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Preserving Vandalia's History, One Board At A Time



Pictured Is the St. John Lutheran Church building when it was stripped down to the wood.

A piece of Vandalia's earliest history has been given new life, thanks to the dedication and hard work of volunteers with the Vandalia Area Historical Society.

The original St. John Lutheran Church building, recognized as the oldest documented structure in Vandalia, received a much-needed restoration during the summer of 2026. The historic wooden building, now located in the heart of downtown Vandalia in Railroad Park, stands as a reminder of the community's earliest beginnings. The history of the building dates back to 1875, when Vandalia was just one year old. A group of German settlers purchased a 120-by-120-foot lot at the corner of South Main and Union streets and constructed the community's first Lutheran church. The modest wooden structure became known as the "Little German Lutheran Church." For more than a century, the building served as a place of worship, remaining in continuous use until a new church building was dedicated in 1983.

The original church building was later donated to the City of Vandalia and relocated to Railroad Park in the heart of downtown, where it remains a treasured piece of the community's history. As the building's exterior began showing its age, the city made the decision to install vinyl siding rather than repaint the original wooden exterior. However, the Vandalia Area Historical Society believed it was important to preserve the historical integrity of the oldest documented structure in Vandalia.

The Historical Society approached the city with a proposal: Rather than covering the original wood with vinyl siding, society volunteers would undertake the restoration themselves, provide their own liability insurance and sign a hold-harmless agreement protecting the city while the work was being performed. With that arrangement, the volunteers were able to move forward with a restoration that would maintain the building's authentic appearance and historical character.

During the summer of 2026, volunteers spent countless hours carefully scraping and sanding the exterior down to bare wood, removing layers of old paint accumulated over the years. The building was then properly prepared, caulked, primed and repainted.

Special attention was also given to the original windows. Volunteers reglazed the windows and replaced broken panes with old wavy glass to preserve the appearance of the historic structure.

Another important part of the project involved replacing deteriorated exterior boards. Rather than using modern materials, volunteers obtained salvaged wooden boards from a home built during the same era. These boards featured the same feathered wood siding as the original church, allowing the repairs to blend with the building's historic construction.

The project received generous support from Johnston's Paint in Columbia, Missouri, which donated all the paint and primer needed for the restoration. Murph and Melissa Johnson have special ties to Vandalia. Melissa is a Van-Far graduate, and her family continues to reside in the community. The Historical Society extends its sincere appreciation to Johnston's Paint for its generosity and support in helping preserve this important piece of Vandalia's history.

The restoration was a lengthy undertaking and many hours of hard work. But the finished results are remarkable. The building has been beautifully refreshed while retaining the original wooden exterior that has made it a part of history for more than 150 years.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of those who supported the effort, this little wooden church continues to stand proudly in the heart of downtown Vandalia — a reminder of where our community began and what can be accomplished when people come together for a common purpose.



Silex Lady Owls

Silex Lady Owls Capture Third State Softball Championship

BY BRICE CHANDLER
EDITOR

The Silex Lady Owls have a long and storied tradition of success on the softball diamond.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, they added another chapter to that history by capturing the Missouri Class 1 state championship with a commanding 10-0 victory over the Princeton Lady Tigers.

The five-inning victory marked the program's third state championship and its first since 2012, adding another title to those earned in 2006 and 2012.

For head coach Rebecca Pralle, the victory carried special significance. Having previously experienced state championship success as both a player and assistant coach, Pralle added a title as head coach, completing a remarkable journey through the program's history.

The Lady Owls entered the championship contest at Killian Softball Stadium in Springfield with a 26-5 record, facing a Princeton squad that had compiled an impressive 30-2 season and averaged more than 10 runs per game.

However, the Lady Tigers' potent offense proved no match for Silex senior pitcher Rylan Harris, who dominated from the opening pitch.

Harris struck out the side in the first inning, working around a two-out walk, and went on to record 10 strikeouts while surrendering just one hit and one walk in five shutout innings.

While Harris kept Princeton's bats quiet, senior short-

Continued To Page 5



Tonya Teasley decorates a Christmas tree at her business, Prairie's Edge Garden Center. Teasley is chairperson and presenting sponsor of the Champ Clark Honey Shuck Festival of Trees, which takes place Nov. 19 to 21 as part of Bowling Green's Christmas in the Green.

Photo by Brent Engel

Teasley Has New Role At Festival Of Trees

A perfect Christmas tree is in the eye of the designer.

Tonya Teasley ought to know. The owner of Prairie's Edge Garden Center in Bowling Green has won awards for her distinctive holiday creations. Now, she's using her expertise in a new role.

Teasley is chairperson and presenting sponsor of the Champ Clark Honey Shuck Festival of Trees, which takes place Nov. 19 to 21 as part of Bowling Green's Christmas in the Green.

"I think the Festival of Trees is a great addition to the shopping going on during Christmas in the Green," she said. "With so many additional people in town during that three-day period, it is a great time to send them to Honey Shuck."

Julie Leverenz has overseen the festival since coming up with the idea. While taking a step back this year, she's still serving as tree and donations coordinator, and fully backs Teasley.

"Tonya is an enthusiastic supporter of Honey Shuck and its history as well as owning one of the top featured retail shopping venues for those enjoying Christmas in the Green,' Leverenz said. "Her willingness to build on the past successes and create an even more engaging event at Honey Shuck this year will undoubtedly inspire more visitors."

There is no admission charge. Trees will be displayed on the first floor throughout the home, but the second floor will also be open for tours. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 19 and 21 and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Nov. 20.

The theme is "Christmas Begins at Honey Shuck." As in the past, visitors who make a contribution may vote for their favorite trees. Entries are being accepted through Nov. 12, and information is available by calling Teasley at 573-324-5757.

Exterior decorations are being done by Brittany Reuther of Gypsy Soul Boutique, and students from Bowling Green High School will assist with tours.

Two additions this year are The Giving Tree, which was designed and donated by Teasley, and a puppet show, which was conceived by Jennifer Walmer.

Gifts to Honey Shuck of $500, $250 and $100 will be recognized with an exclusive, customized Christmas tree ornament featuring the donor's name. All will be displayed on The Giving Tree in the front room at Honey Shuck. Other donors can receive a silver ornament.

The puppet show is designed for kids and their parents, and will tell the tale of Honey Shuck from the perspective of mice who, along with the Clarks, called it home. The show will be staged at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 and 11 a.m. Nov. 21, with an additional performance as part of a kids' party at 11 a.m. Dec. 12.

Teasley has won the people's choice award for her Honey Shuck trees and has been creating elaborate holiday decorations for years. Still, she claims no expertise.

"I don't really consider myself a designer," she said. "I learned as I went and watched lots of tutorials and different techniques, and my tree style evolves constantly. I learned on my own and am still learning."

It turns out there's no trick to the trade.

"You can make your tree about your personality or decor with about any colors," Teasley said. "You don't have to purchase an expensive artificial tree. You can add artificial greenery stems to any tree to make it look expensive. I think you can use anything and be creative."

So, Christmas must be Teasley's favorite time of year, right?

"I like Christmas a lot but, I would have to say fall is my favorite time of year with the warm, cozy colors."

DNR Awards $25,000 Grant To Farber

City Will Evaluate Drinking Water System Improvement

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has awarded a $25,000 Drinking Water Engineering Report Grant to the city of Farber to evaluate its drinking water system.

Through its Drinking Water Engineering Report Grant program, the department offers funding to qualified communities to help evaluate public drinking water system improvements. The city will use the grant to identify improvements that will enable the system to continue meeting drinking water quality standards and providing reliable water service.

Drinking water systems are essential infrastructure that support every community's health and economic vitality. Through this grant, qualified communities like Farber can thoroughly assess their drinking water systems and identify improvements for better service. During the assessment, communities can determine what actions are needed to address current drinking water needs and plan for future growth and development.

The department is committed to assisting Missouri communities with water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects. Through its Financial Assistance Center, the department provides funding opportunities for qualified communities with water quality, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs. This project will be funded wholly or in part with monies received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information on wastewater and drinking water funding opportunities, visit Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Route W In Pike County Now Open To Traffic

The bridge replacement project on Route W over Little Ramsey Creek, just north of Route H, in Paynesville in Pike County, has been completed and is now open to traffic.

Bleigh Construction Company was awarded the $2.2 million contract in fall 2025.

For more information on this and other projects in your area, please contact MoDOT's Customer Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636). Work with us in the work zone! Please remember to obey all work zone signs and personnel. With an increased number of highway work zones in Missouri, we urge all drivers to pay attention every second, especially through a work zone. Be informed of your route by checking the MoDOT Traveler Information Map before you travel.

Pike Scratchers Player Wins $100,000

A Missouri Lottery player has claimed the first top prize on a "$100,000 Fortune" Scratchers ticket. The winning ticket was purchased at Ayerco, 303 Mansion St., in Louisiana.

