

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 20, 2023 | \$2

Registration open for 15th Annual Community Engagement Conference

By Adair County SB40

Registration for the 15th Annual Community Engagement Conference is now open and available by clicking this link. Registration is free and due no later than Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 in order to receive a ticket for a free lunch. ALL attendees must register separately. This means that if you will have a staff person, guardian, parent, or child with you, you will need to fill out a form for each person. If you require a vegetarian or

gluten free meal, be sure to indicate this on your form.

Also, as a reminder—the Community Engagement Conference Committee is still accepting entries for the T-shirt Design Contest to celebrate the 15th Annual Conference. Entries should show how you live a “Magical Life!” or what living a “Magical Life!” looks like to you. All entries are due to Melissa at the Community Learning Center no later than Friday, Dec. 29. Submissions can be dropped off at the CLC

or emailed to conference@sb40life.org. The winner of the T-shirt Design Contest will receive a \$50 gift card along with a free t-shirt featuring their design.

The conference will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at William Matthew Middle School in Kirksville.

This free, one-day conference will bring individuals with disabilities and their families, provider agencies, professionals and community members together to focus on learn-

ing how to Be Magical and Make Your Life Magical.

Keynote Speaker, Cody Clark, will lead discussions on how you can use the many resources in your daily life to plan for and live the life you want. This conference will offer 15 breakout sessions addressing the needs of people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities throughout their life and those of their families, support teams, and area professionals.

Registration by Friday,



Vendors at last year's Engagement Conference

- Feb. 16, 2024 includes:
- Entertainment during registration
 - Free lunch — with registration by Feb. 16.
 - Admission to the keynote presentation, breakout sessions and materials
 - Access to the indoor and outdoor exhibitor areas and Transition Fair
 - Personal development through networking and making connections
 - Door Prizes — Grand Prize is a 40” Smart TV! Call 660-665-9400 for assistance to register.

Adair County Commission to vote on county commission district realignment

By Marty Bachman
Daily Express

The Adair County Commission and the Adair County Clerk's Office hosted a public hearing on Monday, Dec. 4, to discuss a proposed realignment of the Adair County Commission District boundaries for 1st and 2nd

District commissioners.

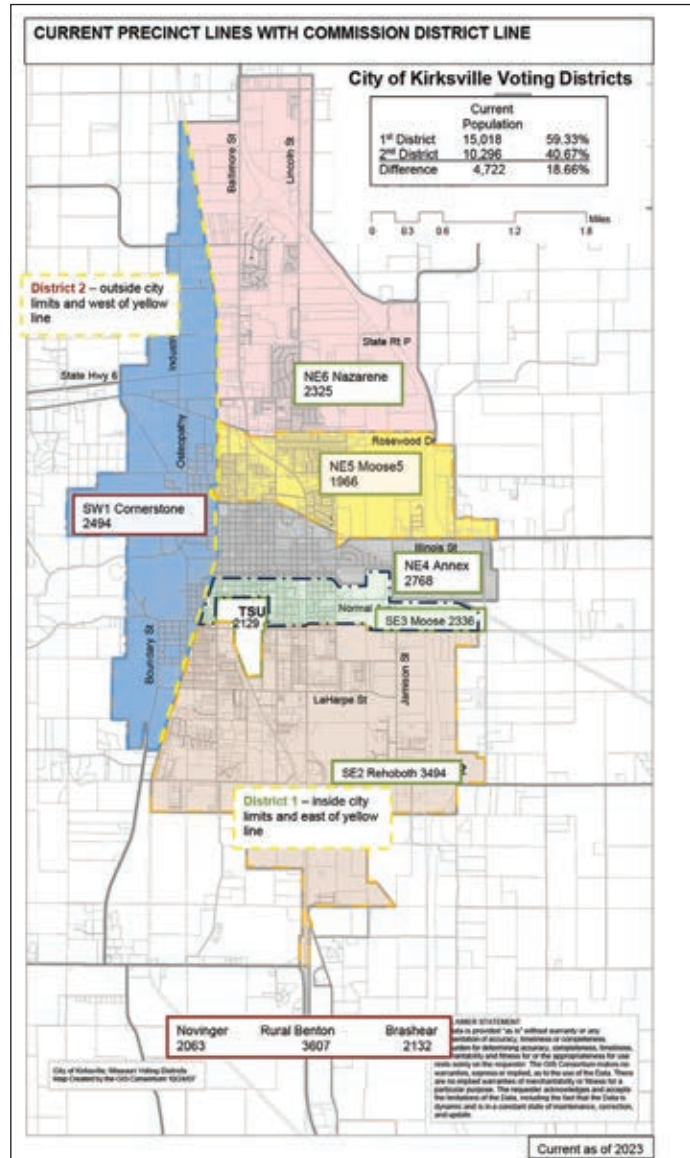
According to Presiding Commissioner Mark Shahan, three people spoke at the hearing with no one objecting to the plan. Shahan said that the change in the district lines was necessary due to an almost 19 percent imbalance in population that had the majority of popula-

tion (59.33 percent) in District 1 and 40.67 percent in District 2. The district boundaries had been set in 2010 according to the census figures at that time. The county received new census data from 2020 that highlighted the discrepancy.

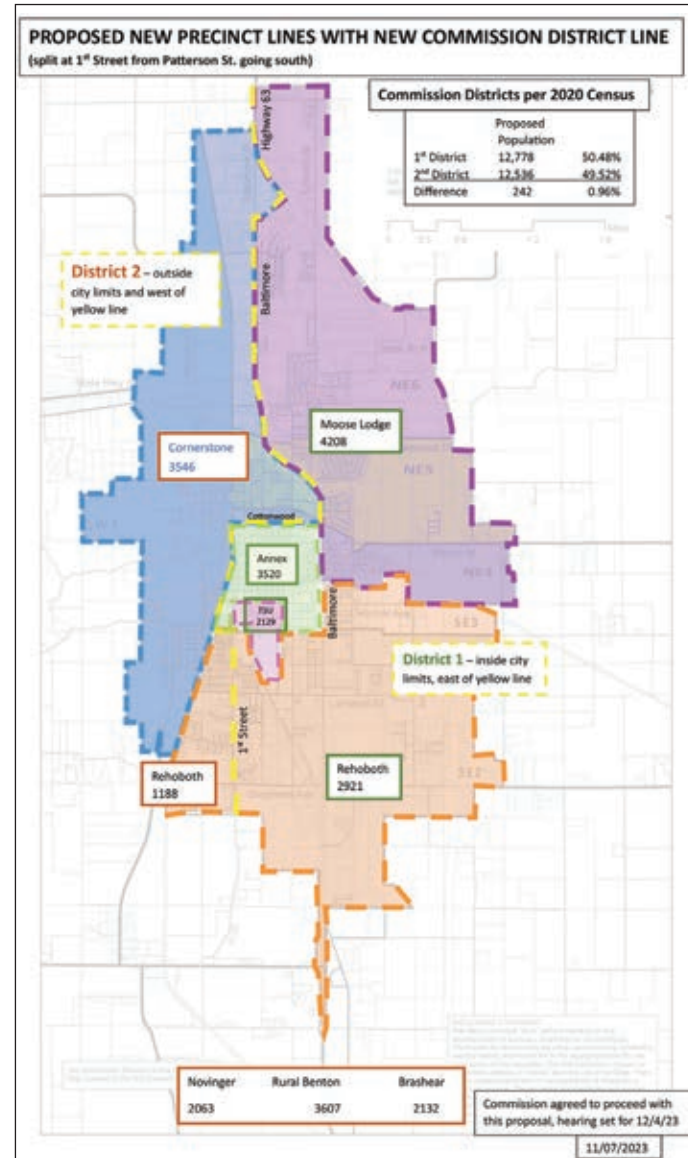
“I called our legal advisor and he said there's been cases

where in a situation like this, say somebody ran for one of these offices and they didn't win, they can sue,” Shahan said, noting that a lawsuit could overturn an election, which would cost the county a considerable sum of money in re-doing the election.

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The current commission districts.



Proposed-Commission-Districts-population.



Bertha Thomas, left, accepts a recognition of the scholarship created in her name from Stephanie McGrew. Thomas worked at Truman more than 20 years, with a majority of that time serving as the assistant dean of Multicultural Affairs.

New scholarship honors career and impact of Bertha Thomas

By Truman State University

Alumni, friends and co-workers of Bertha Thomas can now show their appreciation of the longtime campus and community figure by donating to a scholarship that bears her name.

The Bertha Thomas Legacy Scholarship was established in 2023 by Stephanie McGrew ('10), and other Truman alumni and friends, to honor Thomas for her substantial contributions to students, campus and the Kirksville community. Thomas was an influential stakeholder within Truman's leadership for more than 20 years. A majority of her career was spent as the assistant dean of Multicultural Affairs where she helped create safe spaces and support systems for all students, especially those from historically underrepresented groups.

During Homecoming festivities this fall, Thomas was made aware of the gift during a surprise celebration. With the help of the Advancement Office, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion was able to host more than 120 people during an event celebrating current students and announcing the Bertha Thomas Legacy Scholarship.

Thomas provided light to many people across the Truman and Kirksville communities that will forever shine as a byproduct of her priceless work. Her tenacity, innovation and wisdom made her a cornerstone in the community and allowed her to remove obstacles and barriers in the way of student success. Countless students have been positively impacted by her, whether it be directly or indirectly, and with this scholarship, her legacy will live on as it helps alleviate financial barriers to student access to higher education.

Those who choose to give online, should type “Bertha Thomas Legacy” in the fund section of this form. For information on other ways to show support, contact the Advancement Office at 660-785-4133 or gifts@truman.edu.

Filing period to run for Kirksville City Council seat ends on Dec. 26

Staff Reports

The filing period for those wishing to run for a Kirksville City Council seat continues through Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 5 p.m.. You may file in the City Clerk's office at City Hall, 201 S. Franklin Street, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., except for designated holidays and on Dec. 7 and 8.

The Municipal Election for city council will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. There is one three-year term available in the election. To qualify, you must be 21 years of age prior to taking office; a US citizen; a resident of Kirksville for one year preceding the election; and a registered voter. Anyone who has been found guilty of, or pled to, a felony does not qualify.



Prior to filing, each person must complete an “Affidavit” with the Missouri Department of Revenue affirming that all state income, personal property, and real property taxes on their place of residence have been paid. For more information, contact City Clerk Wanda Cagle at 660-627-1225.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Kirksville Area Calendar and News Briefs

Driver examination stations to close statewide for upcoming holidays

The Missouri State Highway Patrol would like to remind the public that driver examination stations throughout the state will be closed on the following dates: Monday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. Normal operations will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Thousand Hills State Park new year hike

Ring in 2024 with a guided hike! Join park staff for a leisurely hike of the Redbud Trail. The hike will be approximately two miles long on rugged terrain. They will meet at the Redbud Trailhead by the lake at 10 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2024. Make sure to wear weather appropriate clothing and comfortable hiking shoes. Bringing a water bottle is recommended. Thousand Hills State Park is located two miles west of Kirksville on Hwy. 157. Questions? Contact the park office at 660-665-6995.

