James Niffen of Pittsfield, Ill.; and three sisters, Laura Goree of Bowling Green, Brenda Culp of Columbia, and Shirley Robinson of Guatemala; and numerous other extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Laura Niffen, husband, Roy Harrison on Nov. 14, 1994, husband, Doug Foiles on April 29, 2009, a daughter, Debra Besaw Aug. 6, 2025, and 11 siblings, Gene, Wanda, Sarah, Glenda, Bubby, Cookie, Darlene, Robert, Bill, Linda, and Joyce.

Mary had the most beautiful smile and a soul to match. She loved the Lord and her family more than life itself. Her love, kindness, and acceptance of all people made her one of a kind. She gave her last to those she loved and those in need with a smile on her face. Mary read her Bible, prayed, and worshipped the Lord in song every day. At Christmas & Easter every year, she would gather her children & grandchildren for a celebration that always began with a prayer and included a delicious meal followed by gifts, Christmas stockings, or Easter baskets for all. She was a stay-at-home mom, a good cook, and raised her children in church.

She loved singing those old gospel hymns and even enjoyed writing her own songs and poetry. She was an avid reader of novels and could complete 20 novels every couple of weeks. She lived by God's will and has been a Sunday school teacher, taught Bible school, and even a Cub Scout leader. But the things she loved the most was God and her family. She was a wonderful mother, wife, sister, aunt, friend, and was an amazing grandmother. All who knew her loved her. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

Pallbearers will be Kyle Johnson, Jason Craig, Nikki Jones, Gavin Gilbert, Ian Kramer, Logan Webster, Jessie Weissenfluh, and Triston Beavers.

Memorials may be made to Community Loving Care Hospice, or to the family, c/o Collier Funeral Homes, Inc.

Online condolences can be sent at collierfuneral.com.



Brent Franklin Teasley

Funeral services for Brent Franklin Teasley of Elsberry will be at 10 a.m., Friday at the Elsberry United Methodist Church in Elsberry. The Rev. Laura Taylor, pastor of Elsberry United Methodist Church, will officiate with burial in Old Alexandria

Cemetery near Troy.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m., Thursday at Elsberry United Methodist Church.

Brent, 68, was born May 19, 1958 in Winchester, Maine, the son of Franklin Roosevelt and Emma Elizabeth "Betty" Teasley.

He died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026 at his home.

Brent was a 1976 graduate of Silex High School. He was united in marriage on Sept. 8, 1979 in Millwood to Mary Lou Norton. This union was blessed with three sons, Tyler Brent, Tory Cole and Trent Gregory.

Brent was instrumental in re-starting FFA at the Elsberry R-II School District. He was a leader of various 4-H Clubs. Brent was also instrumental in getting Angel Hope in Troy. He was on the board of Bereaved Parents.

Brent was a longtime member of the Elsberry United Methodist Church where he held various positions over the years. Brent was the lead operator and research technician for MEMC Electronics, from 1976 until his retirement in 2018.

He had fond memories of chores and farming from an early age. He was proud to keep the acres he grew up on and to pass them on to his sons. His greatest joy was being with his grandkids.

Brent was preceded in death by one brother, Greg Teasley; one son, Tyler Teasley; and his mother, Betty Teasley.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Mary Teasley of Silex; two sons, Tory Teasley and wife, Jessica of Silex and Trent Teasley and wife, Emily of Troy; and five grandchildren, Marley Stout, Kaden Teasley, Lincoln Teasley, Lane Teasley and Luke Teasley. Brent also leaves his father, Frankie Teasley of Silex; one brother, Bennie Teasley and wife, Tonya, of Bowling Green; one sister, Joni Gallup and husband, Rick of High Ridge; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Dwayne Norton, Brian Norton, Corey Norton, Ben Norton, Darren Norton, Payton Teasley, and Jason Dowell. Honorary pallbearers will be Mike Stanek, Jim Moxley, Dale Simmons, Tom Boedeker, Joe Boedeker, Ray Norton, Shane Dunlap, and Tony Spires.

Memorials may be made to the Elsberry United Methodist Church, c/o Carter-Ricks Funeral Home, 107 South 5th Street; Elsberry, MO 63343.

Online condolences may be made at www.carterricksfuneralhome.com.



Pamela Jean Romano

Pamela Jean Romano, 75, of Curryville died peacefully at home on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026.

Pamela was born in St. Louis on Feb. 1, 1951, to the late Thomas and Velma Magruder. She was also preceded in death by her beloved sister, Gail Magruder.

