

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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Kirksville couple celebrate milestones of success

By Marty Bachman
Daily Express

In the 1980s, TV commercials promoted the deep romance between peanut butter and chocolate and the strong compatibility of the two. In Kirksville in 2024, an equally deep romance that began in the 1990s has evolved into a pair of flourishing businesses, a prosperous family life and relationships in the community founded on providing service and comfort to those in sometimes desperate need. After decades of service to their community, The Bensons celebrate milestones in their respective careers.

Jay Benson of The Benson Law Firm on South Baltimore Street, has been practicing law for 40 years, and Vicki Benson, broker for the local

RE/MAX real estate office, has been selling real estate for 35 years, both at the same location but in offices divided by a swinging glass door. They have been models of success, together raising a son and daughter, both of whom have become accomplished in their own right.

Having grown up in Monroe City, Jay arrived in Kirksville in the fall of 1975, when he attended Truman State University, which at the time was known as Northeast Missouri State University. He began working as a news reporter for KTVO the summer between his junior and senior year in college and then worked all of his senior year, staying on until he started law school in the fall of 1981.

As a field reporter for the TV news station, he found it



Quinn Benson, Polly Petree Hampton and Jay Benson.

to be a “fascinating line of work” until he covered an Adair County murder trial, and while it wasn’t the first trial he had covered, he said this one was “probably what moved me” in revealing his hidden desire to become an attorney. Jay said that while he

felt he wasn’t “academically capable” of being successful at law school, he determined that he would just try it and soon he was taking the entrance exam, which resulted in his being accepted into law school.

See **SUCCESS**, Page A5



Vicki and Jay Benson.



Postcard from the collection of Charles Henry Bryant (1879-1951)

April 27 marks 125th anniversary of the 1899 Kirksville tornado

Staff Reports

This story is a condensed version from the Adair County Historical Society's 2019 pamphlet, “Kirksville Tornado, 1899”, available at the Adair County Museum.

On April 27, 1899, at about 6:30 in the evening, a devastating tornado ripped through Kirksville, killing 31 people, injuring hundreds, and destroying a vast amount of property. This mighty twister approached Kirksville from the southwest and was first sighted near what was called the Lower Iron Bridge over the Chariton River about 12 miles southwest of Kirksville. It first touched down near Troy Mills, where it destroyed a barn.

This disastrous funnel cloud next hit the ground one mile south of Kirksville, taking out a slaughter house and two residences, and claiming the lives of a farm couple. The deafening winds then cut a quarter-mile-wide swath of death and destruction through Kirksville on the east side between Florence and Cottage Grove Streets from Patterson Street on the south to just beyond Illinois Street on the north. It narrowly missed the downtown square where Kirksville had just one month earlier celebrated the completion of a grand



new Adair County Courthouse, and where county officials had taken occupancy on March 31, 1899.

The first destructions in Kirksville was the Bailey Boarding Home, the William Bragg farm, and the Patterson home and fruit farm on East Patterson Street in the south part of town. The streets in order of which they were hit in their eastern addresses, were Patterson, Randolph, Normal, Stanford, Scott, Pierce, Jefferson, McPherson, Washington, Harrison, Missouri, and Illinois, then the north part of Baltimore Street. Heavy rains and multiple fires followed the twister.

The storm's final destruction in Kirksville was to rip up part of the railroad line of the Quincy, Omaha and Kansas City (QO and KC) before leaving Benton Township of Adair County. The powerful swirling wind then lifted for a time, but struck again three miles northeast of Kirksville. There it claimed its last victims, three young daughters of a farm family, destroyed three farm homes and the New Hope country school. It crossed the Salt River at what was known as the Furnish Farm, tearing out the iron bridge across Salt River. The fury of the cloud turned a barn around and

destroyed several buildings on another farm before finally lifting into the sky for good in Clay Township of Adair County, northeast of Sperry.

Many officials and ordinary Kirksville residents spent the rest of the night sorting through the destruction, amid rain, fire and darkness, to assist the injured and to retrieve the dead. Local medical personnel and physicians from nearby towns, as well as students from the two osteopathy medical schools in Kirksville, flooded the streets to aid in any way they could.

See **TORNADO**, Page A6

Police asking for assistance in identifying subjects

By Kirksville Police Department

Kirksville Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the individuals in the included photos in connection with reported property damage that occurred on the 400 block of West Harrison Street on or about March 29.

The three subjects in photo #1 appear to be wearing clown face paint. Photo #2 shows two of the same subjects and

the male is still wearing clown makeup. The two subjects in photo #3 are believed to be witnesses and not directly involved in criminal activity.

Anyone with information that can help identify these subjects in this press release or any suspicious activity is encouraged to contact the Kirksville Police Department at 660-785-6945, Central Dispatch at 660-665-5621, or anonymously at 660-627-BUST (2878) or email police@kirksvillemo.org.



Pictured left to right: Angie Gashwiler, Donna Bass, Desire Farmer, Carol Richardson, Mayor Zac Burden, Kimberly Nelson, Riley Davis.

City of Kirksville recognizes National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

By City of Kirksville

Kirksville Mayor Zac Burden signed a proclamation recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week during the week of April 14.

When an emergency occurs, the prompt response of police, fire and emergency medical services is critical to protecting life and preserving property. The safety of police officers,

firefighters, emergency medical technicians and the public depends on the quality and accuracy of information obtained by staff at the Adair County Emergency Communications Center.

According to city officials, public safety telecommunicators are citizens' first and most critical contact with emergency services.

See **SAFETY**, Page A6

INSIDE

CommunityA2
ObituariesA3
ColumnsA4

NewsA5-A6
Local HistoryA7
SportsB1-B3

PuzzlesB4
ClassifiedsB5-B6
Church DirectoryB7

OBITUARIES INSIDE

Mack Arthur Caley, 79

Beverly Krusemark, 83



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kirksville Area Calendar of Events

Jazz Bands Concert

Jazz Bands Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 24 at the Baldwin Auditorium on the Truman State University campus.

United Way annual Texas Hold'em Tournament/Fundraiser

The United Way of Northeast Missouri (UWNEMO) will hold their semi-annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament/Fundraiser, Wednesday, April 24 at the Dukum Inn, 111 S. Elson Street in downtown Kirksville. Registration for the tournament will start at 5:30 p.m. First hand will be dealt at 6:30 p.m. Initial buy-in is \$25 per person with buy back options available. \$850 in guaranteed cash prizes await the first, second and third place finishers. 1st Prize is \$500 plus a Texas Hold'em Trophy, 2nd Place is \$250 and 3rd Place is \$100. All proceeds will go to benefit the United Way's agencies.

Curtain Call Theatre, annual meeting

Come find out about what is new at Curtain Call Theatre, help vote on their new board members, and learn about opportunities to volunteer! The 2024 annual

meeting will be Thursday, April 25 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the theater. All are welcome to attend.

Entrepreneur Speaker Series Features Alumnu

Marco Ilardi will speak at 12 p.m. April 25 in the Doug & Diane Villhard Innovation Lab located in the Pickler Memorial Library, as part of the TRU-Entrepreneur Speaker Series. Ilardi has been a managing partner at V2 Ventures for the past six years. He has officially funded, built and sold a total of eight companies in the digital publishing, advertising technology and marketing technology industries. Ilardi is renowned for nurturing enduring relationships and fostering innovative talent. His pivotal role in launching, growing and selling successful digital marketing companies showcases his visionary insight, unwavering dedication and passionate commitment to innovation. Proficient in digital strategy, mobile advertising, performance-based marketing, audience development and product development, Ilardi's impressive background also includes being the former president at Adknowledge and senior vice president at FOX Interactive Media.

Affordable health screenings coming to Kirksville

Residents living in and around the Kirksville can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease,

osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Rehoboth Baptist Church will host this community event on April 26 at 100 Pfeiffer Avenue in Kirksville. Screenings can check for: The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels; Diabetes risk; Kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Learn to Fish at Thousand Hills State Park

Thousand Hills State Park "Learn to Fish" will be held on Friday, April 26 from 5-7 p.m. Come learn to fish with us! There will be some equipment available for use. If you have your own fishing gear, please bring it. Fishers 15 or younger do not need a fishing license. Fishers 65 and up who are Missouri Residents do not need a fishing license. All other participants will need a fishing license to participate. Day permits can be purchased at the Missouri Department of Conservation Re-

gional Office or online at <https://mdc-web.s3licensing.com/> Location TBD.

SAB Concert Features Peter McPoland

Peter McPoland will perform at 6 p.m. April 26 on the Truman State University quad. At just 20 years old, McPoland creates the kind of finespun folk-pop that feels both beautifully lived-in and undeniably original. As shown on breakout hits like his self-released single "Romeo & Juliet," the Texas-raised artist has an incredible gift for capturing the most nuanced emotional experiences, then bringing that expression to life in idiosyncratic detail. Admission is free and tickets are not required. The rain site is the Student Union Building Georgian Room. Water will be provided.

Kirksville Diversity Festival

The Kirksville Diversity Festival will be held Saturday, April 27, from 1-4 p.m. at the Rieger Armory. Sponsored by the city of Kirksville, A.T. Still University and Truman State University, this unique and free event celebrates the community's diversity through food, performances and activities for all ages. Email diversity@atsu.edu for more information.

Novinger Area Yard Sales & Flea Market

The annual Novinger Area Yard Sales & Flea Market event will be held on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 8 a.m. Residents of Novinger and surrounding area (west of Kirksville, east of Green Castle, and along Highway 157) are encouraged to participate in selling yard sale items, funky junk, 2nd chance goods, antiques and collectibles, flea market items, crafts and commercial products. Booth spaces and tables can be rented inside the community center or firehouse and free spaces can be reserved on the fairgrounds. Maps featuring the reported locations of sales will be available on Renewal's Facebook

page as well as in the community center, along with food sales. Donations of items are sought to allow proceeds to benefit Novinger Renewal. Items can be dropped off at the community center after 2 p.m. on Friday, April 26. Those interested in reserving an indoor or outdoor space or wanting their sale listed on the map should contact Glenna Young at 660-342-6455. The event is coordinated by Novinger Renewal, a non-profit corporation, established for community betterment and historic preservation.

Mushroom Workshop

Mushroom Workshop will be held on April 27 from 12-3 p.m., at the Truman State University Farm, hosted by Dr. Bob Johnson. Free. Just show up.

Rotary Club Reverse Raffle

The Thousand Hills Rotary Club will hold their 10th Annual Reverse Raffle and silent auction at the Moose Lodge on Saturday night, April 27, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$125 and are on sale now. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time. The benefit provides support to a couple dozen local organizations.

Tree ID Hike at Thousand Hills State Park

Tree ID Hike will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m. at Thousand Hills State Park. Have you ever wanted to learn to identify the different types of trees at Thousand Hills State Park? Join park staff to learn to identify some common native trees. Learn what to look for when starting to identify trees and common tips and tricks to help you better understand the trees around you. Meet at the Oak Trail next to the playground on Big Loop Trail Rd.

24th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance

The 24th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Heartland Task Force and the NEMO Fair Association Board, will be held on Friday, May 3, at the NEMO Fairgrounds. The event will be held between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. The Picture Booth will be open between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Cost is \$8 per couple and \$2 for each additional child (\$10 family

cap). Free concessions, photo booth, giveaways, and crafts. All girls in preschool through 6th grade and their father/significant adult male role models, are invited. No RSVP is needed! Mothers/female role models will not be admitted to the event. This event is sponsored by the Heartland Task Force Prevention Team & NEMO Fair Association Board, with support from Truman State University, Adair County Family YMCA, Hy-Vee, Memphis Bottling Company, KTVO, and PFH, Inc. Heartland Task Force is working to reduce substance abuse among youth & adults through a systems approach to community-wide substance prevention by increasing protective factors/developmental assets and decreasing risk factors. Proceeds of this event will go to support Heartland Task Force activities.

Learn to Fish

Learn to Fish will be held on Friday, May 3, from 5-7 p.m. at Thousand Hills State Park. There will be some equipment available for use. If you have your own fishing gear, please bring it. Fishers 15 or younger do not need a fishing license. Fishers 65 and up who are Missouri residents do not need a fishing license. All other participants will need a fishing license to participate. Day permits can be purchased at the Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Office or online at <https://mdc-web.s3licensing.com/> Meet at the shoreline in front of the cabins. Parking available between the cabins and the restaurant.

Kirksville Kiwanis Farmers' Market Opens May 4

The Kirksville Kiwanis Farmers' Market starts May 4 and will be open every Saturday from 7 a.m. until noon on the Elson Street side of the Kirksville Downtown Square. The market runs through October and is open to the public. Items available include fruits, vegetables, plants, baked products, eggs, meats, crafts, and much more.

Mushroom Workshop

A Mushroom Workshop will be held on May 4 from 12-3 p.m., at the Truman State University Farm, hosted by Dr. Bob Johnson. Free. Just show up.



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singer-songwriter

Thursday, May 2, 7 pm

Sip Downtown
Kirksville, MO



KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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OBITUARIES

Mack Arthur Caley

Mar 18, 1945 – Apr 17, 2024

Mack Arthur Caley, age 79, of Warsaw, MO, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Wednesday April 17, 2024. He was born March 18, 1945, in Quincy, IL, the son of Arthur William and Leta Lucille Littleton Caley.



He was united in marriage to Jean Meier and to this union one daughter Wendy was born. He later married Dorothy Strange and to this union two daughters were born, Raquel and Leah. On May 17, 1984, in Knox City, MO he was united in marriage to Linda Sue Huebotter and she preceded him in death on September 28, 2002.

Mack was also preceded by his parents, a great grandson Dax Kaylor, a brother James Ronald Caley and a brother-in-law Ed Vitaoe.

Surviving are three daughters Wendy (Ron) Keller of Quincy, IL, Raquel (Neil) Howe of LaBelle, MO, Leah (Dale) Roberts of Knox City, MO, one step daughter, Lori (Kent) Strange of Knox City, MO, one sister Claudine Vitaoe of Quincy, IL, 15 grandchildren, Cassie, Tyler, Kelcy, Nicky, Kaden, Kyler, Kannon, Kaley, Mackenzie, Rylan, Justin, Kamron, Rachel, Jill and Jennah, numerous great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mack received his education in Unity Schools in Mendon, IL. He worked with his father and brother turning wrenches at the family Garage (Caley's Garage) in Loraine, IL. Mack served as fire chief in Knox City, MO for a number of years. He also worked a number of years in the paint department at Electric Wheel.