Kids Cardboard Boat Race

Join the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 2-4 p.m., and take part in the Kids Cardboard Boat Race. Children ages 5 to 16 can sign up as an individual or as a team of up to four people and put their building skills to the test. Participants must construct a boat structure using cardboard, duct tape and water-based paint, and attempt to make it across the pool in the fastest time. Teams will compete in age divisions based on the mean age of the team and can win in multiple categories, including Fastest Time and Best Design. This event is completely free for all participants and spectators. Register today at parks.kirksvilley.com. For more information, contact Luke Callaghan with the Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

2024 NEMO Bridal Expo

The 2024 NEMO Bridal Expo will be held on Jan. 28 from 1-4 p.m. at the NEMO Fairgrounds Multi-purpose building. Cost is \$2 at the door. Fashion, vendors, food and prizes. Hire your venue and wedding professionals at this event. Brides: Go to NEMO Bridal Expo Facebook page and message to pre-register for early prizes. Contact Donna Brown by email: nemobridalexpo@gmail.com or call/text: 660-341-9992. Check the NEMO Bridal Expo Facebook page for updates.

NEWS BRIEFS

Find the 'Elf on the Shelf' and win prizes

In an effort to encourage residents to "Shop Local" during the holidays, participating stores will have an elf doll placed somewhere in the store so when shoppers see the elf, they can take a "selfie" of themselves and the elf, put it on their Facebook page tagging the store and using the hashtag, "#selfiewithanelfiekv" and they will automatically be entered into one of five drawings the chamber will be holding Fridays at noon on Dec. 22 and 29. Each winner will receive \$50 in Kirksville Cash as well as a gift certificate for the restaurant "Bonzai" and a combination of other gift certificates. Selfies may also be emailed to the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce at info@kirksville-chamber.com for those with private pages or without social media accounts.

Truman State Art Gallery Show begins

Truman State Art Gallery will present Mobility: African-American Artists Abroad, work from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African-American Art, from Jan. 23 - March 1. There will be an opening reception and talk on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 5-6 p.m. University Art Gallery Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday Noon to 4:30 p.m. Art Gallery exhibits are free and open to the public. Please note, the University Art Gallery is closed between exhibitions and during all Truman State University breaks. Additional information at gallery.arttruman.com. The Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the Ophelia Parrish Fine Arts Center, at the corner of Normal and Mulanix Streets - entrance on the west side of the building.

Community Engagement Conference for 2024

The Community Engagement Conference for 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024. Organizers are requesting the following:

Sponsorships - As a sponsor, you will be promoted on all conference promotion, recognized at the conference and share in the conference planning.

Exhibitors - Thanks to Kirksville Public Schools, they have a lot more room for exhibitors since moving to the middle school. This is a great opportunity to share information about your group or organization with hundreds of Northeast Missouri citizens.

Prizes - A huge part of assisting with the planning of the conference is securing prizes, which they will draw for at the end of the day. This is one of the most exciting parts of the conference for the attendees and encourages them to stay through the conference and participate all day.

Volunteer - support the planning committee in advance and on the day of the conference. It takes a village to put on a conference of this size.

Breakout Session provider. They have 15 sessions to plan. If you are interested in presenting a session, email your inquiries to Melissa Cline at melissacline@sb40life.org

2024 Indoor Triathlon Challenge

Join Kirksville Parks and Recreation and the Adair County Family YMCA for the 2024 Indoor Triathlon Challenge. The challenge will be held Jan. 8 through March 10. During this nine-week challenge, participants will complete either a half triathlon, full triathlon, or ULTRA triathlon. Participants will have full access to the YMCA and the Kirksville Aquatic Center, as well as all classes offered at those facilities.

Biking mileage can be earned through the use of a rowing machine, recumbent or spin bike, outdoor cycling, or participation in group aerobic classes. Swim distance can be accumulated by lap swimming, water walking, or water aerobics classes. Running mileage can be tallied while on the treadmill, elliptical machine, running outside, or participating in group aerobic classes.

Those who complete their goal will receive the 2024 Indoor Triathlon sweatshirt. Registration is \$40 for members of either facility, or \$80 for non-members. If you have an active membership at the YMCA or the Aquatic Center, register at that facility. Non-members may register at either facility or online at parks.kirksvilley.com. For more information about this program contact the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

Kirksville Young Professionals Committee's '5 Under 40' Award Nomination Form

The Kirksville Young Professionals Committee's "5 Under 40" award recognizes outstanding young professionals who have demonstrated dedication, excellence, and professional development, as well as a commitment to serving the community. The nominees and five award recipients will be honored at the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet that will occur in the Spring 2024. They are also planning a social event in honor of all nominees prior to the banquet where all nominees will be recognized and have the opportunity to network. The top five nominees will be announced at the banquet.

- Criteria for selection**
- must be younger than 40 on Nov. 10, 2023
 - must demonstrate dedication, excellence, and professional development in their career
 - must display a commitment to serving the community
 - must not be a previous winner of the KVYP "5 Under 40" Award
- Nominations are due at 5 p.m. on Wednesday Jan. 10.



Jeff Romine receives 'Bulldog Forever' award

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

At the Dec. 6 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting, Truman State University Alumni Association representatives presented a prestigious "Bulldog For-

ever" award to Rotarian Jeff Romine for his dedication to Truman State University and the Kirksville community overall. Pictured from left are Jeanne Harding, Jeff Romine and Michelle Mollick.

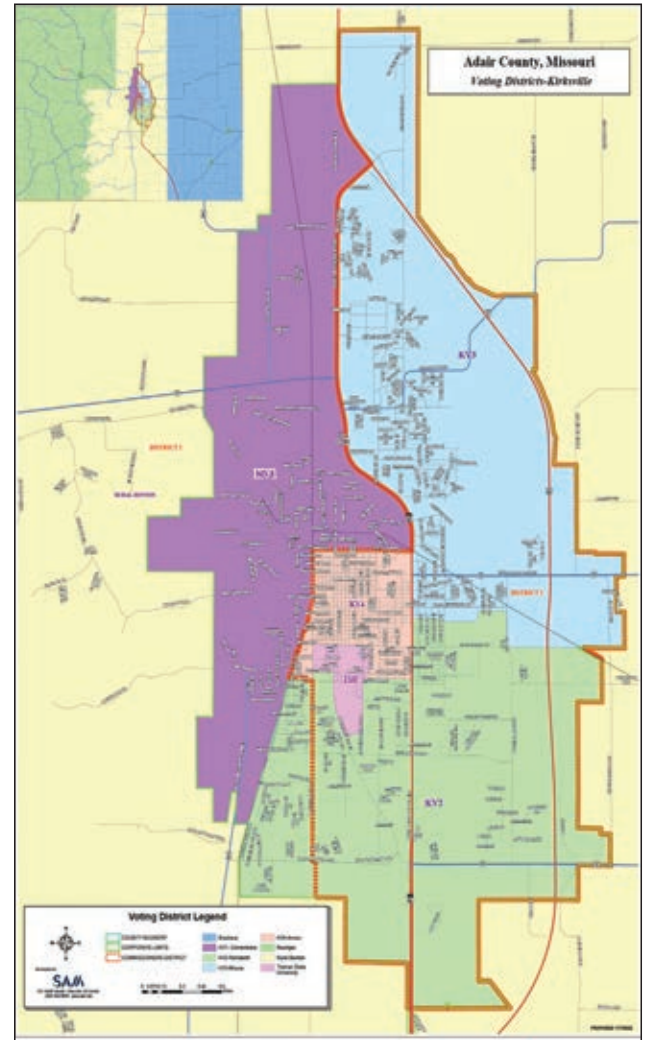
DISTRICT

Continued from Page A1

On the new map, which was drawn up by the county clerk's office, District 1 will have 12,778 residents (50.48 percent), while District 2 will have 12,536 residents (49.52 percent), a difference of 0.96 percent. Shahan said he had been told by legal that a figure of 5 percent would

stand up in court. The lines, as previously, divide Kirksville and Adair County into east and west districts.

The commission will vote on the new districts at their meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 20 and they will go into effect on Jan. 1. Shahan said that the filing period for the 2024 District 1 and 2 elections will begin in February.



The new proposed districts in detail.

City of Kirksville receives grant for road safety audit of U.S. Hwy. 63

By City of Kirksville

The city of Kirksville has received notice that it has been awarded a Safe Streets For All grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The city will receive up to \$96,000, which will be used to conduct a safety audit of U.S. Hwy. 63. The results of this audit will be incorporated into work being done by the Northeast Regional Planning Commission and used to justify and encourage support for safety improvements identified from the audit.

"Highway 63 is an important roadway for everyday transportation for the people of Kirksville that has allowed for great travel and recreation opportunities and economic growth," said City Manager Mari Macomber. "Maintaining and maximizing safety on a critical part of infrastructure will always be crucial. This study will help continue that mission."

A grant agreement between the city and USDOT will be completed over the next few weeks. Other details are not yet known at this time.



Christmas & New Years

- DEADLINES -

KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS | DEADLINE IS 12/27 PAPER | 12/21 BY 5PM

KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS | DEADLINE IS 1/3 PAPER | 12/27 BY 5PM

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from **Daily Express**

Catholic Mass Schedule for Christmas

Mary Immaculate Church 716 E. Washington St.
miparish.org | facebook.com/maryimmaculateparish
660-665-2466

Vigil Masses

December 24, Sunday
4:00 pm at Catholic Newman Center
709 S. Davis St., Kirksville
Midnight at Mary Immaculate

December 25, Monday
9:00 am at St. Rose, Novinger
911 Rombauer Ave.
11:00 am at Mary Immaculate

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OBITUARIES

Mark E. Rimer

Oct 22, 1956 – Dec 12, 2023

Mark E. Rimer, age 67, of Edina, Missouri passed away December 12, 2023 at Boone County Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. The middle child of A.G. and Bebe Ann Rimer, he was born on October, 22, 1956 in Gibson Hospital in Edina, Missouri. He is survived by his mother, Bebe Ann Rimer of Edina;



an older brother, Alan G. Rimer and his wife Staci of Edina, Missouri; and his younger sister Gigi Rimer Draper and her husband Darren of Edina, Missouri; three nephews, Chance Hudson Rimer of Edina, AJ Rimer and wife Chloe of Columbia and Dax D. Draper of Clayton, Missouri; one niece, Macy J. Draper and friend Cameron Wilson of Clayton, Missouri; one great niece Trysta Parton, one step niece Riley Strange; three aunts Mary Margret (Rimer) Goodwin of Kirksville, Mo and Ruth (Prebe) Brandt and husband Joe of Lake Ozark, Missouri and Norma Jean (Rice, Rimer) Monroe of Dallas, TX. One uncle Gary Guinan and wife Donna of Gallitan, TN and several amazing cousins and many, many friends. He was preceded in death by his father A.G. Rimer, his paternal grandparents Talmage and Virginia Rimer, his maternal grandparents Edward Prebe and Mary Jean Guinan two uncles, James Rimer and Ray Prebe, and one aunt Kathy Killday. Mark was a member of The Edina Christian Church and The Edina Masonic Lodge #291. Mark grew up in Edina, Missouri with his parents, brother and sister. Mark graduated Knox County R-1 High School in 1974. In his early years Mark played the drums in the Foster's Market band and also played with Bill Hayes in his band. Mark's parents owned Hudson-Rimer Funeral Homes and most of Mark's young life centered around the funeral homes (Mark was a licensed funeral director), and their ambulance service. Serving the people during their times of need was paramount in the daily lives of the Rimer family. Daily work around the funeral homes was 'par'. Among Mark's jobs was to scoop snow but during his effort you could usually find him building an elaborate igloo in the snow. In 1976 the family developed and opened Hudson-Rimer Park View Chapel and Park View Memorial Gardens in Kirksville, MO. In the beginning the cemetery was a bean field and Mark sold cemetery lots door to door of which he was a natural. You would also find the family spending days mowing the cemetery, cleaning grave markers, answering phones and general maintenance however most times you would go looking for Mark and find him across highway 6 playing golf at the Kirksville Country Club.

