



Citizen-Observer

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End of An Era ---Third Street Buildings Demolition Begins When the Sun Shines



VIEW OF CENTENNIAL BLOCK, 3RD STREET, CAMERON, CLINTON CO. MO.

drawing from 1877 DeKalb County Almanac ---From Ron Johnston

By Mark McLaughlin
Editor
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The 200 block of Third Street in downtown Cameron will finally come down, weather permitting, — brick by brick, window by window, a long, painful chapter of civic frustration ending not with a bang, but with the rattle of a backhoe and a sigh of relief.

For nearly five years, this row of 145-year-old buildings stood in a kind of suspended decay — condemned but not yet dead, a cautionary tale in brick form. Once the commercial heartbeat of the town's early days, the block had become an eyesore and, worse, a danger. The upper floors bowed, the mortar crumbled, and city crews nervously monitored cracks creeping down the facades. Each hard rain or gust of wind raised the same quiet prayer: please, not today.

Now, as demolition crews finally roll in, one truth cuts through the dust: Cameron got lucky. Nobody was hurt. No one died beneath the weight of falling masonry or from a roof that gave way in the night. For all the finger-pointing, paperwork, and political heartburn that surrounded these buildings, the best part of this ending is that it didn't take anyone with it.

147-years...By anyone's estimation, a pretty good run.

A Promise That Became a Quagmire

The trouble began years ago when the buildings were condemned after safety inspections found them structurally unsound. Instead of clearing the site immediately, the city tried to save them — out of nostalgia, hope, and maybe a little denial. Officials thought there might still be a path to preservation, a buyer with deep pockets and a soft spot for historic charm.

What followed was a long civic dance: grant applications, phone calls to developers, whispered proposals for renovation that never quite penciled out. The city, caught between historic preservationists and taxpayers tired of footing the bill for caution tape and temporary fencing, found itself in a holding pattern that stretched from one administration to the next.

The Ownership Tangle

Into that vacuum stepped Gina Reed-Hibler, a well-known local businesswoman who became a city council member. She took ownership of the properties during the city's attempts to shop them around — part investor, part optimist, perhaps part rescuer.

But her seat on the council, made the situation grow complicated. As the city deliberated over what to do with the very

properties she owned, questions about conflict of interest began to swirl. Each discussion about demolition funding, code enforcement, or liability now carried political overtones.

Eventually, those overlapping roles — city official, private owner, and public decision-maker — proved untenable. In early October, Reed-Hibler resigned from the City Council after internal and public scrutiny over her involvement in the condemned properties. Her departure, like the buildings themselves, seemed inevitable.

Five Years of Limbo

In the meantime, time and gravity did their work. The roofs sagged further, interior walls split, and bricks began to loosen. A block once marked by second-story bay windows and pressed-tin cornices became a hazard zone fenced off from foot traffic.

To outsiders, the delay looked like bureaucratic paralysis. To those who lived it, it was more complicated: a mix of limited budgets, property-rights constraints, and the stubborn hope that

something — anything — might turn the situation around before demolition became the only option.

The city's Public Works Department, firefighters, and inspectors all walked a fine line, balancing the risk of collapse against the costs of action. There were nights when police tape fluttered across the sidewalk and mornings when city workers quietly swept up new piles of fallen brick.

Coming Down, At Last

This week, the heavy equipment will See DEMO on page A2

Fall Back Sunday
Nov. 2nd
2:00 a.m.
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Joshua Strong, CFP®, AAMS™, CRPC™
Edward Jones Investments
1316 N Walnut, Cameron, MO 64429
Phone: 816.649.5340 Fax: 833.252.4751
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DEMO

from front page

finally arrive. Excavators and dump trucks will line the street, and the buildings — once symbols of possibility and, later, paralysis — will be reduced to rubble.

Standing nearby, longtime residents feel something between sadness and relief. For all their decline, those storefronts held memories: the old hardware store, a dress shop, a law office, a café where regulars traded the day's news. But nostalgia doesn't hold up sagging beams, and sentiment won't stop gravity.

When the dust settles, the empty lot will look strange — like a missing tooth in the downtown smile. Yet even that gap represents progress of a kind. For the first time in years, the danger will be gone. The city can stop worrying about collapse and start thinking about what comes next.

A Lesson in Time and Responsibility

Cameron's 200 block of Third Street has become more than just a demolition site; it's a case study in the hazards of

civic entanglement and delayed decisions. It reminds everyone — citizens and city leaders alike — that historic preservation is noble, but safety and clarity of ownership must come first.

The saga cost the city time, money, and, ultimately, a council member's resignation. But it also brought something back: focus. The conversation has shifted from who owns it and who's to blame to what can we build here now?

And when the last wall falls, perhaps the best headline will be the simplest one — No one died.

In a small town, that's not just luck. That's mercy.

When the demolition ends, the ground is leveled, and trees planted, the City can figure out what to do next.

And downtown property valuations will soar.

Finding on House Bill 2062 Declares it Unconstitutional

Missouri's 19th judicial court finds that House Bill 2062, passed by the Missouri General Assembly in 2024, violates the Missouri Constitution's Single Subject, Clear Title, and Original Purpose provisions. (Article III, Sections 21 and 23.)

Missourians added those clauses to their Constitution in the 1800's to enhance transparency in the legislative process and to prevent "log-rolling," the practice of combining bills that, on their own, would not garner enough support to become law. The Missouri legislature routinely ignores those constitutional limitations on their power.

Judge Stumpe also found that HB 2062 violated the Missouri and United States Contract Clauses, which forbid the passage of any law "impairing the obligation of contracts" between private parties.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Four Season's Lakesites Property Owners Association Inc, a Missouri nonprofit corporation in good standing and registered with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Judge Brian Stumpe found 2024 HB 2062 to be unconstitutional on all counts. The

Missouri Constitution Article III, Sections 21 & 23 clearly spells out how a bill is to become law. Those provisions include a clear title, a single subject, and the original purpose of a bill must not be changed. HB 2062 violated all 3 of these principles as it was amended throughout the legislative process including replacing the entire bill's language with a substitute bill.

The bill started out relating to moratoriums on eviction proceedings, and it ended up including everything from business licenses to electric vehicles, and even deed restrictions dealing with the ownership or pasturing of chickens.

Senator Mike Moon had voted against the bill and filed a constitutional letter of objection at the time of the bill signing. Judge Stumpe referenced Senator Moon's points in his written judgement.

There are a handful of other similar challenges to bills passed in 2024 and 2025, including two that the Article III Institute is financially facilitating.

Article 3 was added to the 1945 Missouri Constitution to insure transparency in the process of making new laws based on many abuses of power by prior legislative bodies. The lawsuit case number is 24AC-CC07532

Updates will be posted on the Article 3 Institute website: <https://article3institute.org/>

The Article 3 Institute is a non-profit public interest corporation whose purpose is to educate law makers on the provisions of Article 3 and to hold them accountable for violations via litigation.

Missouri farmer adjusts to life with Alpha-Gal Syndrome

MEXICO, Mo. — Life changed dramatically for Ted DeVault of Mexico in 2023, when he was diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome, a serious allergic condition triggered by the lone star tick, which is common in Missouri.

After multiple life-threatening emergency room visits, he began losing his vision and seeing double. Then the longtime Audrain and Monroe County livestock and grain farmer began an exhaustive search for answers at leading medical facilities in and out of Missouri.

DeVault's frustration and search for more information was not unusual. A recent survey by University of Missouri Extension on the experiences of those with AGS and those who support them showed that Missourians want more knowledge about this topic, says nutrition and health specialist Eden Stewart, who leads the MU Extension AGS interdisciplinary team.

AGS causes reactions to alpha-galactose, a carbohydrate found in mammalian meat and byproducts. Symptoms vary from person to person and range from mild discomfort to life-threatening anaphylaxis. Symptoms usually appear 2-6 hours after eating meat or dairy products, but they can also happen within minutes from exposure to airborne hair and dander or cooking fumes from mammalian meat. Common symptoms include difficulty breathing, joint pain and muscle aches, fatigue, dizziness and swelling of the eyes, lips, throat and tongue.

DeVault's condition is complicated and made more extreme by other diseases. He also has had tularemia, a rare bacterial infection that occurs after a tick or deer fly bites an infected animal — usually a rodent, rabbit or hare — and then bites a human shortly after. He has also had Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Ehrlichia, and he carries a genetic variant for MTHFR, an enzyme involved in processing folate in the body.

In addition to dealing with the physical discomfort caused by AGS, DeVault and his family had to make a 180-degree change in lifestyle and diet. They no longer eat red meat, including beef, pork and venison, previous mainstays of their diet. Today, it's "fins and feathers," DeVault says.

The DeVaults discovered animal byproducts in unsuspecting places such as sugar and bottled water, both of which can be processed with bone char from cattle to remove impurities. Animal byproducts

may also be concealed in oils, vitamins and supplements. Candies and crackers and even that morning bowl of cereal might be cross-contaminated. A communion wafer is anything but blessed.

Because of the MTHFR variant, DeVault has to stay away from synthetic folic acid. Dietary needs have led the DeVault family to buy wheat and grind it to make flour for breads and pastries.

Before he contracted alpha-gal, DeVault and his family traveled through 49 states and 17 countries. They still travel, but they have to be diligent in their planning since they can't eat at restaurants. They prepare food prior to travel to take with them, and DeVault now must carry an epinephrine pen with him.

Even the smallest of joys like a child's Christmas play can turn into a health emergency. DeVault innocently sat by someone who wore a sweater covered with dog hair, which caused a reaction. Visits to friends and family are restricted to those with outside pets.

MU Extension nutrition and health specialist Rachel O'Halloran says DeVault's experiences reflect the social isolation that can result from AGS.

"We want people to eat diverse and healthy diets while feeling connected to their communities," she says. "Anytime someone has to make a diet change, it can be stressful and bewildering."

A livestock farmer, DeVault found he must exercise caution when working his cattle, going to the sale barns or even buying bulls. Inadequate ventilation has caused problems, including anaphylaxis symptoms.

In addition to farming, DeVault is an agricultural instructor at the Hart Career Center in Mexico, where he serves as the FBMA instructor and adviser for the Mexico Young Farmers. He is a 1999 graduate of MU's ag system management program, and he received his master's in education administration from William Woods University.

He and his wife, veterinarian Treena DeVault, have owned and operated the Mexico Animal Hospital since 2007. She is a 2003 graduate of MU's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Currently, there is no required reporting of AGS within state medical systems, so it is unknown how many Missourians have AGS. A 2023 paper suggests that there may be as many as 450,000 people within the U.S. with AGS.

GUN & KNIFE

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Fri. 11 am - 6 pm • Sat. 9 am - 3 pm

Admission \$5 • 12 & Under Free

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Next Week in the C-O...

- 1) Swing of the Wrecking Ball?
- 2) Final (?) Outcome of Johnston Probate Case
- 3) Friday Night Lights --- CHS Football in the District hunt...

NOW SHOWING at Tyrrell Theater

SOUL ON FIRE

PG

Show Times:

Fri. Oct. 31	NO SHOW	
Sat. Nov. 1	3:00 pm	5:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 2	3:00 pm	

Cameron Regional YMCA

1903 N. Walnut • Cameron, MO

816-632-3811

www.cameronymca.org

the **Y**

Happy Birthday Mom!

Join us in celebrating the 90th birthday of Willie Adams on November 7th. Help us shower her with love and cards from friends and family. Mailing Address: 740 S. West St. #200, Cameron Mo 64429.

Love you Mom! Debbie, Nicki, Bobbie and Brent

DeKalb County Sheriff's Report October 19-25, 2025

Sunday 19th

12:13am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to debris in the roadway on Highway 6
 12:21am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office conducted extra patrol on Highway 6
 1:27am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to commercial Alarm on Polk St
 12:43pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to an injured animal on Highway 169
 12:57pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office conducted a wellbeing check on Cedar St
 1:04pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a medical call on Northland Dr, Cameron was advised
 3:56pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to debris in the roadway on Highway 36
 4:28pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on Highway 33
 4:54pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to an abandoned vehicle on State Route P

Monday 20th

2:07am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on Highway 36
 8:20am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a citizen inquiry from Crabill Rd
 1:38pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to debris in the roadway on Highway 36
 2:33pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a public service request from 6th St
 3:19pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a citizen inquiry from Main St
 3:53pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a careless driver on Highway 36
 5:07pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a residential alarm on Cedar St
 6:03pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a controlled burn on Highway 6
 7:09pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of debris in the roadway on I-35
 7:33pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 open line call from Cedar St

Tuesday 21st

12:03am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a medical call pm State Route C, Andrew County was notified
 2:36am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a repossession on 3rd St
 9:41am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 open line call from Main St
 12:35pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a citizen inquiry
 2:35pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist another agency on Jackson St
 3:27pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a citizen inquiry from Rockwood Creek Rd
 10:25pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to debris in the roadway on Frank Ross RD

Wednesday 22nd

7:53am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a careless driver on Highway 36
 9:12am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a controlled burn on Sloan St
 10:49am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a controlled burn on State Route RA
 12:41pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of livestock out on Highway 6
 1:57pm: Union State Fire responded to a fire on Thornton Rd
 2:36pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 hang up from Sheridan St
 5:20pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a vehicle accident on Highway 33
 6:48pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on Walnut St
 7:13pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on Highway 36
 7:36pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a vehicle accident on State Route C
 10:16pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 hang up from an unknown address
 10:22pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on Highway 36
 10:40pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist a motorist on

Highway 36

Thursday 23rd

7:06am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a commercial alarm on Polk St
 8:03am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of Livestock out on State Route A
 11:03am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a citizen inquiry from Mitchell St
 12:22pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 hang up from an unknown address
 2:30pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to assist DFS on Main St
 6:56pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a controlled burn on Washington St
 8:43pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to an injured animal on 3rd St
 8:55pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to a commercial alarm on Hill St
 10:24pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office conducted a wellbeing check on State Route N