She was the devoted wife of Roger Summers, with whom she made their home in Curryville. She was the proud and loving mother of two sons, Sebastian Thomas Romano of O'Fallon, and Christopher Romano of St. Peters.

For several years, Pamela worked as a home health aide before retiring. Caring for others came naturally to her. She was kind, thoughtful, helpful, and deeply loving. She never asked what anyone could do for her. Instead, she was always the one asking what she could do or give to help someone else.

Pamela was an avid reader and could happily lose herself in a good book. She also had an extraordinary love for dogs. In fact, during holiday meals, a suspicious amount of her food had a way of "accidentally" finding its way onto the

floor, where a dog just happened to be waiting. Whether accidental or not, the dogs certainly knew they had an ally in Pam.

She had a generous spirit and found joy in taking care of others, whether it was through her work, a thoughtful gesture, a helping hand, a shared laugh, or a little extra food for a four-legged friend. She gave without keeping score and loved without asking for anything in return.

Pamela leaves behind her husband, Roger Summers; two sons, Sebastian Thomas Romano and Christopher Romano.

She will be remembered for her fierce spirit, her kindness, her humor, her generosity, her love of reading, and her enormous love for dogs. Most of all, she will be remembered as someone who was always willing to give of herself to help someone else.

Pam was small in stature, but she lived with a big heart, a strong voice, a sharp sense of humor, and a fierce love for the people and animals in her life.

At Pamela's request, there will be no funeral or memorial services. Her family will honor her memory privately and carry her love, laughter, and unforgettable spirit with them always.

The family is being served by Bibb-Veach Funeral Home & Crematory in Bowling Green.

She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.



Kenneth Bernard Kniess

Kenneth Bernard Kniess, 79, of Lewistown, formerly of Hannibal died Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026 after suffering a stroke in 2023.

He was born in Colby, Wis., on Nov. 23, 1946, the son of Myron Alfred and Evelyn Frane Kniess. He was united in marriage to Bessie Louise Aiken in 2012 at his home in Ralls County. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are three children, Jason Kniess and wife, Kelly of Ellington, Shawn Kniess of Warrenton, and Sherry Nutt of Wentzville; one step-daughter, Ruth Stewart and husband, Eddie of Quincy, Ill.; a step-son, Frank Quinlin of Hanniba; eight sisters, Yvonne Hofen, Marie Bounds and husband, Boyd, Donna Morris, Kathleen Branhram and husband, Jim, Delores 'Dee' Blackwell, Sandy Reid and husband, Ben, Judy Cochran, Sue Wankel and husband, Chuck; granddaughter, Meghan Kniess; grandsons, Wyatt and Deacon Kniess; and many, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Harold Kniess and two sisters, Bernadette Cobb and Mary Ann Kniess.

Kenny resided near Hannibal where he was engaged in trucking. He was an avid lover of tractors, collecting Allis-Chalmers tractors and was proud to drive them in parades and often did.

His wishes were to be cremated.

Graveside services will be held at St. Clement Cemetery at a later date.

Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Edina was in charge of cremation.