Mark developed the love of golf during high school years. You could find Mark for hours behind the house where he had a large tarp set up and he would hit golf balls over and over into the tarp. Mark also spent hours and hours at Edina Country Club and Kirksville Country Club doing what he loved best...playing golf. Mark attended college at Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, MO but it wasn't long until the lure of golf pulled him away. Mark moved to California where he attend a golf Institute. Mark then obtained his PGA card which he held for the rest of his life. Mark returned

home after attending the institute and began working at Quincy Country Club in Quincy, Illinois from there he went on to Lake Shore Country Club in Chicago, Illinois. Mark's fun, ornery and extremely happy personality quickly placed Mark in the heart of many. Mark became especially good friends with the Spiegel family (owner Spiegel Catalog). He visited the Spiegel's many times in Aspen Colorado where Mark met Tom Bosley (Happy Days). Mark dated his daughter for a while. Mark then moved on to work at Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver Colorado. After spending a few years their Mark was offered to operate the Mahogany Run Golf Course in St Thomas United States Virgin Islands. That may have been where the Rimer's family love for the Caribbean began. Mark took well to Island life for a while. Mark was then offered to relocate to Glen Eagle Country Club in Boca Raton Florida. Mark was there a short time until Event Links picked him up as a tournament director for corporate outings. Mark so enjoyed traveling to different locations and coordinating everything for the best golf tournament a corporation could have. Mark then transitioned to Nashville; TN. Mark was instrumental in the formation of the Sara Lee Classic LPGA annual golf tournament. Through this he became great friends with Ray Danner owner of Shoney's restaurants. Mark also became well known in the entertainment business world. He played golf frequently with Vince Gill, Barbra Mandrel and has a gold album of the Judd's that they personally gave him. It was a blessing for Mark's family members who came to visit to spend time on front rows of many concerts and back stage at the Grand Ole Opry. During this time Mark started his own company named Total Golf Productions. He would do tournaments for corporations, including many for Miller Beer. Mark spent his last years in Edina Missouri irritating and entertaining his family and local residents. Mark, other than golf so enjoyed playing cards and scratch off tickets. Mark has been a true joy for all that knew him. You never quite knew what he might do, but you knew that if at any time you needed some help, he would do his best to help you and see you smile again. Mark will leave a void in the daily lives of many. God bless you Mark in this next journey.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in the Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Edina, MO. Pastor Paul Harvey will officiate the services. Burial will be in Park View Memorial Gardens in Kirksville, MO.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Casket bearers will be Chance Rimer, AJ Rimer, Dax Draper, Alan Daniels, Michael Daniels, Noel Palmer, Gary Kaser and Cameron Wilson.

Memorials are suggested to the Kirksville Country Club for a memorial to be designated later for Childrens golf. Memorials may be left at or mailed to Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1, Edina, MO 63537.

Richard Troutwine

Aug 8, 1959 – Dec 15, 2023

Richard Troutwine, 64, of Worthington, MO passed away Friday (December 15th, 2023) at Kirksville Manor Care in Kirksville.

The son of George and Marlyn (Drummond) Troutwine, Richard was born August 8th, 1959, in Los Angeles, CA.

Richard is survived by his mother; Sons, Erich Daniels of Illinois, Tyler Daniels of Illinois, Travis Troutwine of Burlington, CO, and Troy Troutwine of Worthington, MO; Adopted Son, Mike Woodruff; Grandchild, Anna Daniels; Brothers, Noman Troutwine, and Lestie Troutwine; Nephews, Dakota Orwig and Garth Orwig; and family dog, Cowboy. He was preceded in death by his dad and daughter, Courtney Leigh Troutwine.

Richard moved around a lot in his early life. He moved to the Midwest and lived in Illinois for most of his adult life, moving to Missouri in his later years. He enjoyed volunteering at the Tri-State Rodeo each year. He loved riding motorcycles and playing racing games with his family. One adventure Richard had was when he drove his motorcycle from the East to West coast.

Richard's wishes were to be cremated with a Celebration of Life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the family.

Arrangements in the care of Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home.

Maxine Virginia Ellsworth Mosley

Feb 27, 1928 – Dec 10, 2023

Maxine Virginia Ellsworth Mosley was born February 27, 1928, in Low Ground, Missouri, to Abner Hamilton Ellsworth and Anna Marie Partin. Maxine grew up in Novinger, MO and taught at various schools in North Missouri, but spent most of her life in Kirkwood and O'Fallon, MO, Baton Rouge, LA, Manchester, Maine, Shawnee, KS and Satsuma, FL. Maxine died peacefully at home in Satsuma, Florida December 10, 2023.

She was married July 6, 1946 to Raymond Junior Mosley of Pure Air, MO, who predeceased her June 3, 1978. Raymond and Maxine had three children, Linda Kay Knight (widow of Raymond) of Jefferson City, MO, Brenda Jo Kucera (Bill) of Cherokee Village, AR, and Anita Rae Mosley Hobbs (Don) of Satsuma, FL. They had six grandchildren, Brian Christopher (Kara) and Brandon Timothy (Laura) Knight, Stephen Michael and Anna Lois Kucera, Sarah Elizabeth Zollner and Joseph Brigham Hamilton Mosley. They had one great-grandson Noble Edward Knight. Maxine had one brother, Floyd Sherman Ellsworth of Novinger, MO and one sister, Marilyn Sue Hahn (Wayne) of Crystal City, MO. Maxine had many nieces and nephews and cousins.

She graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman University) in Kirksville, MO in 1957 and received her Masters' Degree from University of Missouri-Columbia in 1964. Maxine taught Business and English and was a prolific writer, both professionally and privately. She was a forerunner in developing and advocating for developmental English classes and wrote "Developing Composition Skills" in 1967 while an English professor at Meramec Community College in Kirkwood, MO, a part of the St. Louis Community College system.

Maxine loved to send writings to her children and grandchildren. Most were Bible commentaries, but some were just comments on life or encouraging notes to those she loved. Faith was an overarching theme in Maxine's life. She was ordained by World Evangelism Fellowship in 1992, taught at the Jimmy Swaggart Bible College and was a media member of Jimmy Swaggart Church.

She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher and prayer warrior who will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Travis-Noe Funeral Home in Kirksville, MO, with her grandson, Brian Knight presiding. Interment will follow at the Novinger Cemetery in Novinger, MO.

Public visitation was held Sunday, December 17, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. until service time in the chapel of Travis-Noe Funeral Home "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" – John 11:25-26 KJV

KV WINTER LIGHTS ORGANIZER DAVID COOK SPEAKS TO KIRKSVILLE KIWANIS CLUB

By Kirksville Kiwanis Club



The Kirksville Kiwanis Club welcomed David Cook to speak at their Dec. 7 meeting. Cook is an organizer and member of KV Winter Lights. He spoke about the group's work to bring more lighting to #DowntownKirksville this holiday season. Pictured are Kirksville Kiwanis Club President Dan McGurk (left) and Cook.

Ribbon-cutting held to celebrate Complete Family Medicine's Inspire Hope Campaign

Staff Reports

Complete Family Medicine hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 12, to celebrate the commencement of the Inspire Hope Campaign. Complete Family Medicine, a service of Hannibal Regional Healthcare System, and Hannibal Regional Foundation, are offering the community the opportunity to Inspire Hope in their neighbors fighting cancer.

The campaign is raising funds to assist local residents who must travel to receive radiation oncology care. Cancer patients needing radiation must travel 90 miles one way to receive treatment that usually lasts 15 min-



A ribbon-cutting was held at Complete Family Medicine's Urgent Care to celebrate the commencement of their Inspire Hope Campaign.

utes. CFM recognizes that this is a hardship to the cancer patients still in the workforce, on caregivers to drive the individuals, on families, on employers, and on the community at large.

The Inspire Hope Campaign

will provide care kits to cancer patients and will include care items needed for treatment and travel. You can support the campaign today by donating at www.hannibalregional.org or by calling 573-629-3577.



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ROBIN WRITES

Christmas morning

Maybe the best gift of Christmas is Christmas morning. It gives us a chance to remember what is most important in life.

We spend each day of the year before Christmas surrounded by family, friends, strangers, and situations that expect our attention, and we navigate through those interactions with the emotional tools we've developed over a lifetime.

We have learned to be strong. To be caring. To operate in a 'do unto others' mentality that—though sometimes cursory—fills our days with ways to cope and thrive.

Love is there, and we wear it like worn shoes that are so comfortable we slide into them without noticing how fragile they are.

People come and go, and we feel the gusts of time whooshing past. The power of that realization propels us to lean into life, doing and being and getting what

will make our days ones we can consider worthwhile.

Obligations force us to push aside the softness of dawn; the stars are brilliant overhead as we settle into nighttime routines without noticing their glow.

Exhaustion pleads with us to relinquish our hold on things we'd love to do if we had the time and energy. We choose our 'musts' as if tossing confetti from a parade, forgetting that we can also wave and ride the route without fanfare.

But then, just as we finish our shopping and wrapping and cooking and partying and working and worrying, Christmas morning dawns in every home.

The light filters into the windows of houses grand and humble. With children or without. It illuminates lives that are filled with love and those that are conflicted and sad.

But it shines on Humanity with an equal promise of a day that gives us all a chance to realize our blessings.



ROBIN GARRISON LEACH
ROBIN WRITES

The first thunder of your children's barefooted race to the tree. That first cup of coffee shared with a partner. The rustling of robes and wrapping paper. We are offered time to look around and see the beauty of life in its most basic moments.

Feeling comes back to our hearts; memories mingle with the morning's activities, giving continuity to our family's story. We smile because we remember the children we used to be. We cry to recall the people we've lost. And we take this one, special morning to just BE.

As you look around your living room on Christmas morning, whether filled with activity or sweet memories, give yourself permission to know how much you're blessed, how fulfilling life has been—through good times and bad—and just what a gift this morning is.

Contact Robin at
robinwrites@yahoo.com

HOME COUNTRY

A mid-winter party breaks out

It began the way most miracles do: by accident or the hand of God, take your pick.

It might have been the weather, at least partly. For December, the day had been almost balmy and warm. You know, sweaters instead of heavy coats. No mittens in sight.

Then there were Christmas lights on the stores, and that little bunch of Girl Scouts out raising money in front of the Read Me Now bookstore. Jasper Blankenship was inside going through the books to fortify his cabin's library for winter and sat, listening with a smile to the girls as they laughed and waited for customers that weren't really coming along too briskly.

"It's a shame there aren't more people out today for those girls," said Sarah McKinley, behind the counter. Jasper

nodded and paid for his books, then walked out to the truck. He stopped and thought for a while, then brought out his violin, rosined the bow, and walked over to the sidewalk next to the girls.

"You girls like fiddle music?" he asked.

Carla Martinez was driving down the street, headed for the Soup 'R Market when she saw the Girl Scouts dancing with each other in front of their table to Jasper's music. Before he'd had time to finish that tune, she'd returned with her guitar and joined the fun. Jim Albertson, the elementary school principal, showed up with a harmonica, and he wasn't bad at it.