When he moved to Warsaw, he worked at Bunch Auto Sales and later opened his own business Mack's NASCAR Shop in downtown Warsaw and also managed Nix Horseshoe Bar.

Mack enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Anyone that knew him was aware of the storyteller he was. He had a big smile and laugh, he shared that with everyone.

Mack was an outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He attended many races. NASCAR was a big part of his life.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in the Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Edina, MO. Officiating the services will be Pastor Paul Harvey. Burial will be in the Colony Cemetery. Musical selections will be Amazing Grace by Rhonda Strange and When I Get Where I'm Going.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in the Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Edina, MO.

Casket bearers will be Wade Goodson, Keith Pulse, Ronald Sayres, Dustin Hoffman, Dillon Hoffman and Dalton Hoffman. Honorary bearers will be Michael Shortino, Gary Poling, Kenny McKenzie, David Mitchell, Bill Hayes, Rusty Leftwich, Scott Hoffman, David Hatfield, Larry Hubble and Sub Bemis.

Memorials are suggested to Benton County Hospice or St. Jude's Childrens Hospital. Memorials may be left at or mailed to Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1, Edina, MO 63537.

Beverly Krusemark

Sep 9, 1940 – Apr 13, 2024

Beverly Krusemark, 83, of Kirksville, Missouri, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Born on September 9, 1940, in Springfield, Illinois, Beverly was the daughter of Edward and Opal Krusemark.



A graduate of NMSU, Beverly earned a Bachelor's degree of Arts, and resided on the deans list.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Opal Krusemark, and her grandson, Brennan Sanders.

She is survived by her children. Todd (Kelly) Krusemark of Kirksville, Mo, Jamey (Beth) Simmons, of New London, Mo, David (Karla) Sanders, of Kirksville, Mo, Nicole Sanders, of Nashville Tn, Victoria Sanders of Kirksville Mo.

Also 11 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Beverly wishes were to be cremated, and a private memorial will be held by family at a later date. Any donations are requested to be made to your local humane society on her behalf.

KIRKSVILLE AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Truman State University Theater Production: Charlotte's Web

The Truman State University Theater Production of Charlotte's Web will be held on April 25, 26, 27, from 7:30-9 p.m. Adapted by Joseph Robinette, based on the book by E.B. White. Appropriate for all ages. Location: Black Box Theatre, Ophelia Parrish Building – seating is limited. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased on boxoffice.truman.edu.

Truman State University Art Gallery exhibition

Truman State University Art Gallery will hold an exhibition at the Ophelia Parrish Fine Arts Center on campus, through April 25. Annual Juried Student Exhibition – in the main gallery. Guest juror: Lorena Molina.

Second Annual Regional High School Art Show seeks entries

The Kirksville Arts Association will be holding their second annual Regional High School Art Show through April 25, at the Sue Ross Arts Center, 215 S. Franklin Street in Kirksville. The show is judged by a professional artist and cash awards are given to the first, second and third place winners. Cash awards will also be given to five honorable mention award winners. In addition, the teacher of the first-place student will also receive a cash award to purchase art supplies for the classroom. The arts center is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Kirksville Arts Association at 660-665-0500, or kirksvilleart@gmail.com.

Greentop and Kirksville City Wide Yard Sales

Greentop City Wide Yard Sales will be held on Friday, June 1 and the Kirksville City Wide Yard Sales will be on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8.

Kirksville's 2024 Red, White and Blue Festival happening July 5 and 6

Mark your calendars because Kirksville's annual Red, White and Blue Festival is just around the corner, taking place on Friday, July 5, and Saturday, July 6. The fun begins Friday night with the Summer on the Square Concert Series and United Way Pie Sale and Auction. New this year is a downtown BBQ brought to you by Main Street Kirksville. Saturday morning is full of familiar favorites in downtown Kirksville with the Kiwanis Farmers' Market, Pancake Breakfast, Classic Car Show, FLATS Uncle Sam 5K and Red, White and Blue Parade. Then head to North Park later that evening for food, games, live music and much more before fireworks light up the sky. Stay tuned for more details as time gets closer to the 2024 Red, White and Blue Festival. Registration is now open for the Red, White and Blue Parade. Find the entry form here and get it submitted before the deadline of June 28. For more information on the parade, contact Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Sadler at 660-627-1485.

Food Bank Adopt a Buddy Pack program

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri invites you to Adopt a Buddy Pack. 1,928 children in Adair County qualify for free or reduced-price meals at school. Many of these children do not have access

to nutritious meals during the weekend. The Food Bank's Buddy Pack program aims to fill that gap by providing Buddy Packs full of nutritious food for children to take over the weekend. You can help feed a child with Buddy Packs. A gift of \$270 allows them to provide a Buddy Pack to a child in Adair County for an entire school year. Donate at sharefoodbringerhope.org/give-help or in-person at Alliant Bank, 201 S. Baltimore Street in Kirksville. Check by Mail: Make payable to "The Food Bank" with "Adair County Buddy Pack" in the memo to: The Food Bank, 2101 Vandiver Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65202. All funds stay in the county. Participating schools include Kirksville Primary, Ray Miller, Brashear and Novinger. Sponsored by Alliant Bank and Kirksville Daily Express.

Join the Kirksville Young Professionals Committee

The Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce encourages businesses and their employees (ages 21-40) to become involved in the Kirksville Young Professionals Committee, which focuses on retaining and engaging young professionals in the area through lunch & learn opportunities, professional development, and other various events. KVYP is here to help them connect with the community. They meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m., in the Hampton Inn Truman Room or via zoom. Feel free to reach out to KirksvilleYP@gmail.com for more information about KVYP or to get the Zoom Link for meetings. You are also more than welcome to join them at future events.

KIRKSVILLE POLICE REPORTS: APRIL 18, 2024

Robert Allen Mason, 48, of Kirksville, was arrested at 11:21 a.m. on April 18 at 119 E. McPherson Street on a warrant issued by Judge Melissa Buckman Young of the 12th Judicial Circuit in Audrain County for failure to appear on a felony non-support, total arrears in excess of 12 monthly payments due under order of support. Bond was set at \$500, cash only. A probable cause statement suggests Mason owes \$37,288.

Ronda Marie Breden of Kirksville was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving with a revoked or suspended driver's license-first offense.

Richard Lee King, Jr. of Kirksville was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of driving with a revoked or suspended driver's license-first offense.

Jason Emerson of Novinger was arrested and charged with an alcohol-related misdemeanor DWI.



Water main replacement to begin on section of West Friedman Street

By City of Kirksville

Kirksville city crews will begin work to replace a water main on West Friedman Street, between South Orchard Street and South First Street, on April 19. As a result, West Friedman Street

will be one lane in this area between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. while work is underway. The street will be reopened during the evening, overnight, and early morning hours.

Construction is expected to take approximately four

weeks, depending on the weather. The traveling public is strongly encouraged to use caution, drive slowly through work areas, and utilize alternate routes. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 660-627-1291.

Got utility flags in your yard? Keep them in place

By City of Kirksville

The city of Kirksville would like to remind residents to not remove utility marker flags that might be placed in their yards.

Missouri law requires anyone planning to dig or excavate to notify utility operators at least three days in advance. If there are flags in or around

your yard, that means someone — either a neighbor or someone planning to do construction near your yard — has called Missouri 811 to have all nearby utilities located. The company that locates these utilities will come out and mark all of the utility locations in the area with paint and flags, that way whoever is digging will not damage a utility line.

It is the excavator's responsibility to remove the flags upon completion of their work, so keep the flags in place. Removing them could lead to damaged utility lines since the excavator couldn't spot a flag, or require additional marking at a later time.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 660-627-1291.



Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary Club donates to shoe campaign

By Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary Club

The Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary Club recently donated \$600 to the Rotary District 6040 Shoes for Orphan Souls campaign. Donations of cash, new shoes and socks are delivered to Buckner International, based in Dallas, Texas. Buckner distributes the shoes and socks to children of all ages in orphanages around the world. The shoes and socks contribute to better health, education, and self esteem. Over the 20-plus years that the program has been going in Northeast Missouri, area Rotary Club members and friends have purchased and donated over 400,000 pairs of shoes.

Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary meets on Thursdays at 7 a.m. at the Kirksville Aquatic Center, 801 E. Mill Street. To learn more about the club or Rotary International, visit a club meeting or rotary.org.



Pictured are Frank Grimshaw, Macon County Rotary Club and shoe caravan driver, Ernie Loft, Thousand Hills Rotary president, Larry Lunsford, Rotary District 6040 Shoes Cheerleader, Marilyn Romine, Thousand Hills Rotary service project chair, and Scott Collins, Buckner International.

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KIRKSVILLE CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE

Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8

Kirksville Daily Express Advertising Deadline is Friday, May 24

\$13.50 FOR 20 WORDS OR LESS

Published in the Kirksville Daily Express AND NEMO Trader May 29 and June 5

ROBIN WRITES

Willing spirit, weak flesh

Springtime renders me temporarily insane. Year after year, I wake on a warm morning in April and imagine I'm young and energetic and full of tireless vigor. The beautiful weather puts impossible possibilities in my brain and sends me rushing into chaos.

For as long as it takes to order from a catalog, I'm a coiled bundle of muscle and tendon, just bursting to invest endless hours growing a flower garden.

I am an all or nothing kind of person. If I'm going to grow flowers, I'm going to grow many, many flowers of many, many colors and types.

This will be no rock-edged, bed lovingly prepared with tiny claw cultivator and hand-sized trowel. I will not be kneeling on a comfy foam cushion, jaunty brimmed hat on my head, a glass of lemonade at my side as I make divots and thumb seeds into the indentations.

We're not talking about a tidy plot of sensible proportion. We're talking about a backyard nursery.

To get the colors I want in my gladioli, I must order bags of 10 or 25. That's just the way it is. And zinnia seeds are so very tiny; I know I will need thousands of seeds to fill up the space John has tilled.

The dimensions of the garden were determined by eyes who have always thought that more is

more. I want enough flowers to cut and give away. I must factor in the seeds and bulbs that won't come up, and compensate for their betrayal with extra seeds and bulbs.

With Mike Mulligan determination and a desire to please, John meticulously measured a hefty portion of yard to accommodate my delusion years ago. It is about four Johns long and a John and a half deep.

He cratered into the grass with his trusty tiller made for "recreational gardening;" his hat jittered atop his head as he trudged back and forth in lines as straight as his spine (when he's not tilling).

Meanwhile, I plan the layout of the flowers in the comfort of my home. We all have our parts to play.

Zinnia seeds are easy. You could toss them from a moving vehicle and they'd sprout. But the gladioli, my favorite, take a kind of labor to plant that can only be described as chain-gang drudgery. The bulbs need deep holes and those holes don't dig themselves.

When my glads arrive, in musty boxes filled with aerated plastic bags and dirt clods, I always try to downplay the Tribble-like amount to John.

"It seems like a lot, I know, but I had to get all colors..." I stutter.

He turns away and stares at the rectangle of dirt in the yard, trying to understand my lack of space-to-seed comprehension.



ROBIN GARRISON LEACH
ROBIN WRITES

But he's used to this rite of spring. We've been planting my gargantuan garden for decades. And my delusions of youth block out the reality that we are, well, old now.

I sent my order in yesterday. Some colors of gladioli were already sold out! I compensated by adding extra in other hues. The cost made my eyes goggle, but I justified the debit by the joy I would feel when these wonderful flowers bloomed.

We will dig hundreds of holes, bend to place the bulbs inside, cover the holes, tamp the dirt with weary hands, water them with countless gallons of water, stake and tie the tallest dozens to metal rods, and shake our heads at the idiocy of trying to be farmers with tiny tools and deteriorating bodies.

I am dreading the planting. I can't wait for the harvest. John is ambivalent, and I can work with that.

Contact Robin at
robinwrites@yahoo.com

HOME COUNTRY

Age is a small price to pay for experience

Ran into Doc down at The Mule Barn the other day, so naturally we had to rid the world of about a gallon of coffee and solve the world's problems for an hour. It is the duty of all true Americans of our age, you know.

Doc said he'd been aching a little bit lately. Joints or something. He'd been out fixing the pasture fence where the mare had been pushing on it. The next morning it made him walk funny.

"I remember when my dad was my age," he said. "I asked him how it felt to be this old. Well, he looked at me as though I were committing a crime by having brown hair, you know? And then he said, 'To be this old? Well, I guess it beats the alternative.'"

The truth is, the morning coffee drinkers of our area aren't really old, not inside. We hurt a bit more the next



SLIM RANDES
HOME COUNTRY

day when we do things, that's all. And having to walk funny for an hour or so is a small price to pay for our experience.

Being experienced sounds better.

"The other day," Doc said, "I was down to the feed store, and the kid there took one look at me and carried those heavy sacks out to the truck for me. It was embarrassing, and she shouldn't have done it."

Tired of aging? Let's do something about it that will make others laugh. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/video/decoded-aging/>

THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Failing forward

The value of making mistakes

Chocolate chip cookies, the Slinky, Play-Doh, Post-It notes, and potato chips. The one thing they all have in common is this: They're losers.

Big fat mistakes. Accidents. Epic fails. None of them turned out to be the thing they were intentionally meant to be, and yet they've become household names. How did the thing we all fear so much – failure – turn into a lucky break for the people behind the inventions?

For the cookie, it was a simple matter of "failure to melt." In 1930, a woman named Ruth Wakefield, who was co-owner of the Toll House Inn, was trying to make a chocolate dessert when she ran out of the chocolate she normally used. As a substitute, she used Nestle semi-sweet chocolate chips, but they didn't melt as she'd hoped they would. The result? Cookies with chocolate chips inside. The failed recipe gave birth to the best cookie the world has ever known.

The popsicle was also a project that took a wrong turn at Albuquerque. In 1905, an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson tried to make homemade soda pop. As boys that age often do, he got distracted from his project and left a bowl of his homemade soda pop sitting outside with the stir stick still in the bowl.

The temperatures dropped overnight, and when Frank came back to the bowl the next morning, he had a sweet frozen treat on a stick. More than 100 years later, our hot summer days wouldn't be the same without Frank's mistake.