Friday 24th

10:47am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office was advised of a medical call on College St, Gentry County was advised
 12:00 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to Summit Rd. for a reported domestic
 12:52pm: Dekalb-Clinton EMS/ Stewartsville Fire responded to Hill St. for a medical call
 3:54 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a careless driving complaint on Hwy 36
 4:06 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a report of theft on Cook Rd
 4:30 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call on Wallace St.
 5:27 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 hang-up on Grindstone Rd.
 6:42 pm: Dekalb-Clinton EMS responded to Buchanan St. for Medical Stand-by
 6:45 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a 911 hand-up on State Route Z
 10:41 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to Sloan St for reported suspicious activity

Saturday 25th

12:56 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's

Office received information on juvenile behavior

1:31 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to Grindstone regarding suspicious activity
 3:14 am: Dekalb-Clinton/ Osborn fire responded to Hedge Rd for a medical call
 4:23 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a call of fire alarm, then cancelled by alarm company on State Route N.
 5:08 am: Dekalb-Clinton EMS/ Stewartsville Fire responded to Main St for Medical Call
 5:26 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to suspicious activity on Highway 6
 7:28 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received fire alarm, but was cancelled by alarm company on State route N
 8:18 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a careless driving complaint on Polk St
 8:23 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a public service request on Adams Rd
 8:54 am: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to State Route F for a juvenile matter
 1:13 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a public service request on Cedar St.
 2:22 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a medical call for Cameron, transferred to Cameron PD
 4:51 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to Sharp Rd. for a reported domestic disturbance
 4:49 pm: Clarksdale Fire Department responded to Clarksdale City Park for Special assignment
 5:13 pm: Dekalb-Clinton EMS/ Central Dekalb Fire responded to Ausman Dr. for medical call
 6:42 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a verbal disturbance on County Rd. 375, transferred to Andrew County
 10:14 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded to Sheridan St on a reported Disturbance
 11:49 pm: DeKalb County Sheriff's Office received a public service request on Highway 33

Cameron Police Department ~ Calls for Service

The following report is calls for service, listed by type of call and the number of calls per category, answered by the Cameron Police Department from October 20-26, 2025.

911 HANG UP	5	INFO	9
911 OPEN LINE	1	INTOXICATED DRIVER	1
ABANDONED VEHICLE	1	LOST PROPERTY	1
ALARM - PD	3	MISSING PERSON	1
AMBULANCE SCENE RESPONSE ...	13	MVA NON INJURY	2
AREA CHECK	24	MVA UNKNOWN 1	1
ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY	6	OTHER AGENCY CALL	3
BUILDING CHECK	20	PAPER SERVICE	1
CARELESS AND IMPRUDENT		PEDESTRAIN CHECK	5
DRIVER	7	PUBLIC WORKS / UTILITIES	2
CHECK THE WELFARE 6.....		REPOSESSION	1
CITIZEN ASSIST	22	SECURE THE AREA	1
CIVIL	1	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT	2
CONTROLLED BURN	2	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY - PERSON/ VEHICLE	6
CUSTODY ISSUE	3	TEST EQUIPMENT	3
DEATH	1	THREATS	1
DISTURBANCE	10	TRAFFIC HAZARD	1
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	4	TRAFFIC STOP	41
ESCORT - FUNERAL / BUSINESS	2	VEHICLE CHECK	5
EXTRA PATROL	1	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	3
FIRE ALARM	1	WARRANT SERVICE	3
FIRE - NATURAL COVER / GRASS ...	1	Total	4
FIREWORKS VIOLATION	1	Total Records.....	265
FOLLOW UP	17		
FRAUD / FORGERY	1		
FUEL REPORT	15		

Cameron Fire Department ~ Calls for Service

The following report is calls for service answered by the Cameron Fire Department from October 20-26, 2025.

10/19/25	18:17 CONTROLLED BURN 10544 NE OLD HIGHWAY 36, CAMERON, MO 64429
05:15 MVA UNKNOWN 1601 E EVERGREEN ST, CAMERON, MO 64429	
12:46 MVA UNKNOWN MM 46 IS 35 N	
10/20/25	
12:09 FIRE - MUTUAL AID 10071 VOW AVE, DAVIESS COUNTY, MO	
10/21/25	
16:15 FIRE ALARM 1402 2ND ST TER, CAMERON, MO 64429	
10/22/25	
15:35 OTHER AGENCY CALL 101 N CHESTNUT ST, CAMERON, MO 64429	

Cameron Police Department - Arrest Report October 20-26, 2025

HARRISON, ETHAN LINCOLN, NE 68521 28 10/24/25 14:34 ADMIN - WARRANT ARREST; LIC (O) DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED .Released on Bond

Have some helpful information? Want to stay anonymous? Cameron TIPS Hotline: (816) 632-TIPS (8477)

Financial Focus: The real meaning of diversification in investing



Brought to you by: Dillon Bird and Joshua Strong, CFP®, AAMS™, CRPC™
Financial Advisors with Edward Jones

In the world of investing, we've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." It's solid advice that emphasizes the importance of diversifying your investments. Unfortunately, some people misinterpret this wisdom to mean they should avoid consolidating their investment accounts and keep their money spread across multiple financial institutions, often working with several different financial advisors.

However, when financial professionals talk about diversification, they're referring to diversifying your investment assets, not your accounts. There's a big difference between the two, and confusing them could hurt your financial future.

Scattered accounts may affect costs, paperwork and advice. When your assets are spread among multiple financial institutions, you could face several drawbacks. First, you're likely paying more in fees than necessary. Multiple providers often mean multiple account fees, transaction costs and mutual fund expenses that can add up quickly. Generally, the more assets you have with one financial provider, the more opportunities you have for reducing or eliminating these costs.

Managing scattered accounts also could create a paperwork nightmare. You'll receive multiple monthly statements and numerous tax forms, making it much harder to see the big picture of your financial health. This complexity can lead to missed opportunities and poor decision-making.

Perhaps most important, working with multiple financial advisors may result in conflicting advice and duplicated investment strategies. Without a comprehensive view of your entire portfolio, each financial advisor may recommend investments that don't work well together, potentially delaying your progress toward reaching financial goals.

There's strength in consolidation. Consolidating your accounts with a single financial advisor offers numerous benefits. You'll have opportunities to develop a closer, more comprehensive relationship with someone who understands your complete financial picture. This financial advisor can provide informed guidance and help eliminate the conflicting advice that may come from working with multiple professionals.

Consolidation also makes it easier to implement a well-diversified portfolio that

fits your level of risk tolerance. When all your investments are in one place, you can see exactly how your assets are allocated and make strategic adjustments as needed. It becomes simpler to gauge aggregate investment returns, assess your portfolio assets and rebalance when necessary.

For retirement planning, consolidation can be especially valuable. IRAs at different providers can be consolidated at any time without tax consequences when assets are transferred directly between providers. When you retire, your 401(k) can typically be rolled over into an IRA, streamlining your retirement income strategy.

True diversification still matters. While consolidating accounts makes sense, diversifying your actual investments remains crucial. A good financial advisor will help you carefully build a balanced mix of stocks and bonds appropriate for your age and goals. As you approach retirement, this typically means shifting toward a more balanced portfolio that still provides growth to combat inflation while offering stability and income.

Diversification goes beyond just stocks and bonds. Take bonds, for instance: You can diversify by bond type (municipal, corporate and government), bond maturity (through a strategy called "laddering") and bond sector to spread risk across different parts of the economy.

How to get started. If your retirement savings and investment accounts are scattered among various financial institutions, consider consolidating everything with one trusted financial advisor. The streamlined record-keeping, potential for reduced fees and comprehensive financial guidance can help improve your wealth-building potential while making your financial life simpler to manage.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Chalk Talk

By Mark McLaughlin
Editor
editor@mycameronnews.com

Why This Story Matters

I was asked an important question this weekend after posting a Facebook update on the twists and turns of Ron Johnston's probate case: **Why is this newsworthy?**

Ron's story is that of a regular guy, minding his own business, who learned that two dear friends back in Cameron, Missouri—Florence and Jerry Kinder—had passed away while he and his wife were living in Phoenix. The shock wasn't just their loss. It was discovering that the Kinders had named Ron and his wife as primary beneficiaries of their estate in a will written in 2001.

So, why is it news? Because heirs often face enormous obstacles in claiming what's rightfully theirs. Probate law can be a maze—sometimes fair, sometimes not—and too often, the lawyers come out ahead while the heirs are left frustrated and waiting.

This story struck a personal chord with me. Six years ago, I lost an inheritance of my own when my mother died at 99. My cousins convinced her to rewrite her will less than two weeks before she passed—removing me as executor and replacing me with one of them. It was a long con, decades in the making, and by the time I found out, it was too late.

There was a middle five-figure sum at stake, but no attorney in Illinois wanted to take the time to challenge a will written in the final 14-days of dementia. My cousins had alienated my mother's affections years before, and the law didn't protect me. That's life, I guess. Sometimes the law favors the players who know how to work it.

Ron's case seemed different. He did everything right—filed the paperwork, negotiated with other heirs, settled the terms back in 2022. By now, the estate should be closed and assets distributed. But it isn't.

He's made multiple attempts to conclude the process, even invested years cleaning

See CHALK on page A2

Liberty Thought of the Week

By Paul Hamby
paul.hamby@protonmail.com
Contributed

Election Day is Tuesday Nov 4

There are no federal or state issues on the ballot, so only local issues will be voted on. Not all precincts in the state will have an issue to vote on, so check with your county clerk or local newspaper before heading to the polls.

Here is a look at some of the local issues from around the state:

Texas and Dekalb County voters will decide on the Senior Citizen Property Tax Freeze.

A Yes vote will freeze property taxes for homeowners aged 62 and older on their primary residence, protecting them from future increases. If passed, senior citizen homeowners must apply for the freeze each year.

Jefferson City voters will decide on renewing their 7% hotel / motel tax for the next 25 years.

Springfield voters will decide on raising their hotel / motel tax from the current 13.1% to the requested 16.1% tax.

Jackson County voters will decide two issues next Tuesday:

Question 1 asks whether the county assessor should be elected or appointed. This relates to county property tax assessment

valuations fluctuating greatly, and the community calling for more accountability. All county residents can vote on this issue.

Question 2 is for Independence School District voters only. Those within the ISD boundaries will decide whether to adopt a four-day school week for 10 years. (KCTV5)

The Cities of Creve Coeur and Hallsville along with Christian County voters will decide on raising taxes on out-of-state internet purchases called a use tax but it is essentially a sales tax. Approximately 1/2 of Missouri cities have passed the use tax.

This is the ballot language from Christian County:

"In an attempt to eliminate the unfair advantage enjoyed by out-of-state vendors over local vendors, shall the county of Christian impose a local use tax at the same rate as the local sales tax rate, provided that if the local sales tax rate is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be reduced or raised by the same action?"

Taxes are on the ballot throughout Missouri. One thing is consistent in local elections regarding taxes, a small percent of voters decide on taxes for everyone. Do your homework to become an educated voter, then vote on November 4, 2025

If you can't make it to the polls on November 4th, you can vote early up to November 3 by casting an absentee ballot at the county courthouse.

Citizen-Observer

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be signed and either typed or printed. They should be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Friday and should be no longer than 450 words. We reserve the right to edit all letters to the editor.

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A View From the Right Where's The Beef

By **Bill Arthur**

Contributing Writer

editor@mycameronnews.com

“Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” President John F. Kennedy

There have been around 142,000 farms lost between 2017 and 2022. What could be the reason? Do you suppose that farmers are getting older, and their land is multiplying in value so quickly that this is the ideal time to cash in their chips? Is it possible they can no longer compete with their brother farmers for the land on which they would hope to ply their trade?

We can't forget the cost of machinery. Nothing has inflated faster than the cost of “iron.” Cattlemen have been caught up in the machinery game, forever trying to harvest their grass for winter cattle feed. The days of boys willing to pick up hay is long past, so cattlemen must do it all themselves. Machinery makes it possible; it's just part of the profession.

It is impossible to diversify, vertical integration was smart until farmers could no longer raise hogs and chickens profitably. Cattle farms are the only diversified operations in much of the agricultural United States.

In the past three years, there has been a growing shortage of cattle due to drought and farmers calling it quits. Meanwhile consumers have increased their net worth, enabling them to help themselves to the choicest cuts of beef. The cattle business is very healthy, and cattlemen showed their approval by voting at a very high percentage for Donald Trump.

However, presidents have a responsibility for the safety of the nation that eclipses cows and cowboys. China has been making inroads in South America, which the United States considers unacceptable.

Socialists have been elected to prominent positions, especially in Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Argentina was also going the way of the communist superpower until the election of Javier Milei, who was heavily backed by Trump. He is attempting to lead his country away from its Peronist past.

Another enemy has arrived at the United States border. They are called New World screw worms. They are beginning to infest cattle herds in Central and South America, and though eradicated in the USA, they could make a comeback. Beef from Mexico has already been banned from the American markets, causing an increase in the price of retail beef.

President Trump, in a move to cement the relationship he has cultivated with the Argentine leader, agreed to lower the tariff on beef exported from our southern neighbor, so that the 20,000 tons currently being shipped to our markets could be increased to 80,000 tons. It was hoped that it could cool the high beef prices American producers are now paying.

The American public consumes 12 million tons of beef annually of which 10 million is from our nation's herds. Therefore the 80,000 tons has already been accounted for in the market-place, but Cattlemen all over the country are screaming that the president stabbed them in the back.

See **BEEF** on page 5

Park Board Resignation

Al Briggs has resigned from the Park Board:

“It has been my honor to serve our city on the Park Board for 17-plus years. I really hate resigning now, but conditions make it impossible to continue. As the old saying goes, ‘You cannot fight City Hall’. I say, ‘You cannot help/trust City Hall!’