While claiming his prize at Lottery Headquarters in Jefferson City on Oct. 15, the winner joked he needed a second set of eyes to look at the ticket before believing he'd won.

"I took it home and said, "Come look at this. What does this say?" he chucked, recalling the conversation with his wife.

After carefully looking the ticket over, she responded, "This looks like a winner!"

"I feel very blessed. I didn't think this would happen to me," he added.

To date, "$100,000 Fortune" players have won more than $7 million in prizes.

During FY26, players in Pike County won more than $3.2 million in Missouri Lottery prizes, retailers received more than $317,000 in commissions and bonuses, and more than $917,000 in Lottery proceeds went to educational programs in the county.

Community News

Lawn & Order:
Plant Crocus In Lawn Now For New Season

October is a good time to plant spring-flowering bulbs for them to establish a good root system before the soil cools, said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. While tulips and daffodils take center stage when planting bulbs at this time of the year, other species such as crocus should not be overlooked.

One novel way to enjoy crocus blossoms in the spring is to plant them in your lawn. Planting a crocus lawn is an easy way to bring early color to the landscape with minimal effort. As one of the first flowers to bloom in spring, crocuses create a colorful display that signals the end of winter and foretells of warmer days to come. Once established, crocus lawns are low-maintenance and will continue to offer a welcome burst of early color year after year. Additionally, crocuses provide a crucial food source for pollinators, especially bees, in the early spring when few other plants are in bloom.

A crocus lawn blooms early in the season, and the foliage quickly dies back naturally. This is an advantage for gardeners eager to start mowing their lawns at the usual time in spring. The flowers bloom and fade, allowing the foliage to store food reserves in the bulbs for next year's blooms before mowing begins.

Except for a handful of fall bloomers, nearly all crocus species work well for crocus lawns. Winter-hardy in zones 3-8, they naturalize with ease, extending the gardening season by months. Crocus flowers bloom in stunning shades, from rich purples and lavenders to cheerful oranges, yellows, creams, whites and stripes. Whether you plant them in a single color or a mix, they create a vibrant display that will brighten your lawn every spring.

Crocus chrysanthus, or snow crocus, is an early-blooming species known for its small, vibrant flowers that come in yellow, white and blue. Native to the Balkans and Turkey, it thrives in well-drained soil and full sun. Its delicate blooms emerge in late winter or early spring, often before snow melts.

Crocus vernus, or giant crocus, is a hardy, early-blooming perennial native to Europe. It produces large, vibrant flowers in shades of purple, white and striped varieties. Thriving in well-drained soil and full sun, it naturalizes easily, making it a popular choice for gardens and lawns.

Crocus tommasinianus, or Tommy (or Tommies) crocus, is an early-flowering species known for its delicate, lilac-purple blooms. Native to southeastern Europe, it thrives in well-drained soil and naturalizes easily in gardens and lawns. Blooming from late winter to early spring, it is more resistant to pests like squirrels than other crocus species because its corms have a slightly bitter taste.

Crocus flavus, or yellow crocus, is a perennial flowering plant in the iris family. Native to southeastern Europe and Turkey, it blooms in early spring with bright golden-yellow flowers. This hardy, low-maintenance plant thrives in well-drained soil and is popular for naturalizing in gardens and lawns.

Crocuses prefer a well-drained, fertile soil along with full sunlight or light shade. For best results, choose a spot that gets at least six hours of direct sunlight each day. While crocuses prefer sandy or loamy soil, they are surprisingly adaptable and can grow in sandy or clay soil if the ground doesn't stay soggy. As with all bulbs, poor drainage and waterlogged soil can lead to poor growth and ultimate bulb loss.

The best time to plant crocuses is in the fall, ideally several weeks before the first frost. This gives the bulbs time to establish strong roots before the cold of winter set in. When planting, dig small holes about 3-4 inches deep, placing the bulbs with their pointed ends facing upward. Space them about 3-4 inches apart to allow room for healthy growth and proper air circulation. A bulb auger attached to a cordless drill will make planting much easier.

Countdown To Beautiful Spring Flowers Begins Now

If you think autumn is the time to put away your gardening tools for the year, think again. It's bulb-planting time.

"Daffodils, tulips and hyacinths won't greet you in the spring if they're not planted in the fall," said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein. "The bulbs of spring-blooming plants should be planted in October so they can go through a cooling process during the upcoming winter."

Bulbs planted now will develop root systems this fall, but it takes the low temperatures of winter to cause flower buds to emerge next spring, Trinklein said. So, you shouldn't wait.

Choosing spring-flowering bulbs to grow in Missouri can present a dilemma. Daffodils are the best choice for the Show-Me State because they handle Missouri's warmer temperatures and keep blooming year after year. "In other words, they naturalize well in our state," said Trinklein.

Tulips, on the other hand, are not completely comfortable with Missouri's late spring and early summer temperatures and will likely need to be replanted every couple of years. In most formal plantings, tulips are treated as annuals in Missouri.

"Hyacinths are the worst with regards to adapting to Missouri temperatures," he said. Temperatures rise too quickly in spring for them to store food in their bulbs for next spring's flowers, so after producing attractive flower stalks packed with vibrantly colored florets the first year, they tend to decline in subsequent years.

When selecting, pick bulbs that are nice and fat and plump. Avoid shriveled bulbs because they're either contracting a disease or already have one.

Once you bring bulbs home, prepare the soil ready before planting. Good drainage is a must. If bulbs sit in damp soil over the winter, there is a good chance they will rot.

To measure soil drainage, dig a hole about 12 inches deep, fill it up with water and let it drain. Then, refill it with water and measure the depth of the water. Measure the depth again in 15 minutes and multiply the amount drained by four. This determines drainage rate per hour. Soil that drains less than 1 inch per hour has poor drainage and is not suitable for bulbs. Gardeners can improve drainage by amending it with compost, peat moss or other well-decomposed organic material.

While you're amending the soil, it's a great time to add fertilizer. Bonemeal is an excellent choice for bulbs, Trinklein said. It's relatively high in phosphorus, which helps bulbs develop good root systems. And it's relatively low in nitrogen so it won't burn the roots. It also adds a modest amount of potassium.

When you place bulbs into the ground, it's important to plant them deep enough, but not too deep.

Bulbs should be planted to a depth of about two to three times the height of the bulb. This makes sure the bulb doesn't push itself out of the soil as it develops roots.

Planting bulbs in the autumn is an exercise in delayed gratification, said Trinklein. There are no immediate rewards for your labor. No sudden leaves, vibrant colors, or fragrant blooms to admire before winter sets in. Instead, you must trust the silent, invisible process occurring beneath the soil, letting the bulbs endure months of cold temperatures and quiet dormancy.

It requires patience to look at a bare, frozen garden bed all winter and hold onto the promise of what is to come, Trinklein said. "When the ground finally thaws and the first warm rays of spring arrive, that patience is rewarded with a delightful display of color, proving that the most beautiful things in life are indeed worth waiting for."

November Library Book Review



Kasi Welborn

November Library Staff Book Review
Grief Is The Thing With Feathers By Max Porter
Reviewed by
Kasi Welborn, Circulation Assistant/Teen Services Coordinator, Mexico Public Library

This story at first does not make sense but neither does Grief. As you read, you get to know the pain of a husband losing a wife, of two boys losing a mother. Then there is Crow. Crow is something else. Crow comes a few days after Mother is gone. Crow's language is vulgar, but as the story moves, you start to see what Crow is.

I originally picked up this very short book because a movie was released based on it last year. I am going to watch it, because even though this book jumped around a bit from painful bits where the boys blamed their dad for everything, to when one boy was older with a wife and son of his own, back to when Crow protected the family from a demon, it spoke to me. It said that Grief does not have to make sense, and it is what it is.