But perhaps my favorite example of failure-turned-phenomenon might just be the story about two scientists working for the 3M company in 1968. One of them, Spencer Silver, was having a rough day at the office when his mission to invent a strong adhesive failed miserably. Instead, he ended up with an extremely weak adhesive that would allow paper to be peeled off of anything.



GWEN ROCKWOOD
THE ROCKWOOD FILES

The wimpy adhesive sat on the shelf for almost six years until a fellow scientist named Arthur Fry needed a bookmark for his church hymnal, preferably something that wouldn't hurt the book's pages. He remembered the failed adhesive and its lightly sticky quality that allowed it to be easily moved, and an idea came to mind.

Most people at the company didn't think it would work as a real product – these sticky yellow squares. But in 1980 they gave it a shot, and now desks and cubicles in more than 100 countries around the world are covered in Post-it notes.

What I like most about these true stories is how they reinforce the value of making mistakes. They show me that we're meant to make them because we're humans and not robots. Mistakes are the things that teach us the most and propel us forward – either on the path we were originally on or in a whole new direction. Either way, we're moving, growing and gaining wisdom, which is so much better than staying safely stuck right where we are.

Whether it's making a sale, writing a book, creating art or baking a chocolate dessert, we must be willing to mess up, to look stupid, to waste our time. It's hard, and most of us naturally resist it because mistakes can be heartbreaking, humiliating, frustrating and even scary. But they can also be the springboard to something amazing.

So perhaps we should all grab a pen and one of those wildly successful Post-It notes and write down this reminder: Be willing to make a mistake. You never know when it might turn into a chocolate chip cookie.

Gwen Rockwood is a syndicated freelance columnist. Email her at gwenrockwood5@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY

Missouri Attorneys General are prolific censors posing as free speech champions

By Bridgette Dunlap
Missouri Independent

Missouri had an embarrassing trip to the U.S. Supreme Court last month, and things have gone downhill from there. Murthy v. Missouri (formerly Missouri v. Biden), was filed in 2022 by our then-Attorney General Eric Schmitt and his Louisiana counterpart. They sued a slew of federal government agencies alleging that the agencies' discussions with social media platforms about content moderation violated the First Amendment.

The case is an attempt to avenge those who believe that efforts by private companies and the federal government to diminish election and vaccine misinformation, hate speech, calls to violence and foreign influence amount to a conspiracy to discriminate against conservatives. It's a special kind of embarrassment for Missouri for multiple reasons.

The first is that Missouri and Louisiana put a bunch of lies in the record that their hand-picked Texas judge accepted, but these lies were exposed by the time the case got to the U.S. Supreme Court, making us look like clowns to even the conservative justices. Worse, the mess of a factual record makes the case a terrible vehicle for clarifying the very important question of when gov-



Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

ernment speech aimed at influencing citizens' speech, known as "jawboning," crosses a line into government coercion that violates the First Amendment.

The second is that Missouri Attorneys General Schmitt and his successor, Andrew Bailey, have been ridiculed by legal experts across the political spectrum for their hypocrisy on free speech, given their anti-speech actions outside of this case as well as their broader abuse of the legal process to fight culture wars. The third is that this dangerous effort to limit free speech in order to foster disinformation has been quite effective

Lies and other weirdness in the Murthy v. Missouri record

Social media companies have economic and societal interests

in not having misinformation and hate speech infect their platforms. It's not good for business to have a platform devolve into a swamp where advertisers see their content next to neo-Nazi propaganda. Nor for a platform to become known for perpetuating conspiracy theories. Or promoting outbreak-causing anti-vax content. Or fomenting violence. This is why social media companies have trust and safety teams, terms of service agreements and content moderation policies that forbid or demote some speech that the First Amendment protects.

Sometimes, government officials alert social media companies when misinformation is flowing on a platform, as when foreign agents are impersonating Americans to spread election disinformation. Sometimes government officials loudly criticize companies for not dealing with misinformation or failing to adhere to their own policies. Other times, private companies consult government experts when they are trying to suss out what is misinformation and what isn't, for example as they attempted to tamp down vaccine misinformation during the pandemic. Bailey calls all this "a vast censorship enterprise."

See **CENSORS**, Page A5

POETRY CORNER

Time Took It All Away

Time is a mystery... that my simple brain... just can't seem to understand,
What it takes... to get from here to there... grain by grain of sand.
At this very moment... at this exact instant... "now" is the state I'm in,
But now that I know it... and I recognize that fact... it's now a point that's been.
As the seconds pass... if you think about it much... your head just might explode,
Comparing you then... to who you are now... there've been changes you can't decode.
And the ongoing perplexity... still remains... how did this morning become tonight?
What an impact... it made me grow older... and it happened without a fight.



The question persists... without an answer... it'll remain a mystery forever and a day,
There is an evolution... from a baby to an old man... and time took it all away.

— Daniel D. Donovan

SUCCESS

Continued from Page A1

“It was fun,” he said of his career on camera as a news reporter, noting that through his experience in media, he had come to know a lot of people and got a very good taste of Kirksville. “People knew my name but didn’t necessarily know why they knew my name.”

One night not long after Jay began law school, he was having a drink at Too Talls, a once popular bar in Kirksville, when he met Ed Campbell of the law firm of Adams and Campbell. Jay began to intern with Campbell and Buzz Adams, the other partner in the firm, that summer, and joined them again the following summer.

“I was getting introduced to the Kirksville legal scene before I was out of law school,” Jay said.

In 1984, as Jay was graduating from law school, the firm of Adams and Campbell broke up and Jay partnered with Ed Campbell where, for the next 13 years until 1997, he remained.

“I liked Kirksville — I’ve always thought there was an opportunity here and so when I was in law school, I pretty much had an idea that I wanted to come back to Kirksville,” he said.

In 1997, the law firm of Campbell & Benson dissolved and the Bensons bought a building that once housed a Sonic drive-through and later a popular ice cream shop (TCBY) on South Baltimore Street. This location is where he

founded The Benson Law Firm, which now consists of three lawyers, including his son, Quinn and Polly Petree Hampton. The firm specializes in injury and worker’s compensation cases and also criminal defense.

In 1989, Vicki Benson, at age 23, began selling real estate for Ken Read, a popular broker who had founded the Heritage House real estate agency. Vicki paid homage to Read saying he taught her everything about the real estate business and laid the groundwork for her success today.

“It was a hard knocks sort of way and it’s all been very valuable,” she said about her working relationship with Read, who remains a very dear friend today.

In 1993 — it might have been at Too Tall’s or it might have been at one of the many business/social gatherings attorneys and real estate agents attend — Vicki and Jay met and they were married that same year.

“It was a real quick romance,” Vicki said, noting that the pair just celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31, New Year’s Eve. “You know, you hear yourself say that you’ve been married to somebody for 30 years, or that you’ve been selling real estate for 35 years, and you’re like, ‘jeez, how old am I? I must be 100!’”

For almost 24 years, Vicki sold real estate for Ken Read and Heritage House while Jay practiced law. In 2011, she bought the RE/MAX franchise and together they ex-



Megan Roof, Vicki Benson, Kolby Rae and Riley Sue at the offices of the Kirksville RE/MAX.

panded the law firm office building to include Vicki’s real estate agency.

Having attached themselves to Kirksville, the Bensons raised their son, Quinn, now 29 years old and living in Kansas City but working at the family law firm in Kirksville during the week, and their daughter, Lara, 27, who practices law in Washington, D.C. with her husband, Carter Brooks Templeton, also a practicing lawyer and local Kirksville native, son of Scott and Heidi Templeton.

“We were able to make a really good living here and we were able to raise our kids here safely,” Vicki said, noting that having her son and husband practice together has been a lifelong dream of Jay’s.

She said that in Kirksville, they lose a lot of the younger people who sometimes move out and don’t come back.

“So it’s heartwarming to a lot of people the fact that Quinn is here practicing — and wholeheartedly, like Jay is in his profession,” she said, noting that, like his father, Quinn wants what’s best for people out there. “You’re not just trying to make a buck but you’re out there really, really seeking justice and trying to do what needs to be done for

our local people. Quinn’s just like his father.”

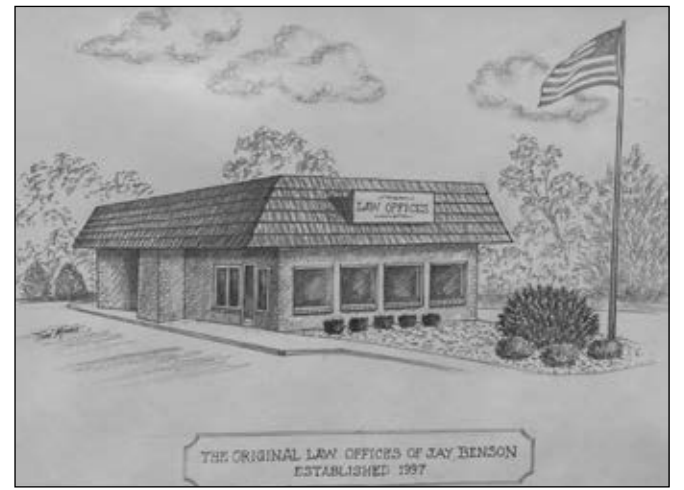
Jay said it has to be a parent’s dream to be able to work with their child.

“Quinn and I work real close together now since he’s been here for the last couple of years and it’s brought a whole different joy to the practice of law that I hadn’t experienced before,” Jay said.

Jay said that in the 40 years he has practiced law in Kirksville, his life has turned out better than he could have ever imagined. He said that the joy of winning is not as big as the agony of losing is low.

“You don’t win every case and when you lose it’s just awful because you bear that burden,” he said. “There’s a lot of things you know, in hindsight, that you might have done and done better. I used to always say that when you win a trial, you think of everything you did right and when you lose a trial, you think of everything you did wrong, and sometimes one may be the same as the other. But Kirksville has been good to both of us. It’s certainly been good to me and my law practice and there’s nothing I would rather be doing than what I’m doing.”

Vicki has worked with people buying and selling



The original law offices of Jay Benson.



The Benson Law Firm and RE/MAX real estate office today.

homes for so long, she at times finds herself working for clients who are the sons and daughters of people she sold homes to in her early days in the business. There have been times when she had a home sale clinched only to talk the buyer out of the deal because she didn’t feel they were going to be happy with the choice and she would steer them toward the home she felt they truly needed. She said her and Jay’s careers have been rewarding and oftentimes, life-changing for a lot of people.

“My whole heart goes into the process,” Vicki said. “It’s not so much about the paycheck for me, it’s about making sure that you find somebody the right fit in the right home.”

“Absolutely,” Jay said in agreement with her. “As much as it is our way of making a living, we’re helping people that came in destitute and needed someone’s help and that’s a big responsibility. I hope we take it with the seriousness that it deserves and hope we can make a difference in people’s lives in the end — and I sure hope that we

have.” Both Bensons wholeheartedly recognize an “awesome” staff that offers tremendous support to each of them, several who travel nearly two hours a day to the job.

Jay said that they’ve both learned that the key to hard work is balance.

“You know, balance your professional lives with your family life,” he said. “I think as hard as we both work, we’ve done a pretty good job of that.”

The Bensons optimize the “Work Hard — Play Harder” theme.

With all the drama that comes from practicing law and selling real estate as well as managing properties, the life of the Benson’s is as balanced as the Reeses Peanut Butter Cup recipe, with just the right amount of chocolate and just the right amount of peanut butter to make for a sweet intertwined relationship.

“I think we’re best friends first,” Vicki said. “We’ve got a good thing going and have been very blessed...I can’t imagine it from anyplace else.”



Jay Benson being sworn in by Judge Bruce Normile, September 1984.

CENSORS

Continued from Page A4

Missouri and Louisiana argued in *Murthy v. Missouri* that our federal government and social media companies talking to each other must stop. Bailey insists we need “a wall of separation between tech and state.” But such a wall would actually be an unconstitutional restriction of speech. Social media companies have a right to speak to the government (or anyone else) and a right to control what speech appears on their platforms. The First Amendment doesn’t restrict these companies from limiting users’ speech because they are not state actors.

This is a problem for the effort to force companies to be more hospitable to disinformation and incitement. Missouri and Louisiana attempted to get around this by alleging that actions taken by the platforms were the result of government coercion. People who were there at the time, like former head of trust and safety at Twitter Yoel Roth, say that’s not what happened.

If the government was threatening companies into censoring speech, that would indeed be a First Amendment violation. But after an extensive (and likely expensive) fishing expedition, the attorneys general couldn’t find evidence of coercion — so they made some up. In one particularly flagrant lie to the court, Missouri took an angry email from a White House official on an unrelated topic and pretended it was a demand

that Facebook censor content. The oft-quoted email read: “Are you guys f**king serious? I want an answer on what happened here and I want it today.”

That may be an unprofessional email, but it wasn’t about anything having to do with content moderation. It was taken from an exchange complaining about users being blocked from following the president’s Instagram account, which Facebook said was due to a technical problem. Numerous other inaccuracies in the record have been cataloged by Tech Dirt’s Mike Masnick, Tech Policy Press, and others.

At oral arguments, multiple Supreme Court justices called out the lies in the record and a majority seemed loath to accept the states’ invitation to upend existing precedent under which the government is perfectly free to use persuasion to affect speech, but not coercion.

Bailey is Missouri’s speech coercer-in-chief

Many have noted that Bailey’s position in *Murthy v. Missouri* is incompatible with his position in two related cases concerning social media companies. The *Netchoice* cases are challenges to laws passed by Texas and Florida that prohibit social media companies from moderating content in ways that discriminate on the basis of viewpoint. In other words, the laws would compel speech by requiring platforms to host content that they deem inappropriate or harmful. This seems like a straightforward

First Amendment violation, but Bailey filed an amicus brief arguing the laws should be upheld. That is because Bailey is not seeking to protect against government intrusion on free speech.

On the one hand, he wants to bar the federal government from even criticizing speech he is in favor of. On the other, he wants state governments to be able to use the force of law to impose speech restrictions that require the platforming of right-wing misinformation and propaganda that the free market would otherwise diminish. It’s a “heads-I-win, tails-you-lose” theory of free speech. Worse, Bailey has repeatedly engaged in coercive behavior in his official capacity in order to suppress speech he doesn’t like.