“For decades we have served as a Park Board ‘Authority’ and have made our own decisions and have been conservative shepherds of our tax money. But this council and former City Manager Steve Rasmussen turned all that upside down. These problems did not exist until the rule of Rasmussen and his councils.

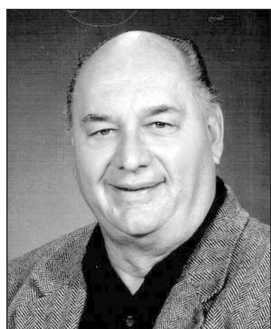
“The council now, in several instances, is diverting park money to other uses. We need a State Audit to find these wrong doings.

“The past 17 years have seen many additions to our city's recreational profile: A new swimming pool, new baseball/softball fields, additional shelter houses, soccer fields, a dog park, Disc golf (with Rotary), Moose Station (a handicapped accessible portion of Recreation Park with the McVicker family), new, nicer, safer playground equipment, sand volleyball courts, new restrooms, walking trails, basketball court, skate park, a fishing deck at the Reservoirs (Rotary again), youth programs of all kinds, and pickleball courts.

“I think we have earned the trust of our citizens. It is a shame that the council wants to undo years of success.”

“Matt Vaughn, Kristin Bates, I wish you good luck as long as you are allowed to serve on this ‘new’ park board. Keep seeking truths.”

It Seems to B.



Jack Briggs
Guest Columnist

Sincerely, “Al” Briggs

--

In her final meeting, she made a request:

“Several years ago, Park Leader Drew Bontrager was looking for donations to support the parks. He suggested that contributions above a certain level included naming benefits.

“Jack and I contributed \$20,000 for pickleball courts and another \$20,000 to build a major

shelter house like the one in Recreation Park. At that time, the plan was to develop a new portion of the park that would include both the pickleball courts and the big shelter house.

“We patiently waited for years. While matching funds for both those gifts were made by the state. The pickleball courts were developed on the old tennis courts to save money and to provide more courts. We were fine with that. Ira said he was planning on making up some kind of plaque to go on the pickleball courts.

“But the grand plan has changed and there are no longer any plans to build that major shelter house. So, we would like that \$20,000 returned, so that we can work on another project. That would be a tall clock to go in the downtown Earl Park.

“We made a \$20,000 donation for something that's not going to be built. So, we would like that money back soon so we can make progress on the clock project.”

I'm anxious to see if the Council will make the right decision.

Social Security Matters
by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Do I Need to Sign Up for an Online Social Security Account?

Dear Rusty: I recently I heard the tail end of a radio program which was discussing “signing up for my Social Security account.” I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

1) What is the background regarding this “call” by the SSA to create an online account?

2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have “accounts”? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have “accounts” on-line.

3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an “account”?

4) Is there a window of time during which we must “sign up”?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned: While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity. It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online “my Social Security” account. Nothing will change for you – you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background? Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them “online.” This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.

BEEF

I don't think they have ever walked into a local market. Chicken and pork are much cheaper than beef, but even if the consumers prefer their steak, a hard-working mom will buy the cheaper source of protein. Therefore, the cattlemen are already losing market share.

Cattlemen are currently making a good

Social Security Matters



Russell Gloor
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC

2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account? SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like “Two-Factor Identification” and use of certain specific identification measures

for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an “account”? Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must “sign up”? As indicated above, there is no time in which you must “sign up.” If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

from page 5

profit, and the president has a job to do to protect this country. I would suggest they pull up their “Big Boy Chaps” and try to learn about geo-politics before they get Gavin Newsom elected.

Mike's Ramblings

By **Mike Hanrahan**

C-O Reporter

editor@mycameronnews.com

THE JOPLIN SPOOK LIGHTS

Although commonly referred to as the "Joplin Spook Light", it is actually seen in Northeast Oklahoma not far from the town of Quapaw. It is reported along farm road E50. It is said to be orange in color and supposedly goes back more than a hundred years.

Local Legend says the "Spook Light" was first seen by Indians during the infamous Trail of Tears. It was allegedly first reported in a 1881 publication called "The Ozark Spotlight". There was also an article in a 1936 issue of the Kansas City Star.

It is reported to be somewhere between the size of a baseball and a basketball. It is reported to "dance", spin along the center of the road at high speed, then raise above the tree tops and disappear. It is said the best time to see it is between 10PM and Midnight.

It has been studied by Paranormal Investigators and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It is claimed that no definitive answer has been discovered. Some have described it as escaping natural gas, while others think it might be electromagnetic reaction to rocks below the ground and often associated with earthquakes. The area was subjected to earthquakes in the 1700's.

Many myths have arisen concerning the "Spook Lights". These have been encouraged

by businesses in the Joplin and Neosho area believing it will attract tourists to the area.

Recent research indicates that the "light" is the reflection of car headlights along U.S. Highway 66, although some "witnesses" disagree. It remains part of the southwest Missouri and Northeast Oklahoma folklore, and a good story at Halloween!

EXOTIC ANIMALS

An Ohio man, Terry Thompson, owned the Muskingum County Wild Animal Farm near Zanesville, Ohio. It actually was a private zoo. At the time, 2011, the state of Ohio had no rules or regulations concerning private animal parks.

Thompson was a Vietnam veteran. He had been accumulating exotic animals for most of his life, keeping them on his own property in Muskingum County. He had been featured on Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, and had provided animals for photo shoots including one with Heidi Klum.

His "zoo" contained 17 African lions, 18 tigers, 6 American black bears, 2 Grizzly bears, 2 wolves, 3 leopards, 1 baboon, 1 macaque monkey, 3 mountain lions and several smaller animals.

In 2011 his world began to crumble. His property was cited for unsafe and inadequate housing for his animals, improper fencing, and inadequate food on hand for the animals. His property received numerous complaints by neighbors, and the state passed legislation requiring both permits and liability insurance. On top of this, his wife left him.

On October 18th, 2011, Thompson opened the gates and released his animals to the countryside. Very quickly law enforcement began receiving 9-1-1 calls from the public reporting wild, exotic animals running free.

County Sheriff Matt Lutz responded by authorizing his deputies to shoot and kill any exotic animals running free. Most of his animals were shot to death. Three leopards, a small grizzly bear, and two monkeys had not been released. These were tranquilized and moved to the Columbus (OH) Zoo. There were no injuries to the public.

Thompson was sentenced to three years in prison for endangering the public and possessing an unregistered machine gun. Law enforcement killed 49 animals. The Ohio legislature has since passed legislation controlling such "private zoos".

SPOOKY CEMETERIES

Eternal Silence cemetery in Chicago features a 10 foot tall statue of a shrouded and hooded man, called the "Statue of Death". It was commissioned by Dexter Graves to be used as a monument on his grave. The hooded person is holding one hand to its face. The statue is depicted as "intimidating". Local folklore alleges that gazing into the eyes of the statue will allow one to see a vision of their own death.

Marchant Ball is a monument in Marion Cemetery in Marion, Ohio. The monument features a large ball made of black granite and highly polished. It was

ordered by local businessman George C. Marchant who passed away in 1883. The "mystery" is that the huge ball moves and spins "on its own." Paranormal investigators cite "spirits", while others seek logical reasons. It remains a mystery.

Mystery Cemetery in Bullit County Kentucky is remarkable because there are no names on any of the tombstones. Locals think that at least some of the graves belong to cholera-stricken railroad workers, and that the remainder belong to Civil War soldiers. There are no other theories.

Kasey Cemetery, also in Kentucky, lies in Elizabeth County. The cemetery is nicknamed "The Gates of Hell" and it is alleged that paranormal activity occurs in the cemetery. A focal point in the cemetery is the burial plot of Mary Ellen Scott who passed away at the age of 6 months. Many toys have been left on Mary Ellen's gravestone by people moved by her tragic death.

Bachelors Grove Cemetery in suburban Chicago. The land was originally purchased by Stephen Rexford, resold to Edward Everden and once more to Frederick Schmidt with the stipulation that some of the land be used as a cemetery. The last burial in the cemetery was in 1989. Visitors (mostly teenagers) have vandalized the cemetery somewhat. These visitor claim to witness ghostly apparitions or "floating" lights. This is likely due to vivid imaginations.

WELCH HOSPITAL

In 1913 an Illinois doctor purchased land adjacent to Missouri's Current River for \$800. His purchase included the tranquil Welch Spring. He believed that the Spring water had healing properties, and that the cool, pollen-free air coming from an adjacent cave would be helpful to those suffering from asthma, emphysema, and tuberculosis. He claimed it would also help hay fever victims.

He built his hospital over the mouth of the cave in order to pull more cave air into the hospital. Today it would be called a "spa" because little in the way of treatments were provided, just access to the fresh air.

He also realized the scenic value of the location. The stream water was clear and the abundance of trees and shrubs would attract vacationers who wanted a tranquil, relaxing location away from their worries. He did install a few picnic areas and tent sites.

Times were difficult and anyone wanting to visit the hospital were forced to drive many miles on dirt roads which were often muddy. As time went by, people were more enamored of the scenic Current River and places with "heavy water" became increasingly popular.

Today the "hospital" is in ruins, but still standing next to the beautiful Welch Spring. Those wanting to visit the ruins and the Spring need to know that the location is best reached by canoe. However swimming or wading are forbidden on the fragile waterway.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a community-focused organization, Young at Heart Resources is dedicated to supporting older adults and their families across our region. We strive to ensure that seniors have access to essential services, resources, and programs that help them live healthy, independent lives.

Young at Heart Resources remains committed to serving older adults and their families throughout our region. However, due to the recent government shutdown, ongoing communication challenges, and resulting funding constraints, the organization will be implementing necessary budget reductions.

These adjustments are being made to ensure the long-term stability of our programs

and to preserve our ability to deliver essential services to the community. We appreciate the continued understanding and support of our partners, participants, and community members during this time.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact our office by phone at 660-240-9400 or email info@yahresources.org. We also encourage community members to contact their local government officials to share any concerns about the impact of these funding disruptions on services for older adults.

Sincerely,

Penny Crawford

Chief Executive Officer

Young at Heart Resources

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CHALK

from page 4

up and remodeling the Kinder properties, preparing them for sale once he could take possession. Yet the attorney holding the title of “personal representative” hasn’t finalized the deeds. A motion to compel completion months ago went nowhere. Another hearing is set for Wednesday, and everyone’s asking: *what’s the holdup?*

Is there anything nefarious happening? Hard to say. But part of what makes this story matter is the lack of transparency. Johnston has repeatedly requested a full financial accounting since the Kinders’ deaths in 2020—requests that have gone unanswered. Four personal representatives have now cycled through the case, and no one can say for certain whether each took their cut as PR.

The estate’s bank accounts—once holding over \$100,000—appear to be drained, supposedly for taxes and debts. Maybe those debts were paid. Maybe not. No one knows.

We’ve reached out to the parties handling the estate and even to the judge presiding over the case. One of the parties has reached out, but we’ll await the hearing before going further with that. To be clear, we’re not accusing anyone of wrongdoing. But questions remain—big ones—and those questions are exactly why this is newsworthy. It’s not just about Ron and Susie Johnston. It’s about how the probate system itself can fail to serve the people it’s supposed to protect.

As one person with long experience in these matters told me, “It’s a s---y way for this to work, but it’s all legal.” Maybe so. But maybe that’s the problem. Maybe it’s time Missouri’s legislators took a hard look at this process and found ways to protect heirs as much as they protect the attorneys.

For me, this story hits deeper than a file number in probate court. In a short time, Ron has become a friend—a man of faith, patience, and belief that the right thing will prevail. He’s done everything by the book,

spent years preparing those properties, and invested over \$250,000 in the process. He’s not chasing greed; he’s trying to secure what’s his and get back home to Susie, his wife of 62 years.

That’s the heart of this story—the time he’s lost. Time he should be spending with his partner, his kids, his grandkids, and a great-grandchild just born October 12. He should be home, not battling bureaucracy in a courtroom. That’s what makes it newsworthy. That’s what makes it human.

ON ANOTHER SCORE —

Junior’s Construction rolls into town this week to begin demolishing the old Third Street buildings. I’ll be heading over soon to photograph them one last time—still standing, barely, on their final day after 147 years.

Those buildings went up in 1877, when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. C.A. Liebrandt’s store once lit up that block, and fittingly, the contractor plans to preserve the façade for current Liebrandt Jewelry owner Steve—a small nod from the City to its historic past.

When the foundation is exposed for the first time in nearly a century and a half, someone ought to scoop a Mason jar or two of that dirt—one for Steve, whose ancestor built the place, and one for Gina Reed-Hibler, the last to own it.

Because some things are worth remembering. Not just the buildings, but the lives and stories they’ve framed through generations.

Of course, the weather had its own ideas this week. An old guy wearing sackcloth and ashes was reportedly seen building an ark in his backyard.

Paging Noah, as the animals show up in Cameron to board, two-by-two. I think dogs should get at least six seats on the boat if I have a vote.

The challenge is to get this done before the snow flies.

Obituaries

Betty A. Demas 1936 – 2025



Cameron, MO- Betty Ann (King) Demas, 89, of Cameron, passed away peacefully October 21, 2025 at her home. She was born July 30, 1936 to Glen and Edna (Mattox) King in Cameron.

Betty, a lifelong resident of Cameron, graduated with Cameron High school class of 1954. She worked as a flight attendant for TWA in the late 1950’s, clocking over 2,000 hours of flying time. On March 17, 1958, she married Donald P. Demas in Kansas City, Mo. They were married 60 years. Betty was a member of Beta Sigma Phi and a founder of the Cameron Depot Museum.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Donald; daughter Kellie Delancey; brother, Bill King.

Memorial fund to Three Rivers Hospice or Cameron Depot Museum.

Betty is survived by daughters Kristie (Ronnie) Calhoun, Cameron, MO, Robin (Denny) Murphy, Cameron, MO; 7 grandchildren, Phillip Limb, Hollie Limb, Jennifer Erickson, Dakota Calhoun, Allison Murphy, Adam Murphy, Morgan Murphy; 10 great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Connie Young, Eagle, ID, Cathie Whitlock, Kansas City, MO; nieces and nephews.