Dud got out his accordion and was able to at least do the bass buttons as accompaniment.

By this time, it was getting dark in the street, and several peo-



SLIM RANDES
HOME COUNTRY

ple turned headlights on the area in front of the bookstore. Older people had joined the Girl Scouts dancing in the streets, and Delbert Chin from the Chinese restaurant across the street sent one of his girls out with a huge pot of coffee and paper cups.

The party was on.

It lasted until the cars' headlights began to wear down the batteries, but during its brief lifetime, the street dance and mid-winter party cast a blessing on us all.

It must have been the weather.

In loving memory of times we spent with Polka Dan Zantek and Herman the German Hastroiter. No one could get a street party started more quickly.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER



Safe Toys and Gifts Month

By Brandon Carlyle,
B.S., CHES®

Health Educator, Adair County Health Department

Welcome to this edition of Public Health Corner, where we emphasize the importance of safety, especially during the winter holiday season. This December we would like to shine a spotlight on Safe Toys and Gifts Month. This observance serves as a timely reminder of the importance of selecting gifts that prioritize safety, particularly for the little ones in our lives.

Why Safe Toys Matter:

Children are naturally curious and eager to explore the world around them, making toys an integral part of their learning and development. However, not all toys are created equal, and safety should be the top priority when choosing the perfect gift. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), thousands of children are treated in emergency rooms each year due to toy-related injuries.

Top Tips for Safe Toys and Gifts:

Age-Appropriate Selection: Ensure the toys are suitable for the child's age and developmental stage. Most toys come with a recommended age range, helping you make an informed decision.

Check for Small Parts: Small parts can pose a chok-

ing hazard for young children. If a toy includes small components, make sure they are securely attached and not easily detachable.

Inspect for Sharp Edges: Examine toys for any sharp edges or points. Smooth, rounded edges are less likely to cause injuries during play.

Look for Non-Toxic Materials: Opt for toys made from non-toxic materials. This is especially crucial for items that may end up in a child's mouth, such as teething toys.

Avoid Toys with Strings or Cords: Strings, cords, or ribbons longer than seven inches can be a strangulation risk. Choose toys without these features for young children.

Ensure Sturdy Construction: Well-made toys are less likely to break or splinter, reducing the risk of injury. Check for quality construction and durability.

Safe Toys, Happy Holidays:

By prioritizing safety when selecting toys and gifts, we contribute to joyful and worry-free celebrations. Whether you're shopping for your own children, grandchildren, or little friends, let's make this holiday season a time of safe and delightful play.

Remember, a little extra attention to safety ensures that the magic of the season is enjoyed by all.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

POETRY CORNER

A Christmas Wish

The stars in the sky... were twinkling that night... with one shining so much brighter than all,
In the town of Bethlehem... in a small manger...
that's where the star's light would fall.
On this night... a babe was born... the Savior for mankind,
Born to a world... where evil prevails... yet salvation, you can still find.
Open your heart... this Christmas season... to the

words the Bible can share,
Those blessed words... can set you free... and Heaven, for you is there,
My Christmas wish... for you and yours... is what the future can have in store,
A life filled with peace... a life filled with happiness... and God's love forever more.
Have a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year

— Daniel D. Donovan

THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Three reasons to start wrapping

What some people call "the most wonderful time of the year" can also be the most exhausting. With all the extra events, shopping, cleaning, cooking, traveling, hosting and more, it can make us want to crawl into the nearest stocking and take a long winter's nap.

When you need a brief escape from the holiday hustle and bustle, I have a strategy that works. It'll involve some effort, but trust me, it'll give you some much-needed time and space to hear yourself think. All you have to do is become a wrapper.

I started wrapping in my teens. What began as a favor for my mom became an annual tradition. She said she wanted me to do it because I was so good at it. But now that I'm a mom, I know the quickest way to get a kid to take over a chore is to convince them that no one does it better. Well played, Mom.

But I'm glad I became a wrapper because it gives me fringe benefits that come in handy during the busiest time of the year.

Benefit No. 1: People have to leave you alone.

Don't get me wrong. I love people. But even the jolliest people-person can get overwhelmed during the holidays. When you wrap, you get the quiet time you've been craving. I gather gifts and put them on the kitchen table, along with supplies like paper, scissors, tape, ribbons, and bows. Then I cue up a favorite movie on the small kitchen television

and get to work. But first, I make this announcement to all other humans in the house: "Listen up, people. I will be wrapping gifts for the next few hours, so nobody can come in here without my permission. If you walk in here and see a gift, I'm taking it back."

Benefit No. 2: Repetitive motion soothes the busy brain.

When we're a little fried from all the fa-la-la-la-la, we need a "Zen" activity – some simple work that lets our brain coast for a while. I've learned to love the soothing slice of scissors through pretty paper, a crisp crease along a box edge, and a fluffy bow tied with tulle. I don't have to think about it. I just do it, falling into an easy rhythm and focusing on one box at a time.

The movie plays as I work, and I stop occasionally for a snack and a sip of cocoa or tea. I savor the satisfaction of seeing the stack of wrapped packages grow taller over time. "All is calm. All is bright," just like the song says.

Benefit No. 3: Celebrate the power to delegate.

When I wrap, I can't leave the room with unwrapped gifts where anyone can see them. So I keep going until the mission is complete or I run out of boxes or



GWEN ROCKWOOD
THE ROCKWOOD FILES

tape. If that means someone else has to pitch in to do other things that need doing, so be it.

Me: "Hey, I need you to change that load of clothes and hang up the stuff in the dryer."

Teenager: "But I'm busy playing this app on my phone and scrolling social media."

Me: "Oh yeah? Well, I'm busy wrapping your gifts, so if you want to unwrap these presents one day, I suggest you deal with the laundry while I create the magic of Christmas around here!"

If you say it with the correct amount of self-righteous indignation, a kid or spouse will dutifully handle the laundry, walk the dog, or run the errands you don't have time to do. Why? Because you're a wrapper on a mission! You cannot be disturbed.

But I should warn you about the side effects of becoming a wrapper. You may find yourself admiring sturdy boxes and saving them year-round. You'll hoard Scotch tape and buy new scissors before December. And you'll become a total snob about the quality of holiday wrap, insisting on the proper paper weight that is stamped with cutting lines on the back. (Gangster wrappers don't mess around with sub-par supplies.)

But the side effects are worth it. With the power to delegate and a few hours to yourself, it's easier to remember what's so lovely about the most wonderful time of the year. Now that's a wrap.

Gwen Rockwood is a syndicated freelance columnist. Email her at gwenrockwood5@gmail.com. Her book is available on Amazon.

TURNING THE PAGE

This Week in Local History

By Larry Evans

115 Years Ago, December 19, 1908

The passenger trains, both in and out of Kirksville, were full of Kirksville residents leaving to visit relatives for the holidays and students from the Normal School and the American School of Osteopathy leaving to go home for their vacation break. People were also coming into Kirksville from outlying areas to do their Christmas shopping. The railroads added passenger coaches, but some were still full, and some passengers were standing.

110 Years Ago, December 20, 1913

After working constantly for 72 hours, St. Louis experts opened the big manganese steel safe containing \$100,000 in money and securities belonging to the Union Bank of Novinger. The safe had been superheated in a fire which destroyed the Union Bank at Novinger the week previous. After the fire, the safe cooled so quickly that the big door, eleven inches thick, became firmly welded to the breach opening. At first the experts tried melting a hole in the door with an oxyacetylene lamp whose flame had a temperature of 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit. This method failed, and the safe experts found they could slowly twist the circular door, thus gradually working it loose. Once opened the contents of the safe were taken to a St. Louis bank for safe keeping.

100 Years Ago, December 18, 1923

Joe Polich, a miner, was killed instantly by a fall of rock in the Big Creek Mine west of Kirksville. Polich's back was broken and his chest crushed by the falling rock. The rock that killed Polich was of the type known as a bell rock, about three feet at its greatest thickness and tapering off to about one foot at the end. It was estimated to weigh about eight or ten tons. He was caught under the edge of the rock. Polich came from the "old country" and had been in Kirksville eight or ten years. He was an industrious man who, in addition to mining, owned the Corner Grocery on North Centennial Street and a house nearby.

100 Years Ago, December 21, 1923

Dr. E. C. Grim, surgeon-in-chief at the Grim Hospital in Kirksville, announced that Dr. Ed Smith, a prominent physician of Macon, had purchased an interest in the Grim Hospital and the institution was to be incorporated under the name of the Grim-Smith Hospital and Clinic. Dr. Smith was to assume his work at the hospital at the beginning of 1924 and would move his family to Kirksville immediately. Dr. Grim said there would be no change in hospital operations, and the present members of the staff would be retained in their current positions. Grim also stated that he considered Dr. Smith one of the best diagnosticians he knew, and he was sure his assistance at the hospital would be an immense help in the conduct of the hospital. Dr. Smith had practiced medicine for twenty years and was a graduate of the University of Maryland in 1900 where he took his internship before doing post graduate work at Chicago's Cook County Hospital and the University of Chicago. Dr. Grim concluded his announcement that the hospital was full to capacity and in another year, it would be necessary to build another addition to the existing facility.

90 Years Ago, December 18, 1933

Drunks and fights kept Kirksville police officers on the jump over the weekend. Three men were engaged in a fight in and near the Farmers Café on South Elson Street Saturday night. The fight started in the café, participants were ordered out by the proprietor, and then the fight continued on the sidewalk. Upon



their investigation officers learned that another disturbance had occurred at the Farmers Cafe the night before, but officers were unable to learn who was involved and a complaint was not filed. The café was the scene of several fights since it opened weeks earlier. A few days later another disturbance took place at the Farmers Café when a drunk man had gone there with the intent to "clean out the place." An employee of the establishment physically threw the man out. The drunk landed on the sidewalk, and he landed in such a manner that his leg was broken in three places. He was taken to the Ellis-Stickler Hospital where the fractures were treated by Dr. R. R. Ellis. This recent incident prompted Adair County Prosecuting Attorney, Nat Rieger, to close the place unless the proprietors showed that they are able to keep away the patrons who caused the disturbances.

70 Years Ago, December 22, 1953

At least six inches of windswept snow blanketed a frigid Kirksville almost assuring the area of its eighth white Christmas in the past eleven years. Ten inches of snow were measured by the FAA station at Millard making it the most snow-bound spot in the state. An accurate measurement was difficult to read because of the steady wind out of the Northwest. Traffic was slowed considerably, and hazardous driving conditions were reported by the Missouri State Highway Patrol with Highway 63 in treacherous shape from Greentop to Moberly. All roads in the area were ice covered under a layer of snow as the storm began with light rain and later changed to snow. It seemed almost a certainty that the snow would still be on Christmas Day as the weather forecast called for colder temperatures with a reading of from five to ten degrees below zero.

55 Years Ago, December 16, 1968

In an announcement made by Jack Friedman, director of manufacturing of the Burroughs Corporation of Rochester, New York, plans were laid out to locate a branch manufacturing plant in Kirksville. Friedman's announcement was made by telephone at a noon industrial appreciation luncheon attended by members of the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce board of directors, heads of Kirksville's industries, and the Kirksville Industrial Development Corporation. The new Burroughs plant was to be located on a 17-acre tract on Industrial Road in northern Kirksville between the Kewanee Machinery and Conveyor Company and the Pre-Cast Concrete Company. In Kirksville the Burroughs plant would manufacture business forms for Midwest markets. According to Ray W. MacDonald, Burroughs President, the plant would "provide increased production capacity to meet Burroughs' expanding business in a broad range of business forms." Burroughs total investment in the 115,000 square foot plant and in equipment was expected to exceed four million dollars over the next few years. Initially 75 persons would be employed at the plant with a full labor force of 200 expected within the following two years. The company first showed an interest in locating a new plant in Kirksville in October 1967. The addition of the Kirksville plant brought to twelve the number of plants Burroughs would have operational. Ground-breaking was scheduled for the spring of 1969 with a completion date of September of that year.