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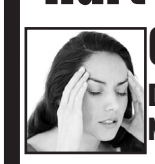
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		Computer Avg.				Computer Avg.	
12	300 & Down	593	720	11	300 & Down	545	665
58	300-400	519	600	62	300-400	420	575
219	400-500	465	532	192	400-500	385	428
197	500-600	405	454	283	500-600	365	403
136	600-700	375	418	193	600-700	355	364
126	700-800	375	395	97	700-800	330	343
6	800-900	330	346	43	800-900	300	320
2	900-1,000	290	3200	8	900-1000	275	291
6	Bred Cows - Better	3200	3700	7	Others		
1	Pairs		3025				
					Slaughter Cows	178	
	High Dressing	135	150		Low	110	120
	Bulk	130	140		Thin	50	100
16	Slaughter Bulls	165	186				

ALL SLAUGHTER STEERS & HEIFERS SOLD ON MON. NOON

14	Choice 2 & 3	228	235	Steers & Heifers			
	Select	211		Mixed Select	225		

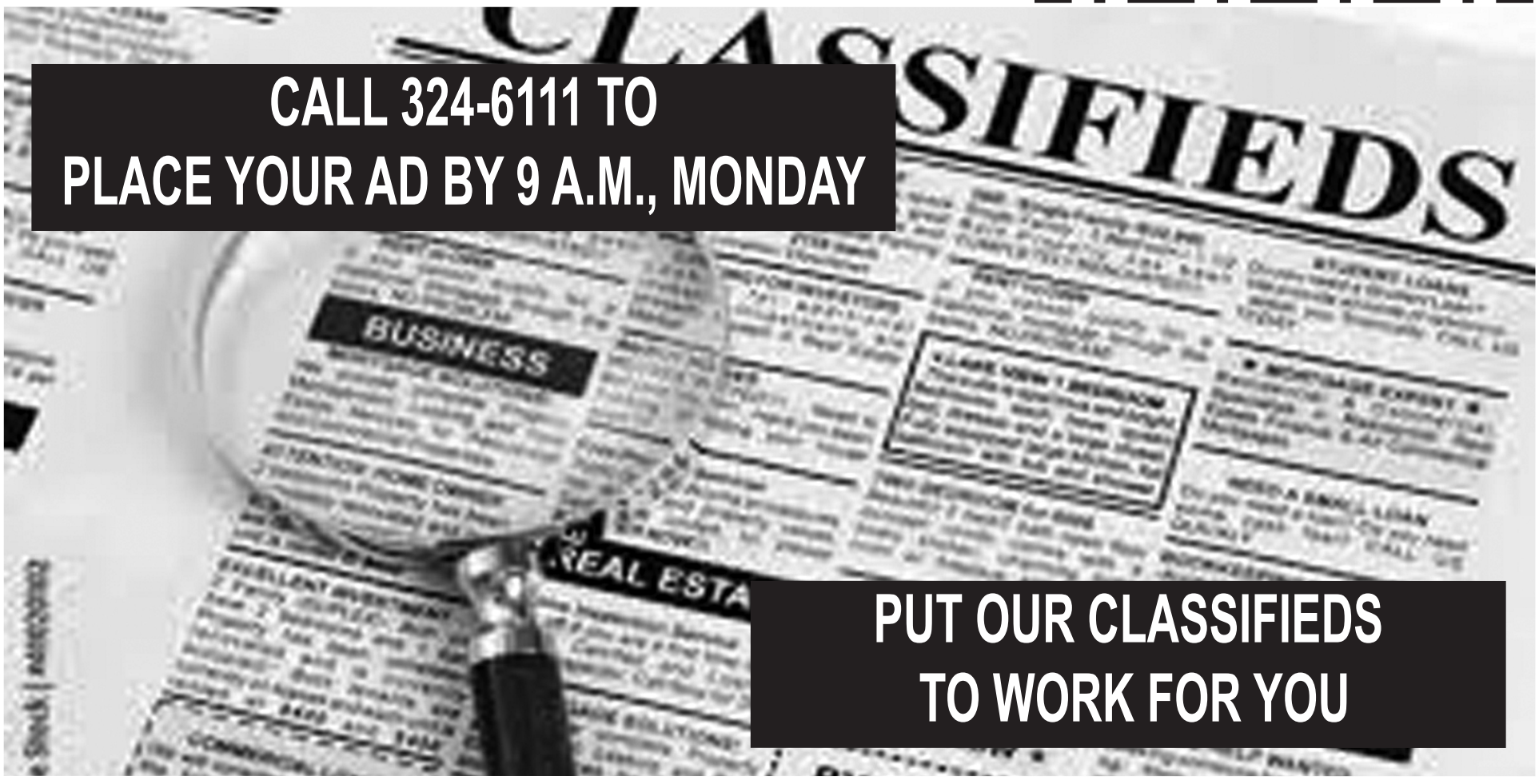
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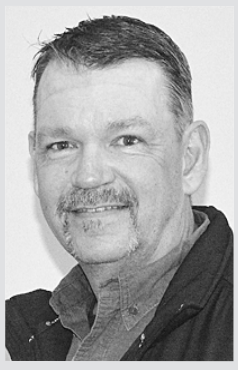
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Community News

From The Mayor's Desk...

Have you ever been two-thirds of the way through a good book, full of ups and downs, twisting plots, heartbreak, and elation, and just as you finish an amazing chapter, you get a papercut while turning the page?



TOM THOMPSON-MAYOR
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Well, that just happened to me, and the sting it left almost offsets the excitement of what lies ahead. There is nothing in the epilogue about how the book is going to end, so you play it out, word by word, page by page, and chapter by chapter, knowing that the last page will tie it all together. Will it be a happy ending, a sad ending, or will it make you wish you never picked up the book in the first place?

As chapters come and go, we realize that some are greater than others. There are some you can't get through fast enough, and others that you want to embrace, hoping that the rest of the book is going to be just as wonderful as this chapter is! I personally am not into fairytale, so I know that the next chapter will have its trials, and it is already starting out with a cut, caused by something that you would never imagine could cut so deeply. It might take a little while, but it will heal, leaving a permanent reminder of the time that it happened.

I will never forget this chapter in my life, and even though I decided to turn the page, there are those questions that are currently left unanswered. What next? What will happen on the backside of the page that I am currently on? There is no way of knowing how many chapters are left in the book, so I guess I will just wait to read the last page, hopefully tying it all together.

The past six and a half years of my life have created a chapter that is unforgettable. It has been chock-full of ups and downs, twisting plots, heartbreak and elation. It is a chapter that I should have been more cautious in turning the page on, but appreciate what the sting of the cut represents!

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to those that filled the seats of A Taste of Philly, Steak & Ale for those six and a half topsy-turvy years.

In a million years I would never re-write this chapter, and I bear the scar that proves it! The next chapter is but a page away, and I cannot wait to share it with you all! I am definitely not riding off into the sunset! Stay

Pike To Pike . . .



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

The Pike County Senior Citizens Center at 220 West Adams Street in Pittsfield will be holding their fundraiser fish fry on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 4:30-6:00. The menu will be your choice of catfish fillet or buffalo with three set sides which will be potato salad, macaroni salad, glazed carrots plus your choice of dessert, and tea. Eat-in or carry-out.

Big River Band Show Dates at the Pike County Senior Center, 220 West Adams, in Pittsfield: Saturday, Nov. 21, Friday Dec. 4, and Thursday Dec. 31, with music starting at 6:30.

Buggs' Family Opry Show Dates at Pearl, Illinois: Fridays, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, and Dec. 11, with all shows starting at 7 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of Nov. 4-10:

Nov. 5 - Meg Musgrove, Penny Garner

Nov. 6 - Julie Love, Velma Stickhost, Jim and Donna Davidsmeyer

Nov. 7 - Dianna Allen

Nov. 8 - Becky Walston, Bobby Garner, Jennifer Cox, Lavern Goree, Matt Troxell, Mike Straus

Nov. 9 - Karen Pritchett, Scott Armistead

Nov. 10 - Page Garner

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Debbie Evans who died Oct. 29. She was a sister, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, teacher, and above all, a child of God. She will be greatly missed.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Ryan Patterson who passed away last week. His mother was the former Jane Browning of Chambersburg and his deceased father Dan Patterson was a school principal in Barry at one time. He has numerous relatives in our area, including his brother Jamie Patterson and his aunt, Judy Douglas.

Trivia Questions for This Week:

1 Who is credited for saying, "A penny saved is a penny earned"?

2 How many books are in the Bible?

3 What year was income taxes first made law?

4 And to go along with Question 2, how many books are in the Old Testament and how many in the New Testament?

The Fifth Friday Hymn Sing at the Detroit Christian Church was well attended.



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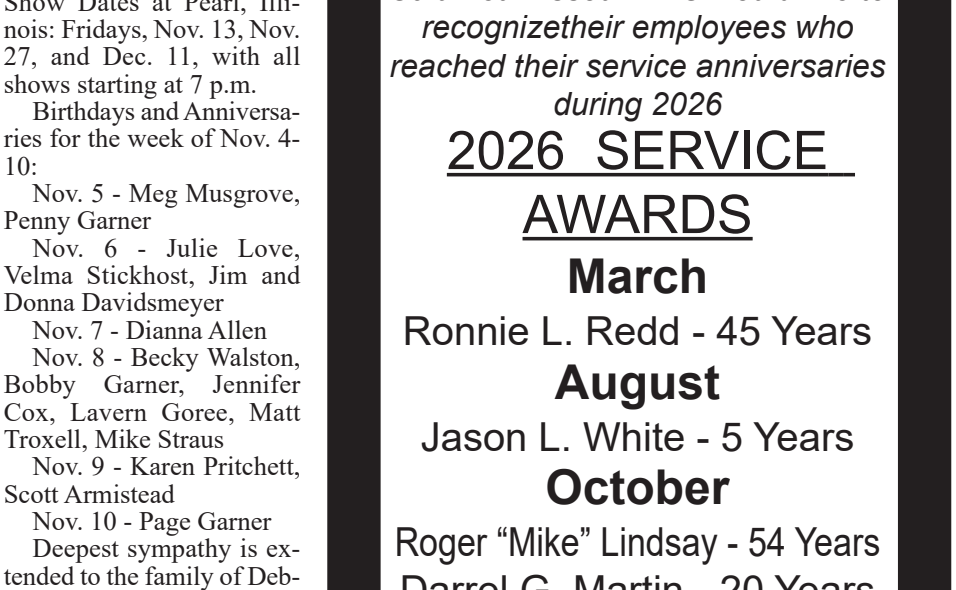
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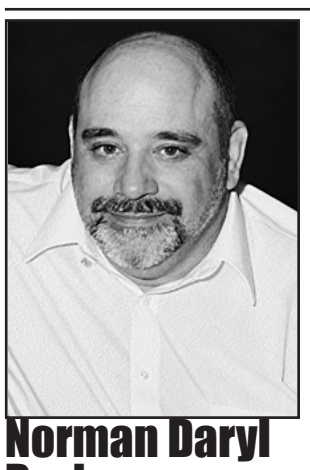
PRE-AUCTION VIEWINGS
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 10AM TO 12 NOON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 2PM TO 4PM