Bailey joined a group of Republican attorneys general in sending a letter to Target threatening the company with legal consequences for selling LGBTQ-themed Pride gear. As First Amendment lawyer Ari Cohn wrote, Target’s products were “emphatically, and unquestionably protected by the First Amendment,” and the attorneys general’s letter implicitly condoned threats of violence against Target employees that had caused the company to remove or relocate the merchandise. Bailey has also filed a lawsuit seeking to enjoin Planned Parenthood from referring minors out of state for legal abortions, which is also clearly protected by the First Amendment. Asked to respond to criticism of the lawsuit,

Bailey admitted that giving out information about obtaining an abortion out of state is not illegal.

Most recently, Bailey has taken a lighter to the First Amendment by using his governmental power to punish Media Matters for reporting things that he doesn’t want reported. Media Matters, a left-leaning non-profit media watchdog, reported on the fact that since Elon Musk took over Twitter there has been an increase in hate speech that caused advertisements to appear next to neo-Nazi content. Musk doesn’t deny this happened, but nonetheless sued Media Matters for reporting that it did. A similar lawsuit Musk filed against another group has already been dismissed by a judge who didn’t mince words, “This case is about punishing the defendants for their speech.”

Bailey, in an olympic act of Musk sycophancy and “free speech for me, but not thee” legal inno-

vation, has sought to add some governmental muscle to Musk’s anti-speech crusade by claiming that Media Matters has violated the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, on the absurd theory that the organization duped donors into supporting the kind of work it has always done.

Bailey can lose in court, but succeed at suppressing vital speech

Bailey, his predecessor and the big guys whose favor they are seeking are on the wrong side of the First Amendment. They will ultimately be told this by the courts. But they are succeeding at chilling speech and imperiling our democracy in the meantime.

Media Matters and Planned Parenthood will defend themselves and eventually prevail, after having precious dollars, time and energy stolen from their speech-dependent missions by frivolous litigation. For Target, Goo-

gle and others, it may be simpler to cave to the pressure and self-censor.

Murthy v. Missouri has already resulted in serious damage. Despite the stays of the lower court injunctions, the federal government and independent researchers largely stopped communicating with social media companies, ceasing efforts to combat the viral spread of disinformation. It was only after Missouri and Louisiana’s embarrassing showing at oral arguments that the FBI resumed alerting social media companies to foreign influence campaigns.

This is a real problem in an era of anti-vax fueled measles outbreaks, death threats against blameless election workers and foreign misinformation campaigns aimed at influencing our upcoming election. Facts are vital to a functioning democracy. Bailey’s speech authoritarianism is an attempt to drown them out.

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Rotary Club of Kirksville meet with exchange student they sponsor

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

The speaker at the April 17 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting was the youth exchange student it sponsors, Lynn Buchon from Heikendorf, Ger-

many on the Baltic Sea. Buchon exhibited collages of photos of Germany and her family as well as of her host families here. In others she shows sites, activities and sports that she enjoys in both her hometown and in Kirksville.



Pictured from left are Lynn Buchon's current host family, Jon and JoAnna Peck, first host family member Samantha Maggart, Buchon, and first host family member Angie Maggart.



Lynn Buchon with members of the Rotary Club of Kirksville's exchange committee: From left: Bill Lovegreen, Club President Melissa Stuart, Chair Annette Sweet, Buchon, Ramey Weichelt and John Dungan.

TORNADO

Continued from Page A1

At the time of this tornado, Kirksville boasted three major colleges, the First District Normal School in the south part of town, the American School of Osteopathy in the west part of town, and the Columbian School of Osteopathy, Medicine, and Surgery in the east part of town. Fortunately, the tornado missed all of these schools and they received no damage or loss of life.

John Roy Musick and his wife, a future osteopathic physician, aided many of those injured by the tornado. In one rescue, Musick lifted a large tree from a lady who was being crushed to death. In the process, he reportedly injured the muscles of his heart, which led to his death two years later. Musick's account of the tornado, which he named, "In the Whirl of the Tornado," first appeared in the August 1899 issue of Century Magazine, Volume 58, No. 4, pages 591-596. It is now in the public domain.

"It was my good or ill fortune to be an eyewitness



East Jefferson Street, Kirksville, Missouri, showing stone foundation of Attorney Joseph Reger's residence which was blown away by the cyclone of 1899. His family escaped unharmed. Accession 2006.29.5

of one of the devastating tornadoes that often sweep American soil," Musick wrote. "About half-past six on the afternoon of April 27, 1899, I left my house in Kirksville, Missouri, to post some letters. The day had been rather remarkable, alternating between suffocating heat and the chilliness of early spring. Dense black clouds occasionally rolled across the saffron sky, and showers of rain alternated with bursts of sunshine, while the winds had been capricious,

at times blowing in gusts and gales, to be followed by a dead calm. It needed no barometer to indicate an impending atmospheric disturbance, for everyone could feel it.

He said that in the southwest hung a lowering, dark cloud, from which occasional peals of thunder issued. "Just below the cloud, seeming to rest upon the earth, was a whirling monster of vapor, dust, and smoke, coming apparently toward me, with an incessant and steadily-increasing roar. The first appearance was that of a huge locomotive emitting black smoke and steam,



A cyclone hit Kirksville on April 27, 1899.

and coming at a tremendous speed. The tornado seemed suddenly to tear itself loose from the black storm cloud and to advance at increased speed, rotating from right to left."

Musick called for his family to find safety, which they did behind some cedars in the yard west of the house. As he did, the funnel-shaped clouds grew nearer. Knowing that they were safe, he ran east in the direction of the tornado, which he said had "grown to such gigantic proportions that it seemed to extend from the zenith to the farthest limit of the eastern horizon."

"When it struck the densely-populated part of the city, the continual crashing and tearing of houses was added to that incessant rumbling and roaring, making an awful sound which swelled in volume until the earth trembled beneath our feet," Musick wrote. "The air was filled with flying debris. Doors, shutters, roofs, and even whole houses were sent soaring and whirling to a height of three or four hundred feet. I saw the wheel of a wagon or carriage and the bodies of two persons flying up into the storm cloud. One house was lifted upward to a height of over one hundred feet, when it seemed to explode into a thousand fragments which went soaring, whirling, and mingling with the other debris."

Calling it a "great black monster" and "hateful, devouring devil tearing up houses to their foundation stones," Musick said that it was "the most terrifying spectacle man ever gazed upon."

"The cruel monster had gone on, carrying death and ruin into the country far to the northeast, but was now beyond our hearing, and a silence as awful as the noise it had made pervaded the scene," Musick wrote. "The hush of death, more appalling than the thunder of the storm-king's war-chariot, brooded over that scene of desolation."

Once the tornado had left, he said that the air was filled with sobs and despair. Musick wrote that he first assisted in extricating a young woman with a broken spine lying under some heavy timbers and then taking some children from a house where their father had been killed.

"The shrieking and wailing gave place to silent, earnest work, broken only by the groans of sufferers still beneath the ruins," he

wrote, describing a scene of death and carnage.

Musick said that about 30 minutes after the tornado had swept through the city, "a black, angry cloud rose in the west and spread over the entire city, deluging it with a downpour of rain, while the wind blew such a gale that many of our younger assistants became frightened and ran to cellars, ditches, and sewers to escape the fury of a second tornado."

Buildings had caught fire and they feared a conflagration but the fire company kept the flames under control.

"It was a doleful night, an awful night," he wrote. "Not one of the thousands who participated in the search will ever forget it. The list of killed grew until one became sick at the mention of new names."

The most remarkable experiences, he wrote, were Miss Moorehouse, Mrs. Webster, and her son who were caught up in the storm and carried nearly a quarter mile then let down on the common so gently that none was killed.

"I was conscious all the time I was flying through the air," said Miss Moorehouse, "and it seemed a long time. I seemed to be lifted up and whirled round and round, going up to a great height, at one time far above the church steeples, and seemed to be carried a long distance."

She said that at one point while flying through the air, she saw a horse soaring and rotating about with her; a white horse that had a harness on.

According to Musick, many Kirksville residents had nothing left but a pile of rubble. He said that within a few hours after the tornado, the mayor of the city organized a bureau of information, and took immediate steps for relief of the suffering.

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SAFETY

Continued from Page A1

"Our Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Adair County Emergency Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires,

treatment of patients and protection of property," city officials said in a press release. "Each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during their job performance. The city of Kirksville thanks these individuals for their service to the community."

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EMBRACING LOCAL HISTORY

Part 99

TURNING THE PAGE

The Captain Harris Mansion – Chapter 4 - Changes for the Harris Family

By Blytha Ellis, President

Adair County Historical Society and Museum

It is believed that the two-story Italianate mansion at 101 E. Burton Street in Kirksville was completed in 1875. And, it is assumed that the Harris family moved into this home sometime in 1875, so let us look at who they were at that time. Captain Thomas Clark Harris was age 51 and ran what have been described as the Kirksville Woolen Mills, a flouring mill, and a store north of town.

Newspapers of the 1870s give several evidences of these Harris enterprises. The following are from “The Tattler” newspaper in Kirksville reported at different times in 1875:

(1) “Now is the time to lay in your spring flour. T. C. Harris is selling flour cheaper than any other man in Kirksville. Patronize home mills.”

(2) “Farmers having wheat to sell will do well to take it to T. C. Harris as he is paying the highest market prices.”

(3) “Set the children to work. T. C. Harris wants 1000 pounds of carpet rags for which he will pay 8 cents per pound.”

(4) “T. C. Harris has gone to Chicago to lay in a mammoth stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, etc., and he will buy your wool and pay better prices, either in cash or goods, than anybody else. Don't fail to call and examine his goods before disposing of your wool because he can afford to give good bargains. Store one-half mile north of the square, Kirksville, MO.”

The following small ads are from the “Kirksville Daily Journal” in 1875:

(1) “10 pounds good brown sugar for \$1 – T. C. Harris”

(2) “I will pay the highest price in cash for wool at the Kirksville Woolen Mill. — T. C. Harris” As has been discussed previously, T. C. Harris was originally in business with the Tinsman brothers in the wool industry. Whether they still had a partnership in wool or whether Captain Harris was on his own during the 1870s is unknown.

Captain Harris' wife, Hester, was 41 in 1875. They had five children who would have moved into the new home with them in that year: Mary Louise, 20; John Wesley, 16; Ella, 13; Samuel, 7; and George, 2.

The first Harris child was Ida who died as an infant in 1852. The second child was Frances Amelia “Fannie” who married in 1872 when she was 17 to Dr. John Burton (1844-1899). They had their own residence in Kirksville at this time.

Dr. Burton was born in Sullivan County, Indiana. He attended Lebanon Academy in Indiana, then entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. His education was interrupted by military service in the Civil War. John served in the 6th Indiana Cavalry from 1862 to the close of the war in 1865. He then returned to medical school and graduated in 1867.

It is unknown what brought Dr. John Burton to Missouri, but he soon settled in Kirksville and began his medical practice. He married Fannie Harris on March 2, 1872, in Kirksville. They had four children, all born in Missouri: Louie, died as an infant in 1873; John Clifford (1873-1930); Nellie (1879-1911); and Arthur (1889-1907).

Besides his medical practice, Dr. Burton served as President of the United States Pension Board and was a local Post Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a Civil War soldiers organization.

On March 25, 1879, in Kirksville, the Harris daughter, 24-year-old Mary Louise, married Thomas Corwin McKenzie (1845-1885), a widowed attorney from Iowa. They resided in Iowa and had four children before Mr. McKenzie died in 1885.

Surprisingly, documents show that Thomas C. and Hester Harris sold their 4-year-old Italianate mansion on May 6, 1879, to their daughter and son-in law, Dr. John and Fannie (Harris) Burton, for a mere \$1,600. At some point in time after this, a street was made going east and west on the south side of the Harris house and was named Burton Street. It is assumed that this was named for Dr. Burton and his family.

Although it would seem that Captain Harris had more than one thriving business in Kirksville in the 1870s and had no reason to move, we find an article in “The Milan Republican” newspaper at Milan, Mo., Sullivan County (September 7, 1877) which shows that the Captain was contemplating a move away from Kirksville as early as 1877:



The Captain Harris Mansion in 1975 before its extreme renovation starting in 2006



“T. C. Harris, of Kirksville, is preparing to move his woolen mills from that town to Green Castle. This will be a valuable acquisition to the business of the latter place.”

Some have wondered if Captain Harris encountered some financial difficulty in Kirksville or if perhaps the supply of wool ran out in Adair County causing him to move his woolen operation elsewhere. Violette's 1911 “History of Adair County” alludes to this when it states, “By 1893, Kirksville was without a woolen mill. Scarcity of raw materials was responsible for this.”

By 1880, Captain Harris had moved his woolen mill to Green Castle. This was only one year after the sale of his Kirksville mansion to the Burtons. The Harris family is listed in the 1880 census in Sullivan County, Mo. The older children were on their own at this time. Only two children were with them in this census, their youngest sons, Samuel, 12, and George, 6. Their address was Green Castle (Penn Township), 18 miles west of Kirksville just over the Adair/Sullivan County line. Captain Harris' occupation was shown as “miller.”

While living in Green Castle, Captain Harris became active in their GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). In Green Castle news items of August 20, 1880, in the “Milan Republican” newspaper, we learn that “According to previous arrangements, the soldiers met at the Masonic Hall and organized a company to attend the Soldiers Reunion at Kirksville by electing T. C. Harris Captain The company will number about 100 when complete.” A short news article in the “Kirksville Daily Journal” of September 2, 1880, states, “Capt. T. C. Harris' company of Green Castle, will be on parade today.”

However, it does not seem that the Harris family stayed in Sullivan County for long. The “Kirksville Weekly Graphic” reported in December, 1880, that “Mr. T. C. Harris favored us with a call on Monday. We learn he had disposed of a portion of his interest in his Green Castle mill and has some idea of locating elsewhere.”

A newspaper article in the “Kirksville Weekly Graphic” in 1882 states that Captain Harris was again living in Kirksville. But, this is certainly not a happy news article; it is quite tragic.