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EMBRACING LOCAL HISTORY

Part 81

Canada Ownbey – Soldier, Farmer and Judge

By Blytha Ellis, President

Adair County Historical Society and Museum

In our last episode, we left Canada Ownbey (1811-1894) just moving into pre-Adair County from Macon County in 1838. He claimed a wide expanse of land which at that time was about 2 ½ miles south of what would be the center of Kirksville. However, in 1838, Kirksville did not exist.

Canada was entering pre-Adair County 10 years after the first settlers had come up from Howard County and established "The Cabins" out on the Chariton River. He was well aware of the Big Neck War which had occurred in 1829 and had sent the whole area into a frenzy about "an Indian uprising!" Canada had a personal interest in this war since a relative of his, Powell Ownbey, had been one of the casualties of the Big Neck War.

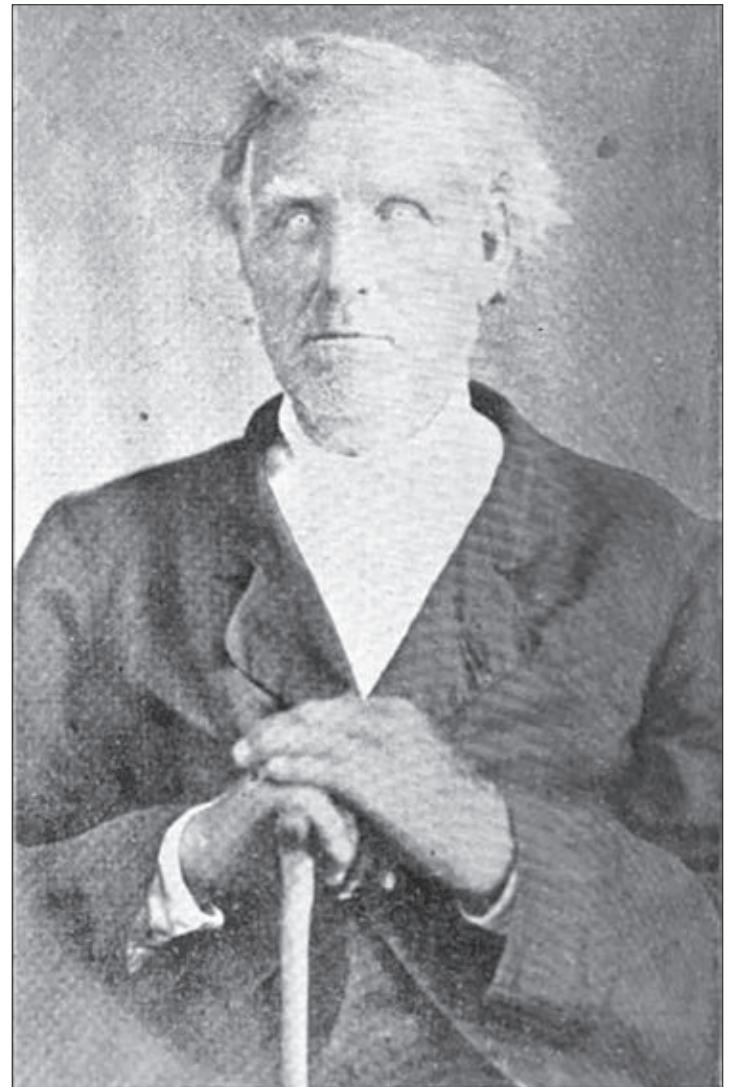
At the age of 19, Canada had joined the volunteers who responded to a call for troops to search for hostile Indians in Northern Missouri after the Big Neck War. Canada had even been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 54th Regiment to be ready to defend the white settlers of the Northern Missouri wilderness areas not yet divided into counties. This group of soldiers had, however, never found any Indians as these natives had moved on into the Iowa Territory. (See Part 10 of this history for more details.)

The pre-Adair County land which Canada Ownbey now claimed in 1838 was south of present day La Harpe St. and extended from South First Street on the east to beyond Boundary Street (Route H) on the west, and south to Shepherd Ave. or further. Of course, there were no streets or street names then, and the land was open prairie fields.

A year after he entered this land, Canada was called upon once again to serve in a military capacity in 1839 during the Honey War. This was a dispute over the northern boundary of Missouri and the southern boundary of Iowa. Canada served as a Lieutenant Colonel when Missouri Governor Lilburn Boggs ordered a militia sent to the border. This, however, turned out not to be a war at all, and simply a disagreement which ended peacefully. (See Part 31 of this history for an account of the Honey War.)

Canada Ownbey and his brother-in-law, Jesse Walker, were among the first to settle on the prairie land of pre-Adair County. The earlier settlers of pre-Adair County had been those in the western hills and timber land on both sides of the Chariton River. These were pioneers generally more interested in hunting and trapping the abundant wildlife which populated that area. Canada was more interested in growing crops.

Some of Canada's hardships were relayed by his descendants. He had said



Canada Ownbey (1811-1894)



that farm work was best completed in the early mornings or late evenings because sunshine brought out myriads of green headed flies which drove horses, cattle and people wild! Canada reported that even the deer were driven into the woods by the hordes of flies which he and his sons had to contend with.

Plowing in those days was done with ox teams, but not every farmer had these resources. Often, those who had teams and plows would share with their neighbors, going from farm to farm. Grain was ground by hand mills at first until business mills were established within a reasonable distance.

Most people felt very isolated on their farms when they could not correspond with family they had left behind in other parts of the country. Mail was slow and at first carried by horseback, then later by stage.

Canada Ownbey was a judge in the election in Benton Township of Adair County when it was organized in 1841. Elections were held in the homes of settlers known to be reliable people. Canada Ownbey often served as one of the three county commissioners, or county judges as they were then called, during the early Adair County years.

To his original homestead, Canada eventually added more land and at one point reached over 1,500 acres. As his 11 children grew up and married, he was able to give each one 80 acres to get them started in life. For some of his daughters

who married men who already had homesteads, he gave them the equivalent in cash. All of his children became farmers.

However, by the time his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were grown, Kirksville had good schools, a State Normal School and the American School of Osteopathy, so many of them pursued other lines of work besides farming. In a family history written in 1911 by a descendant of Canada, it is stated that only two of these farms which he gave his children were still occupied by descendants.

Canada established a cemetery in the southwest corner of his land, and this is the present Ownbey Cemetery on south Boundary Street. Canada and his wife, as well as at least 28 of their descendants, are now buried there.

Canada's wife, Lucinda, died in 1878. Canada died June 23, 1894, in Adair County. The following comments were made in his obituary which appeared in the Kirksville Weekly Graphic: "Canada Ownbey was a man of firm convictions and a believer in the Bible as a revelation from God. He held to the doctrines of the Bible as taught by the Baptists of the Old School. He was a genial, quiet man who won and retained the respect of all who knew him. Long has this writer known him, and he was ever the same, meeting you with a genial, bright smile which showed his happiness at meeting you and his good will toward you."

Canada's original farm home and property were inherited by his son, Benjamin Franklin Ownbey (1846-1927). Ben's story will continue in our next episode.

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Alliant Bank hosts 'Holiday Celebration'

By Marty Bachman
Daily Express

Alliant Bank in Kirksville, hosted a Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours "Holiday Celebration" at the bank offices on South Baltimore Street, Thursday, Dec. 14. Hundreds of guests attended the annual event, which is

the largest of the chamber's After Hours program. The bank was filled with holiday decorations, including a Christmas tree. Food and drinks were catered by The Wooden Nickel and included a bacon-wrapped alligator with a full chicken stuffed in its jaws. Music was provided by Randy Smith, who juggled between a saxophone and keyboard.



A bacon-wrapped alligator with a chicken in its mouth was served to guests at the Alliant Bank "Holiday Celebration."



Food and drinks were catered by The Wooden Nickel at the Alliant Bank "Holiday Celebration."



Music was provided by Randy Smith at the Alliant Bank "Holiday Celebration."



Guests enjoyed the free food, drinks and atmosphere of the Alliant Bank "Holiday Celebration."



Tom Stinson speaks to Rotary Club of Kirksville about keeping kids safe from online predators

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

The speaker at the Dec. 13 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting was fellow member Tom Stinson, a cyber security architect. Stinson provided tips on protecting our children or grandchildren from online predators. He is pictured with Rotary Club President Melissa Stuart.



Rotary Club of Kirksville welcomes new member

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

At the Dec. 13 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting, a new member, Salvation Army Lt. Christopher Rutledge-Clarke, was inducted by Rotary Club President Melissa Stuart (left). Stuart is also his Rotary sponsor.



Kirksville's Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign seeks bell ringers for final week before Christmas

By Salvation Army

With only a week remaining in the bell ringing season, The Kirksville Salvation Army finds itself falling behind its red kettle campaign which still has \$54,980 left to raise. To date the campaign has raised \$30,020 or 35 percent of its \$85,000 goal.

"We are so thankful to everyone who has donated and volunteered to ring the

bell so far this season," Salvation Army officials said in a press release. "The money raised in our Red Kettle Campaign stays local to help local people. This means we can give a food box to someone who is hungry, keep the lights on for a family struggling to pay a utility bill and provide a pathway to self-sufficiency for struggling families in our community for months to come."

The Salvation Army's bells will continue ringing outside stores through Christmas Eve — and the organization is optimistic that with the community's support it can still reach its fundraising goal. Volunteer bell ringers are urgently needed this holiday season. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the red kettle campaign — and there are bell-ringing opportunities remaining for individuals and groups.

Time is running out to volunteer to bell ring this season. The Salvation Army is struggling to fill the eight kettle locations so far this season with most days having only two or three locations covered. Officials said the number of bell ringers out ringing directly impacts the funds raised.

"With low coverage, we are running behind so far this year in raising needed funds," Salvation Army officials said. "The Red Kettle Campaign is vital to The



Salvation Army's ability to serve those in the most need throughout the year. We are hopeful with the community's help, necessary funds will be raised to help to continue to fulfill its mission of "Doing the Most Good" by helping those in the most need."

The Salvation Army is urging anyone who has the ability to ring the bell to sign up by calling The Salvation Army at 660-665-7885 or by registering online at register-

toring.com. Bell ringing locations include: Hy-Vee, Walmart, Hobby Lobby, Coltons, & Ace Hardware. Donate-Donations to the campaign can be mailed to: The Salvation Army 1004 W Gardner St. Kirksville MO 63501, dropped in a Red Kettle or given online by clicking this link.

Every dollar collected in the red kettles supports the wide range of services and programs provided throughout the year in Adair County.

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Karol Kirkpatrick - 641-777-3403

Atlanta girls outlast Brashear Friday to pick up 45-39 win

By Adam Tumino

The Atlanta girls basketball team held on to beat Brashear on Friday, edging out the Tigers by a score of 45-39. The win saw Atlanta climb to 4-4 on the season and drop Brashear to 4-4, although Brashear managed to bounce back with a win over Tri-County the following day to climb back over the .500 mark on the season.