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NEWS FOR PIKE, EASTERN AUDRAIN & NORTHERN LINCOLN COUNTIES



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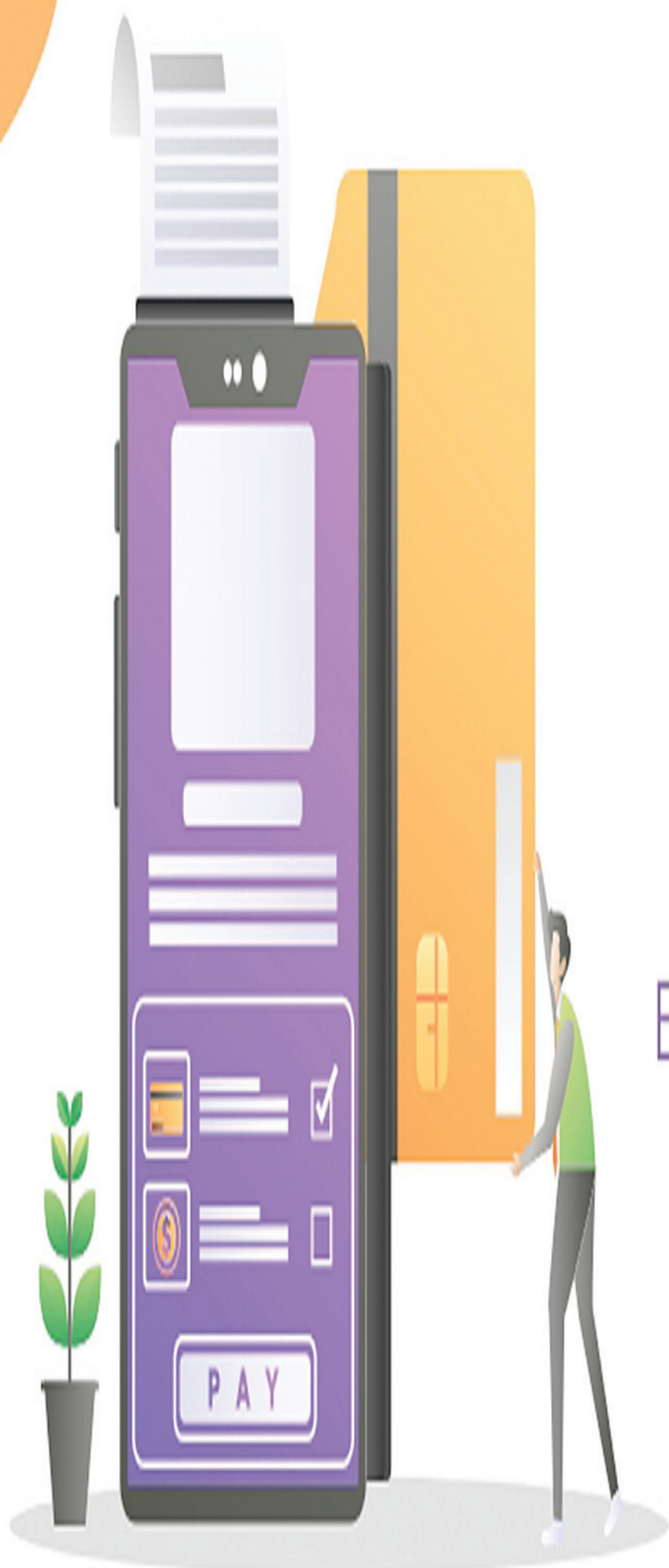


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Community News

NECAC Hires Weatherization Techs

NECAC has hired K'veon Burse, Tyler Shade and Thomas Hollis of Louisiana and Jordan Turner and Matt Wiss of Bowling Green as weatherization crew technicians.

Burse is a 2025 graduate of Louisiana High School and has experience in maintenance work. Hollis graduated from Palestine, Texas, High School in 2023 and is a former factory forklift operator. Shade graduated high school in O'Fallon, Ill., in 2008 and attended Southwestern Illinois College. He has experience in carpentry.

Turner is a 2023 graduate of Louisiana High School and has labor experience.

Wiss graduated from Bowling Green High School in 2005 and has experience at a lumber yard and in re-

tail.

The NECAC Weatherization Program provides upgrades to hundreds of homes each year. Funding is provided through contracts with the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Division of Energy.

More information about NECAC weatherization services is available by calling 573-324-2251.



K'veon Burse



Tyler Shade



Thomas Hollis



Jordan Turner



Matt Wiss

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John Wayne Ect.; Coffee And End Tables
Covered Wagon Lamp; Lot Childrens Toys
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Lot Of Costume Jewelry
#5 Blue Ribbon Crock Jug
Several Boxes Of Dr. Seuss Children Books
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2-New Children Rod And Reels (Zebco)
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Set Of 4 Nice Kitchen Chairs And Harvest
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Collection Of Old Rug Beaters
Casio Electric Key Board
Lots Of Jars Of Old Buttons
Set Of Old Busch Stadium Final Season
Glasses
Lot Of Castor Glasses; Lot Picture Frames
Excell 2000 PSI Power Washer W/Honda
Engine
Full Glass Christmas Ornaments
Switch Sewing Box On Legs
Large Roll Around Fan
Simpson 3400 PSI Pressure Washer W/
Kohler Engine
Engine Stand On Wheels AC Delco
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Triple Beam Balance Scale; G.I. Water Can
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Briggs 319CC 8HP Engine (Works)
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Several Animal Foot Traps
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Lots Of Allen Wrenches
Earth Way Garden Seeder Multiple Plates
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Onion Chopper; Rock Tumbler
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Old Parlor Table; Bushnell Deer Cam
Lot Wahl Clippers; Porta-Cable Router
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Old Wooden Wagon Wheel;
Flat Top Trunk
2-Metal Quilt Racks
Lot Glass Casserole Dishes W/Lids
Corning Ware; Set Of RCA Speakers
Metal 2 Drawer Files; 2-10 Speed Bikes
Lot Misc. Yard Tools
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Senter Change Dual Tank 110 Air
Compressor
Lot Of Toy Trucks Ect.
Lot Ball Bats And Ball Gloves
Dura Last 2 Ton Floor Jack
Several Golf Bags W/Clubs
Several Computer Sets
Huntington Electric Guitar
Portland 1750 PSI Electric Power Washer