On Saturday afternoon, November 4, 1882, “a fatal accident occurred on the Chariton River near George Cain's residence. Samuel V. Harris, aged 14, a son of T. C. Harris of this city, in company with another boy of about the same age named Marion Lowther, had gone on a boating expedition. The boys crossed the river in a skiff and in jumping from the skiff to a ferryboat that was laying on this side, both barrels of young Harris' gun were discharged, the shots taking effect in his left shoulder and some shots penetrating his left lung.”

The “Kirksville Weekly Graphic” continued the sad tale, “He was taken to the residence of Mr. Cain, and his mother and brother-in-law, Dr. Burton, were sent for. After lingering several hours, he quietly passed away from the effects of internal hemorrhage.”

The Cain family may be remembered here by readers. See Part 22 of this history. The Cains were early settlers of “The Cabins” area on the Chariton River in Adair County and had a large home there.

The funeral of young Samuel Van Sant Harris was held on Monday, November 6, 1882. He was buried in the Forest-Llewellyn Cemetery in Kirksville.

This tragic accident must have been especially hard for Captain Harris as it mirrored a fatal accident of one of his brothers in 1855. George Washington Harris, Jr. was 22 when he took a hunting trip with friends on the Mississippi River near Rock Island. George's gun was accidentally discharged when he threw the stick which was tied to the towing rope into their skiff as they cast off from shore. The bullet went through George's thigh, breaking his bone. He was carried to the closest house where he died a few hours later. He was one of 12 siblings of Captain Harris who died young.

After the Harris family returned to Kirksville around 1882, we see a major shift in the Captain's profession. See our next episode.

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This Week in Local History

By Larry Evans

105 Years, April 21, 1919

George Hoy, of LaGrange, Missouri was brought to the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) Hospital where he had a piece of bone from the leg of a sheep grafted into his leg to repair a fracture that was not united. Hoy was injured seven weeks earlier when a buck (male) sheep broke both bones below Hoy's knee. The buck sheep that injured Hoy had an offspring that was born on the preceding Christmas Day. This young sheep was also a buck. Hoy brought this young buck with him when he came to the hospital in Kirksville. The buck was slaughtered, and a piece of its leg bone was used to repair the break in Hoy's leg. The sheep was processed, and Mr. Hoy helped eat it the next day, which happened to be Easter Sunday. The surgery showed every sign of being successful.

95 Years Ago, April 21, 1929

Officials of Kirksville's Masonic organization announced that work of Kirksville's new \$100,000 Masonic Temple was to start in 1929 if plans being pushed by local lodges go forward as anticipated. Bonsack & Pierce, Inc. architects, of St. Louis had prepared plans and specifications. The Kirksville Masonic Temple Association was ready to launch a drive to sell bonds to fund the construction of the building. The organization had \$35,000 of its own funds and needed to issue \$65,000 in 5 percent bonds for the remaining funds. The temple was to be erected on the Masonic lot owned by the association at the corner of Harrison and High Streets. The building would face south on Harrison Street. The architects selected Egyptian style architecture. The building would be faced with variegated limestone and completely fireproof.

90 Years Ago, April 25, 1934

Missouri State Highway Patrolman, Maurice Parker, of Kirksville and other state troopers, spent the greater part of a night on the area highways looking for John Dillinger. Law enforcement agencies in Missouri were summoned to duty after Dillinger was reported to have been spotted leaving Omaha, Nebraska, headed in a southerly direction. It was thought that he and his gang members might come through Missouri on their way to a hideout somewhere in the state. The watch was called off after Dillinger was spotted elsewhere. John Dillinger (1903-1934) was a notorious criminal and gangster who was one of the most famous bank robbers in U.S. history. He commanded the Dillinger Gang during the Great Depression and was accused of robbing 24 banks and four police stations. He was imprisoned several times and escaped twice. Massive manhunts were conducted by local law enforcement agencies and federal agents. He was shot by federal lawmen on July 22, 1934, in Chicago after leading law officials on numerous manhunts throughout the Midwest.

85 Years Ago, April 20, 1939

The Kirksville city council passed an ordinance requiring that outdoor toilets be connected with the city sewer system where a sewer was accessible. The action received much favorable comment from Kirksville residents. A large number of people who owned property, especially rental property, were in the city clerk's office to see if their property was near a sewer. A city ordinance regulating outdoor toilets had been in effect for some time, but it applied to only certain sections of the city. The new ordinance applied to the entire city and required that the toilets be supplied with water and meet the requirements of the State



Board of Health. Most Kirksville residents believed the new ordinance compelling the installation of modern outdoor toilets would do much in eliminating offensive odors and creating healthier conditions in the city.

80 Years Ago, April 23, 1944

A large TWA transport plane with 28 people aboard landed at Kirksville airport at 1:15 a.m. on account of a heavy storm in the area. The passengers and members of the crew ate breakfast at Santen's Café in Kirksville and departed Kirksville for Kansas City at 10 a.m. The plane was on the regular Chicago-Kansas City flight and had on board a number of Army and Navy officers, as well as some civilians. One of the passengers remarked that when the plane hit the storm area the plane shook much like houses do in an earthquake. When the plane left Kirksville crew members thought they might have to land at Topeka, Kansas, because the Kansas City Municipal Airport was under water.

80 Years Ago, April 26, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Funk received word from the government that their son, Staff Sgt. Robert D. Funk, 21, was missing in action while on a mission over Germany on April 11. The Funks had received a letter from him dated April 10 in which he said he had just returned from a mission. At that time, he was in England. Young Funk was a graduate of Kirksville High School in 1940. He was inducted into service on January 25, 1943. He took his basic training at Miami Beach, Florida, and received special training in other stations. In January 1944 he was stationed in England at an American Air Base. He was a right waist gunner and assistant radio operator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, which had completed six bombing missions over Germany. On the seventh trip they ran into trouble and the entire crew of ten safely parachuted to earth landing at Vechta, Germany. One member of the crew later died of his injuries. Funk was slightly wounded by flak on the descent and landed right in the middle of a German anti-aircraft battery. He was first imprisoned at Stalag, Austria, and later was one of 4,000 prisoners who marched 195 miles to National Redoubt, in cold, rainy weather, completing the journey in 19 days. Funk said that he personally, was not mistreated by the German guards, but that he was hungry the entire thirteen months he was held, as the food was scarce and of inferior quality. Later in life, Robert “Bob” Funk became Kirksville's Postmaster and mayor of the city.

30 Years Ago, April 25, 1994

The Kirksville Daily Express featured a story on the orphan trains that arrived in the area from eastern parts of the United States, particularly New York. The Children's Aid Society of New York was responsible for arranging for orphaned and abandoned children in the large cities to be transported to the Midwest by train where local families had the opportunity to adopt and raise the children. The article focused on the Rider family of Kirksville. Woodrow Rider was a Kirksville businessman and operated Rider Drug store for many years. His wife, Mildred (Smith) Rider, and her four siblings, Olive Harvey, Mary Stevenson, Fred Smith, and Carl Smith were five of the fourteen children that arrived in Kirksville on the orphan train in June 1924. The Smith children were fortunate in that they were taken by families in the area, and they maintained contact throughout their lives.

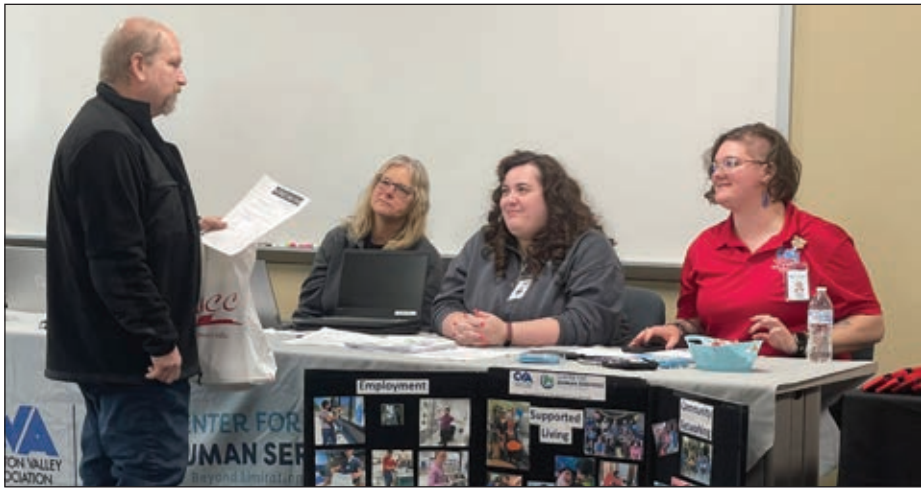
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Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce NEMO Job Fair held

By Marty Bachman
Daily Express

Hundreds of people visited the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce's free job fair held on April 19 at Moberly Area

Community College. Numerous local employers were on-hand at the site as were many community resources and veteran services. For additional information contact Kirksville Job Center at 660-785-2400 or n Facebook: KirksvilleJobCenter.



Stream cleanup held to recognize Earth Day

By NEMO Photography

A stream cleanup was held this past weekend, coordinated by the Kirksville Watershed Management Commission. In conjunction with Earth Day, multiple organizations from the community, ATSU, and Truman State University, picked up litter in streams inside the Kirksville city limits on Saturday, April 20. The event began at ATSU's Thompson Campus Center parking lot and after a briefing, groups dispersed to clear litter from waterways. This cleanup is intended to raise awareness of the city's watersheds in addition to removing trash.



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Kirksville baseball team stays hot with 13-3 win on Monday

By Adam Tumino

The Kirksville baseball team continued its recent stretch of strong play with a 13-3 home win over Putnam County on Monday evening. The Tigers fell behind 1-0 in the top of the first before jumping ahead 5-1 in the bottom of the inning, they added four more runs over the next three innings before scoring four times in the fifth to walk off with an abbreviated win.

Kirksville is now 12-8 on the season and has won five of their last six games on the heels of a nine-game stretch where they went 2-7. Putnam County, the second ranked Class 2 team in the state, fell to 14-2 with the loss.

Cole Kelly battled through 3.2 innings on the mound, working around traffic and allowing three runs, before Carter Pinkerton relieved him and retired all four batters he faced in the game. Kelly also hit a home run in the game, while Ryder Lyons also stood out offensively with a trio of RBI hits, including the game winner.

Kirksville head coach Derek Allen said he was happy with the offensive production Monday, which he said carried over from last week where the Tigers scored an average of eight runs per game in their four wins.

“We came out, and last week we kind of found something offensively that we were hoping to carry over into this week, and luckily today it did,” he



Kirksville junior Ryder Lyons makes a throw from third base in the game against Putnam County on April 22.

said. “I’m proud of the way we swung the bat and put pressure on them in order to score some runs.”

Allen said he was also pleased with the two pitching performances in the game, which did a good job limiting a team that averages north of 10 runs per game to a new season low.

“Cole fought for us on the mound,” Allen said. “He fought hard but didn’t have his best stuff, had a

hard time commanding the zone a little bit. Then Carter Pinkerton came in and threw really well behind him, so all around a good effort.”

Aggressive and opportunistic baserunning has been a point of focus for the Tigers throughout the season. Against Putnam County, they were able to showcase that mentality a bit, stealing nine bases as a team in addition to



Kirksville junior Cole Kelly delivers a pitch in the game against Putnam County on April 22.



Kirksville senior Jack Thomas gets low to block a pitch in the game against Putnam County on April 22. PHOTOS BY ADAM TUMINO

taking an extra base here and there on pitches in the dirt and throws from the outfield.

Allen said that the team struggled a bit on the bases, as they did with other phases of the game, during their down stretch in the second and third weeks of the season. Although they still are not all the way back to where he would like them to be, Allen said the baserunning was solid on Monday.

“Early in the season we were really confident in it, and then we hit that lull in the middle of the year where we struggled to pick up wins, and we were struggling to run the bases,” he said. “We haven’t quite got back to where we hope to be since then, but tonight was a step in the right direction. I thought our guys were locked in and took

advantage of some things and did a nice job there. Hopefully it’s something we can carry over and continue as we roll through the rest of the year.”

The Tigers are currently averaging 5.4 runs per game and allowing 4.5. Should that hold, 2024 would be the eighth time in the last nine seasons that the Tigers outscored their opponents. In 2022, they were outscored by just 0.2 runs per game. Their scoring average is also better in the last six games, even factoring in a 10-0 loss to Boonville in that stretch. In the last six, Kirksville is averaging 6.4 runs per game. They had averaged just 2.6 runs per game in the nine games before that and were shut out four times in that stretch.

After a Tuesday doubleheader against Savannah

on Tuesday, the Tigers will head to the Chillicothe Tournament over the weekend. Then there will be just five regular season games remaining for Kirksville, two of which will be at home.

Allen said that as the team enters this final stretch, it is more important for them to focus on improving and preparing for postseason play than it is to necessarily focus on wins, that is until the district tournament begins.

“Just keep getting better each day,” he said. “Obviously every time we’re out here we’re wanting to pick up a win, but I think we’ve got to stick to the process and stick to just getting a little bit better in every phase of the game. If we do that, hopefully when districts rolls around we’ll be playing our best baseball.”



Kirksville junior Jace Kent slides safely into third with a stolen base in the game against Putnam County on April 22.