The game was not always clean, as both defenses managed to get their hands on passes throughout and force frequent turnovers. But in the end, it was Brashear's turnovers that proved the most costly.

Atlanta head coach Jason White credited his team for their defensive effort, which allowed them to create enough baskets to maintain their lead.

"I thought our defense was really good tonight from the girls," he said. "We were in passing lanes, our arms were up tonight, we were talking on defense. Just playing together. For us, that's what we've got to do. We're not a team that can knock down a lot of shots on a given night, but we are a team that when the defense starts us and we can get out and run the floor, that's when we're at our best is when we're out in transition. Playing up and down, and making teams play a little faster than they want to. I think we did a good job of that tonight."

Early turnovers forced by the Hornet defense allowed them to build a 9-2 lead early on in the first quarter. Brashear managed to push back and cut it to two points early in the second before Atlanta pulled back ahead by a wider margin. Brashear kept cutting into Atlanta's lead throughout the game, but were never able to cut it back to a one-possession game again. The Tigers came close to doing that late in the third after finding themselves trailing 32-21. They mounted a quick 7-0 run to cut the deficit to just four points, but Atlanta managed to go up 36-28 by the end of the period.

Brashear cut the deficit to four points again at 43-39 with just 1:21 left in the game, but a costly turnover on their next possession led to an easy basket for Atlanta that moved the score to the final of 45-39.

Brashear head coach Emily Powell said that the team did not come out with a lot of energy early on, and the slow start made it difficult to get back on track.

"We were really flat from the get go," she said. "The gym was quiet, the room was flat and we let that dictate our effort. We've got some things with injuries and illness and stuff, but we can't find a reason not to play hard. One person's situation should not affect the rest of our effort and how hard we're playing and playing together. As a group I never felt like we



Brashear sophomore Maddie Moots chases down a loose ball in the game against Atlanta on Dec. 15.



Atlanta senior Sylvie Christensen splits the defense for a layup in the game against Brashear on Dec. 15.



Brashear sophomore Marissa McMann battles for position in the game against Brashear on Dec. 15.

really got going. Everything was a step slow."

She said that in the end the turnovers were too much to overcome, especially in a game that was still close and featured some strong defensive play from her team.

"We just didn't take care of the basketball," Powell said. "I thought defensively we did a lot of things well, but we turned the ball over way too much to win a basketball game."

White said he was also not thrilled with the amount of turnovers committed by the Hornets in the game. He said many of them were simply caused by relatively inexperienced players being careless with the basketball.

"We've got to cut down on our turnovers," he said. "Tipped passes hurt us tonight on the offensive end. We're not fully thinking sometimes when we throw some of those passes. We've got to slow the game down in our mind. We're a young, not very experienced team outside of just a couple of players."

Overall, Atlanta is still looking to find its way early on in the season. After scoring a season-high 61 points in a season-opening win over Northwestern, Atlanta averaged 34 points over the next four games, going 1-3 in that span. They then won two of the next three games, including Friday's win, and have averaged 50 points per game in that span.

White said that it is important that his team continues to play hard and stay on the same page as they look to build on the positives so far and move through the rest of the season.

"Things that we're doing well with the girls is playing together, playing hard," he said. "That's one thing I always give these girls is they play hard. Every single minute they're on the floor they're always giving all they've got. Sometimes we play a little too fast, but we're playing into that. It's early in the season and we're working through all those things."

Powell said that it is also vital for the Tigers to maintain a high level of effort in order to be successful. The loss to Atlanta was the team's third in a row following a 4-1 start, and the bounceback win over Tri-County was a step in the right direction, but she said the team will be working on keeping the level of energy and effort up going forward.

"We are not playing with the same confidence we were playing with two weeks ago, and as coaches we're going to work hard to figure that out and try to get that going in the right direction," she said. "We as a program, boys and girls, preach attitude and effort. You can control those things night in and night out. Focus on your controllables and good things will happen. We've got to get back to that."



Atlanta junior JJ White advances the ball in transition in the game against Brashear on Dec. 15. PHOTOS BY ADAM TUMINO

Hot-shooting Hornets ride strong start to 85-53 win over Tigers on Friday

By Adam Tumino

The three pointers started falling early for the Atlanta boys basketball team against Brashear on Friday. The Hornets knocked down six threes in the first five minutes of the game, jumping out to a big lead against the Tigers. Atlanta did not knock down shots at quite that high a rate going forward, but continued to find plenty of shooting success on their way to an 85-53 win.

The win was the fourth in the last five games for Atlanta and saw them improve to 6-3 on the season. The loss dropped Brashear to 5-3, although a win over Tri-County the following day put them three games over .500 once again.

Atlanta head coach Jason White said it was important for the team to get off to such a hot start in the game, as it helps fuel success in other areas throughout the night.

"Always important to get those shots," he said. "We have several guys who can shoot the ball, but it's always a big deal to get off to a quick start and hit your first couple shots. I think we hit our first four threes, if I'm not mistaken. It's always great to start the game that way. It adds energy to everything we're doing."

The 85 points scored were the second-most so far this season for the Hornets, who set their season high with a 98-35 rout of Linn County on Dec. 8. Atlanta is averaging 69.8 points per game so far in the early stages.

Brashear head coach Emily Powell said that Atlanta can be a tough team to play, especially at home and when they're able to operate at a high level offensively.

"They were playing on their home court. They shoot it well regardless, home or away, but they shoot it really well at home. They're versatile, they can take it off the dribble, all five guys play with a lot of confidence and get downhill. They make you have to close out and then they attack those closeouts. Good ball team, all the way around."

Atlanta's hot shooting saw them grab a 20-4 lead



Brashear senior Carson Erwin dribbles toward the baseline in the game against Atlanta on Dec. 15.



Brashear sophomore Cole Erwin drives toward the basket in the game against Atlanta on Dec. 15.

midway through the first quarter, but Brashear was able to bounce back a bit after that and close the quarter on a 10-4 run. Atlanta led 27-17 in the opening minutes of the second quarter, but then pulled away from Brashear with a 10-0 run to go up 37-17. That deficit hovered around 20 points for the rest of the quarter and Atlanta held a 46-27 lead at halftime. The Atlanta lead was 63-38 by the end of the third and ended at 85-53 as Atlanta scored more than 20 points in first, second and fourth quarters and 17 in the third.

White said that what has helped the Hornets find success so far is when they come out and play with energy for the entire game.

"When we're playing with the energy that we played with tonight, which is most of the games that we play, we're a tough team to beat," he said. "If we're not bringing the energy and bringing the energy on defense and talking on defense, doing all those things, we seem to struggle offensively with that as well. So that's the thing right now. It's consistently playing with energy. We always play hard, but consis-

tently playing with energy and playing smart."

Playing with instant energy allows them to get off to hot starts and build big leads. The average margin of victory in their six wins is 42.8 points per game. They average 80.7 points per game in wins. In their three losses, however, they are averaging just 48 points per game.

Powell, in her first season as head coach for the boys team at Brashear, said that the Tigers are still working through early-season adjustments related to the coaching change and some players taking on new roles. Despite the changes, they still have been able to find a formula for success and identify some other areas for improvement.

"I think we're learning," she said. "New coach, some new players in different positions, so we're learning how to play together and play at a specific pace and trying to be on the same page as one another. I think when we commit to playing defense, we're at our best. And when we commit to attacking the rim on offense like we did at La Plata the other night, we're a tough ball team. At time we didn't demonstrate that tonight, but I think as the season goes on and we're a completely healthy team, we're going to be able to hit more shots from the perimeter than we have here lately, and I think we'll finish some shots we're missing on the inside. But we play hard, we compete."

All six of the Tigers' wins this season have come when their defense has allowed less than 60 points, and all three losses have come when opponents clear 60. They are allowing just 36 points per game in the wins and 70 points per game in the losses. Their scoring remains relatively steady in both wins and losses.



Atlanta junior Grady Hruska backs down Brashear's Carson Erwin in the game on Dec. 15.



Atlanta junior Bailey Watson drives to the basket in the game against Brashear on Dec. 15. PHOTOS BY ADAM TUMINO

Where some top GLVC basketball teams, players rank among national leaders

By Adam Tumino

In the early stages of the 2023-24 season men's and women's, some GLVC conference leaders are also making appearances near the top of national leaderboards. Some of the conference's teams are finding success in various areas of the game while the GLVC's top players are also making waves.

On the men's side, the GLVC boasts a pair of teams that are among to best in the nation in three-point shooting. Illinois-Springfield's 121 threes are the seventh-most in the nation this season, and their three-point percentage of 42.9 percent ranks fourth nationally. Truman State is

averaging 11 made three per game, which leads the conference and is tied for seventh nationally.

Upper Iowa is not among national leaders in three-point shooting, but are the highest-scoring team in the GLVC and rank 13th in the nation with 89.4 points per game. Indianapolis is the conference's leading defense, allowing an average of 65.5 points per game, ranking 18th nationally.

Individually, Upper Iowa's Jake Hilmer ranks third in the nation in scoring at 25 points per game while McKendree's Milos Vicentic ranks ninth at 23.5. Truman's Xavier Hall and Missouri S&T's Lovell

Williams are tied for 23rd in the nation with 5.2 assists per game.

On the women's side, the GLVC once again has two of the most efficient three-point shooting teams in the nation. Drury ranks fifth nationally with a three-point percentage of 38.8% while Upper Iowa ranks eighth at 38.5%.

Drury also leads the GLVC and is near the top of the nation in other offensive categories. Their team field-goal percentage of 48.2 percent ranks fourth in the nation and their scoring average of 78.1 points per game ranks 15th. Missouri-St. Louis has the fifth-best rebounding margin in the nation at +11.8 per game

while Truman State ranks 13th in free-throw percentage at 79.1%.

Individually, Missouri-St. Louis guard Jalysa Stokes is the nation's 14th-best scorer at 19.6 points per game. Truman forward Ellie Weltha is behind Stokes at 19.2 points per game, ranking 18th nationally. She paces the conference and is among the best players in the nation in several other categories, though.

Weltha is ranked 31st in the nation with 9.4 rebounds per game and ranks 15th in the nation with her field-goal percentage of 58.5%. Drury's Caitlynn Daniels is ranked 12th in the nation with 5.8 assists per game.



Truman guard Xavier Hall drives along the baseline in the game against Upper Iowa on Dec. 2. PHOTOS BY ADAM TUMINO



Truman forward Ellie Weltha battles under the basket in the game against Upper Iowa on Dec. 2.