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Obituaries



Norman Daryl Barber

Memorial services for Norman Daryl Barber of Troy were at 6 p.m., Friday at Carter-Ricks Funeral Home in Elsberry. The Rev. Laura Taylor, pastor of the Elsberry United Methodist Church officiated.

Visitation was from 3 p.m., until the time of memorial services at 6 p.m., Friday at Carter-Ricks Funeral Home in Elsberry.

Daryl, 71, was born Aug. 10, 1955 in Louisiana, the son of Norman Edward Barber and Doris Ann Wyble. Daryl was a 1973 graduate of Clopton High School. He was united in marriage on Dec. 10, 1988 in Troy to Karen Gail Ewald.

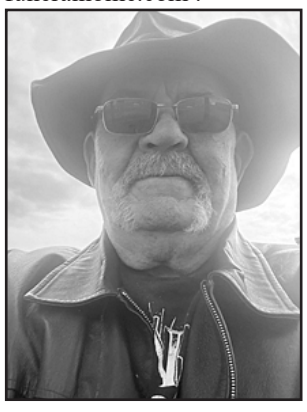
He worked for MFA Agri Services for 40 years, retiring as facility manager in 2014. He was a MoPar car enthusiast and enjoyed spending his time working on lawn mowers and collecting tractors during his retirement years.

Daryl was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Barber; his father, Norman Barber; and one brother, William "Billy" Barber.

Survivors include a son, Brandon Barber and wife, Kari of Elsberry: two stepdaughters, Nicole Barber and husband, Eric of Elsberry, and Jennifer Clancy of Washington; nine grandchildren, Dillion Barber, Dalton Barber, Hannah Henry, Macy Barber, Ella Barber, Kacey Clancy, Kylie Becker, Taylor Sherrow, and Kennedi Barber; and five great-grandchildren, Bennet and Lainey Jo Barber, Charlotte and Zander Henry, and Raylee Shadle, and another on the way. Daryl also leaves his mother, Doris Wyble of Elsberry; three brothers, Kevin Barber of Eolia, Eric Barber and wife, Nicole of Elsberry, and Shawn Barber of Troy; many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many, many friends.

Memorials may be made to P.A.L.S., c/o Carter-Ricks Funeral Home, 107 South 5th Street; Elsberry, MO 63343.

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



John Wesley Clayton

John Wesley Clayton, 68, of Bowling Green, and formerly of Hannibal died Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026 at Country View Nursing Home in Bowling Green.

He was born April 14, 1958 in Ironton, a son of Jacqueline Louise Clayton. He married Brenda Ploesser. She survives.

John was a retired truck driver and most recently drove for Sonny McKinnon Trucking of Pleasant Hill, Ill. He enjoyed fishing, working on cars, visiting with friends and always enjoyed the company of his dogs.

He was a member of the New Life Pentecostal Church in Hannibal.

Survivors include a daughter, Channon Pults of Pleasant Hill, Ill.; three sons, Aaron Clayton of Hannibal, Matt Yeater of Israel, and John Clayton III of Pleasant Hill, Ill.; numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Sandra Emerick of Vermont, Ill., and Pamela Milleson of Smithfield, Ill.

John was preceded in death by his mother, a brother and a grandson.

Funeral services were Friday at 1:30 p.m., at the Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill, Ill. Burial followed at the Samuel Taylor Cemetery near Rockport, Ill.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Lummis Funeral Home in Pleasant Hill, Ill., is handling the arrangements.

Van-Far Alumni And Friends Meet

Van-Far Alumni and Friends Association board members met Thursday, Oct. 29 and evaluated the annual reunion held Sunday, Sept. 26 during Prairie Days.

Several members reported hearing positive comments about the opportunity to spend time with friends at the multipurpose building (First Baptist Church) following the parade. Alumni and friends were able to gather for conversation and to review yearbooks as well as learn about the association.

Given the positive comments, board members made preliminary plans to conduct a similar event during Prairie Days in September 2027.

Recent gifts to the scholarship fund include the following: Luke and Teresa Heim; Dea Hoover; Karol Kristofferson; and Ellen Ledbetter. Richard and LaVonne Jones gave gifts in memory of Wayne Atkinson, class of 1956, and Bonnie Beshears Walfenherger, class of 1957.

The next board meeting was set for Feb. 25.

Board members attending were Jim Current, Jim Deppe, Janet Heim, Debby Moore, Joyce Nolan, Carol Schambach and Laura Straube. Denny Wright also attended.

Huge News For City Of Louisiana

The City of Louisiana Enterprise has been awarded $5,050,000 in grant funding through the Missouri Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

This is NOT a loan and will not have to be repaid! Combined with the previously approved $613,000 allocation, this brings our total funding to an incredible $5,663,000.

These funds will help replace lead and galvanized water service lines and address aging water infrastructure, all while helping reduce the financial burden on our customers.

This accomplishment represents months of hard work by our distribution employees, water office staff, contractors, Enterprise Director, and everyone who contributed to completing the extensive inventory and application process.

A tremendous amount of work happens behind the scenes, and this is a great example of what dedication, teamwork, and persistence can accomplish.

Louisiana Christmas Parade

Louisiana Community Betterment Assoc., and the Louisiana Lions Club are sponsoring the annual Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The parade will take place at 5 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to advertise your business, organization or clubs to the eager parade attendees.

Cash prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Individuals and equestrian entries are encouraged.

Immediately following the parade, the annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held at 4th St. and Georgia. Visits with Santa will take place inside the Louisiana Area Historical Museum after the lighting of the tree. A Holiday Market with pop-up vendors will be available for your shopping pleasure along 4th St., across from the Christmas tree.

"We strive to bring one of a kind, unique items for this Market, to give attendees the opportunity to choose something special as a gift, or for themselves," stated Diana Huckstep, Chairperson for LCBA.

Please come out and support these brave vendors as they face the winter elements. Be sure to stroll along Georgia St. and view all the fantastic decorated windows also. Entry forms are available by texting your name and email address to: 314-640-4420 or by email at: Lmocombtrmt @yahoo.com.

Deadline for entry forms is Wednesday, Nov. 25. Help us welcome in the holiday season.

Pike County Coroner Clarifies Status Of Mueller Autopsy, Investigation

Pike County Coroner Holly Leverenz issued a public statement this week clarifying the status of the investigation into the death of Nathaniel Mueller following renewed attention surrounding the case.

Leverenz said the autopsy report in the possession of the Pike County Coroner's Office is complete and Mueller's death certificate has been signed, although the investigation into his death remains open.

"The autopsy report held by my office is complete, and Nathaniel's death certificate has been signed," Leverenz said.

She also sought to clear up confusion surrounding examinations performed in the case.

"There were two examinations, but only one autopsy and one autopsy report," Leverenz said.

According to Leverenz, the coroner's office has pursued an autopsy, laboratory testing and toxicology testing as part of its effort to determine what happened to Mueller.

Mueller's family was notified by telephone Oct. 16 that the death certificate had been signed, Leverenz said. During that conversation, the family was also told the autopsy report could not yet be released because the investigation remains open.

The clarification follows recent news coverage in which a statement attributed to the Missouri Attorney General's Office indicated the autopsy report was not complete.

"I cannot speak for that office, but I can confirm that the report in my office's possession is complete," Leverenz said.

Leverenz emphasized that completion of an autopsy report and the signing of a death certificate do not mean the larger investigation has concluded.

She said her attorney has advised her to keep the report closed under Missouri law while the investigation remains active.

"I want transparency, too," Leverenz said. "Most of all, I want answers for Nathaniel's family about what caused his death and how it happened. I remain hopeful that the investigation will provide those answers."

Leverenz said she would welcome the opportunity to release the report once legally permitted to do so and will continue seeking guidance from state investigators and the Missouri Attorney General's Office regarding what information can be made public.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control has been handling the investigation into Mueller's death.