Kirksville senior Jack Thomas commits to MACC for baseball

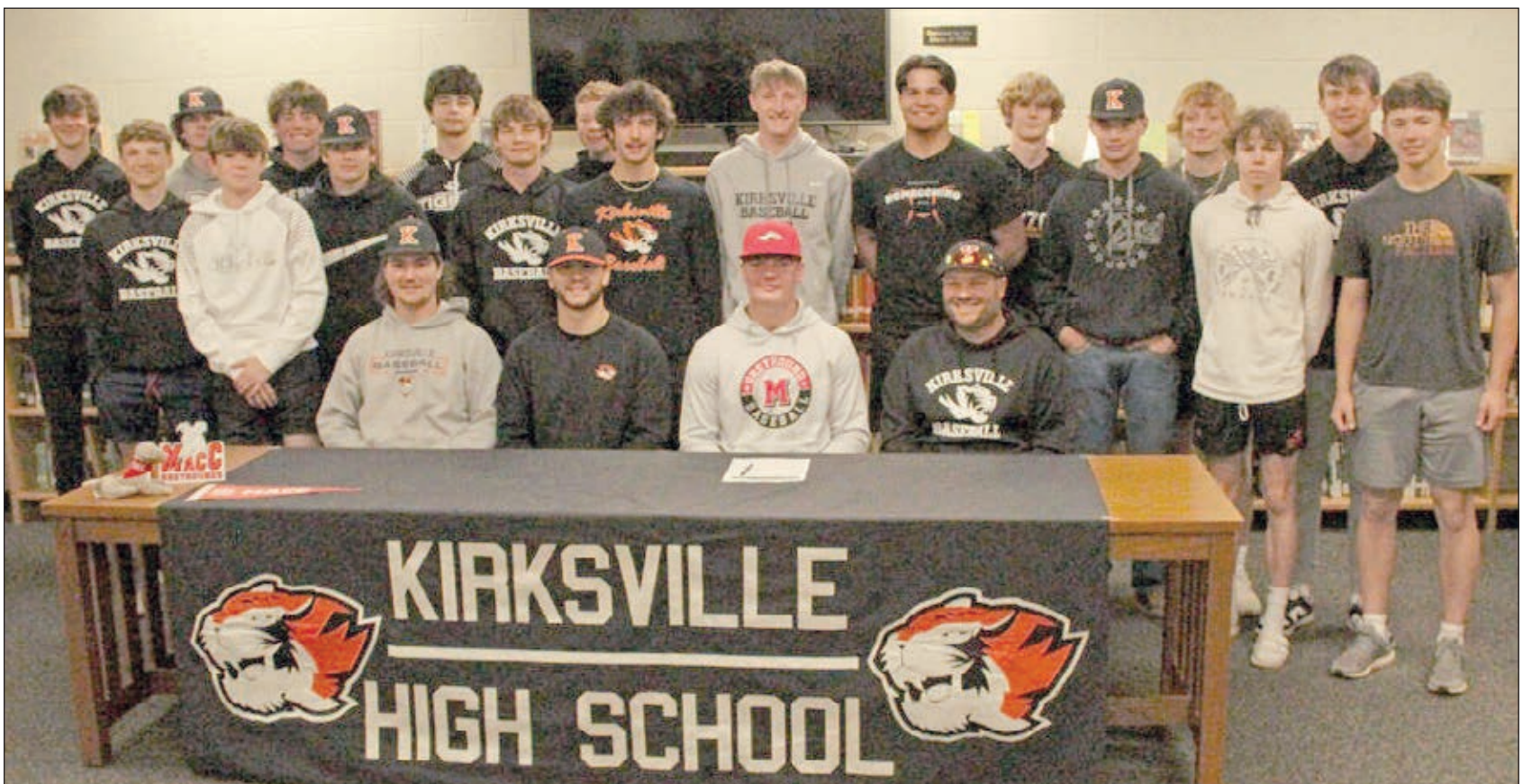
By Adam Tumino

During a ceremony held at the Kirksville High School library on Wednesday morning, senior Jack Thomas signed his letter to attend Moberly Area Community College as a member of the baseball team.

Thomas, currently a starting catcher and pitcher for Kirksville, said that MACC stood out to him as a place he could feel comfortable at right away.

“Mainly just the atmosphere that the program brings, it makes it feel like a family there already and I haven’t even gone to college there yet,” he said. “When I went on the visit I just fell in love with the coaching staff, and I know some players that are playing there for them and I know they’re good people. I’m just excited for this next chapter.”

Thomas also said that the community college atmosphere seems like a good opportunity to be able to adjust to a high level of baseball and put himself in a good position moving forward with baseball and his education.



Kirksville senior Jack Thomas (in red hat) poses with his baseball coaches and teammates during his college signing in the Kirksville High School Library on April 17. ADAM TUMINO

“You get more reps,” he said. “I feel like you see more arms, get adjusted to that college feel. It really gets you ready for a four year.”

MACC is currently 15-31 this season under head

coach Chris Fletcher, in his second season leading the Greyhounds. Kirksville head baseball coach Derek Allen said that he has seen Thomas showcase a real love for base-

ball that he believes will help Thomas be successful moving forward with Fletcher and MACC.

“I’m just really proud of Jack and the work he’s put in,” Allen said. “He has a

real passion for baseball that’s second to none, and I think that’s a passion he can use to drive him moving forward. We’ve seen, in the two years that we’ve had him, some nice growth

on and off the field. I just hope for him, he takes and continues that with coach Fletcher at Moberly and does a nice job for them.”

See **THOMAS**, Page B3

Putnam County hurt by slow start in road loss against Kirksville

By Adam Tumino

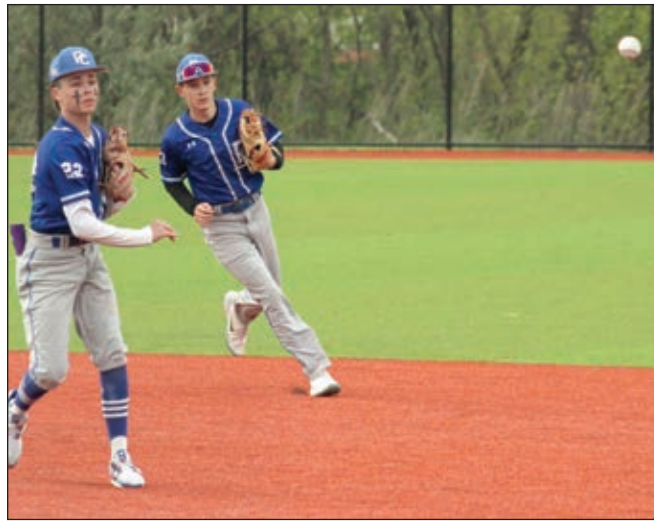
In their first game in nine days, the Putnam County baseball team came out a bit flat against Kirksville on Monday, falling behind early and eventually losing 13-3. The game set a new season low in runs scored and a new season high in runs allowed for the Midgets, who are now 14-2 on the season.

They started strong, loading the bases with one out in the first and scoring the game's first run on a wild pitch, but then surrendered five runs in the bottom of the inning. The bats stayed a bit quiet, accounting for just two more runs over the next four innings. Kirks-

ville added some insurance runs in the second, third and fourth innings before sealing the game with four runs in the fifth.

Putnam County head coach Blane Robinson said that he was pleased with the team's competitiveness. He also said he was not willing to throw everything the team had at this game, which comes at the beginning of what will likely be a difficult week. That paired with the tough first inning made it difficult to get back into the game.

"Other than that first inning, I like the way we competed," he said. "We have a bit of a tough schedule here, so we didn't throw everything at them. I wish



Putnam County second baseman Sawyer Morgan (left) makes a throw to first in front of shortstop Luke Aguilar in the game against Kirksville on April 22. PHOTOS BY ADAM TUMINO

we could've thrown more. But I liked our at-bats. We had some hits there that we strung together early."

There were a couple of other possible factors that may have played into the loss. Monday's game was the first for the Midget since April 13. Also there is an inherent challenge for the Midgets, a Class 2 team, to head on the road to face a Class 4 opponent.

Still, Putnam County is the second ranked Class 2 team in the MHSBCA Poll, and Robinson said he is confident in the team's ability to compete no matter the opponent.

"It's always tough playing up a bit, a Class 4 team, but we're better than that," he said. "I don't care who we play. I tell the boys all the time, 'I don't care if we play the Cardinals. It's still baseball.' I think a little rust, some guys maybe not ready to go, but I think we'll be ready for tomorrow."

The Midgets are in their toughest stretch of the season so far, having gone 2-2 over their last four games after starting the season 12-0. They are scoring 7.8 runs per game in that span, which will still rather high, is a bit below their average



Putnam County junior Brock Munden releases a pitch in the game against Kirksville on April 22.

of 11 runs per game in their first 12 games. They are also allowing 8.8 runs per game in the last four after allowing just 17 total runs in the first 12 games of the season.

Things will not get much easier for the Midgets to close out the season. After the Kirksville game, six of the final seven games of the season will be against teams with records at or above the .500 mark.

Robinson said that he

and the team are excited to be facing a bit of a challenge heading into what will likely be a tough district tournament, and perhaps a fourth-straight district title.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. "Our guys thrive on competition and they're excited for what they can do, and hopefully we can go out there and string them together and play our best baseball going into May."



Putnam County head coach Blane Robinson (center) talks with his team during a mound visit against Kirksville on April 22.

Northern Missouri Futbol Club U-13 Boys, impresses in recent tournament

By April Lange

Northern Missouri Futbol Club

Northern Missouri Futbol Club (NMFC) U-13 boys, under the direction of coaches Elijah Elmlinger and Reed Dent, showcased exceptional teamwork and skill during their recent participation in

the Emerald Cup Tournament held March 22-24, 2024 in Overland Park, KS. The tournament drew in teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

The tournament kicked off with NMFC securing

a resounding 6-0 victory against Virtus FC, of Grain Valley, MO. Subsequently, they battled to a 1-1 draw against VSA 2011 Boys Competitive, of Waukesha, IA, and triumphed 5-0 against KC Fusion Chowning, of Kansas City, MO.

In an intense champion-

ship game against KC Athletics IP Warriors, NMFC demonstrated unwavering determination despite trailing 3-0 at halftime. The team rallied together, scoring three goals in the second half to make it a fiercely competitive match, ultimately securing second place with a final score of 5-3.

Coach Elmlinger emphasized the team's collective effort, highlighting their commitment to playing smart, competitive soccer

rather than focusing solely on individual achievements. He stated, "We play as a team, and as long as we score and play smart, competitive soccer, I believe we win at the end of the day."

Looking ahead, NMFC U-13 Boys are gearing up for upcoming games scheduled for March 30th in Boonville, Mo. Coach Elmlinger shared his confidence in the team's development, stating, "For us, it's not about wins but more about

learning the game of soccer and the different ways it can be played. Our goal is to always give effort and play smart competitive soccer!"

Fans and supporters are encouraged to follow NMFC's journey as they continue to showcase their talent and dedication on the soccer field via the following outlets:

- Website (nmfc.soccer)
- Facebook (Northern Missouri Futbol Club)
- Instagram (nmfc.soccer)

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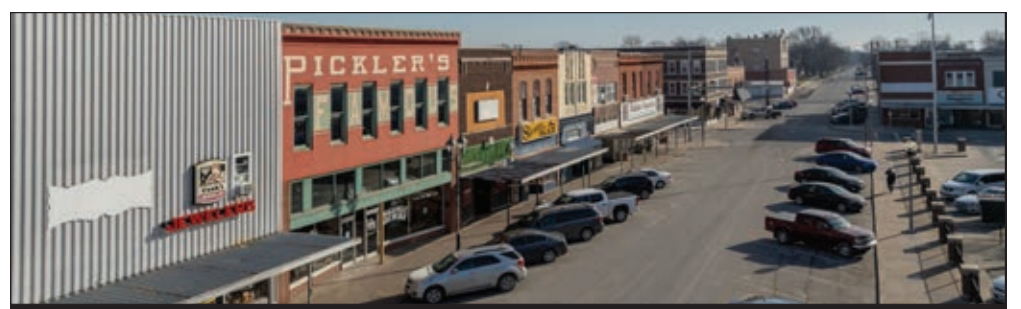
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TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Bulldogs fall to William Jewell in final home series of season

By Adam Tumino

The Truman State baseball team played its final home series of the season over the weekend, hosting William Jewell for a four-game set. The Bulldogs' bats exploded for a high-scoring Friday win to open the series, but they then dropped both games of a Saturday doubleheader and the series finale on Sunday.

Truman is now 8-20 in conference play this season with eight games left. That puts them in 12th place in the GLVC standings, William Jewell is now 15-13 and in fifth place in the conference.

The Bulldogs opened the weekend series in explosive fashion, setting a new season high in runs in a 20-16 win over the Cardinals. The 20 runs are tied for the 10th-most by a GLVC team this season. This offensive outburst allowed the Bulldogs to withstand the 16 runs they allowed to get the win.

Truman had eight players record multiple hits in the game, finishing with 21 as a team. Dylan Thompson, Dakota Joggerst and Oliver Degenhardt each had three hits while Tal Dean and Luke Turner each had four RBI out of the top two spots in the lineup.

Whereas Truman scored 18 of their 20 runs off just two pitchers, none of the Bulldogs' six pitchers got too roughed up. Five did allow multiple runs with the scoreless inning from Kyle Stratman making him the only Truman pitcher to emerge unscathed.

The bats did not cool off too much for Truman in the doubleheader on Saturday. They scored nine runs in each game, but unfortunately allowed 17 and 11 runs in the two games respectively to drop both contests.

The first game saw Truman go up 7-0 in the first two in-



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

nings, but then fall behind 9-7 by the end of the fourth. The Bulldogs tied it with two runs in the fifth but the Cardinals pulled away with four runs in both the sixth and seventh innings to seal the Bulldogs' defeat. Degenhardt was once again a standout on offense, going 3-for-4 with four RBI.

The Bulldogs once again saw a lead disappear in the second game, leading 6-2 early and 9-5 heading into the sixth inning before the Cardinals rallied for six runs in the final two frames to win 11-9. The final blow came on a two-out grand slam in the top of the seventh by William Jewell's Alex Epp, whose younger brother Isaac started the series opener for Truman and got the win.

Dean, Thompson and Joggerst each had two hits to lead Truman while Alex Wittenauer led the team with three RBI, all coming on a third-inning home run.

Sunday's series finale saw

Truman's offensive production dry up a bit. The Bulldogs fell behind 7-0 early on before getting on the board with an RBI double from Will Fromm in the bottom of the second. They got the rest of their runs on a solo home run from Joggerst and two-run shot from Fromm in the fourth, but lost 11-4.

Fromm had a memorable final home game as one of the team's 14 seniors that were honored prior to the game. In addition to Fromm, fellow seniors Dylan Thompson, Luke Turner, Kevin Donohue, Jaren Guck, Zachry Schneider, Drew Hnilo, Jordan Marlott, Michael Daggett, Justin Maloney, Alex Leary, Brian Bruxvoort and PJ Jerszynski were honored.

The Bulldogs will now wrap up their season with two more four-game series, both on the road. First is a matchup with Indianapolis on April 26 through April 28. They then close things out against Upper Iowa on May 2 through May 4.