Coin Inventory

1. Choice Of 10 US Proof Sets 1984-1993
2. Choice Of 7 US Mint Proof Sets 1999-2005
3. 1863 Indian Hd Cent
4. 1897 And 1901 Indian Hd Cents
5. 1853 Seated Quarter And 1893 Barber
Quarter (Both Low Grade)
6. 1908-O Barber Half
7. Choice Of 3 Barber Quarters 1894-O –
1904 – 1913-D
8. Choice Of 4 Seated Liberty Quarters 1854
With And Without Arrows – 1876 – 1877
9. Choice Of 4 Low Grade Seated Dimes,
1838 With Hole – 1877 – 2-1887

10. Complete Set Of Jefferson Nickels 1938-
1964-D
11. Incomplete Set Of Mercury Dimes 1916-
1945 — 52 Pcs.
12. Choice Of 2-Lincoln Cent Books Both
Start 1941 (Incomplete)
13. Book Of 22 Jefferson Nickels And 7 Buffa
lo Nickels (All Are Money)
14. Complete Set Of Jefferson Nickels 1938-
1961-D
15. Partial Set Of Roosevelt Dimes 18-90%
Silver – 20 Clad (All Are Money)
16. 1965-1981-D Washington Quarters (29
Pcs)
17. 1965-1977 Washington Quarters (18 Pcs)
18. Book Of 7-Indian Hd Cents
19. Book Of 27-Indian Hd. Cents
20. Book Of 64 Clad Roosevelt Dimes 1980-
2014-P
21. Native American Dollar 2009-D Observe
Mint Mark
22. 6-Native American Dollars Unc. 2017-P –
2019-P – 2022-D – 2-2024-D – 2024-P
23. 16-Various Date Native American Dollars
24. Mary Edwards Walker 2024-D Quarter
Unc-60
25. Susan B. Anthony Dollar 1979-D Unc-60
26. Celia Cruz Quarter 2024-P Unc-60
27. 5-Big Presidential Dollars
28. 17-Presidential #1 Coins
29. 4-Presidential #1 Coins And 1-2024-P
Native American Coin
30. 4-24-K Gold Plated Buffalo Nickels
31. 4-Wheat Cents 1913-S, 1926 And 2-1943
Steel Cents
32. Bureau Of Engraving And Printing Series
Of 1995 Uncut \$1 Federal Reserve Notes
33. Choice Of 12-Peace Dollars 4-1922,
2-1923, 2-1924, 2-1925, 2-1926
34.1878-P First Yr Morgan
35. Choice Of 2-1880-P Morgans
36. Choice Of 3 1881-Morgans 2-O Mint, 1-P
Mint
37. Choice Of 3-1882-P Morgans Unc.
38. Choice Of 6-1883 Morgans 3-O Mint, 2-S
Mint, 1-P Mint
39. Choice Of 3 1884 Morgans 1-P Mint, 2-S
Mint
40. Choice Of 3-1885-P Morgans AU
41. Choice Of 1886-P MS Or 1886-O Morgan
42. Choice Of 3-1887 Morgans 2-O Mint, 1-P
Mint AU
43. 1888-O Morgan
44. 2-1889-O Morgans And 1889-P Morgan
AU
45. Choice Of 4-1890 Morgans 2-P Mint, 2-O
Mint
46. Choice Of 3 1891 Morgans 2-O Mint, 1-P
Mint
47.1897-S Morgan
48. Choice Of 3-1900-O Morgans 1 Is MS
49. 1900-P Morgan AU
50. 1901-O Morgan
51. Choice Of 1902-P Or 1902-O Morgan
52. Choice Of 18-1921 Morgans Various Mint
Marks

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Vandalia Prairie Days

Trib photos by Nancy Case



Caleb "Bones" Owens of Nashville, formerly of Vandalia performs a song with classmate Meredith Lynn, while Bhodi Eskew plays for the two. Owens and Lynn also performed at the Vandalia Christian Church in their youth.



Travis Gibson returned home to entertain the crowd at the 2026 Vandalia Prairie Days. He opened for his classmate of the class of 2002 Caleb "Bones" Owens.



Charlie Wright and grandson, Walker Wright, of Vandalia drove one of the Cull-well family Allis-Chalmers Saturday, Sept. 26 at Prairie Days.