Leverenz also reiterated a request for anyone with information about Mueller's death to contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

"Even something that seems small could help investigators," she said.

Leverenz concluded her statement by acknowledging the frustration of Mueller's family as the investigation continues.

"I understand that Nathaniel's family wants answers," she said. "My office remains committed to carrying out its responsibilities and treating his family with compassion and respect."

Pike County November History Nuggets

By Brent Engel
Contributing Writer

Great Advice

In discussing elections held nine days earlier, the Middletown Chips of Nov. 12, 1896, offered words that are just as applicable today: "We can't all see political questions alike, but we can all be friends, nevertheless."

She's Got The Look

In November 1901, the Louisiana Press admonished parents for letting their daughters walk around town in the evening "with the sole hope of picking up a young man and walking farther." The paper even urged a curfew for young lovebirds. "The right kind of a man does not look for a wife on the streets, and the right kind of a girl waits till the man comes to her home for her. The mothers should quit gossiping over the back fence and chase after girls when they get 'the boy look' in their eye."

She Wears The Pants

Poor Buck Craven. The Louisiana Press of Nov. 21, 1901, said he had worn "a necktie but once in his life, and that was when he was married. But his wife has him collared all the same."

Singles Now Welcome

The Clarksville Sentinel of Nov. 13, 1886, reported that the "married ladies club has been named the Fortnightly Ladies Reading Club and its membership now numbers 20."

Wrong G.O.A.T.

The Louisiana Journal did not have "Greatest Of All Time" in mind when it formed a debating club for boys in November 1875. "The first question for debate is: 'Which is the butt end of a goat?' A little practice with one of the animals would enable the disputants to discuss the question more understandingly."

Can't Take It With You

The Frankford Chronicle in November 1906 reminded readers of a simple truth: "No man was placed on earth for the sole purpose of making money, and the man who has this as his idea had better never been born."

Dress Mess

In November 1875, the Riverside Press of Louisiana commented about the latest in women's dresses – a bustle, or a "design used to create a pronounced rear silhouette," as one fashion aficionado described it. "The ladies have to sit sideways, and in order to hold a conversation with two gentlemen at the same time sitting on opposite sides of her, she sweetly rises and with gentle modesty places her hand behind and catching the 'agony,' whisks it to the other side, and vice versa, as occasion arises."

That Bites

Three Frankford doctors notified the Louisiana Press-Journal in November 1911 that they would no longer prescribe whiskey as a cure. "What are the Peno people going to do when they get snake bitten?" the paper sarcastically asked.

We Welcome Your Local News

Second Missionary Baptist Church
West Hwy. 54 - Vandalia
FISH FRY
Friday, Nov. 6 - 11 a.m.-?
$14 Serving catfish, fried potatoes, baked beans, cole slaw
Carry-Outs • Delivery Call 594-2146

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, Nov. 7 - 11 a.m.
Middletown Community Room - 318 E. Main
Coins • Toys • Guns
Over 2,000 Coins - See AuctionZip For Full List
Guns to be added to AuctionZip Closer To Auction Date
ESTATE OF BOB & BETTY LOU WOODSON
Carter Auction Service
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Card Of Thanks

The family of Robert (Bob) D. Gish wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who provided support and comfort in our bereavement. The prayers, calls, cards, food, flowers, gifts and memorials were all very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Baptist Home Tri-County, Community Loving Care Hospice, Van-Far Ambulance, Hannibal Regional Hospital Care Team, Vandalia Florist, Waters Funeral Home and Bro. Kenny Haddock.

So many others have shown their love and support that words cannot begin to express our gratitude.

Rhonda & Dennis Smith
Renee & Merle James
Jolene & Konstantin Chartkov & Daughters
Brooke James & Hunter Cussigh

With Sincere Appreciation

Our Powelson family is very thankful for the overwhelming support during Tom's recent hospital stays and subsequent passing. The calls, cards, beautiful flowers, delicious food, and visits during our time of loss and grief has touched our hearts. Your generous memorial donations have benefitted several organizations.

We appreciate the excellent medical care provided by Pike County EMS, Pike County Memorial Hospital, and Air Evac. Thanks to McCoy-Blossom Funeral Home for their guidance and the Rev. Murray Phillips for the meaningful service.

Special appreciation to Judy Allwood for the wonderful array of music selections she provided. The Louisiana Elks Lodge 791 memorial service was a special tribute to a fellow Elk.

Tom loved helping people of all ages regardless of the need. His green thumb has supplied food many vegetables to friends and family.

Your outpouring of love and support demonstrates how fond you were of Tom and his family.

We will remember his smile forever. You can think of Tom every time you have a "SUNDROP" or a "Gooey Butter Cake".

God Bless each of you!

Paulette
John, Matthew, Joy,
Lance, Tanner & Alli

Community News

Heavy Cream Or Half-And-Half?

A Holiday Guide To Choosing The Right Dairy

Thanksgiving cooking is full of delicious decisions: pumpkin or pecan pie, mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes, and, perhaps one of the most common questions in the dairy aisle, heavy cream or half-and-half?

Both start with milk, but they are not interchangeable in every recipe. Knowing the difference can help holiday cooks choose the right dairy product and get the texture and richness they are looking for.

Heavy Cream: Rich & Ready To Whip

Heavy cream, also called heavy whipping cream, contains at least 36 percent milk fat, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Its higher fat content gives it a thick, rich texture and allows it to be whipped into a topping for pies, cakes and other desserts. Heavy cream also is a popular choice for creamy mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, rich sauces and holiday desserts.

Half-And-Half: Creamy & Lighter

Half-and-half: Creamy and lighter

Half-and-half is a combination of milk and cream and generally contains between 10.5 percent and 18 percent milk fat. It has a thinner consistency than heavy cream and is commonly used in coffee, cream soups, sauces, casseroles, gravy and holiday beverages. "Dairy foods can add important nutrients, along with flavor and texture, to holiday meals," said Jessica Kassel, nutrition educator and registered dietitian with St. Louis District Dairy Council. "Choosing the right dairy product for a recipe can help you enjoy the foods you love while creating the texture and flavor you want."

Can You Swap Them?

Sometimes, but the finished dish may be different. Replacing heavy cream with half-and-half can make a dish lighter and thinner, while using heavy cream in place of half-and-half can make it richer and thicker. Half-and-half generally is not a good substitute when a recipe requires cream to be whipped. A simple rule to remember: If you need richness or whipping ability, choose heavy cream. If you want creaminess with a lighter consistency, half-and-half may be the better choice.

So, before a trip to the grocery store for holiday cooking, check the recipe. Choosing the right dairy product can help ensure your holiday favorites turn out just as delicious as planned.

Visit stldairycouncil.org for more information on the health benefits of dairy. You may also contact Jessica Kassel at 314-835-9668 or jkassel@stldairycouncil.org. Follow St. Louis District Dairy Council on Facebook and Instagram at STLDairyCouncil.

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

Youth Deer Season Totals

Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that young hunters ages 6-15 harvested 11,878 deer during Missouri's early youth portion of the 2026 deer hunting season, Oct. 24 and 25.

Top counties were Howell with 303 deer harvested, Franklin with 276, and Texas with 226. Of the deer harvested, 7,234 were antlered bucks, 3,721 were does, and 923 were button bucks.

Get more harvest information on the 2026 early youth portion at extra.mdc.mo.gov/ widgets/ harvest_table/.

Youth hunters have harvested an average of about 14,600 deer during the early youth portion in recent years. Get more info on past seasons at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/deer-reports/deer-harvest-summaries.

Preview items all day Friday

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Corona Four Portable Typewriter
Glass Oil Bottles
Lot Of Unique Glass Jars
Lot Of Canning Jars
Glass Show Top On Legs
Oak Telephone Stand
Kitchen Scale Old
Clamp On Ice Skates
Lots Of Cook Books
Lots Of All Types Of Books
Pfaff Sewing Machine
Large Large Lot Of All Types Of Household Box Lots
Sears Binoculars In Case
Shoe Kit
Old Life Magazines
Old Fly Rod (2)
Ash Trays
Old Handmade Drawings
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Old Cast Iron Kitchenware
Lot Of Kitchen Items
Hamilton Microwave NIB
Monro Matic Light Up Sign (It Works)
Military Items
Oak Rolling Chair
Book Shelf
Large Wardrobe Cabinet
Dresser W/Mirror On Wheels X2
Walnut Bed Frame (Handmade)
Old Cameras
Small Collectible Items
Old Leather Ball Gloves
Middletown Pottery Crock
Blue Band Stoneware Crock
Ruckels Crock
Old Threshers Buttons
Old Boy Scout Stuff
Sterling Ice Crusher
Antonius Stradivarius Violin Copy
Old Windsor Cheese Boxes
Old Goggles
Old Adding Machine
Electric Car W/Tracks
Large Watkins Advertising Box
Wooden Carpenter Box
Vintage Baby Shoes
Straight Razors + Straps
1918 Camp Travis Picture
Old Wooden Rack
Lot Of Postal Door Fronts
Vintage Rug Beater
Marx Train + Track Vintage
Vintage Stroller
Vintage Oil Lamps
Lot Of Baskets
Model + Die Cast Cars
Old Kid Toys
Old Railroad Memorabilia
Old Board Games
Old Record Albums
Capital Record Player (Portable)
Old Military Clothes
Walnut Drop Leaf Table