Services will be 2:00 PM, Friday, October 24, 2025 at Poland-Thompson Funeral Home, Cameron, MO. Visitation 1:00-2:00 PM, prior to the service. Burial, Cameron Memory Gardens.

For online condolences, visit www.polandthompson.com.

Arrangements under the direction of Poland-Thompson Funeral Home, Cameron, MO.

Robert D. Skouby 1962-2025

Eugene, Missouri- Robert Dale “Bob” Skouby, 63, passed away unexpectedly October 19, 2025. He was born on January 31, 1962 in Kansas City, Missouri to Lester and Shirley (Baker) Skouby.

He graduated from Cameron High School in 1980 and worked for the Missouri Department of Corrections for 32 years as a corrections officer and later as a training coordinator.

Bob married Brandy Anderson on April 25, 1992 in Cameron, Missouri.

He is preceded in death by his son, John Stewart, and uncle, John Baker.

Survivors: wife, Brandy, of the home;

children, Brooke Stewart, Independence, Missouri, Colt (Samantha) Skouby, St. Joseph, Missouri, Dakota (Josh) Howard, Kansas City, Missouri, parents, Lester and Shirley Skouby, Cameron, Missouri; siblings, Lisa Willey and David Skouby, both of Cameron, Missouri; granddaughter, Alivia Richardson; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved Beagle, Annie.

Visitation: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Thursday evening, October 23, 2025 at Poland-Thompson Chapel

For Online condolences visit, www.polandthompson.com Arrangements by Poland-Thompson Funeral Home, Cameron, MO

Hy-Vee Makes \$125,000 Donation to Address Food Insecurity

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (Oct. 28, 2025) — As more people seek assistance in accessing food right now, Hy-Vee is donating a total of \$125,000 to help feed local families.

Today, Hy-Vee is donating \$100,000 to its Feeding America partner food banks across its region. Food banks and their network of pantries are serving a growing number

of people as November approaches. Hy-Vee’s donation will go toward maintaining adequate inventory levels at local food banks to assist families.

“Hy-Vee is committed to helping make sure no one goes hungry,” said Jeremy Gosch, Chairman and CEO, Hy-Vee, Inc. “By working with our food bank partners, we continue to support the health and wellbeing

of those impacted in the communities we serve.”

“This is yet another example of Hy-Vee’s steadfast commitment to hunger relief,” said Tami Nielsen, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Iowa. “Words can’t express how thankful we are to receive this support at a time when it is so greatly needed. This will make a real difference for the people we

serve.”

In addition, Hy-Vee has donated \$25,000 to DoorDash’s new initiative to waive delivery and service fees for customers who receive food assistance benefits, helping families stretch their budgets even further.

Hy-Vee’s \$125,000 donation is in addition to the more than \$70 million it has provided through in-kind food donations.

CROSSWORD CORNER

Answers in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

1. El __, Texas town
5. Rocker’s tool
8. A lot
12. Traveling by ground
14. Spelling competition
15. Two-toed sloth
16. Small perfumed bag
18. “Much __ about nothing”
19. Tough-skinned mollusk
20. Removes from record
21. It warms the planet
22. Leafy green
23. Quality of arriving favorably
26. Living thing
30. “Six of Crows” author Bardugo
31. Got around a rule
32. Resin from burned substance
33. Iraq seaport
34. Religious leaders
39. Fugitives are on it
42. Samson’s influencer
44. Italian city
46. A quality of lacking interest
47. Predatory tropical fishes
49. Nobel physician Isodor

50. Luck
51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
57. One point south of due east
58. It follows 79
59. Paper currency
60. Anger
61. Spanish seaport
62. Sleep in a rough place
63. Famous museum
64. Selfs

CLUES DOWN

1. Bullfighting maneuver
2. From a distance
3. Soul and calypso song
4. Expressions of delight
5. Lower in esteem
6. Inner region of an organ
7. Flowers
8. A bog
9. Remove a fastening
10. Membranes
11. Enormous
13. One who abstains from drink

17. Malayan wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Rejecting all moral principles
26. Sino-Soviet block
27. Egyptian unit of weight
28. Wrong
29. Make a mistake
35. Indicates location
36. Boxing’s “GOAT”
37. Where wrestlers compete
38. Timid
40. Disney town
41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
42. Male parent
43. Remove for good
44. Simple shoes
45. Flowers
47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
48. Not pleased
49. “Atlas Shrugged” author
52. CIA officer and writer
53. Hoodlum
54. __ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
55. Woolen rugs

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 & Bible Study6:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Mid-Week Manna 10:30 a.m.
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FROM THE PASTOR

BY THE CAMERON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Grace Alone Through Faith (in Jesus) Alone on the Basis of Scripture Alone!

For most of the world, on October 31st Halloween trick or treating comes to mind. But, for many Christians, the Reformation comes to mind as of highest importance. Over 500 hundred years ago, on October 31st, 1517, in Wittenberg Germany, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church to debate the practice of indulgences; paper certificates sold by representatives of the pope with the promise that the money paid for an indulgence would spring a soul from purgatory. Not only was this bad doctrine, but it was a bad practice. As Luther and the church began to search the Scriptures, they realized that buying forgiveness and trying to earn forgiveness by good works was contrary to the Gospel. Luther's chief

teaching, and that of the Reformation, is often summarized in three Solas: Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, and Sola Scriptura – Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone. The key to Reformation Theology of Justification is found in the sweet, pure comfort of the Gospel - that sinners are justified (declared right) with God by **Grace Alone**, through **Faith (in Jesus) Alone**, on the basis of **Scripture Alone**. Grace Alone means God gives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation as a gift alone. People can't earn or buy God's love. Faith Alone means that those who believe in Jesus crucified and risen as God's Savior for all mankind receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Faith in Jesus, the object of faith, is not your work or decision, but 100% a saving work of God the Holy Spirit for the sake of Jesus alone. Scripture Alone means that God has revealed His truth through the

Holy Bible. Scripture is the one trustworthy source for the truth about God and is properly read in light of Jesus as the Son of God come in human flesh to save. The Bible teaches that Jesus' death and resurrection is the key event in all of history, because there, Jesus died and rose to life to gain forgiveness of everyone's sins and eternal life for all who believe. It's all about Jesus Alone. God's free gift of righteousness is through faith in Jesus the Christ alone! Romans 1:17b: "The righteous shall live by faith."

The Peace and Love of Jesus Our Lord and Savior Abide with You,

Submitted by Rev. Mark Goucher, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Families and Grandfriends making music together in Cameron

Cameron, Missouri, October 21st, 2025 — Around the country in independent/assisted living facilities and senior day programs, older adults are bonding with babies, toddlers and young parents through music-making, in Generations classes created by the international award-winning early childhood music program MUSIC TOGETHER®.

In Cameron, Missouri, one of the most successful Music Together Generations classes in the country is held each week at Cameron Veterans Home where resident "Grandfriends" join families with children newborn to kindergarten age in a Music Together class held on-site.

Kerri Dahl, Director of Dahl Studio, explains, "This is a highlight of the week for the residents as well as the staff. Some Grandfriends simply light up when they come to class in ways the staff here don't see with any other activity. The combination of music and children is just magical. Each elder participates in their own way: watching, listening and singing along, tapping their feet and shaking the instruments along with the families. And although most elders sing and dance from their chairs, some are even able to get up and boogie with us! The children and parents love it, too; it's become an important weekly ritual and an invaluable part of their family's life. There is an instant connection between elders and families that is incredible to witness. Many of our families and Grandfriends don't have family nearby so there is a kind of surrogate experience created through the Music Together class. Music Together directors like myself are so proud to be bringing people together across generations in our communities. We are bringing back something essential that's been lost: intergenerational music-making."

Music is an essential part of being human. Support for music learning in early childhood can yield both life-long skill and enjoyment in music experiences. While Music Together's core program serves families with children ages 0-5, it's a natural extension of that core mission to include intergenerational class experiences where families attend class with elders at a senior day or residential facility. These special kinds of Music Together classes have been beloved now for years as more and more communities recognize the unique power of making music together across generations.

Kerri adds, "Strangers or not, within minutes everyone is part of our music-making family in a Generations Class. The idea that music bonds people is never more obvious and meaningful than during the time we spend at Cameron Veterans Home."

Music Together is an internationally recognized early childhood music and movement program for children birth through age seven. The Music Together curriculum was coauthored in 1987 by Kenneth K. Guilmartin (Founder/Director) and Rowan University Professor of Music Education Dr. Lili M. Levinowitz (Director of Research) and offers programs for families; schools; at-risk populations; and children with special needs, in over 2000 communities in more than 40 countries. The company is passionately committed to bringing children and their caregivers closer through shared music-making and helping people discover the joy—and educational value—of early music experiences.

Dahl Studio's instructors have been providing musical experiences to individuals and families for over 25 years and loves being able to serve the city of Cameron and the surrounding area!

Walmart Announces Faster-Than-Ever Delivery for Missouri Shoppers

From Kansas City to St. Louis, more shoppers are choosing doorstep delivery – and Walmart is delivering in minutes

Oct. 23, 2025 — The holidays move fast and so does Walmart. This season, Missouri shoppers can check off every list item in record time, with gifts, groceries and last-minute must-haves delivered right to their doorsteps – sometimes faster than they can finish wrapping.

Express Delivery in Missouri Takes Off
More Missourians than ever are getting what they need that day, often within the hour: this year, 23% of Missouri customers chose Express Delivery, Walmart's fastest delivery service – an increase of 14% year-over-year.

Some of the quickest Express orders in Missouri arrived **faster than 15 minutes** – showing just how much local customers value speed and convenience – whether they've run out of sugar mid-cookie batch or need batteries for a new toy.

Fast facts about Missouri:

Fastest delivery: 11 minutes (earache medicine)

Top early-morning delivery items: Elmer's glue, colored pencils, kids' headphones

Top late-night delivery items: Hershey's chocolate bars, markers, pillows

Delivery hot spots: Springfield, Kansas City, Columbia

How Fast Can Walmart Deliver?

Walmart's Missouri delivery teams make it easy for customers to get what they need when they need

it. Shoppers can browse thousands of items on Walmart.com or through the Walmart app – from toys and tech to tinsel and turkey – with 'Fast Delivery' badges highlighting items that can be delivered that same day:

Express Delivery: as fast as 30 minutes

On-Demand: within 3 hours

Same-Day Scheduled: pick a convenient window that works for you

Delivery service starts as early as 6 a.m., and as late as 10 p.m. Same-day delivery is **free for Walmart+ members** and available to non-members for a small fee.

Part of a Bigger, Faster Network

Nationwide, Walmart's delivery network now reaches **95% of U.S. households**, helping customers everywhere enjoy the same speed and convenience that's catching on in Missouri. Last Christmas Eve, 77% of Walmart delivery orders were Express Delivery.

The Technology Advocate



Helping Cameron Get Smart About Tech

My name is Rick Deane, a veteran, and I'm known as The Technology Advocate. I've been in the tech field for over 25 years, and I'm not just here to fix problems — I'm here to help you understand your technology and manage it smarter. I've been proud to serve Cameron with a unique approach to IT support and training.

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DAR Chapter Provides Library Displays in September/October

The Daughters of the American Revolution Major Molly Chapter is providing a display at the Cameron Public Library for the next year on topics of colonial life to celebrate America 250.

The October display is titled "Kitchens and Colonial Recipes". It has photos of a colonial kitchen, pottery made in Williamsburg, Virginia, recipes from the Raleigh Tavern at Williamsburg, cast iron skillet and Dutch oven demonstrating period cookware, as well as a variety of teas similar to the ones dumped in Boston Harbor.

September's display highlighted the Constitution remembering Constitution

Week September 17-24. Signs were also placed at local businesses down Highway 69 to bring additional attention to the event.

The Major Molly chapter was chartered in 1909 and meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Cameron. The Chapter promotes education with bookmarks for students, serves veterans and the community with programs, and one member makes quilts for Children's Mercy Hospital.

Currently the Chapter is making patriotic pillowcases for the 125 veterans at the Cameron Veteran's Home to be presented on Veteran's Day November 11

Patriotic Displays

The DAR Major Molly Chapter provided visual displays commemorating "Colonial Recipes" (October), shown above, and the Constitution, (September), shown to left.

The Chapter is an active proponent of education, and honoring our veterans.

Photos by Paula Rummell.



I-35 Raceway Sanction Announcement---Start Your Engines!

As announced at the I-35 Speedway Driver's meeting on October 11, 2025, the I-35 Speedway Pure Stock class will be sanctioned under the USRA Hobby Stock rules in the 2026 racing season. US 36 Raceway will also be sanctioning this class which will give drivers an opportunity to compete for USRA National points. USRA tech officials were pleased with the Pure Stock drivers who attended the USRA nationals and will be incorporating some rule modifications which were utilized at the Nationals to allow equal competition. Additionally, the I-35 Speedway Sport Compact drivers voted to be sanctioned and follow the USRA Tuner rules in 2026. I-35 Speedway thanks all our drivers who competed at the USRA Nationals and opened the door for standard class unification. These

classes will join the Modifieds, B Mods, and Stock Cars under the USRA banner.

As a reminder, the 2025 season is complete, but we still have another night of fun! The season champions and many others will be recognized at the concluding banquet on November 1, to be held at the AV Spillman Center, 308 S. Broadway, Jamesport, MO. Banquet tickets are available for \$25 and may be purchased at the ticket office or by contacting Linda Howell at 816-786-2488. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and the awards ceremony at 7:00 p.m. The event will also feature door prizes, a silent auction, and a cash bar. We invite you to join us for an enjoyable and memorable evening.