Truman State softball team drops pair of tough doubleheaders

By Adam Tumino

The Truman State softball team played through what was likely its toughest pair of doubleheaders of the season, and also its final four home games of the season, this weekend. The Bulldogs hosted the top two teams in the GLVC, starting with second-place Lewis and then Indianapolis, the third-ranked team in the nation. Truman was blown out twice by Lewis and then suffered a pair of close losses to Indianapolis.

The Bulldogs are now 9-13 in the GLVC standings, putting them in 10th place and a bit short of a conference tournament spot. Right ahead of them is an 11-13 Rockhurst and then a trio of 11-11 teams in the sixth through eighth spots in the conference.

The Bulldogs had just eight hits coming from seven different players in the two games against Lewis. Only Charlotte Chelich had a hit in each game.

In the opener, Truman had two runners on base in the first inning and had a runner reach third in both the third and fourth innings, but were unable to get a run across. Lewis scored five runs in the third to jump ahead. They added one more in the fourth and three more in the fifth before sending down Truman in order in the bottom of the fifth to end the game.

The second game saw Lewis go up 1-0 in the first, and then had four in the third, three in the fourth and one more in the fifth. Truman had two of their three hits in the game come in the second inning. They also had two baserunners in the fifth coming on a hit and walk.

In the opener against Indianapolis, the Bulldogs had to face the best pitcher in the nation in the Greyhounds' Kenzie Smith. She entered the game having allowed just four earned runs in 154.2 innings this season.

Truman managed to become just the third team this season, and first GLVC team, to push across an earned run against Smith when Callie Coombs, who was on third base after an Emily Wood double, scored on a wild pitch.

Truman used a combination of Madie Anderson, Kaylyn Jones, Chelich and Brooke Nutter to battle Smith, and they were up to the task. They allowed nine hits but only two runs, with the Greyhounds scoring a run off of Jones and another off Chelich, both in the fifth inning. Smith led the Greyhounds to the 2-1 win by allowing just four hits and striking out 14 while pitching all seven innings.

Truman had to face another formidable pitcher in the second game. Indianapolis' Jayden Casebolt came into the game with a 1.61 ERA on the season, having allowed just 25 earned runs in 109 innings.

But after being shut down for the first two innings, the Bulldogs jumped on Casebolt in the third inning. Sofia Birkenholz led off the inning for the Bulldogs with a solo home run. They added on with a two-run double from Coombs and three-run home run from Klein, turning a 2-0 deficit entering the third into a 6-2 lead.

Indianapolis then took a 7-6 lead with three runs in the fourth and two in the fifth, but Truman tied it up in the bottom of the fifth on an RBI triple from Wood. After the triple, Smith came in to pitch for Indianapolis. She pitched the next 2.2 innings for the Greyhounds, allowing just one hit.

Indianapolis rallied for the lead with three runs in the sixth and added an insurance tally in the seventh to win 11-7.

The two hard-fought losses to Indianapolis coincided with senior day for Truman. The young Bulldogs have just three seniors, with graduate students Cameryn Patterson and Breianna Klein and senior Nina Fenasci playing their final career home games on Sunday.

The Bulldogs will close out the regular season this upcoming weekend with doubleheaders against Maryville and Missouri S&T. Both teams are just ahead of Truman in the standings but within reach, and stand between the Bulldogs and a GLVC Tournament berth.

Kansas Relays next stop for Truman State track & field

By Truman State University Athletics

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Truman State Track & Field teams competed at the 101st Kansas Relays over the weekend. Jacob Morris was second in the men's Discus and seven Bulldogs achieved personal bests.

Morris' best mark in the Discus was 56.07 meters on his first throw placing him second behind KU's Dimitri's Pavlidis (60.68m). Morris was three meters in front of third place Braden Rose of Washburn (Kan.).

Morris picked up another top 10 with a seventh in the Hammer Throw (55.72m).

The other two top 10s on the men's side came with Hayden Long launching the Javelin 57.35 meters, which was the fourth best distance and Tyler Davis in the Shot Put at 15.36 meters, good for eighth.

Jackson Figo, in the Discus (40.65m) and Ryan Harness, in the 5000-meter run (15:34.50)



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

had PRs on the men's side.

Raina Baker turned in a top 10 for the women with a time of 2:19.72 in the 800-meter run. That time was the fifth-fastest of the race. Baker set a new PR in the 400-meter run, timing 58.97 seconds.

Kendra Zeilstra posted a PR in the 800 at 2:28.03.

The other three PRs on the women's side all came in the 5,000-meter run. Cora Simp-

son ran 18:06.16, Emma Schultz 19:11.82 and Ellie Webb at 20:05.10.

The Bulldogs will be on another big stage next weekend with the annual Drake Relays taking place in Des Moines, Iowa. Those not attending Drake will be at nearby Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa for the Kip Janvrin Open. It will be the final weekend before the conference championships.

THOMAS

Continued from Page B1

The Kirksville baseball team is currently looking to finish strong after going 7-7 in the first half of the season. Throughout his time on the baseball team, and in sports and at Kirksville High School in general, Thomas said that the coaches he's had have been a major factor in setting him up for future success.

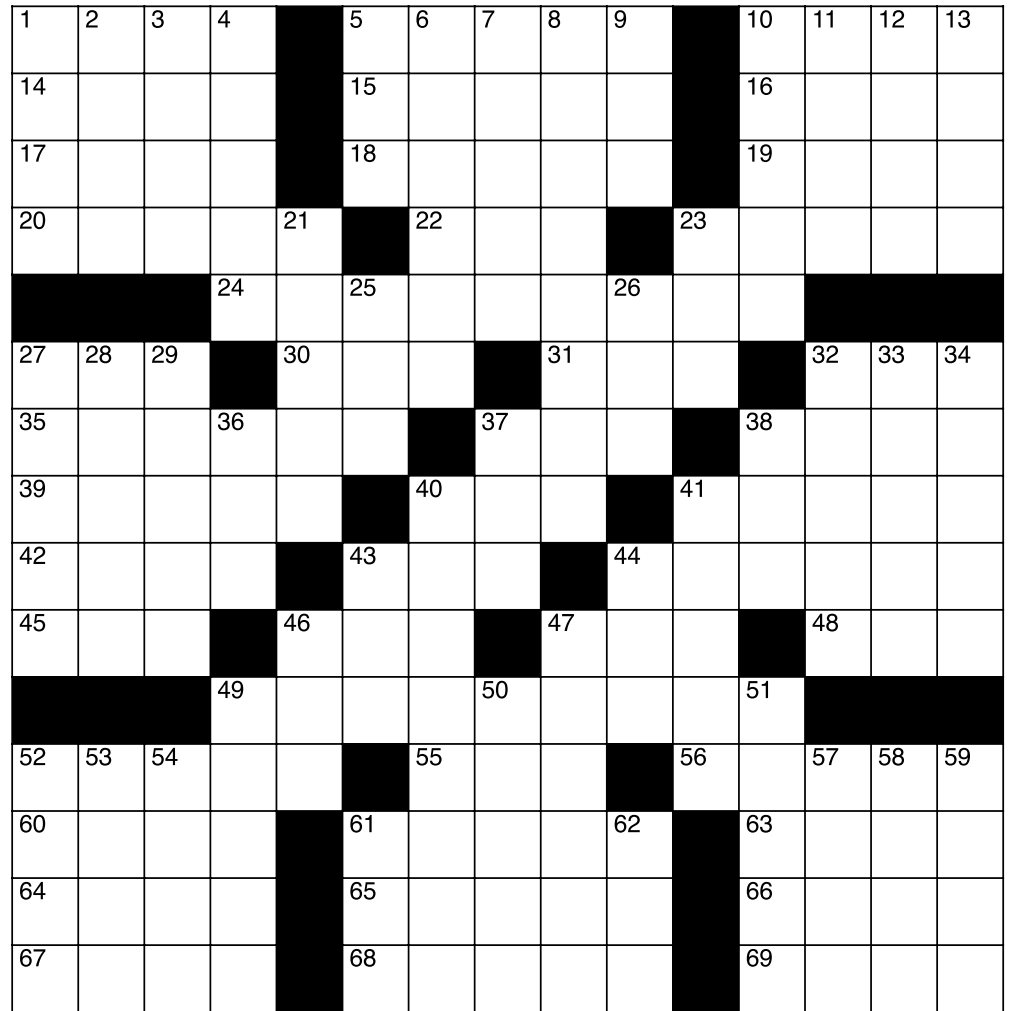
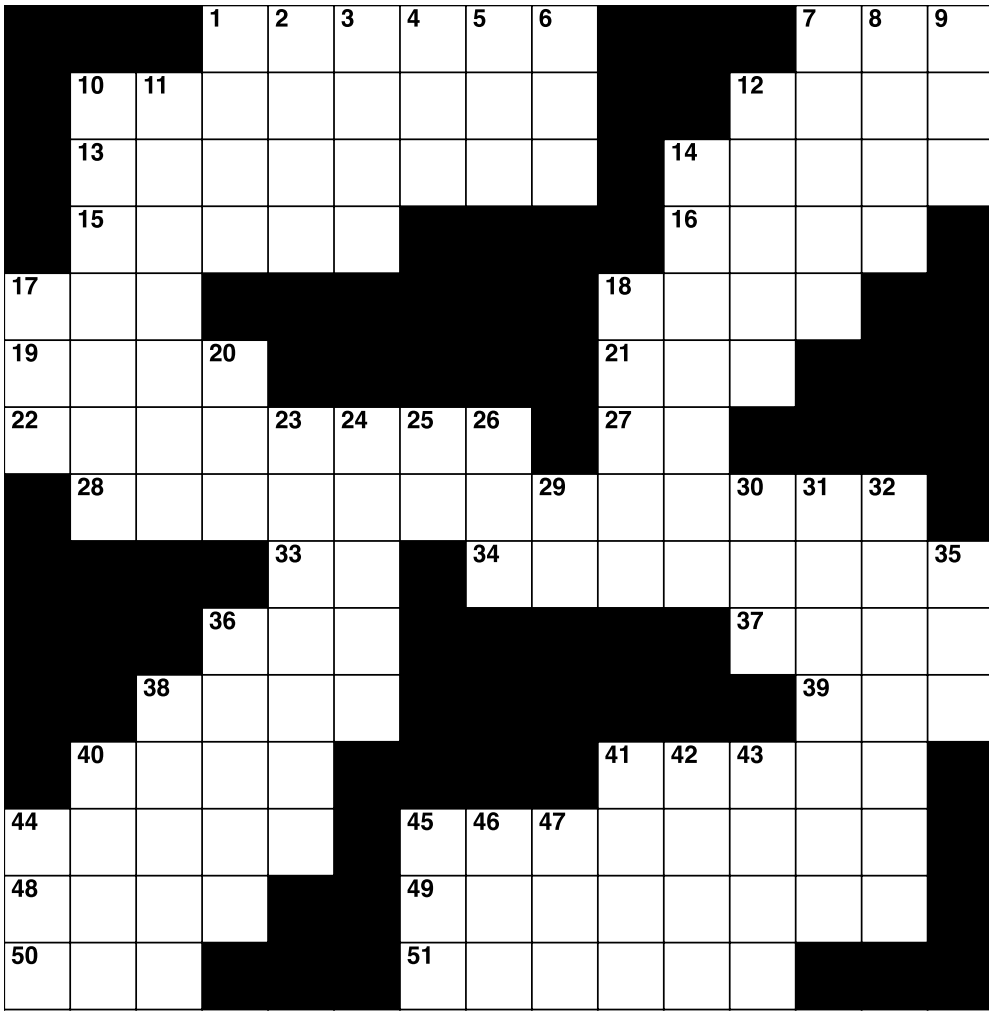
"Every coach that I've had at this school has had faith in me and has known that I'm capable of doing the things I'm doing now," he said. "They never stopped, even through hardships, they never stopped having faith in me and ultimately led to where I am right now."



Kirksville senior Jack Thomas smiles after signing his letter to Moberly Area Community College with his parents by his side in the Kirksville High School Library on April 17. ADAM TUMINO



Kirksville senior Jack Thomas releases a pitch in the game against Macon on March 23.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Used to serve wine
- 7. System to code a number
- 10. Meddled
- 12. A type of discount
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Type of wrap
- 15. Nigerian people
- 16. Nuclear missile
- 17. Scientists' tool (abbr.)
- 18. ___ and feathers
- 19. It cleans you
- 21. Doctors' group
- 22. Silvery marine fish
- 27. Atomic #58
- 28. Popular March holiday
- 33. Pa's partner
- 34. Sickneses
- 36. '___ death do us part
- 37. Scottish settlement
- 38. Innumerable
- 39. Small constellation
- 40. Wings

CLUES DOWN

- 41. Supernatural creatures
- 44. Some are hallowed
- 45. The front door
- 48. Greek war god
- 49. Lamented
- 50. Foot (Latin)
- 51. Sprucely

CLUES ACROSS

- 18. Small, broad-headed nails
- 20. Man City coach Guardiola
- 23. Periods of food shortages
- 24. European nation
- 25. Jr.'s father
- 26. Concealed
- 29. One who works with the police (abbr.)
- 30. Lawyers
- 31. Look of disapproval
- 32. Longed
- 35. Type of power cable (abbr.)
- 36. Hindu cymbals
- 38. Young women (French)
- 40. Swiss river
- 41. Expression of annoyance
- 42. Where criminals go
- 43. Inwardly
- 44. Luck
- 45. One point north of due east
- 46. Originally called
- 47. Defunct airline