Members of the Van-Far Class of 1976 met Friday evening, Sept. 25 at the Vandalia Country Club for their 50th reunion. Pictured are class members who rode in the parade on Saturday, Sept. 26 for Vandalia Prairie Days.

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Diane Spradling of Vandalia visited the Barn Baby Art by Sheri Lewis-Grote on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Prairie Days in Vandalia.

What a weekend. What a community. And what a wonderful way to celebrate America's 250th birthday!

On behalf of the Vandalia Area Chamber of Commerce, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who had any part in making Prairie Days 2026 such a wonderful success. A small town came together, people pitched in wherever they were needed, and together we created a weekend we should all be so proud.

First, THANK YOU to our sponsors! Some of you have supported Prairie Days since we first began offering sponsorships years ago, while others have joined us along the way. That group continues to grow, and we cannot say strongly enough how important your support is. Prairie Days simply would not be possible without you. We are incredibly appreciative of your continued generosity and your willingness to invest in our community.

Thank you to our community for showing up and supporting Prairie Days. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, helped set up, worked a food stand, moved something, picked something up, answered a question or simply said, "I've got that." Those little moments of someone stepping forward are what make a big event happen.

No one puts on an event like Prairie Days alone. It takes a team, and more importantly, it takes a community.

We also want to thank our amazing performers, food vendors, the parade entries and everyone who helped provide activities throughout the weekend. From the live music and wonderful food, drinks and snacks to the bounce houses, games, petting zoo, face painting, bingo, YMCA 5K, Mark Twain Jeeps, poker run and everything in between, there was something for people of all ages to enjoy. Seeing children having fun, families spending time together and people visiting downtown Vandalia is exactly why so many hours of work go into this event each year.

America's 250th birthday also seems like an appropriate time to remember something important about community. We do not have to agree on everything. In fact, we won't. We are individuals, and the freedom to have our own thoughts, ideas and opinions is part of the beauty of being an American.

But when we want good things to happen in our community, we have to be willing to work together. We have to celebrate our successes together. We have to pick one another up when things are difficult. We have to recognize what we already have, like Prairie Days, build upon it and keep working toward what we want Vandalia to become.

We would also like people to know a little more about the Vandalia Area Chamber of Commerce itself. Our Chamber is currently made up of a relatively small group of people doing a lot of work, and we would love to see that group grow.

You do not have to own a business to become a Chamber member. You do not even have to represent a business. Individuals can join, too. In fact, my husband, Al Blackman, and I are individual Chamber members.

Current annual Chamber dues are \$60, we meet on the second Wednesday at noon in the Charlene Teague Genealogy Center (Dr. Carter's old office), a room in the museum on Main Street. Being a Chamber member is about much more than paying dues. It is about being willing to work with others who care about Vandalia and want to help make good things happen here.

Prairie Days is certainly our largest undertaking, but it is not the only one. The Chamber sponsors and provides the candy filled eggs for the annual children's Easter egg hunt at Baptist Homes Tri County Care Center. We host our annual trivia night to help raise money for Prairie Days and supports other community efforts when we are able. We sponsor a VF student to attend Girls State. We coordinate and create the maps of sale locations for the Spring and Fall All Town Garage Sales at no charge. We collect money at a road block to provide multiple scholarships to VF graduates each spring. Not long ago, the Chamber helped make it possible for the elementary school to have a book vending machine, allowing children to earn books as rewards at no cost to their families. When opportunities arise to do something positive for our community, we want the Chamber to be an organization willing to help.

We have been told more than once that the Vandalia Area Chamber of Commerce is a little different from other chambers. We are proud of that.

We hope we are different in all the right ways — because we care about our businesses, but we also care deeply about our entire community. We want Vandalia to grow. We want people to come here, stay here and take pride in calling this community home. Most of all, we want people working together to make that happen.

That takes people.

If you have ever thought, "I wish Vandalia would do this," or "I would love to help with that," maybe this is your invitation. You don't have to own a business. You don't have to have a title. You simply have to care about your community and be willing to be part of the work.

We would love to have you.

To everyone who sponsored, volunteered, performed, participated, attended, cooked, organized, donated, helped, encouraged or simply came downtown and enjoyed Prairie Days 2026: THANK YOU.

Thank you for making Prairie Days 2026 a success. Thank you for supporting the Vandalia Area Chamber of Commerce. And most importantly, thank you for reminding us what a small community can accomplish when we pull together.

We have a lot to be proud of in Vandalia!

Cami Blackman
Vandalia Area Chamber of Commerce

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