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Dragons Roll into District with 30-14 win over University Academy

KANSAS CITY—Behind a relentless ground attack that piled up 312 rushing yards, the Cameron Dragons rolled to a 30-14 road win over University Academy on Friday night.

Cameron, now 5-4, and winners of three straight, wasted no time setting the tone. On their opening possession, Talan Eddins sprinted 20 yards to the end zone just over three minutes into the game. Less than two minutes later, Carter Flick followed with a 16-yard scoring run, then hauled in a two-point conversion pass from Reid Smith, giving the Dragons a quick 14-0 lead in the first quarter.

The Dragons extended that advantage early in the second when River Meadows punched in a 4-yard touchdown run. Quarterback Brodi Jones ran in the conversion, giving Cameron a commanding 22-0 lead that held into halftime.

University Academy finally got on the board late in the third quarter with a short touchdown run and two-point conversion to make it 22-8, but Cameron answered immediately in the fourth. Eddins broke free again—this time for a 39-yard dash to the end zone—and Jones added another two-point conversion run to push the lead to 30-8. The Gryphons managed one more touchdown with 7:31 left, but the Dragons' defense clamped down from there to seal the 30-14 victory.

Cameron's offense was all about control and consistency, grinding out 55 carries for 312 yards, averaging 5.7 yards per attempt while completing 2-of-3 passes for 35 yards. Chase Bell paced the rushing attack with 98 yards on 20 carries. Flick added 92 yards and a touchdown on 8 carries, along with a 6-yard reception. Eddins carried six times for 62 yards and two scores, while Meadows contributed 19 rushing yards, a touchdown, and a 15-yard reception.

Defensively, the Dragons were dominant up front, holding University Academy to just 24 rushing yards and

158 total yards of offense. Bell led the way with 11 tackles and three tackles for loss, while Smith added 8 tackles and a pass breakup. Tyler Estes tallied 6 tackles and a sack, Dillon Robinson notched another sack among his 4 tackles, and Flick capped off a strong all-around night with 4 tackles and an interception.

The Dragons also earned several postgame honors: Offensive MVP—River Meadows; Defensive MVP—Carter Flick; Hard Hat Award—Rylan Brown (for stepping up at center); Defensive Hard Hat and Big Hit—Tyler Estes; Big Block—Blake Schneider; and Special Teams MVP—Brodi Jones.

With another solid defensive effort and a balanced rushing attack, Cameron has achieved the #2 seed in Class 2 District 8 play and will square off against the #7 Trenton Bulldogs at 7 PM Friday night at Dave Goodwin Field.

With another solid defensive effort and a balanced rushing attack, Cameron has achieved the #2 seed in Class 2 District 8 play and will square off against the #7 Trenton Bulldogs at 7 PM Friday night at Dave Goodwin Field.

The Bracket shapes up this way:

5-4 #2 Cameron squares off with 3-6 #7 Trenton this Friday. At the same time, 7-2 #4 Lawson meets 4-5 number 5 East Buchanan, and 8-1 #3 South Harrison squares off against 4-5 Lathrop, also on Friday night.

Second round play kicks off November 7 with undefeated 9-0 Mid-Buchanan facing the Lawson-East Buchanan winner and the Cameron-Trenton winner plays the South Harrison-Lathrop winner November 7.

The District Championship will be played November 14.

Cameron moved down to Class 2 after years up a class and banging heads with MEC elites Maryville and Savannah. Class 2, as witnessed by the records pits some great small-school programs against each other, with the Dragons right in the mix.

Dragon Highlight Photos



Brodi Jones makes the option pitch to River Meadows in Cameron's 30-14 win over University Academy Saturday.

Photos by Kyler Axelson



ABOVE: Flick trying to get to the edge BELOW: Smith on the Keeper.



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The American Experiment

Redeeming the Promise: Lincoln, Douglass, and the Constitution's Second Birth

By Mark McLaughlin

Editor
editor@mycameronnews.com

“Viewed merely as a war measure, the Proclamation was a poor document. But viewed as an act of justice, it was sublime.” — Frederick Douglass

History often records great moments as the work of great men, but it's usually the meeting of minds that bends the arc of events. Such was the case between Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass — two men whose lives could hardly have begun farther apart, yet whose shared belief in the promise of America brought them into a conversation that changed the course of history.

When Lincoln took office in 1861, Douglass was already the most famous Black man in America — a former slave turned author, orator, and moral thunderclap. He had spent two decades indicting the nation for its hypocrisy, reminding Americans that the “self-evident truths” of the Declaration of Independence still excluded millions. Lincoln, on the other hand, was a cautious politician, more committed to preserving the Union than to purifying it.

At the start of the Civil War, Lincoln's primary aim was to keep the border states loyal and the nation intact. He believed if slavery could die a slow death under the pressure of containment, it would. Douglass, who had seen the whip and the chain up close, had no patience for gradualism. He demanded not a slow suffocation of slavery, but its swift and public execution.

That impatience would ultimately move Lincoln — though not immediately. Douglass attacked him early on for his hesitance, calling Lincoln's policies “tardy, cold, dull, and indifferent.” But even in criticism, Douglass kept watching him. He recognized something beneath Lincoln's lawyerly caution — a man wrestling with moral truth as much as political reality.

Their first meeting in 1863 was a moment neither man forgot. Douglass entered the White House expecting to be treated as an inconvenience; instead, Lincoln rose from behind



his desk, extended his hand, and said, “Mr. Douglass, I know you; I have read your books, and I am glad to meet you.”

It was more than courtesy. It was acknowledgment — one American seeing another not as a color or a cause, but as an equal participant in shaping the nation's conscience.

Douglass pressed his point that day: that Black men had not only the right but the duty to fight for the Union. Lincoln listened. He would later authorize the recruitment of Black troops — nearly 200,000 of them — and Douglass himself would serve as recruiter-in-chief, traveling the country to enlist freedmen and former slaves into the U.S. Colored Troops.

That moment of recognition was the hinge between two phases of Lincoln's presidency — from preservation to transformation. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued January 1, 1863, was a military order, yes, but it was also a moral awakening. Lincoln, in Douglass's view, had crossed the Rubicon of hesitation and finally joined the struggle not just to save the Union, but to redeem it.

“Viewed merely as a war measure,” Douglass later said, “the Proclamation was a poor document. But viewed as an act of justice, it was

sublime.”

The two men would meet again — at the White House, at receptions, at public events — and their relationship deepened from mutual curiosity to mutual respect. Lincoln would later invite Douglass to the White House on the day of his second inauguration, where the crowd parted for him to shake the President's hand. “Here comes my friend Douglass,” Lincoln said. “There is no man in the United States whose opinion I value more than yours.”

That moment, brief as it was, represented something more than friendship. It symbolized the fragile but real possibility of moral progress in American life.

When Lincoln was assassinated just weeks later, Douglass mourned him not as a saint, but as a man who had grown — who had learned to see the Constitution not as a static contract, but as a living covenant. “He was preeminently the white man's President,” Douglass said in his famous 1876 oration at the dedication of the Freedmen's Monument, “but he was also emphatically the emancipator of my race.”

The Emancipation Proclamation was the first step. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were the next — and in Douglass's eyes, they transformed the nation's founding

document from a shield for slavery into a charter of freedom.

The 13th abolished slavery; the 14th guaranteed equal protection under the law; the 15th protected the right to vote. Taken together, they were the constitutional redemption Douglass had dreamed of — proof, as he said, that “the Constitution is a glorious liberty document,” not a slaveholder's pact.

Douglass saw in those amendments not just legal reform but moral resurrection. For a man who had once despaired of the Constitution's meaning, the Reconstruction Amendments proved that America could, however belatedly, correct itself. The stain of hypocrisy could be washed, if not away, then at least into history's background, where future generations could learn from it.

Yet Douglass was no romantic. He understood that law and justice don't always travel at the same speed. The promises of Reconstruction were soon betrayed by Jim Crow, violence, and voter suppression. But Douglass held firm to the belief that progress, once written into the Constitution, could not be permanently erased.

“Where justice is denied,” he warned, “neither persons nor property will be safe.” It was both prophecy and plea — that the nation Lincoln saved on paper must also be saved in practice.

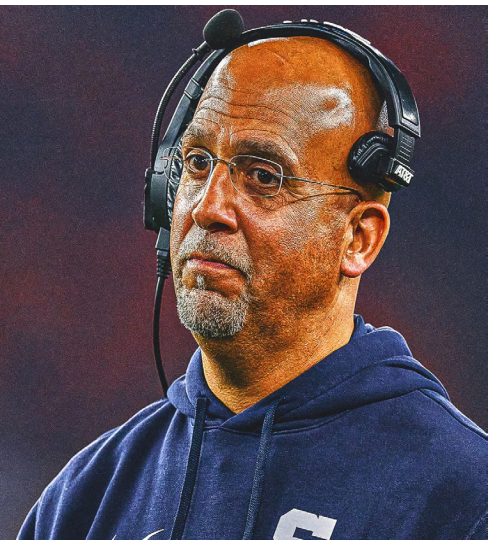
Their friendship remains one of the most consequential dialogues in American history: the moral radical and the political realist, each pulling the other closer to the nation's better angels. Without Douglass, Lincoln might never have found the courage to make emancipation a central war aim. Without Lincoln, Douglass might never have seen the Constitution redeemed as a tool for freedom rather than oppression.

In the end, they both believed in America — not as it was, but as it could be. The former slave and the prairie lawyer, standing in the same light of hard-earned truth: that liberty means little unless it belongs to everyone.

And that, as Douglass said, is the true test of a nation — not how it begins, but how it redeems itself.

The Old Ball Coach

by Mark McLaughlin, Editor, Citizen-Observer



So you Wanna Fire Your Coach?

Three Weeks ago, James Franklin was fired following a 22-21 loss to UCLA.

Two weeks ago, Billy Napier was cut loose by Florida after slipping to 3-4 and not seeming to have any contingency plan.

Last weekend, after being boat-raced by Texas A & M, admittedly a great football team, in Baton Rouge, the place Les Miles once famously said was “where other people’s dreams come to die”.

For Brian Kelly, never really a fit in the world of “Geaux Tigers”, who probably put ketchup on his crayfish, the dream went to nightmare, to night terror in the space of thirty minutes.

I’ve never cared for the guy. Saturday night, whenever something went bad, he either stared down his players or his assistants, or swore into his headset...or at them.

It’s estimated that more than twenty FBS-level programs are looking to fire, buy out or encourage the departure of their coach in the midst of a changed environment for college football.

James Franklin’s buyout guarantee was \$54-million, paid by Penn State *not* to coach their football program.

For Kelly, the number was closer to \$60-million and the boys on Sirius XM College Sports Network say they’ve learned that by the time the head coach, his assistants and staff, etc., are shown the door, and new placeholders brought in to replace them, it

will cost LSU \$115-million total to execute the change.

The fascinating aspect of all of it is all the speculation about who comes to LSU, arguably the best football job in America this side of Alabama or Georgia.

If Jimmy Sexton represents any of the names --- Lane Kiffin of Ole Miss, Dan Lanning at Oregon or some of the newer fresher faces, the buyout guarantees will be epic.

Jon Gruden, Nick Saban and Urban Meyer are all mentioned everytime a big opening comes up as well.

Have we all gotten over Deion Sanders? What a joke.

If you love Mizzou, get out your checkbooks to keep Eli Drinkwitz in Columbia. If you’re KU fans, Lance Leipold is another name to watch.

Iowa has turned the corner on the fifth rebuild of Kirk Ferentz’ 28-year tenure at Iowa. Three words...Tim-Freaking-Lester.

No one in football has been a more durable or lasting value to his program than Kirk.

So you wanna fire your coach? Good luck...Kiffin can’t coach five teams. Shari Saban is the only person in the world Nick Saban is scared of. Jeff Brohm and Matt Rhule (Louisville and Nebraska) both would fit at Penn State. Franklin to Florida, or Auburn? Brian Kelly to North Carolina for Belichick?

My bet is on Gruden to LSU...We’ll see.

Fall tree planting: Rooting for a greener tomorrow

COLUMBIA, Mo. – As autumn paints Missouri’s landscapes in brilliant hues, it also signals the start of the best season for planting trees, says University of Missouri Extension state forestry specialist.

“Fall offers a unique window of opportunity for tree establishment, making it the preferred time for forestry professionals, municipalities and homeowners alike,” says Stelzer.

Why plant in fall?

Cooler weather reduce stress: Trees planted in fall face less heat stress, letting them acclimate more easily to their new environment.

Increased soil moisture: Seasonal rains help keep soil moist, supporting root development without the need for frequent watering.

Dormancy promotes root growth: As trees enter dormancy, they shift energy from leaf production to root establishment, giving them a strong foundation before spring.

Fewer pest and disease pressures: Cooler weather means fewer insects and pathogens,

reducing the risk of damage to young trees.

Better long-term survival: Trees planted in fall are often better prepared to withstand the heat and drought of the following summer.

Across Missouri, organizations like Forest ReLeaf are mobilizing volunteers and distributing thousands of trees to communities in need, Stelzer says. ReLeaf’s CommuniTree program (<https://moreleaf.org/project-communitree>) supports public and nonprofit planting projects. Fall planting helps rebuild urban canopies and reconnect people with nature.

“Whether you’re planting a native tree in your backyard or joining a community effort, fall is the season to dig deep and invest in a healthier, greener future,” he says.

For more information, see the MU Extension guide “How To Plant a Tree” (G6850) at <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6850>.

History of Halloween...



By Mike Hanrahan
C-O Reporter
editor@mycameronnews.com

Halloween has become a well-entrenched celebration in the United States. Children love to dress in "scary" costumes and go about begging for treats with the familiar cry of "Trick or Treat". "Trick's were actually carried out in the early 1900's. Many homes still had an outhouse, and teenagers found great joy in tipping them over! It was also not uncommon to find one's carriage atop a house.

Efforts by cities and civic organizations have made it much safer for little ghosts and goblins. Nevertheless, there will be a few sick tummies the following day.