CLUES ACROSS

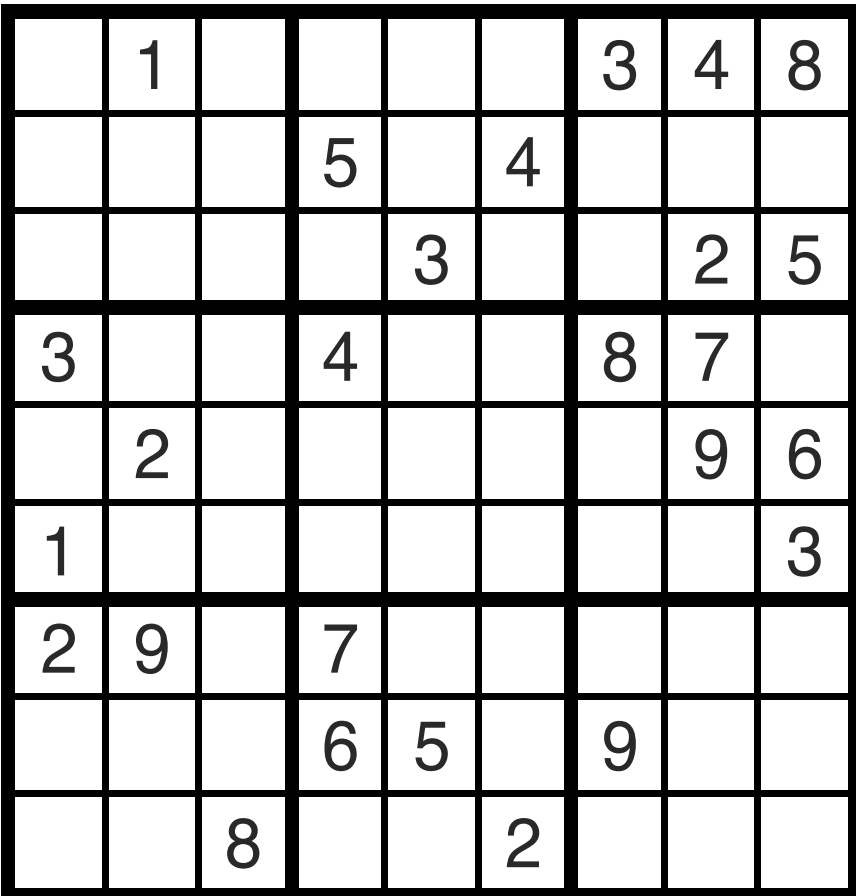
- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk

CLUES DOWN

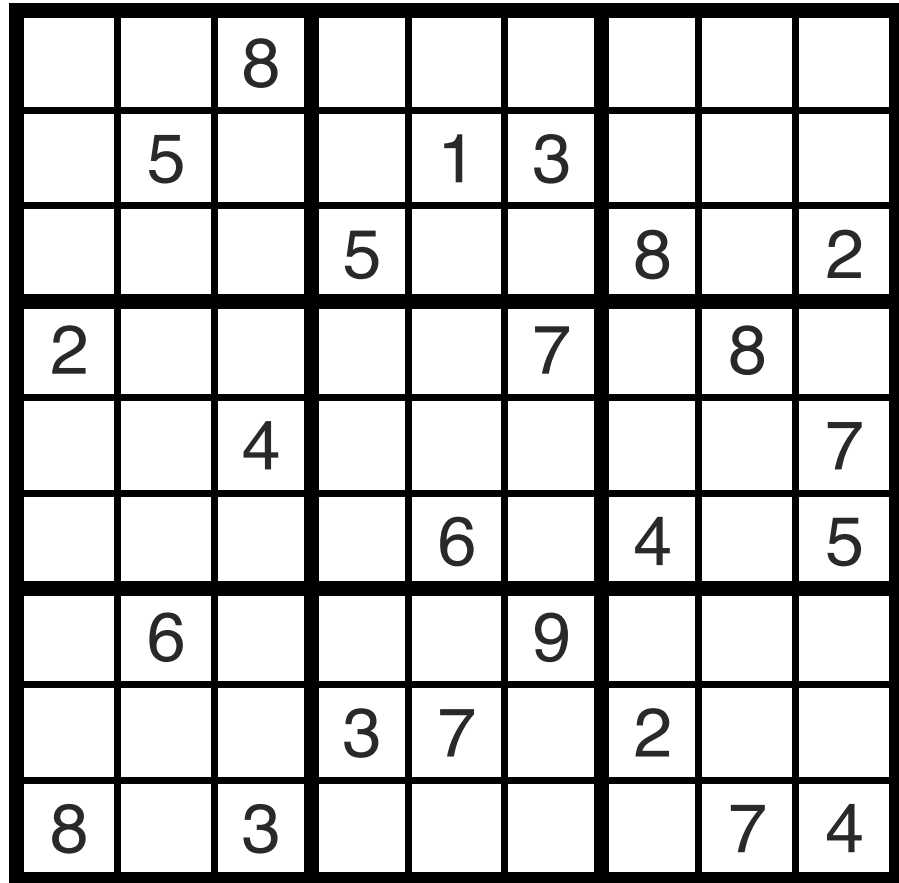
- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south & southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface

- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskeys
- 61. ___ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of wate

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate



Level: Intermediate

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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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!



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City of Milan announces Residential Rental Registration and Inspection Policy

By City of Milan

MILAN —The city of Milan is officially launching the Residential Rental Registration and Inspection Policy, an initiative designed to protect public health, safety, and the general welfare of the people of the city of Milan who are residing in residential rental properties.

The initiative comes after the Milan City Council voted to approve the creation of

the policy on Jan. 2, during the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen meeting.

“By establishing and enforcing these guidelines, the city of Milan is now in a better position to enhance the overall quality of residential rental properties and ultimately prohibit the spread of blight,” said Mayor Andy Herington. “I commend the Board of Aldermen for their initiative to protect the safety and stability of

residential rental properties throughout the city.”

Beginning March 18, residential rental property owners shall register their rental property with the city of Milan; and, effective end of day April 30, any unregistered residential rental dwellings and/or units will be in violation and subject to penalty. Registrations are valid until Dec. 31 of the registration year and must be submit-

ted annual. A \$10 fee per dwelling/unit is due at the time of registration.

Once registered, an inspection will be scheduled with the residential rental property owner by the City Administrator or his/her designate and, upon completion of a successful inspection, a certification of occupancy will be issued. Each residential rental property will be required to be reinspected every 24



months OR when a property has a change in occupancy. This policy does allow for an inspection to take place by the City Administrator or his/her designate at any time upon receipt of a complaint that a residen-

tial rental property is not in compliance. An inspection fee of \$15 per dwelling/unit is required upon completion of inspection.

For more information, contact the city of Milan, City Hall at (660) 265-4411.

Truman State Forensics ranks among top teams in the nation

By Truman State University

Alex Peterson and Ella Schnake of the Truman Speech Team competed in the American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in early April and finished 17th in the open division.

They competed against 58 of the top teams and hundreds of the most talented competitors in the nation. Despite only having two members representing the team, Truman Speech outperformed teams such as Northwestern University, Seton Hall and South Dakota State University. Truman Forensics has not attended the NST in more than 15 years, making this outing a special addition to the team's history.

A double-major in political science/international relations and sociology, Schnake made it to the semifinal rounds in extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking and prose interpretation, placing among the top 12 in the nation in each event. She was also a quarterfinalist (top 24) in both communication analysis and dramatic interpretation.

Schnake was also acknowledged as a member of the AFA All-American team, a prestigious honor recognizing students for their strong dedication to and high achievements in

forensics, service responsibilities and academics. She has maintained a 4.0 throughout her career at Truman, was the president of Delta Zelta sorority on campus, is an advocate for Missouri children and family services, served on the University Board of Governors, is a leader on the speech team and has an extensive record of success in forensics speech and debate.

Some of Schnake's most noteworthy accomplishments include earning first place in the pentathlon category at the Missouri state tournament the past three years, being named the top forensicator in Missouri the past two years, third place in dramatic interpretation and sixth place in duo at the 2023 Pi Kappa Delta national tournament, among multiple other state championship titles and national outround performances.

Peterson, a double-major in criminal justice and social issue advocacy, earned their spot in the quarterfinals for both after-dinner speaking and impromptu. Due to AFA's more rigorous competition, getting to any outround at the tournament is a great accomplishment, and making it to two outrounds as a sophomore is extremely rare.

Previously in March, members of the debate team competed online at the third annual Grand

Prix Lincoln-Douglas (LD) nationals warmup tournament, hosted by Western Kentucky University. The debate team earned a collective third place finish out of 19 schools.

At the Grand Prix, seniors Alicia Stout and Elijah Baum were recognized as members of the All-American team, highlighting their robust achievements in academics and debate throughout their respective undergraduate careers. Stout has also maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her career, and Baum has maintained above a 3.5.

Some of Stout's most prominent accomplishments include the second place national runner-up and sixth place speaker in LD at the 2023 Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament. As a sophomore, she was a double-octofinalist (top 32) and fourth place speaker at NFA nationals in 2022. Baum has consistently placed in outrounds at the MAFA state tournament throughout his entire time on the debate team, making it to the quarterfinal round (top eight) in both his junior and senior years.

Baum earned his spot as an octofinalist (top 12) and open 10th place speaker at the tournament, and Stout made it to the semifinal round (top four) and was first place speaker in the open/varsity division.



Freshman Ben Croat was the tournament champion and first place speaker in the novice division at the tournament. Croat also received an Emerging Debater of the Year award for his outstanding record of competitive success throughout his first year as a collegiate debater.

Freshman Payten Luders placed as the 10th speaker in the junior varsity division.

Stout, Baum, Croat and senior Eli Bartz were all recognized as National Debate Scholars at the tournament for their impressive academic records and high achievements in debate.

All of the debaters competing at the Grand Prix are currently political science and international relations majors at Truman.

“Seeing these students do so well in both school and forensics is so inspiring, and I'm lucky to work with such motivated and talented students,” said

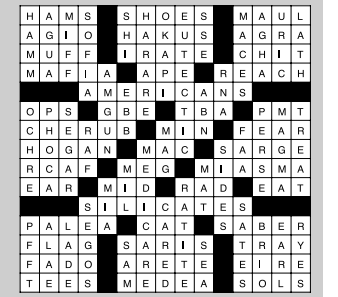
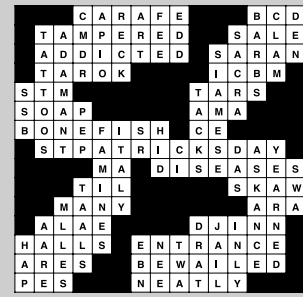
Ben Davis, director of forensics.

The team has one remaining tournament left this year, the National Forensic Association (NFA) national tournament, hosted at Central Michigan University. The team leaves

April 16 for the week-long competition that will conclude their season.

Students interested in joining the Forensics Union should contact Davis at bdavis@truman.edu or visit forensics.truman.edu/joinus

PUZZLE ANSWERS



Grid of numbers for a puzzle.

Grid of numbers for a puzzle.

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YARD SALES

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HUGE MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE April 27th, 17940 Bethel Ridge Rd, Novinger, Mo, 3 miles North of Novinger on 149 to Bethel Ridge Rd. Variety of home decor including holiday, clothes, men and women, small to XL, dog house and crates, sleeping bags, Pampered Chef cookware, weed eater, hedge trimmer.

Huge garage sale 21228 Potter Road, West of Floor-Mart. May 3-4, 9-3. Cement yard figures, sewing machine fence posts, scroll saw, weed eater, tools.

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Tennis Lessons are back this summer

By Kirkville Parks and Recreation Dept.

Keep your kids active this summer by joining the Kirkville Parks and Recreation Department for tennis lessons.

Each two-week tennis session will teach and enhance skills through fun and engaging lessons for kids ages 7 through 15. Skilled instructors are local champions who will teach fundamentals to beginners and fine-tune techniques in intermediate and advanced/intermediate classes. Each session is \$45 per child.

Each session will run Monday through Thursday for two consecutive weeks, with Fridays reserved as rain make-up days. Each class is one hour long and participants are encouraged to bring their racket and wear closed-toe tennis shoes. Session dates are as follows:

- Session 1: June 17 – 28
- Session 2: July 1 – 12 (No Session July 4)
- Session 3: July 22 – Aug. 2



Beginner classes will take place at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., intermediate classes will be held at 10:30 a.m., and advanced/intermediate classes will be held at 11:30 a.m.

To register online, visit www.parks.kirkvillecity.com or sign up in person at the Kirkville Aquatic Center. For more information, contact the Kirkville Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

City recognizes Week of the Young Child 2024

By City of Kirkville

The city of Kirkville recognizes the Week of the Young Child 2024 during the week of April 22.

The city of Kirkville values the importance of children's positive experiences in shaping their learning and development during their earliest years. The city also supports the idea of high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care and early childhood education. Quality education and health of a child from birth are vital to building a strong community, state and country.

The Kirkville City Council and the Kirkville Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with several local organizations, join together in recognizing and



supporting the people and programs that are committed to providing high-quality early childhood education and services.

Multiple free events are going on during the week to promote positive learning experiences across many fields.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities and to commit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of environment that will promote their early learning.

Kirkville Area Chamber of Commerce

May 2024 Executive Director: Marie Murphree

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
PHONE: 660-665-3766

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Small Business Week is Just Around the Corner!

For more than 60 years, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has celebrated National Small Business Week, which acknowledges the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year, National Small Business Week takes place April 28 - May 4, 2024. With Small Business Week quickly approaching, now is a great time recognize small businesses and the positive impact they make on our communities and the economy.

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What is a small business?

According to the Small Business Administration, a small business in one with 500 or fewer employees though the vast majority of small businesses employ 20 people or less. In fact, around 80% of small businesses in the United States are operated by the owner with no additional employees.

What impact do small businesses have?

Small businesses account for over 99% of all U.S. businesses and employ nearly half of our workforce. Of new jobs created in the last 25 years, around two-thirds have been a result of small business. The impact that these businesses have can be felt at a local level too. Small businesses help keep your dollars local and can provide products and services that meet needs specific to your community.

How to start a small business?

Starting a business requires an idea, some initiative, and typically some form of investment. While there isn't a one size fits all approach to starting a business, the Small Business Development Center is here to help you shape your ideas into a successful business. To celebrate Small Business Week, we will be conducting a **Small Business 101 training on Thursday, May 2nd at 6 PM** covering topics from business planning and registration to funding and market positioning. The training will be hosted in the Economic Development Alliance Building at 315 S. Franklin and is open to everyone. Whether you are trying to grow your business, or you're just getting started, we want to help! Give us a call to schedule an appointment at **660-665-3348**

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ON THE HORIZON

- May 3- Business After Hours - Gallery 104 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- May 15-Grounds for Discussion- EDA Building- 8:00 -9:00 a.m.
- May 16 -Business After Hours - Los Cabos 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- May 17- Ribbon Cutting - Guardian Hills Veterans Healing Center- 4:30 p.m.

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