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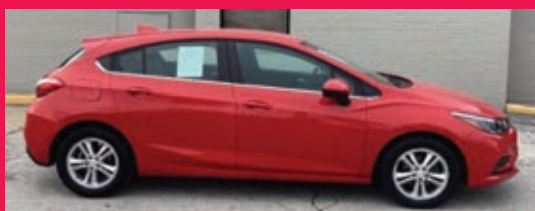
car-mart.com



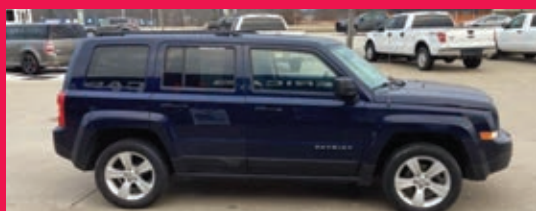
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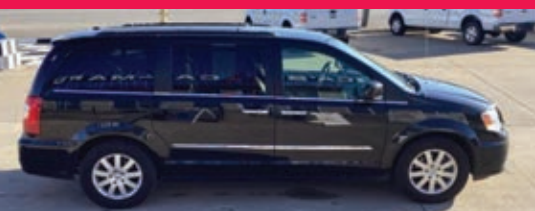
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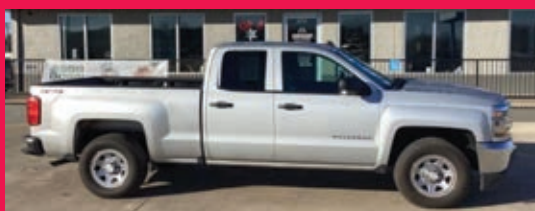
2017 CHEVY CRUZ
FWD, 4 Cyl., Red



2015 JEEP PATRIOT
4WD, 4 Cyl., Blue



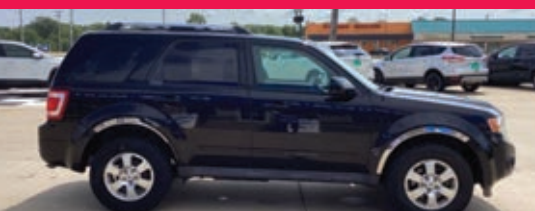
2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
FWD, 6 Cyl., Black



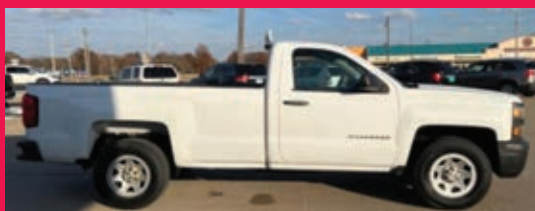
2016 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
4WD, 6 Cyl., Silver



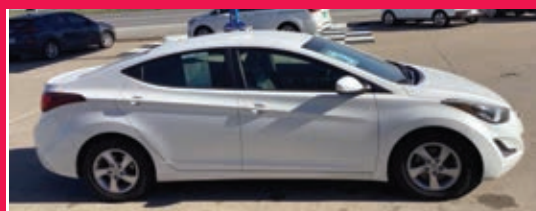
2014 HONDA CR-V
FWD, 4 Cyl., Blue



2012 FORD ESCAPE
FWD, 4 Cyl., Black



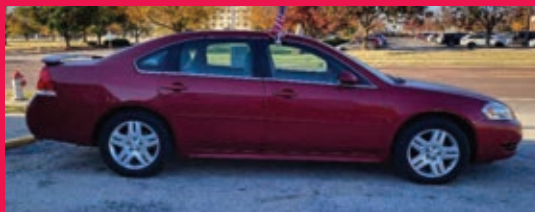
2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
RWD, 6 Cyl., White



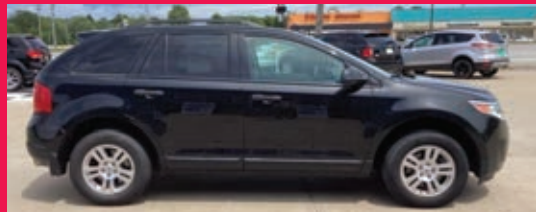
2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
FWD, 4 Cyl., White



2015 KIA SOUL
FWD, 4 Cyl., WHITE



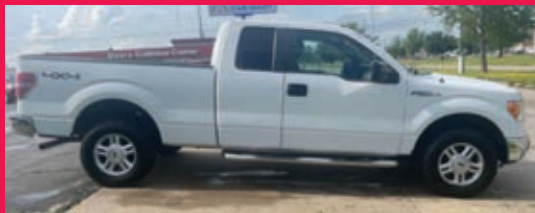
2012 CHEVROLET IMPALA
FWD, 6 Cyl., Maroon



2013 FORD EDGE
FWD, 6 Cyl., BLACK



2014 FORD FLEX
FWD, 6 Cyl., Gray



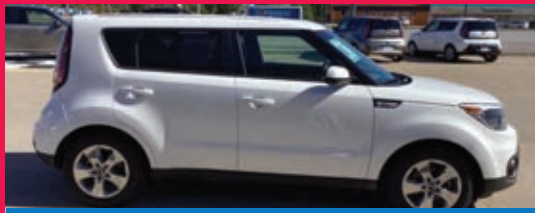
2012 FORD F150
4WD, 6 Cyl., WHITE



2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
FWD, 4 Cyl., SILVER



2013 FORD F150 LARIAT
4WD, 8 Cyl., Brown



2018 KIA SOUL
FWD, 4 Cyl., WHITE



2014 FORD FOCUS,
FWD, 4 Cyl., SILVER



2018 KIA SOUL
FWD, 4 Cyl., Gray



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GENERAL MANAGER

ARLO AND JANIS



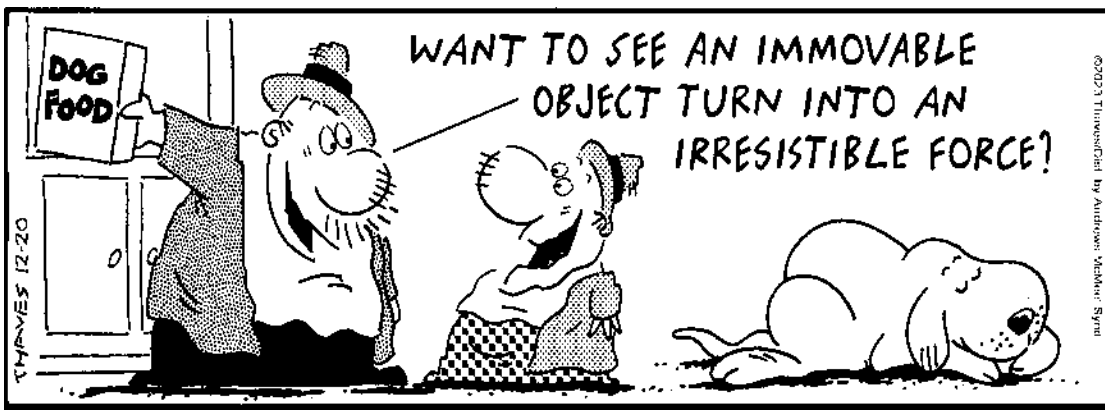
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



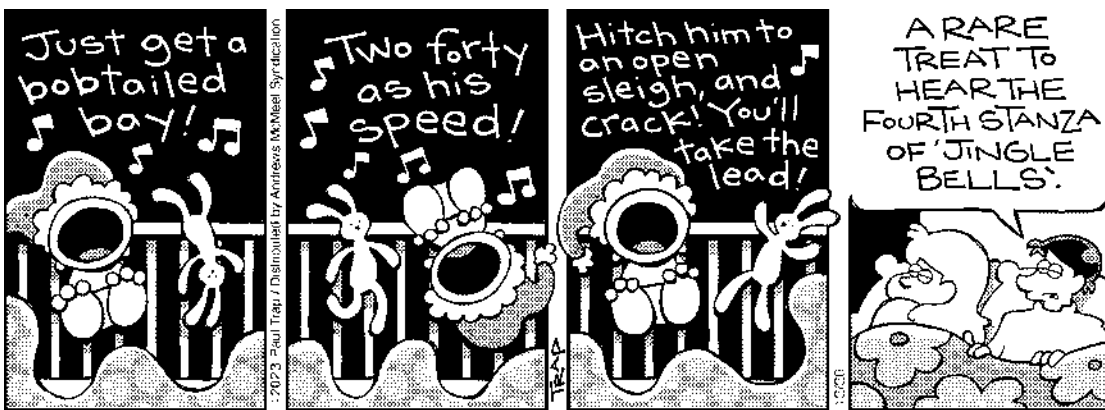
FRANK AND ERNEST



MONTY



THAT A BABY



SUDOKU

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	5			8	2			9
		8		5				
	1		9	6	7			
		1	6	3		5	9	
		5					3	
		3	4		9	5	8	
				5	7	6		3
					4		9	
3				8	2			6

PREVIOUS ANSWER

9	1	4	8	3	7	6	5	2
2	7	3	6	1	5	4	8	9
6	8	5	4	2	9	3	7	1
1	4	7	9	8	6	5	2	3
3	5	9	2	7	4	1	6	8
8	2	6	3	5	1	7	9	4
7	6	8	1	9	3	2	4	5
5	3	2	7	4	8	9	1	6
4	9	1	5	6	2	8	3	7

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 "What — friends for?"
 - 4 On — with
 - 8 Hit
 - 12 Smoked salmon
 - 13 Artist Salvador —
 - 14 Money drawer
 - 15 Dandy
 - 16 Set of two
 - 17 Supplies for a gunner
 - 18 On the ocean
 - 20 Ship's hospital
 - 22 Loyal
 - 24 Stage signal
 - 25 Ring event
 - 26 Make the — fly
 - 27 Crow's cry
 - 30 Fragrant necklace
 - 32 — and void
 - 34 Be in the red
 - 35 Print measures
 - 36 Christmas
- DOWN**
- 1 Luxury car — Romeo
 - 2 Rule the —
 - 3 Great skill
 - 38 Flanders or Rorem
 - 39 "— Ventura: Pet Detective"
 - 40 Venomous creature
 - 41 Peculiar
 - 43 Simple bed
 - 44 Foot digits
 - 46 Form of pool
 - 50 Actress — Thompson
 - 52 Trumpeter — Alpert
 - 53 Tops (Hyph.)
 - 56 Bird bill
 - 57 Say with confidence
 - 58 Cost of membership
 - 59 Annex
 - 60 Extremely
 - 61 Evergreen trees
 - 62 Billy — Williams

Answer to Previous Puzzle

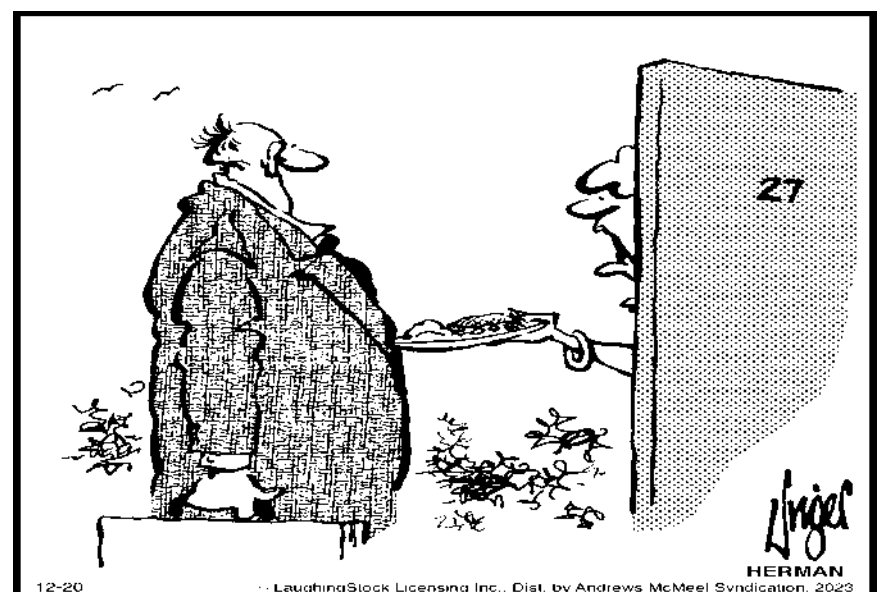
G	E	R	B	R	A	G	A	R	E	S		
L	Y	E	R	I	C	O	B	A	S	E		
A	R	M	A	F	R	O	S	I	T	E		
D	E	B	A	C	L	E	T	O	N	E	R	
		R	I	T	E	M	A	R				
S	L	A	M		F	O	I	B	L	E	S	
E	O	N	S	A	L	O	N	A	B	A	G	O
R	O	D	I	N	E	R	T	M	I	L		
A	N	T	E	N	N	A		W	I	S	E	
		I	C	E		R	O	A	N			
G	A	F	F	E	V	E	R	D	A	N	T	
A	L	I	F		P	E	T	A		T	O	R
S	O	R	E		T	A	R	T		E	V	E
H	E	E	L		S	L	O	E		D	A	Y