Watering Cans
Lot Canning Jars
Old Sled
Coal Buckets
2 Metal Wagons
Lot Of Long Handle Tools
Set Of Chevy Hubcaps
2 Croquet Sets
Egg Crate
Misc. Hand Tools
Foamite Brass Fire Extinguisher
Hahn Eclipse Tiller
Garden Plow
Eveready Advertising Box
Advertising Yard Sticks
Portable Air Tank
6 Inch Bench Grinder Mounted On Table
#3 Wash Tub
Vintage Childs Highchair
Granite Refrigerator Dish

COIN INVENTORY

1. Large Lot Of Wheat Pennies (Will Be Sold In Bags Of 50)
2. Large Lot Of Older Jefferson Nickels (Will Be Sold In Bags Of 50 Ea.)
3. Full Roll Of Bi Centennial Kennedy Halves (Unc)
4. 5 Marbles
5. Full Roll Of Unc Lincoln Cents (From The 1970's)
6. Belt Buckle Made Out Of 4 ASE
7. Buffalo Arrowhead Belt Buckle
8. Bag Of 39 War Time Nickels
9. Large Bag Of Foreign Coins
10. 1964 90% Silver Kennedy Half
11. 1894 S Barber Half
12. 5 40% Silver Kennedy Halves
13. 1960 Franklin Silver Half
14. 1918 S And 1942 Walking Liberty Halves
15. 4 Silver Mexican Peso Dollars
16. Marshall Islands Silver Round
17. 1981 American Eagle 1 Oz .999 Silver Round
18. 2013 Unc ASE
19. Choice Of 5 Ike Dollars
20. Nickel And Penny Bracelet
21. 7 Silver Washington Quarters
22. 1865 3¢ Nickel
23. 1906 And 1908 V Nickels
24. 19 Buffalo Nickels (All One Money)
25. Mint Error Lincoln Cent
26. 1919 5¢ Canada Silver
27. 1883 Indian Cent
28. 20 Roosevelt Silver Dimes
29. 9 Silver Mercury Dimes
30. 15 Steel War Pennies
31. Dad 1985 National 1 Oz .999+ Fine Silver Ingot
32. 1921 D P Morgan
33. 1889 O Morgan
34. 1891 S Morgan
35. 1898 P Morgan
36. Choice Of 2 1922 Peace Dollars
37. Choice Of 5 Sterling Silver Rings
38. Bag Of Various Budweiser Pins
39. Bag Of Small Collectible Items
40. 3 Small Bottles With Gold Flakes
41. 1905 Indian Cent Key Chain
42. 1922 Peace Dollar
43. 1923 Peace Dollar MS
44. 1943 Walking Liberty Half
45. Choice Of 4 U.S. Mint Proof Sets 2000–2003
46. 1979 US Proof Set
47. Washington Mint Presidential Dollar Mint Set
48. Choice Of 2 Series Of 2003 $5 Notes
49. 2 $5 Series Of 2017 Notes Consecutive Serial Nos.
50. Choice Of 3 Series Of 2013 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
51. Choice Of 3 Series Of 1999 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
52. Choice Of 3 Series Of 2013 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
53. Choice Of 3 Series Of 1999 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
54. 2 Series Of 2013 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
55. 2 Series Of 2009 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
56. 3 Series Of 2013 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
57. 2 Series Of 1935 $1 Silver Certificates
58. Series Of 1928 A $2 Red Seal
59. Series Of 1963 $5 Red Seal
60. Series Of 2013 $2 Bill
61. 1971 S Brown Box 40% Silver Ike
62. First Comm. Mint 2000 Sacagawea Dollar Set
63. Wyoming State Quarter Comm. Coin Card
64. 1990 US Mint Unc. Coin Set
65. Choice Of 1971 Or 1973 Blue Pak Silver Ike Dollars
66. 1884 O Morgan Unc.
67. 19 Ike Dollars
68. 1954 D Franklin Half Gem Unc.
69. 1963 Franklin Half
70. 16 Bi Centennial Kennedy Halves
71. 1889 V Nickel
72. 1964 Silver Kennedy Half
73. 1916 P Barber Dime
74. 2003 Kennedy Half P.L.
75. 2002 Unc ASE
76. 1882 P Morgan AU
77. Full Roll Of Unc Abe Lincoln Presidential Dollars
78. 16 Presidential Dollars (Circulated)
79. 40 Sacagawea Dollars
80. 17 Susan B Anthony Dollars
81. 1900 Indian Cent
82. 1922 Peace $ Copy
83. 2 Bags Of 31 Buffalo Nickels Mostly 1930's
84. Choice Of 14 Rolls Of Buffalo Nickels
85. 2 Series Of 2017 A $20 Star Notes
86. 3 Pcs Foreign Paper Money
87. 3 Series Of 2017 A $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
88. 37 Mostly Unc. $2 Notes Series Of 1976, 2003, 2013, 2017, 2009 Lots Of Consecutive Numbers
89. 3 Series Of 2017 A $5 Notes Consecutive Numbers
90. 12 Series Of 2017 A And 2021 $1 Notes Consecutive Numbers
91. 3 Series Of 2017 And 2017 A $1 Star Notes
92. 3 Series Of 2013 And 2017 $1 Star Notes
93. Series Of 1935 C $1 Silver Certificate
94. Series Of 1953 $2 Red Seal
95. Series Of 2017 A $5 Star Note
96. Series Of 2013 $20 Star Note

Girod Family Auctions, **420 Hwy 161, Middletown, MO**

For questions, call 573-470-3660. Hauling services available if needed. Lunch Served
Auction schedule to be announced auction morning. Everything sells where is, as is, with all faults. We act as agents only. GIROD FAMILY AUCTIONS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT We thank you for your business. Give us an opportunity and we can earn the rest. **Follow us on AuctionZip #49777**

Community News

SILEX

Continued from front page

stop Kherington Morris wasted little time providing the Lady Owls with an early advantage.

With one out in the bottom of the first inning, sophomore catcher Olivia Wotring drew a walk to give Silex its first baserunner.

Morris stepped to the plate and drove a pitch from Princeton sophomore Mary Jane Renfro over the centerfield fence for a two-run homer, putting the Lady Owls ahead 2-0.

The blast came just one day after Morris collected her 200th career hit during the state semifinal victory over Wheatland.

Silex maintained its two-run advantage through the second inning as Harris continued to control the Princeton lineup.

The Lady Tigers managed their first and only hit in the third inning when Renfro dropped a single into shallow left field. Renfro stole second base, putting a runner in scoring position with two outs, but Harris struck out Princeton's Riley Clark to end the threat.

The Lady Owls continued adding to their lead in the bottom of the third with senior Morgan Kuntz reaching second on a throwing error to open the inning. Senior Rylen Jensen followed with a bunt that resulted in another error, allowing Kuntz to score.

Wotring followed with a bunt single, eventually advancing to second when the Princeton defense left the base uncovered.

After Morris drew a walk, Princeton escaped consecutive bases-loaded situations by forcing runners out at home plate on ground balls from Kylie Twellman and Raegan Flood.

However, sophomore Madison Lickteig delivered a two-out RBI single to left field, scoring Morris and extending Silex's advantage to 4-0.

Harris continued to frustrate Princeton's hitters in the fourth inning, retiring the Lady Tigers' lineup in order.

The Lady Owls then broke the championship game wide open in the bottom half of the inning.

Senior Claire Schwendemann opened with a walk, and Kuntz followed with an infield single. A sacrifice by Jensen advanced both runners into scoring position.

After Wotring was retired on a bunt, Princeton elected to intentionally walk Morris, loading the bases with two outs.

That decision brought senior designated player Kylie Twellman to the plate.

Twellman delivered one of the biggest hits of the afternoon, driving a bases-clearing double into the right-center-field gap. All three runners scored, pushing Silex's lead to 7-0 and sending the Lady Owls' cheering section into celebration.

The hit also ended Renfro's afternoon in the pitching circle as Princeton turned to senior Evan Boxley in relief.

The pitching change did little to slow Silex's momentum.

Sophomore Raegan Flood followed with an RBI single to right field, scoring courtesy runner Taylor Lickteig and extending the lead to 8-0.

Madison Lickteig then drove a double deep into left field. An ensuing fielding error allowed both Flood and Lickteig to score, pushing the advantage to 10-0.

By the time Princeton recorded the third out, Silex had sent 10 batters to the plate and scored six runs in the inning, all with two outs.