Today Halloween is most popular in the United States. It is derived from "All Hallows Eve" and takes place the evening before All Saints Day, or "All Hallows Day" in England. It quickly morphed into "Halloween".

All Saints Day was declared in the year 741 to celebrate those canonized saints by the Church. The general populace, influenced by folklore, developed a fear that souls who died in sin would arise on the eve and roam about the earth creating havoc.

In Ireland a custom developed of carving turnips with scary faces with a candle within, to scare off the ghosts and goblins who might be roaming around. They developed the myth of "Stingy Jack" who tricked the devil and was condemned to roam the earth at night. Thus we have the "Jack 'o Lantern" and rapidly changed from turnips to the larger pumpkins.

All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Souls Day (November 2nd) is designed to celebrate the memory of those family members now sharing eternal happiness in Heaven. Halloween has become a popular event for youngsters and adults alike, and all in fun!



Rural Healthcare Safety Net Providers Appeal to Congress to Protect 340B

WASHINGTON (October 21, 2025) – A network of over 30 rural and urban nonprofit safety net providers appealed to congressional leaders to protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program, highlighting how the program enables the high-quality care they provide to medically underserved Americans. The 340B Rural Advocacy Network released the [letter](#) prior to a U.S. Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on the 340B program

scheduled for later this week. The letter says in part, “The vital savings from discounted drug purchases offset losses from the uncompensated care we deliver, allowing us to keep our doors open. Even with these critical savings, from 2005 to 2024, 196 rural hospitals closed. The avalanche of hospital closures shows no sign of abating. From 2017 until today, 62 rural hospitals closed while only 10 opened. Many for-profit entities limit how we attain

the savings Congress intended for nonprofit providers to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible.” The providers stressed that contract pharmacy restrictions imposed by drug companies coupled with how pharmacy benefit managers siphon off savings lawfully entitled to providers are crippling how they resource care. Many fear the squeeze imposed by for-profit entities will force them to close their doors if Congress

does not step in to stop the abusive practices. “The patients that received care from now shuttered 340B providers will turn to emergency rooms for primary health services, ultimately ending up on Medicaid rolls at the taxpayer’s expense. We are eager to work with Congress to protect the 340B program,” said the providers.

Governor Kehoe Provides Update on Federal Government Shutdown Impact on Missourians

JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Today, Governor Mike Kehoe provided an update on the serious implications of the Democrat-led federal government shutdown on Missouri state agencies and federal programs, which will soon impact even more Missouri families.

“Senate Democrats are holding the federal government hostage, and even more Missouri families may soon be paying the price for their political grandstanding,” said Governor Kehoe. “We appreciate our Republican congressional delegation for doing their part to put the livelihoods of Americans first, and we urge Democrat Senators to do what’s right and reopen the federal government.”

Missouri Department of Social Services Unable to Issue November SNAP Benefits Due to Federal Shutdown Earlier this week, the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) announced that, due to the federal government shutdown, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) has informed state agencies that November 2025 SNAP benefits cannot be issued. SNAP benefits are 100 percent federally funded, with each recipient receiving benefits from the federal government via their Electronic Benefit Transfer card. There is no mechanism for state appropriations to be transferred to cover this funding. “There is still time for Democrats to come to the table, so Missouri’s most vulnerable families will have

food on their tables next month,” said Governor Kehoe. “More than 667,000 Missourians are at risk of losing SNAP benefits because Democrats in Washington would rather fight President Trump than reopen the federal government. The State of Missouri has no avenue to covering these funds for the over 326,000 households who may be affected. Our Department of Social Services team stands ready to issue November funds as soon as possible once the federal government is reopened.” DSS encourages Missourians who may be affected to: Look at the potential of using their October balance to stretch into November if possible given this situation. Review available local food resources, such as food banks and

pantries. In addition to the impact on SNAP benefits, Governor Kehoe and his team continue to monitor impacts to Missouri WIC, which is also federally funded through USDA and administered through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. There are approximately 98,000 WIC recipients in Missouri who rely on the program for nutritional support for themselves and their children. Additional Impacts on Missouri The federal government shutdown has impacted Missouri families, small businesses, veterans, and workers across the state—leaving federal workers and servicemembers unpaid and key services unfunded. In Missouri, there are approximately 56,000 federal

workers who may not receive a paycheck this Friday. Small Business Administration loan distributions are frozen during the federal government shutdown. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, over \$15 million in loan assistance is blocked per week to small businesses in Missouri. Missouri’s Gross State Product is estimated to decline by approximately \$232 million each week the shutdown extends, which could lead to an increase in unemployment of about 800 workers in Missouri under a one-month shutdown.

The Outdoor Journal What’s On the Spit?



By Kyle Carroll

Outdoor Journal, Contributed
kyle.l.carroll@gmail.com

The distinctive sound of a muzzleloading rifle cracked in the distance and then was immediately swallowed up by the vastness of the timbered valley from where it had come. Light snow had begun to fall from a cloudy, gray sky. I shifted slightly on my

log and laid my long “Virginia style” flintlock across my lap and watched for any deer that might be coming my way up the valley from where my friend Dave Clifton had just touched off a shot. The Oak hickory timber visible in all directions began to dim from view with the increasing snowfall. Earlier I had traveled to Iron County to hunt the muzzleloader deer opener with my reenacting friend and fellow muzzleloader. Dave had access to a large tract of property in a heavily timbered part of the Ozarks. We were a good three quarters of a mile into the back country when Dave spotted a buck crossing his shooting lane. One well placed round ball from Dave’s .54 caliber long rifle found its mark and a nice mountain buck went down where Dave could see him. Dave was pretty well finished field dress-

ing when I found him standing over his deer. He was bloody handed and grinning as the snow gently covered us both in a dusting of white. After I congratulated Dave and listened to his retelling of how the buck had come in, I pulled my belt knife from its sheath and knelt beside the deer. Reaching in the steaming chest cavity, I located a small piece of loin about the size of a small catfish along the backbone. I carefully filleted it loose and slipped it into the front of my hunting vest. Dave was going to pack out some gear, then return for his deer later. In the meantime, I headed back to my post further down the valley. “Come get me when your ready to drag this guy out.” And I was off. As Dave tells it, two hours later, he walked up on a scene from Jeremiah John-

son. I was setting on a log by a small fire with sliced pieces of deer loin on the spit. Snow was falling and the woods had turned white. As the smell of woodsmoke swirled in the big woods around us, Dave approached and said, “What’s on the spit?” We laughed and I said, “Grown particular?” It was perfect until I dropped his chunk of broiled deer meat into the ashes. I fished it out and Dave slobbered it off with black coffee. After a few minutes back in the fire, it was reheated and amazingly good. It was a great deer hunt and a nice discovery. Black coffee on roasted deer is now a tradition for us. Good luck in the deer woods and I hope you make a memory or two this season.



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Missouri Farms Lose \$60.6M per Year to Natural Hazards

A new study on behalf of Trace One has identified the U.S. counties and states with the highest agricultural losses due to natural disasters.

High grocery prices have been a defining economic story in recent years, driven by a combination of factors including pandemic-related supply chain breakdowns and labor shortages. However, an increasingly critical driver of food price inflation has been the impact of natural disasters—such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes—on the nation's agricultural output.

In April 2025, a devastating weather system massively flooded corn, rice, soybean, and wheat crops in eastern Arkansas, affecting 31% of agricultural acreage in the region and inflicting an estimated \$99 million worth of damage. Similarly, the agricultural industry in North Carolina was hit hard by Hurricane Helene in late September 2024, prompting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to grant \$221.2 million in federal disaster assistance block grants to help the industry rebuild in the state.

The increased frequency of natural hazards has created a challenging environment for farmers. However, the effects of climate- and weather-related disasters are not uniform, varying greatly depending on location. To pinpoint where these events are having the greatest impact on farmers and the nation's food supply, researchers at Trace One—a company specializing in product lifecycle management (PLM) and regulatory compliance software for the food and beverage

industry—conducted an in-depth analysis of the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Annual Agriculture Loss Due to Natural Hazards

Drought is the most common cause of economic loss in the agriculture industry

Source: Trace One analysis of FEMA data | Image Credit: Trace One

According to estimates from FEMA, natural hazards cause an average of \$3.5 billion in agricultural losses annually, with drought being the single largest contributor. Drought alone accounts for more than half of these losses, averaging \$1.9 billion per year. The financial impact of drought underscores its threat to farmers, particularly in regions reliant on water-intensive crops.

Other significant contributors to agricultural losses include hurricanes, which cause \$485 million in annual losses, along with flooding (\$437 million) and cold waves (\$286 million). Events such as hailstorms, strong winds, and heat waves collectively add hundreds of millions in losses to the yearly toll. While less frequent, disasters like tornadoes, winter weather, and wildfires also contribute economic strain in certain regions.

Expected Annual Losses by Region

California farms are facing the largest losses due to natural hazards

Source: Trace One analysis of FEMA data | Image Credit: Trace One

Natural disasters impacting agriculture vary significantly across U.S. regions due to differing climates and geographic vulnerabilities. Drought is a persistent challenge on the West Coast, particularly in California, as well as the Southwest and parts of the Southern Plains, where water scarcity hampers crop yields and livestock production. Hurricanes have the most severe impact in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, where states like Florida and North Carolina frequently experience storm surges and high winds that devastate crops and infrastructure. Riverine flooding is most problematic in the Mississippi River Basin and its extensive tributary networks, as well as in the Pacific Northwest. Cold waves are most prominent in the Midwest and Mountain West, where freezing temperatures can damage crops and livestock operations.

Taken together, California leads the nation in agricultural losses due to natural hazards, with farms in the state incurring an estimated \$1.3 billion in losses annually. This figure dwarfs losses in other states, with drought being the most significant hazard affecting California's vast agricultural sector. On a per-farm basis, California reports an average loss of \$20,528—the highest of any state—reflecting its reliance on high-value crops such as fruits, nuts, and vegetables, which are particularly vulnerable to water shortages.

By comparison, Texas, which

ranks second, faces an expected annual loss of \$205 million, with droughts again being the primary driver. Iowa, North Carolina, and Florida round out the top five, each suffering from a combination of droughts and hurricanes, though with lower total and per-farm losses than California.

At the county level, California continues to dominate the rankings, with Santa Barbara County reporting the largest expected losses at \$245 million annually. Drought is the principal hazard here, impacting high-value crops like strawberries, vegetables, and wine grapes. Other California counties, such as Yolo, Napa, Sutter, and Colusa, also rank highly, with annual losses ranging from \$70 million to \$115 million. These counties experience some of the highest loss rates per farm, with those in Santa Barbara County and Yolo County losing an estimated \$180,339 and \$144,645 each year, respectively.

Here is a summary of the data for Missouri:

Total expected annual loss: \$60,590,608

Expected annual loss per farm: \$707

Expected annual loss rate: 0.4%

Total farms: 85,700

Total agriculture value: \$13,635,086,524

Worst natural hazard for agriculture: Riverine Flooding

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

Total expected annual loss: \$3,480,816,585

Expected annual loss per

farm: \$1,851

Expected annual loss rate: 0.7%

Total farms: 1,880,000

Total agriculture value: \$503,268,663,042

Worst natural hazard for agriculture: Drought

Methodology

The data used in this study is from FEMA's National Risk Index and the USDA's Census of Agriculture. To identify locations where natural hazards have the greatest impact on the nation's food supply, researchers at Trace One analyzed and ranked locations based on their average annual economic loss (expected annual loss) in 2025 dollars within the agricultural sector. This metric accounts for damages caused by natural hazards such as cold waves, hail, heat waves, hurricanes, riverine flooding, strong winds, tornadoes, wildfires, and winter weather events, using data collected since 1996. Total farm data was derived using 2022 county data and 2024 state data, the latest available data provided from the USDA. In the event of a tie, locations with greater expected annual losses per farm were ranked higher. The analysis also incorporated the expected annual loss rate calculated as the expected annual loss divided by the total annual value of the agricultural sector for each location. Additionally, researchers identified the worst natural hazard for agriculture in each location, which is the hazard contributing the largest share of the expected annual loss.

Veteran's Day Commemoration at Turnball Farm November 8

Put it on your calendars...The most unique, powerful, and yummy expression of appreciation in Missouri is Saturday, November 8 at Turnball Farm south of Cameron. It's a celebration of America's greatest men and women...our service members. More info on this in next week's edition of the Citizen-Observer.

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“Journalist, Stalker, what’s the difference?”
1022 S. Chestnut, Cameron, Missouri 64429

Volume 95/ Issue 2

Lighting up homecoming

Addi Talbot *Senior*
Brody Schneider *Senior*

On September 17, 2025, the homecoming Bonfire took place at the Cameron Softball fields. The Cameron Dragon Football Team was at the bonfire as well as the Cameron Dragon Xtreme Dance Team and Cameron Cheerleaders. The band played stand tunes and the fight song while the Dance team performed to their music. CHS 2004 graduate Ryan Murphy gave an encouraging speech for the football team. Senior Brody Schneider threw the torch on the fire to ignite it. The football seniors were in charge of building the bonfire which consisted of a bunch of pallets and the outhouse. The bonfire pumps up the community for the homecoming football game. The bonfire is a great way to get not only students but also the community involved.