- 4 Say further
- 5 Salary
- 6 "Woe is me!"
- 7 Mock
- 8 Dracula's undoing
- 9 Branch
- 10 — mater
- 11 Trick
- 19 Seabird
- 21 Mongrel
- 23 Long, long time
- 26 Fail
- 27 Doomed
- 28 Wonder
- 29 Get spliced
- 30 Grassy expanse
- 31 SASE, e.g.
- 33 Not firm
- 37 Destiny
- 40 Perfectly all right (hyph.)
- 42 Buck's mate
- 43 Hooded snake
- 45 Photographer's directive
- 46 Fake
- 47 Actress — Campbell
- 48 Western st.
- 49 Libertine
- 51 — seaman
- 54 Not seen before
- 55 Sibillan letter

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19			20		21			
		22			23			24				
			25				26			27	28	29
30	31				32	33				34		
35						36			37		38	
39					40				41	42		
					43				44			45
46	47	48				49			50			51
52						53		54	55		56	
57						58					59	
60						61					62	

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HERMAN



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ASTROGRAPH BY EUGENIA LAST

Pay attention to detail, set high standards and prioritize home and family. Use your imagination to change how you use your skills and handle your responsibilities and relationships. An open mind will encourage you to try something new and question what doesn't fit your agenda. Take control instead of letting outside influences take control or lead you astray. Live in the moment and do things your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Question anyone trying to push you down a questionable path. Don't buy into someone else's journey. Build a life that excites you and gives you the freedom to exercise your rights.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Take a moment and gather the facts; if you act in haste, you'll hit a roadblock. Take inventory and consider what you need and what you can discard. It's time to pay it forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Emotional spending will lead to trouble. Refuse to let anyone talk you into purchases that jeopardize your finances. Keep life simple and avoid people who enjoy taking risks.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- A good plan will get you further than scrambling. Use your persuasive powers to enlist the help you need to finish things on time. Don't forget to take care of renewals and financial matters.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Prepare to pivot and take advantage of an opportunity. Learn all you can and make your move. Changing how you handle or earn money will require attention to ensure you get what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Explore the possibilities and search for the path that leads to

what you want. A financial gain, gift or intriguing opportunity will point you in the right direction and open doors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you, and you'll get things done quickly. An unexpected change will favor you. Share your intentions with someone you like collaborating with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Keep an open mind and refuse to get pulled into an argument or no-win situation. Focus on your goals and surround yourself with people willing to contribute. Choose love over discord.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Ask and you shall receive. Talking to colleagues will help you find solutions to problems. Attend an event or function to get you in the spirit of the season. Rethink your strategy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You can please the people you love without going over budget. Start new traditions that fit into your lifestyle and take a moment to enjoy the festive season.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Consider your options before leaving forward. Knowing what you are up against will help you decide how to get what you want. Pick up the pace while maintaining common sense. Put a budget in place.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Explore the possibilities. Change is apparent, and pushing for what you wish to achieve will show strength and open a window of opportunity. Keep your emotions out of the mix.

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Notice is hereby given that by an order of the Circuit Court of the County of Adair, Case No. 23AR-CV00793 made entered on the record on November 30, 2023, the name of John Lawrence Martin was changed to Rosemary Garlic Martin.

IN THE 2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI Case Number: 23AR-PR00126 (Date File Stamp)
Judge or Division: PROBATE

In the Estate of ROBERT L. HENSELMAN, Deceased.
Notice of Letters of Testamentary Granted (Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested In the Estate of ROBERT L. HENSELMAN, Decedent:

On November 27, 2023, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of ROBERT L. HENSELMAN, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of ADAIR COUNTY, Missouri.

The name, business address, and phone number of the personal representative is:
Tyler Henselman, 105 N. Kimberling Drive, Kirksville, Missouri 63501, 573-864-6282

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
Jessica Rooks, 2211 E. Normal Avenue, Kirksville, Missouri 63501, 660-627-3369

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 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: June 19, 2023
Date of first publication: December 6, 2023
Martha Cole
Adair County Circuit Clerk
PUBLICATION DATES: 12-6-2023, 12-13-2023, 12-20-2023, 12-27-2023

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Wanted

WANTED TO BUY: Harley Davidson's, any year, any condition, cash money. Days 660-263-1356 or 660-537-0068

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1998 DODGE DAKOTA, 80,000 everything works, motor, trans is perfect, good glass, some rust, needs muffler, \$2600.00. 641-895-7982.

2013 Ford F150, good truck, no rust, no leaks or drips, everything works. Former YMCA truck, \$6800.00. 641-895-7982.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAIR COUNTY STATE OF MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Adoption of: ELI CONSTANTINE MCCrackEN Case No. 23AR-JU00101

JACOB FRAZIER, and CHRISTY FRAZIER Petitioners,

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: John Suiter, address unknown

You are notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Adoption.

The names of all parties in this action are stated in the caption above and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is Jacob Frazier, Frazier Law Firm, LLC, 601 N. Main, Kirksville, MO, 63501.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after November 29, 2023, judgment by default will be entered against you.

11-16-2023 Date /s/Martha Cole Clerk

The Kirksville Area Technical Center is accepting bids for the following:

1. Equipment and Installation of HVAC System to be completed in the new Construction Trades Facility on campus at 1103 S. Cottage Grove, Kirksville, MO 63501. Prospective bidders can view the building and plans by contacting the school or visiting our worksite. Bids must be submitted to Kirksville Area Technical Center, 1103 S. Cottage Grove, Kirksville, MO 63501 or emailed to jwolf@kirksville.k12.mo.us prior to 12:01 PM, December 25, 2023. For further information, please call Jesse Wolf or Vince McQueen at (660) 665-2865. The Kirksville R-III School District and Kirksville Area Technical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

705067at



Adair County SB40 to hold T-shirt fundraiser

By Adair County SB40

Adair County SB40 is holding a T-shirt fundraiser for the Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Link! They are selling short and long sleeve T-shirts and hoodies. The proceeds will go to support programs and activities at the Community Learning Center, the purchase of books for area 1st grade students during Developmental Disability Month in March, and other special projects.

Prices: Short sleeve shirt – Youth Medium – Adult XL = \$15, Adult 2X = \$17.50, Adult 3X = \$18.50, Adult 4X = \$19.50
Long sleeve shirt – Youth Medium

– Adult XL = \$20, Adult 2X = \$22.50, Adult 3X = \$23.50
Hoodie – Youth Medium – Adult XL = \$35, Adult 2X = \$38, Adult 3X = \$39, Adult 4X = \$40

The last day to make a purchase or make a donation is Monday, Feb. 12. All items will be delivered to the Community Learning Center on Feb. 29 for pick up.

Click here to make a donation or make a purchase.

Please consider being a supporter. If you can't make a purchase or contribute a donation, please share this story link. Sharing is one of the best ways to help raise funds for Adair County DD Link.

NEMR donates to local United Way

By United Way of Northeast Missouri

Jennifer Chrisman (left) of fiber internet provider “NEMR” gave a check for \$250 to Elizabeth Gregory, a member of the United Way of Northeast Missouri Board, which will go toward the United Way 2024 Campaign.

“We are very appreciative of NEMR’s support for our United Way of Northeast Missouri,” said Gregory. “These monies will go toward providing funding for our 11 United Way Agencies in 2024,”

United Way agencies include: Adair County 4-H Council, Adair County Family YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Community Opportunities, Hospice of Northeast Missouri, Macon Diversified Industries, NEMO Senior Citizens Services, RSVP/Senior Adult Services, Salvation Army, and Community Child Development Center.

Anyone wishing to make a gift to the United Way’s



2024 Campaign can do so by mailing it to UWNEMO, P.O. Box 112, going online to their website at Liveunitednemo.org, stopping by their office on the second floor of Bank Midwest or visiting their Facebook page.

Missouri State Highway Patrol urges residents to have a safe Christmas season

By Missouri State Highway Patrol



The Missouri State Highway Patrol wishes everyone a merry and safe Christmas. One way for it to be merry is for everyone to arrive at their holiday celebrations safely. Remember to wear your seat belt, obey all traffic laws, pay attention, and please, don't drive impaired.

Over the 2022 Christmas holiday, there were 1,017 traffic crashes statewide. In those crashes, four people were killed and another 318 were injured. This year's traffic crash counting period begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, and ends at 11:59 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25, 2023.

Travelers are reminded that holiday drivers will affect traffic patterns. If you're planning a trip during the holiday, keep this

in mind. Drivers are encouraged to make sure they are well rested, no matter how short their driving distance. Check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. Downloading the MoDOT Traveler Information app to your smart phone allows you to check road conditions before you travel. Be proactive: Make sure your vehicle is in good condition and allow enough time to reach your destination safely. Winterize your vehicle before bad weather arrives, but realize that some-

times, it's safest to stay home.

If faced with a traffic emergency, motorists can contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol at 1-800-525-5555 or *55 on a cellular phone. This emergency number will ring into the nearest Highway Patrol headquarters. Motorists should use this number if they are in a traffic crash, witness a crash or crime, or pass a stranded motorist in need of assistance, etc.

Troopers encourage motorists to protect themselves from all types of hazardous drivers by making sure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained in a seat belt or child restraint. Please obey all traffic laws, and if alcohol is part of your holiday, designate a sober driver. Every driver can help make our roadways safer this holiday season.



Kirksville Police Department issues firearms safety reminder as hunting season wraps up

By Kirksville Police Department

As the hunting season comes to a close, the Kirksville Police Department would like to remind residents and visitors of some important safety practices as they conclude their activities and store firearms.

Make sure all firearms are secured away from children

The Kirksville Police Department has a supply of gun locks that are available for free to the public. These gun locks come courtesy of Project Childsafe, a national foundation that promotes firearms safety and education. Anyone can stop by the station during business hours to receive one while supplies last. Individu-

als can receive a maximum of three.

Roughly 1.4 million homes have firearms stored in a way that makes them accessible to almost 2.6 million children, according to SafeFirearms-Storage.org. Help keep your firearms safely secured.

Do not leave firearms in vehicles

The majority of firearms thefts occur when the firearm is left in a vehicle. Make sure to secure your firearms in your home or hotel room and not in an unattended vehicle. Keep a record of all of your firearms including make, model, and serial number. A form from the U.S Department of Justice can help you keep track of the info.

Follow all firearms safety rules

The four basic rules of firearms handling are:

1. Treat all guns as if they are always loaded.
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything that you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you have made the decision to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.

Additionally, you should follow all the safety guidelines from the firearms manufacturer and all regulations from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

For more information, contact the Kirksville Police Department at 660-785-6945.