With a 10-run advantage, the Lady Owls needed only three more outs in the top of the fifth to secure the championship under the run rule.

Harris opened the inning with her ninth strikeout before Kuntz made an incredible diving catch in right field for the second out.

That left Princeton's Boxley as the Lady Tigers' final hope of extending the contest.

Harris worked the count to one ball and two strikes before delivering the final pitch of the championship game.

Boxley swung and missed.

Within moments, the Lady Owls were celebrating in the pitching circle, having secured the program's third state title with their second consecutive five-inning shutout.

Harris finished the championship having retired Princeton's final seven batters. Only two Lady Tigers reached base throughout the contest.

Offensively, Madison Lickteig finished 2-for-3 with a double, while Morris reached base in all three plate appearances with a two-run homer and two walks, scoring three times. Twellman drove in three runs with her fourth-inning double.

Silex finished with seven hits and played error-free defense, while Princeton committed three errors.

The championship victory followed an equally impressive performance in Friday's semifinals, when Silex defeated Wheatland 11-0 in five innings.

Harris reached another significant career milestone during that contest, recording her 700th career strikeout against the first batter she faced.

She finished the semifinal with six strikeouts, allowing just three hits and one walk. Harris was also a major contributor at the plate, collecting two hits and driving in four runs.

Flood added two hits and two RBIs, while Madison Lickteig contributed two RBIs. Jensen finished with two hits and a run scored.

Together, the two victories capped the perfect run for a Lady Owls championship weekend. Harris pitched all 10 innings, allowing just four hits and striking out 16 batters.

The Lady Owls' road to Springfield included a Class 1 District 4 championship and a measure of revenge against St. Elizabeth, which had eliminated Silex in the previous year's state quarterfinals. This season, the Lady Owls defeated St. Elizabeth 5-2 in the state quarterfinals before advancing to the final four.

Silex finished the season with a 27-5 record, while Princeton closed at 30-3 after defeating Gallatin 6-0 in Friday's semifinal.

For a program making its ninth appearance in the state final four, the championship represented more than another successful season. It was another milestone in a tradition that has spanned generations of Silex softball players, coaches, and families.

Fourteen years after the Lady Owls last stood atop Missouri Class 1 softball, a new generation brought the championship trophy home to Silex.

MDC Reminds Waterfowl Hunters Of Changes To Zone Boudaries, Season Dates

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reminds waterfowl hunters of changes to the duck-zone boundaries in Missouri and season dates for 2026-2030 waterfowl hunting.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) allows states to change the number and locations of their duck zones every five years. In late 2025, MDC held 13 public meetings and conducted mail and email surveys of waterfowl hunters to establish zone boundaries and season dates for the 2026-2030 duck seasons.

Waterfowl hunting in Missouri is divided into three zones: North, Middle, and South. Based on feedback regarding zone boundaries, the North/Middle Zone boundary changed in two areas. One area impacts Lincoln, Warren, St. Charles, St. Louis, and St. Louis City counties. The second change impacts Saline, Cooper, Chariton, Howard, Randolph, and Boone counties. No changes were made to the Middle/South Zone boundary.

The 2026 season dates for the North Zone are Oct. 31 through Dec. 29. Season dates for the Middle Zone are Nov. 7 through Dec. 13, and Dec. 19 through Jan. 10, 2027. Dates for the South Zone are Nov. 26 - 29 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2027.

Regarding season timing, the North Zone season moved slightly earlier than past ones to open Oct. 31. The Middle Zone opening moved slightly later than past seasons to Nov. 7. The split in the Middle Zone season moved from mid-November to mid-December. No changes were made to South Zone season dates.

MDC added that waterfowl hunters should be poised for fall flights similar to 2025 as the USFWS Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS) total duck breeding populations in 2026 were similar to the 2025 estimate and May pond estimates increased by 14 percent. May ponds are the number of water-filled breeding ponds counted during the WBPHS and used as an index of habitat quality and waterfowl production.

MDC notes that hunters may see fewer mallards as their population estimate was 11 percent (5.9 million) below 2025, 26 percent below the long-term average, and the lowest estimate since 1993.

MDC also reminds hunters that shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, and for other species as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Get more information on nontoxic-shot requirements at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/regulations/nontoxic-shot-regulations.

Per the Federal Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023, the Federal Duck Stamp has been converted to a digital version and hunters are no longer required to carry a paper copy. Hunters must have a digital version in their possession.

Learn more about duck zones and other waterfowl-hunting information from MDC at mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/waterfowl/duck-zones or get MDC's 2026-2027 Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Digest, available where hunting permits are sold and online through the provided link.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the Pike County Safe Routes to School Program, consisting of:

Construction of approximately 1,700 linear feet of new 5-foot sidewalk with paved approaches.

Federal Project SRTS-9901(315) located directly adjacent to North Main Cross Street from Main Street (Highway C) to Bowling Green Elementary School (School Street) in the City of Frankford, Missouri.

WILL be received until: 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2026 at the office of County Commission, Pike County Courthouse, 115 W. Main Street, Bowling Green, MO 63334 and at that time will be publicly opened and read.

Any and all bids received after the time specified above will be returned unopened.

The wage rates applicable to this project have been predetermined as required by law and are set forth in the bid proposal. When Federal wage rates are applicable and included, this contract is subject to the "Work Hours Act of 1962," (P.L.87-581; 76 Stat. 357) and implementing regulations. The higher of the Federal or State Wage rates shall apply.

The prime contractor must be on MoDOT's Qualified Contractor List per the most current version of the Missouri Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, including all revisions. The contractor must have a fully responsive questionnaire on file with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) at least 7 days prior to bid opening.

Bidders are required to submit the corresponding documentation of enrollment in the E-Verify program. This documentation includes the Memorandum of Understanding between the company and Department of Homeland Security and the Affidavit of Compliance. MoDOT will accept the first page and the signature page of the agreement as proof of participation.

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

The bidder will insure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will have the opportunity to participate in the performance of this contract and or any subcontracts. Goals for the amount of work to be awarded to DBE's will be __0 _% of the total contract price. DBE subcontractors must be on the MRCC DBE Directory prior to bid opening.

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

A digital copy of the plans and specifications may be purchased from the office of Hutchison Engineering, Inc., 8965 Highway 36, Suite 5, Hannibal, MO 63401 for a non-refundable fee of fifty dollars ($50.00). Requests can be made via phone at (573) 240-9577 or via email at kharris@hutchisoneng.com. Hard copies of the plans and specifications may be purchased upon request for an additional non-refundable fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for a total of seventy-five dollars ($75.00). All bidders must purchase plans and specifications through Hutchison Engineering, Inc. and be on the plan-holder list in order to bid the project.

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

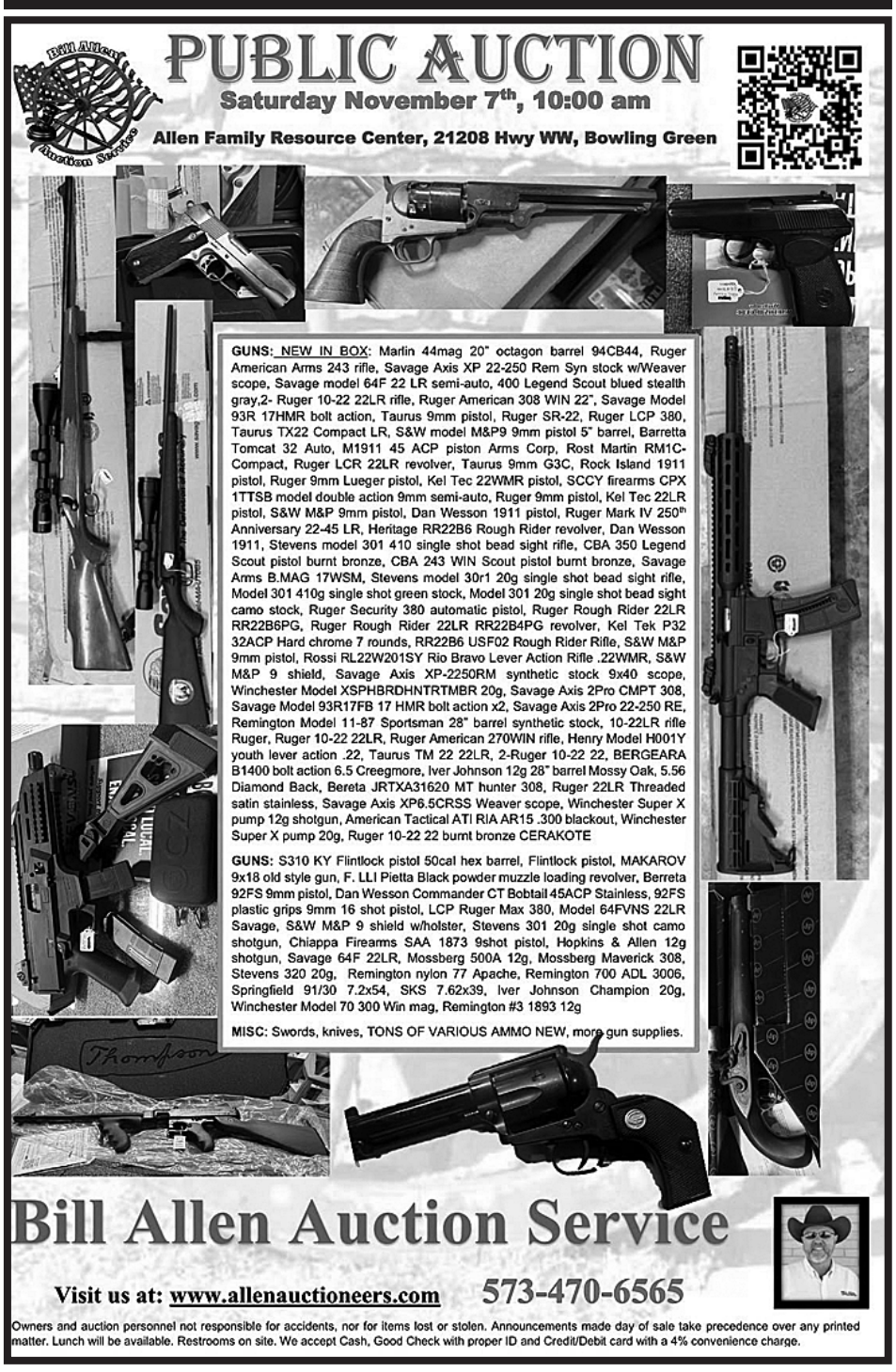
No 2nd tier subcontracting will be allowed on this project.

Proposals must be on forms provided and all unit price bids, extensions and totals provided thereon shall be completed fully.

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

Special Needs: If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Matthew Walker, at (573) 470-2187 , at least five (5) working days prior to the bid opening you plan to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SILEX LADY OWLS CLASS 1 STATE CHAMPIONS!!!



Classifieds

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

MOBILE HOMES

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

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FOR RENT

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

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

FOR SALE

FREE to good home. Wurlitzer Spinet piano. Needs tuning. 573-213-9807. (x2-50)

FIREWOOD for sale. 573-470-0770. (x5-49)

5 MONTH old pullets, just started laying. Several varieties available. Ivan and Katie Eicher, 8030 Pike 466, Curryville, MO 63339. (c4-48)

FOR SALE

TAKING ORDERS for pasture-raised turkeys. They will be processed the day before Thanksgiving. Ivan and Katie Eicher, 8030 Pike 466, Curryville, MO 63339. (c4-48)

MO Firearms Co. Inventory closeout. Firearms, ammunition switchblades and reloading supplies at cost. 573-470-9111 .

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

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

NO HUNTING

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

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

NOTICE

NOTICE OF ENTRY - (Supreme Court Rule 74.03)

In The 45th Circuit Court, Pike County, Missouri

115 W. Main St., Bowling Green, MO 63334

Case No: 26PI-FC00039

In RE Alyssa R. Filsinger

You are hereby notified that the court duly entered the following:

Filing Date Aug. 20, 2026; Description Uncontested

Judgment Name Change

The name of Petitioner is changed from Alyssa Rose Filsinger to Alyssa Rose Harvey.

Judgement Against: ALYSSA FILSINGER; Amount: $.00; Satisfied Date: Aug. 20, 2026

Notice of Entry of Judgment

Two certified copies of Judgment to pro se Petitioner.

K.G. - Clerk of Court

SERVICES

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

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

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

PUT OUR CLASSIFIEDS TO WORK FOR YOU

SERVICES

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 annahcx-@gmail.com. (tf)

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Gary Motley
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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Bowling Green R-I School District is accepting applications for a Daycare Paraprofessional. Application deadline is until position is filled. Contact the Superintendent's Office for application, 700 W. Adams, Bowling Green, MO 63334 Phone 573-324-5441. (EOE)

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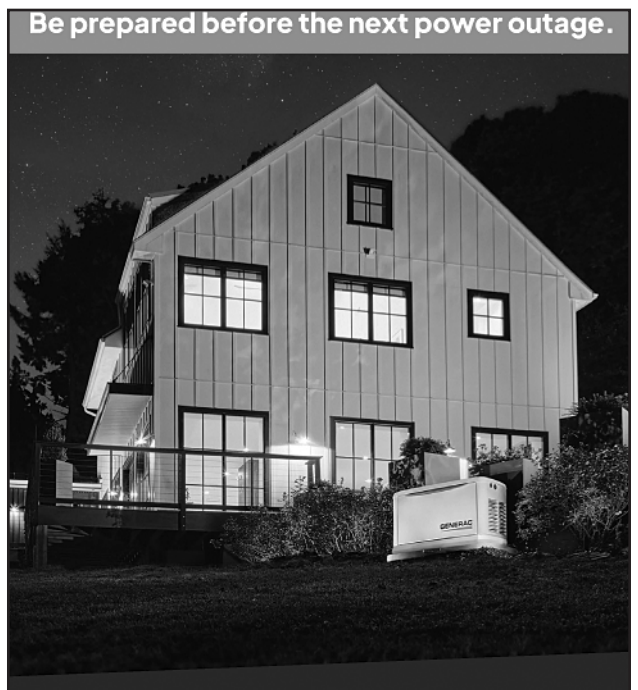
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TJenkins@ShelterInsurance.com



Frank Wallace
610 W Hwy 54
Vandalia
573-594-2235
FEWallace@ShelterInsurance.com

Community News

Farm To School Month Sheds Light On Delicious Dairy Drink: Milk

As students hurry through the breakfast and lunch line in school cafeterias, plates are filled with whole grains, protein foods, fruits and vegetables, all of which provide nutrients that children need every day.

While children have the option to choose the specific foods being placed on their plates, one constant is served with every meal: milk. This nutritious drink offers 13 essential nutrients that are vital to growing students' bodies and brains. And, while milk is served with every meal every day of the school year, October is National Farm to School Month, a key time to spotlight this delicious drink.

Milk MOOves In Just 48 Hours

Many students have had the opportunity to enjoy this dairy drink, whether at home or at school, but some may not know how milk makes its way onto their tray. Milk is a fresh and local food, moving from the dairy farm to school within 48 hours. Dairy farmers milk the cows two or three times a day. The farmers cool and store milk in large, refrigerated bulk tanks until an insulated tanker truck picks up the milk, usually once a day or every other day. The driver tests the milk before it is transported, checking for temperature, bacteria and antibiotics. Once the milk arrives at a local processing plant, it is again tested for consumption safety. The milk is then pasteurized, a process that heats the milk quickly to kill harmful bacteria and ensures safety. After that, milk is homogenized to evenly distribute the fat globules throughout and then packaged and sent off for delivery. "For over 100 years these safety tests and procedures have taken place because of the Food and Drug Administration's Grade A Milk Safety Program, making milk one of the safest beverages an individual can consume," said Jessica Kassel, registered dietitian and nutrition educator with St. Louis District Dairy Council (SLDDC).

Dairy Farming Sustainably

In addition to learning about where milk comes from, Farm to School Month also lends an opportunity to learn about specific practices on the dairy farm. Dairy farmers are constantly making improvements to their farms, trying to create the most sustainable practices, while continuing to provide the same delicious beverage. Recently, Henrichs Dairy Farm, a local farm in Breese, IL, upgraded to a 40-cow rotary milking parlor. Now dairy farmer Byran Henrichs can milk 300 cows in 2 hours. Previously, each milking session took four hours. With the new milking parlor, Henrichs has more time for other farm operations and more time to spend with his family. "Ninety-five percent of dairy farms are family owned, and having sustainable practices is important to farmers," Kassel said. "Farm practices affect not only the community but also their own families and futures." Henrichs Dairy Farm is also a featured dairy farm in the SLDDC Adopt-A-Calf program. This virtual school-based program allows teachers and students to learn about this new milking system, in addition to life on the farm and nutrition of dairy foods.

Whether drinking a carton of ice-cold milk or learning about farm practices from local dairy farmers, Farm to School Month is a great way to learn about agriculture and nutrition. Raise a glass of milk this month to your local dairy farmer for providing this delicious and nutritious dairy drink!

Visit the Farm to School page and the Dairy Farming page on the SLDDC website, stldairycouncil.org, to learn more about local Illinois and Missouri dairy farmers. You may also contact Jessica Kassel at 314-835-9668 or jkassel@ astldairycouncil.org. Follow St. Louis District Dairy Council on Facebook and Instagram at STLDairyCouncil.

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



Louisiana Museum Donation

State Rep. Chad Perkins, R-40, of Bowling Green, right, presents a $500 check to Louisiana Area Historical Museum President Brent Engel. The museum at 304 Georgia in downtown Louisiana is wrapping up a major renovation and will use the additional funding for ongoing costs.

Photo by Stephen Kitzmiller

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