The bonfire started with the band playing “Black and Gold”. The dance team started doing sidelines and performing to the stand tunes band was playing. Senior Lily Klenk said, “My favorite sideline to perform to the band music was cowboy.” This sideline was part



In the photo Brody Schneider is lighting the bonfire with the torch with the support of the other senior football players.

of the Team Leader routine they learned at NDA camp. After the band continued to play stand tunes and the dance team continued to dance it was time for the football speech. Ryan Murphy gave the

football speech. In his speech he spoke about inspiring the boys to keep pushing and to work hard. He stated “Boys, you need to play the game with heart and to play with pride.” The bonfire was built by

seniors Brody Schneider, Talan Eddins, Tyler Estes, Brennan Steeby, Brian Bailey and River Meadows. Talan Eddins provided the trailer in order to haul the pallets for the bonfire. However, Talan states, “My

Photo by: Jamie Enloe Sugdens

least favorite part of the bonfire was scavenging the stores in town for pallets and loading them all up.” Tyler Estes had planned where they built the bonfire, and they used his land to build the outhouse. Brody Schneider hauled the outhouse from Tyler’s house to the bonfire. Senior Talan Eddins said, “My favorite part of the bonfire was Ryan Murphys encouraging speech.” Senior Lily Klenk stated, “My favorite part of the bonfire was taking pictures with my friends.” The bonfire ended with the band playing fight song while the dance team and cheerleaders performed. The bonfire was a very fun and entertaining environment. The homecoming bonfire is a tradition that is supposed to rile up the town and the team, and to show that they are a team and they want to win. The bonfire got the crowd excited and ready for Friday. Running back Talan Eddins said, “My favorite play is the one when I get the ball.” This got the football team excited and pumped up to dominate the Chillicothe hornets. To conclude, the bonfire was great at getting the community together and excited for the homecoming football game.

How activities impact student growth and academics

Kate McKinnon *Junior*
Jayden Oaks *Junior*

Students love to be involved in sports and school activities, but is that helping them grow, or making them get behind on academics? A student can truly express themselves in a safer environment when they participate in activities that they enjoy at school. The activities that a student chooses will actively improve their personal growth and skills they will use in the future. When a student chooses to participate in an activity, they are forced to develop time management skills, responsibility and specific skills that are unique to the types of things the student is interested in.

Cameron High School has lots of well-developed activities that students can participate in. Some students are committed to one activity, but lots of students do multiple activities so they can participate in all of their interests. Being involved in a lot of school activities can be very overwhelming for some students, but Cameron High School does a great job prioritizing a student’s academics as well as assisting the student to get better at the activity that the student is in. Most of the students here at Cameron High School do quite well with keeping their grades



The cast of the upcoming music sat together during their first rehearsal to complete a run through of the entire script to begin learning their lines.

Photo by: Evany Lowe

and attendance up, while also being in sports and other activities.

Senior, Chase Jorgenson said, “I think school activities have taught me how to be disciplined, responsible and how to have fun while being productive and being efficient. Show choir, theatre and band have really shaped me into the person I’ve become and they have shown me what it’s like to have fun and to not be

ashamed of who you are. I have seen people who would never have said a word to anyone to someone who’s always laughing and talking. Baseball has taught me how important it is to address situations and struggles by talking and taking the steps to fixing them rather than making excuses and never trying to make anything better. All of the activities I’ve done have shown me what it’s like to be a per-

son that people can look up to, they’ve shown me how to respect people always and how important it is to not change myself and who I want to be to other people’s standards.”

Sophomore, Kasen Preator said, “While participating in school activities I have noticed an increase of my personal attendance as well as my grade improving due to activities requiring it. I’ve learned life les-

sons that are very important, like how I can express myself in a positive manner. I have also learned a better way to respect others. Being around these communities helps me find myself in the positive environment I get to be around. School activities really affect my life. A student can really grow as a person at Cameron High School. Figuring out who you are as a teenager in high school can be very challenging, especially with homework and long days, but the activities you participate in shape who you are and the choices you make in the future.”

Activities and sports also improve academic attendance for the whole school district. Studies show that students who participate in extracurricular activities learn more self-discipline, therefore making them more likely to come to school even on dimmer days. All of the activities at Cameron High School require a high attendance to stay in the program to encourage students to keep up with their attendance and academics. By doing extracurricular activities a student at Cameron High School can freely express themselves, learn better life skills and are more likely to have better attendance than other kids.

Juniors get to work

Josie Wattenbarger *Junior*
Haylee Webb *Junior*

Over the last few sporting events, juniors have been working hard at the concession stand to raise money for homecoming and prom expenses. Within the concession stand they prepare food, get drinks, take money and converse with customers. The juniors taking on this responsibility is a big deal for Cameron high school because the money helps with financial support throughout the year.

Homecoming and prom are two of the biggest events for CHS. With decorations, music, food

and venues the costs rack up fast which is why students selling food and drinks at concessions is crucial to a fun year. "It almost fully pays for prom," Exclaims Junior class sponsor and art teacher Brett Bubulka, "And it gives us the ability to have a nice venue that is outside of the school." Hearing the benefits is very different than seeing them though. Did you know that the students work the concession stand all year long? This means they are raising money for prom before the theme for the year is even revealed which is a big responsibility to uphold.

Needless to say the customers still enjoy the concessions

no matter what time of year it is. I mean who wouldn't want a popcorn bucket to kick off the football, basketball or volleyball game? The customers are easily one of the most important aspects to the money making, they do a great service by supporting the school through buying concessions. Junior Emma Raletz states, "If they know they will be treated well by students, they will want to help our cause." While talking about the concession stand, Raletz reveals the insight on Cameron High School's booming concession stand. She states that the student's treatment towards the customers keeps them com-

ing back which really shows how wonderful the student body is as a whole and relates why the concessions do so well.

This interviewee and many other juniors have graciously completed their service hours within the concession stand but a huge deal lies within the amazing junior class sponsors. Teachers Hanna Piatt and Brett Bubulka have worked so hard to set up the concession schedule, accommodate student scheduling needs, make clocking in and out easy, and even jumping in and helping the students when needed. They really do it all.

The CHS juniors plan to

keep up this good work throughout the year to keep the funds coming in. Working the concession stand not only helps school events though, it also helps the students themselves. By having a schedule and having to show up for a shift, it makes the students responsible for showing up and performing a task which is a key quality in growing up and adulthood. These qualities that they gain from this experience can be put forward into the community, school and their lives later on. The concession stand really is a great thing for everyone involved with Cameron High School!

Classes go all in for homecoming

Isabel Robinson *Junior*
Cali Slatten *Junior*

Homecoming week which took place from September 15 to-19, was a great display of school spirit and Dragon pride. As part of the annual tradition, students decorated their assigned hallways and floats based on their grade level and the city they chose. This year's overall theme for homecoming was "Road Trip", each class chose a different city to be a road stop along the way to Dragon Victory. The freshman class chose Nashville, TN. The sophomore class chose Hollywood in Los Angeles, CA. The junior class chose New York City, NY. Then finally, the senior class chose Las Vegas, NV.

The freshman class kicked off their homecoming debut by designing their hallway and float as Nashville, TN. They took us through Music City with hanging boots and streamers lining the lockers and ceiling. On their float, they had hay bails, inflatable music notes and records.



Senior Summer Harp dressed like Elvis Presley to help the seniors float embody the Las Vegas vibes.

The sophomores took us through the land of movies, stars and celebrities. They designed their hallway and float to be Hollywood in Los Angeles, CA. Complete with stars on the walls, a red carpet walkway and film strips hanging through the ceilings. Their float continued this movie-inspired theme.

The junior class shaped their hallway and float into a recreation of New York City. Junior Cara Pittsenbarger, described the details of the hallway, "We used billboard signs, skyscrapers, the

big apple, the empire state building, and a fake ball drop. We made it feel like you were in New York City's Time Square." The hallway featured a skyline along the walls, and a subway with pictures of the 2025 Homecoming Royalty. The entrance to Mrs. Beasley's and Mrs. Piatt's rooms was a notable piece, as it resembled a Broadway red carpet. Their float was very similar with the Statue of Liberty riding along as well.

The seniors brought to life Las Vegas, Nevada with their float. Senior Carissa Stuedle, described

how the Seniors decorated their float, "We had people sitting at a table playing poker, Elvis, and a "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign." Stuedle noted that this was a memorable last homecoming for the graduating seniors. Their hallway also included a fake slot machine and playing cards hanging along the walls. They truly captured the "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" spirit.

In the end the juniors swept both competitions. Stuedle and Pittsenbarger both thought their class should have won the float building competition, Pittsenbarger and Stuedle agreed on the juniors winning the hallway competition. The final results for the hallway competition were: juniors in first, sophomores in second, seniors in third, and freshmen in fourth. For the float competition, the standings were: juniors first, seniors second, sophomores third, and freshmen fourth.

All in all, this Homecoming was a positive experience for the entire school. Not only did the students enjoy it, the teachers also had a

great week. It was an eventful week filled with fun competitions between the grade levels. Creativity brought each class's ideas to life, ultimately leading to a Dragon victory!

Get to know the dragon lunch ladies

Cherokee Witt-Erwin *Junior*

Every day around lunchtime, the halls of Cameron High School fill with the sounds of chatter, laughter, and the unmistakable aroma of warm food drifting from the cafeteria. For most students, it's a break in the day—a time to relax, eat, and talk with friends. But for the eight incredible women behind the counter, it's the busiest part of their day. These are the lunch ladies of Cameron High School—the heart and hands that make sure every student gets a meal served with a smile.

Though they may not always get the spotlight, these women work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the school running smoothly. They're here early in the morning, preparing breakfast and lunch, cleaning up afterward, and doing it all again the next day. Their hard work, kindness, and humor make the cafeteria more than just a place to eat—it's a place that feels like part of the Cameron family.

One of those dedicated staff members is Melissa Draisey,

who has been serving students for three years. Her energy and positivity shine through in everything she does. "I love it," she said with a big grin. "The kids are great—I really love them. It's funny how they don't always have a clue about the real world yet, but they'll get there."

When asked what advice she has for students, Draisey laughed before answering, "Oh, I've got lots of advice! But honestly, I think you're all doing just fine. You'll figure things out." She also shared how important healthy eating is for students, even when it might not seem fun. "We have to make the kids take a fruit or veggie," she said. "But it really is better for your body—you'll thank us later."

She also reflected on what she enjoys most about her work. "I always thought I liked working with little kids more," she admitted, "but I found that I really enjoy the big kids. They're funny, they talk to you more, and they make the day interesting."

Among the team is Cameron High senior Karsyn Wolf, who has a special role serv-

ing meals at Cameron Middle School. Even though she works with younger students, her dedication and positivity stand out. "My favorite memory is when the choir came and sang for us," Wolf said. "It was so sweet—they were looking for the ghost of John."

Wolf has been helping in the cafeteria for two years now and says it's taught her a lot about teamwork and responsibility. "It's actually really fun," she said. "My favorite meals to serve are the easy ones, like chicken patties. Everyone loves them, and they're simple to make." She also mentioned one of her favorite coworkers, Carrie. "Carrie is so sweet," she said with a smile. "She always makes the day better."

Another beloved member of the Cameron cafeteria team is Cora Woodclair, who has been serving students for nine years. Her dedication and warmth have made her a favorite among students and staff alike. "I love making pasta salads, Caesar salads—anything the kids like," she said. "Just seeing the smiles on their faces makes it all worth it. Hon-

estly, it's a memory every day."

When asked for advice for students and coworkers, Woodclair didn't hold back. "The coworkers are old enough to know better," she joked, "but for the students—follow your dreams. Look for the stars in your eyes and go find a good job, a good man, and a good life." Her sense of humor and honesty make her the kind of person everyone wants to chat with in the lunch line.

She also shared her own habits for staying healthy: "I've never smoked a cigarette in my life, I don't chew, I don't do drugs, and I'm not a big drinker. Exercise and stay busy—that's my advice. If you have children, stay active with them. That's what keeps you healthy and happy."

These women don't just prepare food—they create an environment that feels welcoming and genuine. They remember faces, learn names, and check in on students. They're always there to give quick encouragement.

The Tank

Student Reporters

Seniors

Rachael Clark
Lily Culver
Tyler Estes
Summer Harp
Evany Lowe
Karlie Pugh
Brody Schneider
Addie Talbot

Juniors

Emme Dodd
Adalae Eckert
Reagen Eggebrecht
Madycen Hedgpeth
Ryker Leazenby
Kate McKinnon
Jayden Oaks
Lexi Robinson
Isabel Robinson
Kaden Robinson
Cali Slatten
Henley Taylor
Josie Wattenbarger
Haylee Webb
Cherokee Witt-Erwin
Shelby Worth
Lake Young
Saphira Schwarz

Sophomore

Alexis Erwin
Quincy Rusteymeyer

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gallatin R-V School District is requesting sealed proposals from qualified providers for energy efficient facility improvements under a guaranteed energy savings contract. Request for Qualification documents can be obtained at the District's Administration Office.

Proposals shall be sealed and received in the office of Mr. Derek Brady – Superintendent.

602 South Olive Gallatin, MO 64640, no later than 12:00 PM Central Standard Time on 11/07/2025 and shall be opened immediately thereafter. **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.**

Any questions and all discussions regarding this Request for Proposals shall be directed to Mr. Derek Brady at 660-663-2171 / dbrady@gallatin.k12.mo.us

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Angela M. Minahan, Attorney at Law of Reinsch, Slattery, Bear, Minahan, & Prickett, P.C., L.L.O., 545 Main Street/P.O. Box 489, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (402) 296-6996, does hereby provide the following notice related to an Adoption proceeding pending in Richardson County, Nebraska:

Seth Ryan B.: Notice is hereby given that on the 18 th day of September 2025 Machia K. f/k/a Machia M. filed a Petition in the County Court of Richardson County, Nebraska with intention to execute a Stepparent Adoption of Garrett R.J. K., a minor child, by her current spouse, Matthew K. The matter is set for Abandonment Hearing and Final Hearing on the Petition for Stepparent Adoption on November 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. before the Honorable Richard R. Smith in the Richardson County Courtroom, 1700 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska 68355. If you have questions, you must contact Angela M. Minahan at the above address and phone number.

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The City Council of the City of Cameron is soliciting resumes and letters of interest to fill the vacant position on the City Council until the April 7, 2026, election. Interested parties should submit their resumes along with a letter of interest to the Office of the City Clerk, 1304 N. Walnut, Ste. 200 (by mail: PO Box 20), Cameron, MO 64429, before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. All officers elected to offices or appointed to fill a vacancy in any elective office under the city government shall be voters under the laws and constitution of this state and, except appointed officers, must be residents of the city. No person shall be elected or appointed to any office who shall at the time be in arrears for any unpaid city taxes, or forfeiture or defalcation in office (RSMo 77.380). In addition, no person shall be a council member unless they are at least 21 years of age prior to taking office, a citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant of the city for one year next preceding their election (RSMo 77.060).

SAMPLE BALLOT SPECIAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025
DEKALB COUNTY, MISSOURI

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held in the County of Dekalb on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 as certified to this office by the participating entities of Dekalb County. The ballot for the Election shall be in substantially the following form.

POLLING PLACES

COUNTY OF DEKALB
QUESTION
Shall the County of DeKalb, Missouri exempt senior citizens aged 62 and older from increases in the property tax liability due on such seniors citizens' primary residence?
<input type="radio"/> YES
<input type="radio"/> NO

ADAMS COMMUNITY BUILDING 371 E 2ND AVENUE WEATHERBY 64497	GRAND RIVER & COLFAX BTC BANK 515 PLATTE-CLAY WAY CAMERON 64429
SOUTH WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT FARMERS BANK 1303 N MAIN ST STEWARTSVILLE 64490	NORTH WASHINGTON & SHERMAN CLARKSDALE LIONS CLUB BLDG 101 MAY CLARKSDALE 64430
POLK US FIRE PROTECTION BLDG 100 N 9TH ST UNION STAR 64494	WEST CAMDEN, MIDDLE CAMDEN, GRANT & DALLAS JUNE CONLEY BLDG 701 E MAIN ST MAYSVILLE 64469

The Special Election will be held on November 4, 2025 at the above precincts. The polls will be open between the hours of 6 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of electing candidates and or issues.

STATE OF MISSOURI COUNTY OF DEKALB

I, Melissa Meek, Local Election Authority and Clerk of the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct list containing the name of each candidate together with a designation of the office for which he or she is a candidate and or issues, the polling places for each precinct and the hours during which the polling places will be open.

IN TESTIMONY Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the said County Commission, Done in my office Maysville, Missouri this 28th Day of August 2025.

IN THE 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, CLINTON COUNTY, MISSOURI

Judge or Division:
PROBATE

Case Number: 25CN-PR00054

Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted (Independent Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of BETTY J THRASHER, Decedent:

On October 1, 2025, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of BETTY J THRASHER, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of CLINTON COUNTY Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

The name, business address and phone number of the personal representative is: PHILLIP RICK, 5552 SE KETCHEM RD, CAMERON, MO 64429

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: TROY L DIETRICH, 416 N WALNUT, CAMERON, MO 64429, (816)632-3033.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 06-AUG-2025

Date of first publication:
October 9, 2025

Deana Mota
Clerk Signature

Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

ATTENTION CLASSIFIED CUSTOMERS WE NOW REQUIRE PAYMENT ON ADS BEFORE THEY CAN RUN. WE ACCEPT VISA, MC OR DISCOVER CALL 816-632-6543

101 - Public Notices

Reward \$500 for the recovery of 12 600 lb red steers. Last seen 2 to 3 miles SW of Cameron. Call Steve Erickson at 816-632-8618 (11/6)

210 - Cards of Thanks

213 - Special Notice

AA MEETINGS: Lathrop First Christian Church. Mondays 7 p.m. Non-smoking. Call 816-528-3130 or 816-586-3361

AA OF GALLATIN Open Meeting Wed. Nights, 7-8 p.m., 1207 S Clay, 7th Day Advent Church.

BE WISE! IMMUNIZE! Measles & Whooping cough are on the rise! Protect your child NOW! Immunizations and well child checkups begin at birth. Regular clinics monthly in Cameron, Plattsburg & Lathrop. Call Clinton County Health Dept.now. 816-539-2144

CAMERON CROSSROADS AA GROUP: The Old School Rm 6, 116 W. 4th St., Cameron. Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sat. 12 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 12 & 7 p.m.; Sun. 5 p.m. Open meetings Wed. & last Sun. of every month with potluck at 4 p.m. Contact Bill 816-649-9519 or Erin A. 816-284-5393

Crossroads Assembly of God Church, 919 N Harris St., Cameron. Food Pantry & Blessing Room Open Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-4:30.

DO YOU NEED HELP? We Can Provide The Help You Need. You are invited to The Life Recovery Class @ Crossroads Assembly, 919 N Harris St., Cameron. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. Please Call Kevin @ 816-284-3917 or Joe @ 816-209-2458 for more information.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE Do you know someone with Huntington's Disease? Northwest Missouri has a support group that meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Liberty Hospital (entrance next to dialysis clinic) at 7 p.m. You are not alone. Call Becky at 816-592-0950 questions.

LIFE GOT YOU DOWN? Attend recovering your life group. Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For More Info: Call 816-284-3917

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Sundays @ 6:30 p.m. 116 W 4 St., Cameron. Meeting room, main floor, Old School 800-561-2250 UKC ANA help line.

Need Help with your Medicare costs? Call Young at Heart Resources to see if you qualify and for application assistance. Toll free: 888-844-5626 or 660-240-9400. Young at Heart is your local non-profit Area Agency on Aging.

OVERCOMERS: 12 Step Program for any life controlling issue. Every Monday, 6:30 p.m., Kingdom Builders Church 311 N Main, Cameron 816-596-2454

PREGNANT? BREAST FEEDING? Have a child under 5? You need WIC! Receive vouchers for formula, milk, cheese, and more. Regular clinics monthly. Call Caldwell County Health Dept. **816-586-2311** or Clinton County Health Dept. **816-539-2144.** EOE.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Non Profit weight loss support. 10:30 a.m. every Thursday, Community of Christ Church, 4th & Godfrey, Cameron

FARMERS MARKET

282 - Livestock

EMPLOYMENT

FULL Time Maintenance Man wanted. Must have own vehicle & own tools, experience required. Call Joe 816-632-6325, TFN

The Citizen-Observer, a weekly newspaper in Cameron, is looking for a **PRESS ROOM APPRENTICE.** Running large Printing Press. Must be Mechanically Inclined & Not Afraid to get Dirty. Will Train Right Person. Possible New Career. Part Time | Hours Vary. (Could lead to Full Time) Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. No Weekends. Pick up an application at 403 E Evergreen, Cameron or submit resume to production@mycameronnews.com.

MERCHANDISE

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	A	S	O			A	M	P		M	U	C	H			
A	F	O	O	T		B	E	E		U	N	A	U			
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D	O	S	S		M	E	T				E	G	O	S		

331 - Miscellaneous

For Sale: 5' by 8' trailer with loading gate, 2004 Ranger wont start, 6 1/2 ft Christmas tree lighted and frosted, new BBQ charcoal. call 244-7683. (10/30)

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koehlerhomes@greenhills.net

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743 - Pest Control

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Cameron Regional Medical Center

OUTPATIENT CLINIC CALENDAR

2025

NOVEMBER

2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Free Education Session for the public on health insurance coverage:

Thursday, November 13; 5:00 p.m.; CRMC's Branch Offices, 214 McElwain Drive

<p>Free Education Session for the public on health insurance coverage: Thursday, November 13; 5:00 p.m.; CRMC's Branch Offices, 214 McElwain Drive</p>						<p>1 Dr. Arain Dr. Salamat Dr. Shoab</p>
<p>2 Dr. Mounla Dr. Arain Dr. Shoab</p>	<p>3 Dr. Souders Dr. Hindupur Dr. Gochee Dr. Stevens Dr. Middleton Dr. Shemwell Dr. Cornett</p>	<p>4 Dr. Lee Dr. Siddamsetti Dr. Gochee Dr. R. Jafri</p>	<p>5 Dr. Mirza Dr. Ahmad Dr. Gochee Dr. Middleton Dr. Bembynista Dr. Barnhill</p>	<p>6 Dr. Gochee Dr. Dugan</p>	<p>7 Dr. Boerkircher Dr. Bembynista Dr. Hameed</p>	<p>8 Dr. Arain Dr. Hameed</p>
<p>9 Dr. Shoiab</p>	<p>10 Dr. Souders Dr. Ramos Dr. Gochee Dr. Middleton Dr. Cornett</p>	<p>11 Dr. Lee Dr. Bhardwaj Dr. R. Jafri Dr. Shemwell Dr. Shoab Dr. McCroskey Dr. Kaster</p>	<p>12 Dr. Mirza Dr. Middleton Dr. Barnhill</p>	<p>13 Dr. Roe Dr. Gochee Dr. Jandali Dr. Dugan</p>	<p>14 Dr. Assefa</p>	<p>15 Dr. Mahmood Dr. Salamat Dr. Radadiya Dr. Walia Dr. Shoab Dr. Lancaster Dr. Hameed</p>
<p>16 Dr. Mounla Dr. Mahmood Dr. Shoab Dr. Lancaster</p>	<p>17 Dr. Souders Dr. Hindupur Dr. Gochee Dr. Stevens Dr. Middleton Dr. Shemwell Dr. Cornett</p>	<p>18 Dr. Siddamsetti Dr. Gochee Dr. Walker Dr. Reintjes</p>	<p>19 Dr. Mirza Dr. Ahmad Dr. Gochee Dr. Middleton Dr. Bembynista Dr. Barnhill</p>	<p>20 Dr. Gochee Dr. S. Jafri Dr. Dugan</p>	<p>21 Dr. Boerkircher Dr. Bembynista Dr. Coats</p>	<p>22 Dr. Ash</p>
<p>23 Dr. Ash</p> <p>30 Dr. Shoab</p>	<p>24 Dr. Souders Dr. Ramos Dr. Gochee Dr. Middleton Dr. Cornett</p>	<p>25 Dr. Bhardwaj Dr. Donohue Dr. Shoab</p>	<p>26 Dr. Sharma Dr. Middleton Dr. Barnhill</p>	<p>27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29 Dr. Shoab</p>

SEE YOUR LOCAL ACTIVE STAFF PHYSICIAN LISTED BELOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

OUTPATIENT CLINIC PHYSICIANS

Sajjad Ahmad, M.D.,Cardiology	Brian McCroskey, M.D.,Vascular Surgery
Faheem Arain, M.D., Psychiatry/Child Psychiatry	Mary Jo Middleton, M.D.,Physiatry
David Ash, M.D.,Psychiatry	Moben Mirza, M.D.,Urology
Nina Assefa, D.O.,Cardiology	Yaser Mounla, M.D.,Endocrinology
Gregory Barnhill, D.O.,Orthopedics	Shashank Radadiya, M.D.,Rheumatology
Thomas Bembynista, D.P.M.,Podiatry	Ricardo Ramos, M.D.,Cardiology
Bhaskar Bhardwaj, M.D.,Cardiology	Stephen Reintjes, Jr, M.D.,Neurosurgery/Spinal Surgery
Andrew Boerkircher, D.O.,Cardiology	Brian Roe, D.O.,Cardiology
Richard Coats, M.D.,Vascular Surgery	Ahmed Saeed, M.D.,Gastroenterology
Alan Cornett, D.O.,Orthopedics	Muhammad Salamat, M.D.,Oncology
Nicholas Donohue, M.D.,Pain Management	Arvind Sharma, M.D.,Cardiology
David Dugan, D.O.,Orthopedics	Robert Shemwell, D.P.M.,Podiatry
Peter Gochee, M.D.,Ear, Nose, & Throat	Muhammad Shoab, M.D.,Neurology
Kashif Hameed, M.D.,Psychiatry	Sisir Siddamsetti, M.D.Cardiology
Mohan Hindupur, M.D.,Cardiology	Colby Souders, M.D.,Urology
Raza Jafri, M.D.,Pain Management	Damien Stevens, M.D.,Pulmonary/Sleep Medicine
Syed Jafri, M.D.,Gastroenterology	Damandeep Walia, M.D.,Rheumatology
Badr Jandali, M.D.,Pulmonary	Angela Walker, D.O.,Orthopedics, Foot & Ankle Specialist
Steven Kaster, M.D.Gastroenterology	
Chacy Lancaster, M.D.,Psychiatry	
Eugene Lee, M.D.,Urology	
Zafar Mahmood, M.D.,Psychiatry	

ACTIVE/COURTESY STAFF PHYSICIANS

Dennis Albino, M.D.	Cameron	816.632.6100	Fred Kiehl, D.O.	Maysville	816.449.2123
Muhammad Amin, M.D.	Gallatin Cameron Westside Hamilton	660.663.3751 816.632.3945 816.632.5424 816.583.7839	Terry Lienhop, D.O.	Jamesport Maysville Eagleville	660.684.6252 816.449.2123 660.867.5414
Laeq Azmat, M.D.	Cameron Plattsburg Lathrop	816.632.3945 816.930.2041 816.740.3282	Barry Littlejohn, M.D.	Cameron	816.632.6100
Sam Barton, D.O.	Cameron	816.632.2139	Jackie Miller, D.O.	King City Eagleville	660.552.4054 660.867.5414
Kendall DeSelms, D.O.	Cameron	816.632.2111	James Neely, D.O.	Cameron	816.649.3230
Cassandra From, D.O.	Cameron	816.632.2101	Ly Phan, M.D.	Westside	816.632.5424
Laura Harbison, D.O.	Cameron	816.632.2111	Jacob Rash, M.D.	Westside	816.632.5424
Arihant Jain, M.D.	Polo Lathrop	660.354.2550 816.740.3282	Shahzad Shafique, M.D.	Bethany Cameron	660.425.7333 816.649.3398
			Elisa Vinyard, D.O.	Maysville	816.449.2123

CRMC offers financial assistance to qualifying individuals. Please call (816) 649-3211 or 649-3239 for more information. ASK ABOUT OUR PROMPT SELF-PAY DISCOUNT PROGRAM. *CRMC and the CRMC Foundation are both 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporations.