

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

KIRKSVILLEDAILEXPRESS.COM

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 | \$2

Kirksville man found guilty of child molestation charges

Staff Reports

Tracy Homer, 47 of Kirksville, was found guilty of four felony charges that included child molestation and statutory sodomy.

According to the Adair County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, on Tuesday, Jan. 28, after a two-day jury trial, an Adair County jury found Homer guilty of Statutory Sodomy-first degree (unclassified felony) (one count); Child Molesta-

tion-second degree (B felony) (three counts); Child Molestation-third degree (C felony) (one count); and Child Molestation-fourth degree (E felony) (one count).

"These offenses occurred between 2018 and 2021 within the city limits of Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri," prosecutors wrote in a press release. "At the time of these offenses, one victim was under the age of twelve years old and the other victim was molested when they were thir-

teen years old and when they were fourteen years old."

Prosecutors said that Judge Matthew J. Wilson ordered the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole to complete a sentencing assessment report and scheduled a sentencing hearing for Monday, April 7. Homer's bond was revoked and he was remanded to the custody of the Adair County Sheriff.

This case was investigated by the Kirksville Police Department.



Adair County Courthouse



Jana Russon PHOTO BY FB.COM/JOHNNYCARTERDESIGN

Missouri-Southern Iowa Art Guild Celebrated Artist for January 2025

By Missouri-Southern Iowa (MOSI) Art Guild

The Missouri-Southern Iowa (MOSI) Art Guild named Jana Russon to be the MOSI Celebrated Artist for the month of January 2025.

Russon's photograph is titled "Sis-

ters". The piece is a family record that has been digitally enhanced. See more of Jana's photography at www.janaphotos.com.

MOSI (Northeast Missouri and Southern Iowa) Art Guild encourages any artist, or supporter of the arts to join them on the second Thursday

of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Adair County Annex Building, 300 N. Franklin Street, Kirksville. For more information about MOSI and exhibit dates, visit www.mosiartguild.org and www.facebook.com/MOSIartguild. Email MOSI at info@mosiartguild.org.

Kirksville man charged with armed robbery

By Kirksville Police Department

A 20-year-old Kirksville man has been arrested and charged following an armed robbery earlier this month.

At approximately 10 p.m. on Jan. 8, Kirksville police responded to a robbery at the New Star Mart at 1312 S. Baltimore Street about an armed robbery. Responding officers were informed a white male suspect entered the business and came around the counter. The clerk reported the male suspect demanded money from the register and stated he would shoot the clerk. The male left the business with an undisclosed amount of cash.

In the following days, officers encountered Kaydyn K. Aldridge, 20, of Kirksville, regarding another investigation. Officers noted that Aldridge matched the description of the prior robbery suspect, including some of his clothing items. During the subsequent investigation, probable cause was established that Aldridge committed the New Star Mart robbery.

On Jan. 24, Aldridge was charged in Adair County Court with one count of First-Degree Robbery. He is currently being held at the Schuyler County Jail on unrelated charges.

The investigation into the robbery is still active.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Kirksville Police Department at 660-785-6945, or anonymously at 660-627-BUST (2878), or email police@kirksvillecity.com.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Kirksville man pleads guilty to enticement

By Kirksville Police Department

Killian Andre Langley, 28, of Kirksville, pleaded guilty to attempted enticement of a child in Adair County Circuit Court on Jan. 14, and was sentenced by Judge Matthew Wilson to eight years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

The criminal investigation of this case began on Sept. 7, 2023, when Langley contacted an online undercover persona (UC)

he believed was a 13-year-old girl. This UC was a Kirksville Police detective assigned part-time to the Kirksville Regional Computer Crimes Unit/Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

On Jan. 11, 2024, Langley made conversation, sexual in nature, saying he wished the UC was of legal age and suggested they meet to engage in sex acts. On Jan. 16, 2024, Langley suggested meeting the UC in a nearby park to have sex with the UC. Langley waited in the park in 5-degree weather until he was greeted by Kirksville Police and placed under arrest.

The Kirksville Regional Computer Crimes Unit/Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is made possible from funds provided in part by the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and funds from Cyber Crime Grants through the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The KRCCU has existed since 2006 and handles both proactive and reactive cases for 13 counties in Northeast Missouri. In addition to cases like this one, the KRCCU provides educational presentations to adults and children on the topics of Cyber Safety and Internet Crimes.



Langley

Adair County commissioners adopt 2025 budget

By Marty Bachman
Daily Express

Adair County commissioners approved the 2025 budget at their meeting held on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Total revenue expected to pass through the county is set at \$28,716,364 with \$5,851,722 in general fund revenue, \$8,877,060 in the bridges and roads fund, \$1,316,286 in the assessment fund and \$386,711 in the financial emergency fund.

Total expenditures from all county departments are predicted to be \$21,050,249 with \$4,624,033 being spent out of the general fund, \$6,675,958 for bridges and roads, and \$631,323 from the assessment fund.

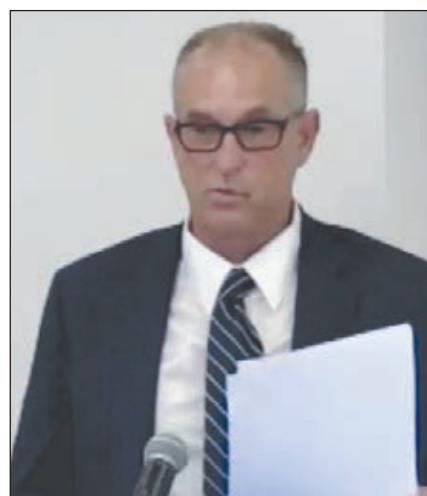
Presiding Commissioner Mark Shahan said there were basically few changes from the last budget, though there was a new set of eyes on the process

as newly elected commissioner Gayla McHenry was recently seated. Shahan said that county commissioners had met with the various county department heads and that while no employees had been cut, there were needs for additional staffing for the administrator's office and the prosecutor's office.

"We did review everyone's budget and it's an estimate," Shahan said. "We had lots of questions and we'll be kind of looking out and see on how it goes the rest of the year."

Shahan said that there was a lot of conversation about the sheriff's budget and that they had to move some stuff around like the work at the jail, which caused some additional expenditures for housing prisoners.

"Nothing major, though — really it wasn't," he said. "Everybody wants more money, right? You always ask for more and then you settle. There wasn't



Presiding Commissioner Mark Shahan

nothing of controversy of any kind as far as approving this year's budget."

The budget has been forwarded to the state for certification.

INSIDE

CommunityA2 Local HistoryA5 ClassifiedsB3-B4
ObituariesA3 NewsA6 Church Directory B5
ColumnsA4 SportsB1-B2 Valentin's Day B6

OBITUARIES INSIDE

Eldon Kenward Klocke, 85
Betty Sue Bennett, 80



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kirksville Area Calendar of Events

Kirksville Tourism Advisory Board meeting

The city of Kirksville's Tourism Advisory Board will hold a meeting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Economic Development Alliance Building, 315 S. Franklin Street.

Curtain Call Theatre Company presents 'In the Good Old Summertime'

Curtain Call Theatre Company invites you to view the 1949 romantic comedy musical film "In the Good Old Summertime" starring Judy Garland and Van Johnson on Friday, Feb. 7, at the Curtain Call Theater, 512 W. Elizabeth Street, Kirksville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie at 7 p.m.. Admission is free but donations are always greatly appreciated. Concessions available.

Groundbreaking ceremony to be held for cancer treatment center

Northeast Regional Medical Center is reintroducing radiation oncology to the community. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned on Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. at the hospi-

tal. This initiative will include the establishment of a comprehensive cancer treatment center, operated as a department of Northeast Regional Medical Center. The new facility aims to improve access to cancer care for local residents, reducing the need for travel to distant treatment centers. The center is expected to be operational by summer 2025.

Piano Festival Guest Artist Recital with Dr. Oliver Jia

A Piano Festival Guest Artist Recital by Dr. Oliver Jia will be held on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Truman State University Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall.

Truman Piano Festival Winners' Recital

Winners of the 2025 Truman Piano Festival Competition will perform in recital Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Truman State University Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. This recital is free and open to the public.

Faculty Chamber Recital: Elaine AuBuchon, Jesse Krebs & Julianna Moore with Ruoyang Xiang

A Faculty Chamber Recital featuring Elaine AuBuchon, Jesse Krebs and Julianna Moore with Ruoy-

ang Xiang, will be held Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. at the Truman State University Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall.

Truman State University Brass Faculty Recital

Truman Brass Faculty Patricia Mickey, Aren Van Houtzen, and Terri Wehmeyer will perform a free and open to the public recital on Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall.

Mary Immaculate's Annual Night of Merriment

Mary Immaculate's Annual Night of Merriment will be held on Friday, Feb. 21 at the White Oak Barn, 23255 MO-11, Kirksville. The Beads & Bling' celebration will include dinner, live music a silent and live auction featuring gift cards, gift baskets, handmade crafts, tickets, or specialty items; vacation stays, unique experiences, big-ticket items, or services. Tickets can be purchased at the school.

20th Annual Kirkville Polar Plunge will raise funds for Special Olympics Missouri

The 20th Annual Kirkville Special Olympics Polar Plunge will be held on Feb. 22, from 1-2 p.m. at Thousand Hills State Park. Regis-

tration can be done online — and day-of registration will be from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. All plungers must check in at the registration table before heading to the beach. There are three levels of plungers: Pee Wee Plunger (ages 9 and under) FREE; Polar Bear and Student Plunger (ages 18 and under) \$10. All Pee Wee Plunge participants must raise a minimum of \$25 by plunge day, to participate, and will plunge in a tank provided by the fire department. Pee Wee Plungers may not plunge into the lake. All participants must raise a minimum of \$75 by event day. Your \$10 registration fee will apply towards your \$75 minimum. For more information about the Polar Plunge, visit www.somo.org/plunge.

Truman State Orchestra Concert III (Gold Medal Winners)

The Truman State Orchestra's third concert of the season will be held on Feb 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall on campus. The concert will feature Glazunov's Saxophone Concerto, McAllister's X Concerto, Mascagni's Ave Maria, and Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet. This concert is free and open to the public. Streaming live at <https://www.youtube.com/trumanmusicconcerts/streams>.

NEMO Bridal Expo

The NEMO Bridal Expo will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, at the NEMO Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Building in Kirksville. There will be a x & greet with vendors, a fashion show and a live band. Plan the wedding of your dreams in Kirksville. Hosted by the Wedding Library/NEMO Bridal Expo. Call (660) 341-9993 for more information.

Kirksville Mayor's 2025 State of the City Address

Kirksville Mayor Zac Burden will deliver the 2025 State of the City Address at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24 at the Economic Development Alliance Building, 315 S. Franklin Street. The event is free and open to the public. It will also be posted on the city's YouTube page afterward. Come hear about key projects that will happen or begin in Kirksville in 2025.

Northeast Christian High School Trivia Night

Northeast Christian High School in Kirksville will be hosting a Trivia Night on Thursday Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., Trivia begins at 6 p.m. Food and drinks will be available. Grand prize table winnings up to \$1,000. Additional prizes each round. \$200/ Table of 8; \$50/couple \$25 single player. To sign up call NCHS at 660-342-1100.

Truman State University organization offers free tax assistance

By Truman State University

A Truman State University financial organization is offering free tax help to community members.

Beta Alpha Psi will host Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) sessions from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 22, March 1 and March 29 in Violette Hall 1424. Beta Alpha Psi is an international scholastic and professional organization for financial information professionals.

Clients who come to VITA should bring: social security cards for spouses and dependents; bank routing numbers and bank account numbers for direct deposit; wage and earnings statements such as W-2, 1098T and 1099; and a copy of last year's federal and state tax returns if available. VITA services will be completed by IRS-certified volunteers and will also offer free electronic filing to receive a faster return.

Appointments are required. Community members who would like to schedule an appointment can call (660) 785-6064. For more information, visit bap.truman.edu/vita.

THE KIRKSVILLE QUARTERLY

We print 5,000 copies; 800 go to Kirkville Daily Express subscribers' homes, the other 4,200 are delivered to grocery/convenience stores and other local businesses for customers to pick up for FREE in the following towns: Kirkville, Novinger, Green Castle, Green City, Milan, Greentop, Queen City, Edina, La Plata and Macon.

On the Streets March 26

Deadline to Advertise: March 5

Print Ad Sizes and Rates

Full Color Glossy Magazine

Ad Size	1 Time	2 Times	4 Time
Full Page	\$895	\$845	\$775
Half Page	\$475	\$445	\$395
1/4 Page	\$275	\$225	\$220
1/8 Page	\$150	\$140	\$125

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OBITUARIES

Eldon Kenward Klocke

Sep 26, 1939 – Jan 22, 2025

Eldon Kenward Klocke, 85, of Colony, MO died Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at Fulton Manor Care Center in Fulton, Missouri.

Eldon was born on September 26, 1939, in Kirksville, Missouri, the son of Paul Robert and Alma Blanche McEwen Klocke.

He attended school at Edina, Missouri, where he graduated from Edina High School in the Class of 1957. Eldon also attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri for two years following high school.

On March 7, 1962, in Knox City, Missouri, Eldon married Judith Ann Wilson. Following their marriage, they relocated to Lawton, OK while Eldon was enlisted in the US Army Auxiliary Artillery where he was designated Sharpshooter (rifle) and Expert (carbine). Following Eldon's discharge from the Army, they relocated to rural Edina, MO and was a member of the US Army Reserves where he reached the rank of Sergeant. In 1973, they moved to Colony, MO to make their home.

Eldon's occupation upon returning from the service was farming in Edina and later Colony as well as a Garst Seed Company Dealer. In 1974, the family had the honor of being selected for the "Farm Family Award" at the Missouri State Fair. In the early 1990's Eldon began driving a semi-truck for many years, crossing many of the 48 contiguous states prior to his retirement.

Eldon was initially a member of the Edina Christian Church, later ordained as a deacon at the Colony Baptist Church and following the closure of the church attended Knox City Baptist Church. He was a member of the Colony Masonic Lodge #168 A.F. & A.M., a member of the Knox City American Legion Post 358, active in the Farm Bureau board, and a sponsor of the Knox County 4-H Program. He also was a member of the Knox County Jaycee's and the Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club for several years. Eldon served as Knox County Presiding Commissioner in 1989/1990 and served on the Republican Committee board.

Eldon was close to completing his bucket list of visiting every state in the country with only Nevada and North Dakota remaining. He was extremely proud of taking trips to Alaska in 2021 and Hawaii in 2023 and loved to share the photos that he took. He enjoyed driving his motorcycles and sports cars, attending tractor pulls and races, deer hunting, water skiing, visiting friends at the coffee shops and local restau-

rants, and spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.



Eldon is survived by three daughters, Karla (David) Sanders of Kirksville, Missouri, Rhonda (John) Bruce of Overland Park, Kansas, and Connie (David) Epperson of Fulton, Missouri; six grandchildren, Nikki (Josh) Burgoon of Shawnee, Kansas, Brittney (Lawrence) Rukse of Fulton, Missouri, Kirsten (Raven) Craig of Quincy, Illinois, Courtney Bruce of Garland, Texas, Taylor (Freddie III) Manor of Belton, Missouri and Kaitlyn Epperson of Kansas City, Missouri; nine great grandchildren, Annalise Craig of Quincy, Illinois, Grace and Jack Burgoon of Shawnee, Kansas, Brody and Leona Rukse of Fulton, MO, and Briella, Freddie IV, Kaia and Taytum Manor of Belton, Missouri; one brother, Glen Klocke of Edina, Missouri, one sister, Anita (John Clauson) Miller of Knox City, Missouri; three brothers-in-law, Doug (Alma) Wilson of Knox City, Missouri, Mike (Linda) Wilson of Knox City, Missouri, and James Laney of Columbia, Missouri; along with a host of nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Eldon was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Klocke; son, Brian Klocke; grandson, Brennan Sanders; parents, Paul and Blanche Klocke; in-laws, Shelton and Marjorie Wilson; sisters-in-law, Mary Lynn Laney, Velma Wilson and Shirley Klocke, and brother-in-law, Donnie Wilson.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the Doss Funeral Home in Edina, MO. Pastor Doug Wilson will officiate the services.

Visitation will be between 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Friday, January 31, 2025 at the Doss Funeral Home with Masonic services at 6:00 p.m.

Burial with military honors will be held will be in the Colony Cemetery in Colony, Missouri to follow.

Casket Bearers will be David Sanders, John Bruce, Dave Epperson, John P. Miller, Eric Miller, Robert Klocke, and James Wilson. Honorary Bearers will be Shawn Wilson, Norman Primm, Bobby Pape, Allan See, Ed See, Clay See, Lee Walters, and Bill Brown.

An expression of sympathy in memory of Eldon Klocke may be made to the Knox County Nutrition Site, Knox City Baptist Church, Parkinsons Foundation or the Donor's Choice. A memorial may be left at or mailed to the Doss Funeral Home 208 N. 4th Street, Edina, Missouri 63537.

Betty Sue Bennett

Feb 8, 1944 – Jan 24, 2025

Betty Sue Bennett, 80, of Kirksville, Missouri, passed away Friday, January 24, 2025 at the Schuyler County Nursing Home.

Betty Sue was born February 8, 1944 in Winigan, Missouri to Wesley Ellis and Isabelle (Young) Ware. Survivors include: Three sons, Greg (Sheila) Leaton of West Virginia, Douglas Smith of Kirksville, and Jerry (Michealene) Smith of Norco, California; 7 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; one sister, Mary Lou (Jerry) Bowzer of St. Charles, Missouri. She was preceded in death by: Her parents; and husband, Bill Bennett.

Betty Sue grew up in Winigan on a turkey farm, graduating from Liberty High School in Browning, Missouri, Class of 1961. After

graduation, she lived in Brookfield, Chicago, and then to Kirksville. She worked at the Kirksville Daily Express selling ads, while also being a homemaker on the farm. She then was a Watkins representative for many years.



Betty Sue enjoyed the farm life, gardening, the animals, and being outside.

A visitation for Betty Sue will be held 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, Monday, February 10, 2025 at Ruschmeier-Smith Funeral Home in Green City, Missouri. A graveside will follow at 12:30 PM, at Price Cemetery, South of Winigan, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the family, and can be made payable to Ruschmeier-Smith Funeral Home.

KIRKSVILLE AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Kirksville business license renewals due at end of February

If you own or manage a Kirksville business, it's time to complete your business license renewal for 2025. Business license renewals were mailed the first week of January on pink paper to valid business license holders. Business license renewals are due back to the city on or before Feb. 28. Return the completed renewal form, along with all required documents and fees, to the Finance Department at City Hall. If you have not received your renewal notice, please contact the Finance Department at 660-627-1251. If not renewed by Feb. 28, your business license is delinquent and subject to a \$100 late fee.

The failure of any contractor to renew a contractor's license by March 1 requires the contractor to pay a recertification fee of \$100. The failure of any contractor to renew a contractor's license by March 31 requires any contractor who does not meet the waiver requirements to retest, regardless of previous waivers issued, and start the application process for a new business license. To receive a contractor, electrician, or plumber's license, the contractor has to pass their respective test, unless they qualify for an exemption to the testing which might be in effect at that time.

First Christian Church holding online auction

First Christian Church in Kirksville is holding an online auction for the church's construction fund at the following address: <https://givebutter.com/c/afO2n/auction>. If any business would like to donate items, contact the church office at 660-665-4636. Bidding closes on Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.

Kirksville seeks applicants for Tourism Advisory Board

The city of Kirksville is eager to involve community-minded citizens in local government through one of our many Citizen Advisory Commissions. The City Council is currently accepting citizen applications for one opening on the Tourism Advisory Board. The board oversees the operations of Kirksville Tourism and the collection of the city's lodging tax. Visit kirksville.gov/p/boards-commissions and submit your application before Friday, Feb. 7, at 5 p.m., to be considered for the opportunity to serve. For more information, contact City Clerk Diane Albrecht at 660-627-1225.

NEMO Gun Show to be held this week

The NEMO Gun Show will be held on Feb 7-9, in Kirksville at the NEMO Fairgrounds, hosted by BK Promotions. All federal and local firearm laws and ordinances must be obeyed. Friday: 4-8 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: General \$10, children 12 and under, free. Admission good all weekend.

'Medea' Theatre Production dates

"Medea" Theatre Production will be held Feb. 20-22 at 7:30 p.m., and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 23 at the Truman State University James G. Severns Theatre. Ticket information at boxoffice.truman.edu. The mythic figure of Medea – outsider, woman, sorcerer – has captivated audiences for millennia. When Jason, the hero she helped and loved, abandons Medea for a royal match, she is driven to unimaginable vengeance. Truman Theatre faculty Cat Gleason brings this timeless tale to life within a contemporary framework that challenges our perceptions of the role of women, mothers, and outsiders in our society.

Pantry for Adair County Souper Bowl seeks participants

The Pantry for Adair County invites you to participate in the 2025 Souper Bowl! A lofty goal of 10,000 cans of soup has been set for this year's event, which runs from Jan. 10-Feb. 9. Donations accepted at the Pantry, 2012 S. Halliburton St., Kirksville or via our website and Venmo; cans of soup or funds for soup (\$1=1 can). Join Pantry for Adair County in conquering local food insecurity, one can of soup at a time. Get in the Game – Fight Hunger!!

Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department's 2025 sponsorship opportunities

Interested in promoting your business/organization and supporting local community events and programs? The city of Kirksville's Parks and Recreation Department has a wide range of sponsorship opportunities for you that include:

- 6th Annual Kids Mini Mud Mile
- Tiny Tykes Soccer
- KBSL Team Sponsorship
- Little Sluggers Tee Ball
- Red White and Blue Community Concert & Fireworks

Kids Touch A Truck and Magic Show

Click here to view the city's 2025 sponsorship opportunities. For more information or to secure your sponsorship, contact Luke Callaghan at lkcallaghan@kirksville.gov or by calling 660-627-1485.

Build A Buddy is Back

Looking for the perfect Valentine's Day activity with your kids? The Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce its Build A Buddy program is back. Each kit contains everything you need to build your very own stuffed buddy: a 15-inch stuffable animal, stuffing, mini heart, birth certificate and step-by-step instructions. Each kit costs \$15 and can be purchased in person at the Kirksville Aquatic Center while supplies last. Pick them up now before they're all gone. For more information, contact Luke Callaghan with the Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

Sue Ross Arts Center 2025 Regional Artist Exhibit

Sue Ross Arts Center 2025 Regional Artist Exhibit will run through Feb. 21, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A reception will be held on Jan. 16 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Sue Ross Arts Center is located at 215 S. Franklin Street in Kirksville.

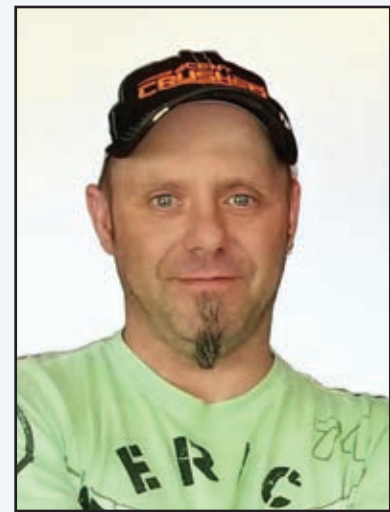
Truman State University Art Gallery Exhibit

Still Life with Bowl of Universe – Ari Norris and Timothy Norris, through Feb. 28; Terra Fracta – William McKinney – in the Charlyn Gallery. The University Art Gallery resides in the renovated gymnasium in Ophelia Parrish Fine Arts Center located on Truman State University's campus near the intersection of East Normal Street and South Mulanix Street. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Gallery Hours are Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday noon – 4:30 p.m. Please note, the University Art Gallery is closed between exhibitions and during all Truman State University breaks. During regular business hours, free on-street parking is available on South Florence Street and South Mulanix Street. After hours and on Saturdays, you may park in the university parking lots off East Normal Street for free.

Kiwanis Club hears from organic farming inspector

By Kirksville Kiwanis Club

The Kirksville Kiwanis Club welcomed its newest member and fellow Kiwanian, Mike Patterson, to speak at their Jan. 23 meeting. Patterson is an inspector of organic farms. He presented on organic farming and his job as an inspector. Pictured are Kirksville Kiwanis Club President and sponsoring member Ted Frushour (left), and Patterson.



Celebration of Life Gathering in honor of

Mike T. Baird.

2:00pm Sunday Feb 9 2025

3:00pm Prayer Service

Novinger Firehouse

Novinger, MO

Lunch to follow

Sympathies can be sent to Sheila Wurr
400 4th Ave. Coon Rapids IA 50058

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HOME COUNTRY

Raining frozen cowboys



SLIM RANGLES
HOME COUNTRY

This is 'bout the best time of year," said Steve, "to get out and do something fun, like go to a rodeo."

"Awful cold out there right now, Steve," said Doc, who has more degrees than a thermometer. "I guess it's a good thing they have all those building rodeos these days."

"Well, that would take all the sport out of it, wouldn't it?" Steve said. "Dud, pass the sugar please."

Dud passed the sugar. "Don't know what you mean, Steve. Why would it take all the sport out of rodeo if the folks in the stands were comfortable?" "Cold factor," he said. "What?"

Now Steve was our resident cowboy here at the Mule Barn truck stop's philosophy counter. He still worked on ranches and lived in bunkhouses and saddled his horses one at a time, but his rodeo days were far behind him. It's a sport with a very short career ... one way or another.

"You see," Steve said, "when it's cold, the rough stock bucks harder ... 'specially the broncs. Not sure why, but you can see it even with broke horses. On a cold morning, they're liable to hump their backs and hop a few times just for fun, or to shake out the kinks. Same with rodeo broncs. With them, I think it's just more fun, though."

"Well, I can see where watching broncs in cold weather would make it more fun to watch," Doc said.

"That's only half of it," Steve said, grinning. "Those poor cowboys who ride them are cold and stiff, too. Doesn't help much with riding rank stock. And that's the reason it's more fun to watch a rodeo in cold weather. It tends to rain frozen cowboys."

Brought to you by Ol' Jimmy Dollar, Slim's children's book about a happy hounddog man and his "kids." See it at riograndebooks.com.

ROBIN WRITES

Waiting for the Prize Patrol

My young daughter and I were not sports fans. But every winter we counted the days until the Super Bowl.

It wasn't for football. We hated that. All that milling around. So many timeouts. The annoying roar of frantic fans. Even the Half-time shows were boring.

We considered the game an annoyingly 1-o-o-n-n-g commercial before our chance to win THE GRAND PRIZE!

The Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes van was driving around the United States with a billboard-sized check and oodles of money to give away. Some lucky household would see the vehicle in their driveway during the Super Bowl.

You didn't have to enter to win. You didn't have to spend money on a magazine to be the lucky recipient of MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

All a person had to do to win was:
1. Breathe air
2. Have a front door
We qualified.

So, each year, my daughter and I indulged in a little ritual we called, 'Gettin' Ready for The Van.' While John sat comatose in front of the TV, watching men in helmets meander across the screen, Andrea and I were two busy ladies.

First, we put up the sign. Andrea took great pride in creating a poster for the door. We wanted to make sure our visitors knew that we were the Leach family.



ROBIN GARRISON LEACH
ROBIN WRITES

The ones they were looking for. Every year our sign said the same thing:

THIS IS THE RIGHT HOUSE. PLEASE KNOCK—THE DOORBELL IS BROKEN.

We scribbled primary-colored balloons and huge green dollar signs on a poster-board sign. We didn't want to look like poor hicks on TV. We DID have the whole ten-pack of markers. And we were not too cheap to use them.

Then we stuck the sign to the outside of our front door with masking tape. It would have been more noticeable at the top of our driveway or down at the turnoff from the county road, but after the first year, John refused to take it up there anymore.

When we divvied up that money, he'd be sorry.

Next, we straightened the living room. Not too much—by the time they got here it'd be after 9 p.m. anyway; dark out here in the country.

We dimmed all the lamps, put a blanket over John (he'd be asleep by then), and got out the Carpet Fresh. Good enough.

Next, it was time to get dressed up. We refused to wait around in dumpy clothes. I think they liked the winners to do that, though. Especially the woman who brought the dozen roses.

We watched her each year when the camera zoomed in on the winning housewife—a sweet, unsuspecting female who was caught looking like Ma Kettle after a pig scramble.

Miss "I'm here to give you these flowers" always smiled just a little wider—she knew she was the only woman on camera wearing deodorant. Meow.

Our best bet was something from the "clean" basket by the dryer. We brushed our hair and put on shoes. This could be our TV debut: we shot the works.

Then the time came. We watched the gravel road for signs of dust. For taillights that winked a signal that a shiny van had overshot the driveway. (We'd wave 'em in if we had to.)

The Clearinghouse Sweepstakes Giveaway was simulcast on TV, so our heads rotated from the commercial to the front windows like two bags of Jolly Time Popcorn on a microwave turntable.

And while we waited, we practiced being surprised. When we saw the click of that suitcase-sized camera, we'd pop our eyes open wide and clutch at our palpating chests just like all the previous winners.

And if we didn't win? There was always next year.

Contact Robin at robinwrites@yahoo.com

THE ROCKWOOD FILES

What's the word, hummingbird?

Give me a minute. I'll think of it.

Words are hard — much harder than they used to be. It's a symptom of middle age I hadn't heard about until it started happening to me. A few aches and pains? Sure. Crow's-feet and laugh lines? Okay, fine.

But now Father Time is taking my words, too? That's a step too far. I'm a writer. A certified word nerd. I thought I was safe. This situation is a — what's the word? Disaster.

The inability to quickly say the word you're trying to say has a fancy medical name. It's called "anomic aphasia." Some people describe it as a "tip of the tongue" sensation — when you know the thing but can't say the thing.

Experts say it's usually caused by "typical age-related changes." Women get a double dose of it during the lead-up to menopause when hormonal fluctuations cause what's commonly known as "brain fog."

Oddly enough, not all words are as likely to get lost in the fog. Adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and pronouns usually show up just fine. It's the nouns we have trouble finding — the words that name people, places and things. Nouns are typically the first words we learn as babies, so it's embarrassing when you suddenly can't seem to say the most basic things.

Here's an example of what this sounds like in real life:

Me: "Tom, would you open the, um... the things over there? You know, the things that cover the... other thing?"

Him: "Things that cover the other thing? What are you talking about?"

Me: (Exasperated) "You know! The um... things that cover the glass we look out of to see the yard? Look! I'm pointing right at it."

Him: "You mean the window? Open the window? It's 20 degrees outside."

Me: "No, just open the things that cover the window."

Him: "We call those blinds."

Me: "YES! Blinds! That's what I'm saying."

Him: "No, you're saying 'the things that cover the things.'"

Me: "Same difference."

Lately, the word "thing" has become the crutch I use when I'm searching for simple words like "blinds," "window," can opener," and "car." Is this how actors feel when they're on stage and can't remember



GWEN ROCKWOOD
THE ROCKWOOD FILES

the next line — that sudden drop into blank nothingness?

These kinds of brief episodes can happen to anyone, and when they happen in the first half of life, you laugh and chalk it up to the occasional "brain fart." When they happen after the age of 50, you still laugh it off, but inwardly your mind races through silent questions. "What's wrong with me? Am I having a stroke? Is this early dementia? Is this a normal amount of word fumbling, or do I need a doctor?"

I'm glad my adjectives aren't affected, so I can describe how this noun drought feels: frustrating, annoying, exasperating, ridiculous, weird, humiliating, and flabbergasting.

But at least I'm not alone in this. Tom, who is five years older than me, experiences these tip-of-the-tongue moments, too. Thankfully, we've been married for more than 25 years, which means we've developed an invisible brain link that often allows us to do or say the thing the other person was thinking at that very moment. It's not a foolproof ability, as evidenced by the window blinds conversation above. But it works most of the time.

Sometimes I worry that we've each got half a brain and can only function at our best when we're both in the same room, filling in each other's blank spots. I'm grateful we still like each other because if we ever split up, we'd both be total idiots. Let's pray it never comes to that.

I hope this mid-life brain strain will straighten itself out soon because I want my nouns back, thank you very much. For years, I've been collecting words and phrases like other people collect baseball cards or antiques. When I read or hear a great quote, I scoop it up like a rare diamond and add it to my treasure.

Speaking of words, if you have a few to say (and can actually think of what they are), feel free to send me a... thing." That thing you write on the computer and send through the Internet. Know what I mean?

Gwen Rockwood is a syndicated freelance columnist. Email (that's it!) her at gwenrockwood5@gmail.com. Her book is available on Amazon.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER

American Heart Month

By **Kirstyn Dietle, MPH, CHES**
Health Educator
Adair County Health Dept.

Welcome to the Public Health Corner:

February is American Heart Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about cardiovascular health and encouraging people to take proactive steps toward a healthier heart. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, affecting individuals of all ages and backgrounds. This observance serves as a reminder to adopt heart-healthy habits and educate communities on the importance of prevention, early detection, and treatment.

Understanding Heart Disease

Heart disease encompasses a range of conditions, including coronary artery disease, heart failure, and arrhythmias. The most common form, coronary artery disease (CAD), occurs when plaque builds up in the arteries, restricting blood flow to the heart and increasing the risk of heart attacks.

Risk Factors for Heart Disease

Several factors contribute to heart disease, including:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Smoking



- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Lack of physical activity
- Poor diet
- Excessive alcohol consumption
- Family history of heart disease

Managing these risk factors through lifestyle changes and regular checkups can significantly reduce the likelihood of developing cardiovascular issues.

Steps to Improve Heart Health

American Heart Month encourages individuals to adopt heart-healthy habits, such as:

Eating a Balanced Diet: Focus on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats while reducing sodium, sugar and processed foods.

Staying Active: Aim for at least 150 minutes of mod-

erate-intensity exercise per week, such as brisk walking, cycling or swimming.

Monitoring Blood Pressure and Cholesterol: Regular screenings help detect early signs of heart disease.

Quitting Smoking: Tobacco use significantly increases heart disease risk. Quitting smoking immediately benefits heart health.

Managing Stress: Chronic stress can negatively impact the heart. Techniques such as meditation, deep breathing, and adequate sleep promote overall well-being.

American Heart Month is an opportunity to prioritize cardiovascular health and empower individuals to take control of their well-being. Small, consistent changes can lead to a healthier heart and a longer life. Take action today to protect your heart and inspire others to do the same!

POETRY CORNER

What's Lost and Trying To Be Found

The warm sun... entered the old house... and streaked across the cracked, wooden floor,

The rustic oak door... was slightly jarred open... exposing a room that felt elegance no more.

Up a flight of steps... revealed more neglect... empty rooms, with scattered debris,

What once stood proud... was now forlorn... nothing like it used to be.

Seeing this... you feel compassion... for what's lost and trying to be found,

It's like walking along... a busy, city street... with homeless people just milling around.

— Daniel D. Donovan



EMBRACING LOCAL HISTORY

Part 140

Theaters of Kirksville - Chapter 13 - The Joys and Perils of Operating The Silver Star Drive-In Theatre

By Blytha Ellis, President
Adair County Historical
Society and Museum

The Silver Star Drive-in Theatre opened in Kirksville on June 4, 1950, to a very enthusiastic crowd. Its owners were Day and Frances Mangus. The first movie shown there was "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" with Bing Crosby and Rhonda Fleming.

In January 2018, Pam Sylvara, Biographer for the Adair County Historical Society, wrote an article on the history of the Drive-in and its owners with the assistance of Mangus daughter, Marilyn "Jo" (Mangus) Miller and other family members. Much of this information comes from that story.

Before the movie started on opening night, Day Mangus gave the following speech over the loud speaker: "This is Day Mangus speaking. It is with sincere pride that we open this drive-in theater, presenting for your pleasure and relaxation a new civic institution. In dedicating this amusement center to our patrons, we have installed every known modern improvement for your safety, comfort and convenience. Everything has been done that will make your visits to the Silver Star Drive-in pleasant ones to be remembered."

"We, therefore, ask your cooperation in helping to keep this theater as nice and comfortable as possible. Remember, this is your theater. Make the Silver

Star Drive-in your amusement center. Spend your leisure hours here among these beautiful surroundings and in the privacy and comfort of your own car.

"I would like to thank each and everyone that has given us their cooperation and service in building this theater. In this spirit of service, the staff, my wife, and myself dedicate this Silver Star Drive-in to the highest ideals of entertainment — and to you. Thank you."

In the beginning, ushers were provided to instruct movie goers who were new to the concept of drive-in theaters, how and where to park and how to attach the new speakers to their car windows. In the center of the theater grounds was a building housing the projection room, restrooms, and a large concession stand which was managed by Frances Mangus. They sold hot dogs, popcorn, cold drinks, ice cream, novelties and their famous juicy burgers. Of course, there was no objection to people bringing their own food items in their cars for snacking during the movie.

Day himself always claimed a parking space at the first speaker to the right of the concession stand. His daughters reported that Day never missed a movie. He would generally comment after each film, "That was the best one yet."

The drive-in also boasted a children's grassy playground directly in front of the big screen. There

were swings, slides and a merry-go-round. Benches were provided for parents to supervise their children as they played. It was common to see many children there, clad in pajamas, prepared to later be sleeping in the cars as their parents watched the late movies.

Day and Frances Mangus' daughter, Jo Miller, commented on the questionable security of the two cash boxes at the entrance ticket booth. Each side had a wooden money drawer under the ticket window. Jo felt that much better security would be required today. Jo related that several times her father told cashiers working the booth, "If someone wants to rob you, just hand them the money drawers." Fortunately, this never occurred.

However, there were often patrons who tried to get in for free. People would sneak others in through use of car trunks. Jo told us that once Day suspected a certain high school boy of hiding in a trunk, and Day called him by name and asked if he was in there. Without thinking, the guilty party answered "Yes" from inside the trunk!

One popular feature of the Drive-in was "Buck Nite." This was held on Tuesdays, one of the slower days for the theater. This was when a whole carload of people could get into the theater for \$1.00 per vehicle. This brought a full array of vehicle types such as pickup trucks with their

beds full and some flatbed trucks. These conveyances would generally park backwards and sometimes come with lawn chairs in the back.

Then, there were those too cheap to pay the admission fee and crawl under the tall fence that surrounded the parking area. These were usually high school kids. One of the businesses next door to the theater was Sellars Implement, and kids would park their cars in that lot when they crawled under the fence. Jo said that her father remained calm and allowed them to think they had hoodwinked the theater owner.

The Wabash railroad tracks ran behind the Mangus property, and some tricksters would walk the tracks until they were directly behind the entire parking area in line with the screen. They could watch the show from a distance, but they had no audio. This was also true with vehicles which would park farther west on what is now Industrial Road and view a silent movie.

Another problem the Drive-in faced was the continual replacement of car speakers. Destruction of speakers often came accidentally when tired movie goers would drive off forgetting about the speaker which had to be re-mounted on the pole beside the car. The moving vehicle would quickly snap the speaker cord. Other speakers could have been taken on pur-



Full view of the Silver Star Drive-in Theatre with the three Mangus homes on the right and the Mangus stables on the left. The A & W Root Beer stand and its parking lot are in the foreground across from the driveway to the Miller home.

pose, but they were probably useless to the heisters except for a souvenir. (The Adair Co. Historical Society Museum has on display, two authentic Silver Star Drive-in speakers with snapped cords which were donated many years ago.)

Easter Sunrise Services at the Drive-in was a popular yearly event, sponsored by the Faith Lutheran Church. This brought huge crowds early on Easter Sunday mornings. The appeal was probably the fact that families could worship without the need for dressing up on this occasion.

Independence Day was also a popular time at the Drive-in. Along with patriotic movies being shown, fireworks were set off by the Mangus family at intermission time.

As the Silver Star Drive-in flourished, Day and Frances Mangus built a large, beautiful, brick home on their property just north of the theater at 2707 N. Baltimore. On either side

of this home, their two oldest daughters and their families built brick homes, Jo (Mangus) Miller on the south and Iola (Mangus) Wait on the north. This latter home is now Rosie's Northtown Cafe.

Across Highway 63 near the theater was one of Kirksville's most popular drive-in restaurants for that same era, the A & W Root Beer Stand with its carhops and fasten-on-your-window trays. Roy Allen and Frank Wright coined this brand in 1922 in California, using the first letters of their last names, but these drive-ins spread to our area much later. A & W received a booming business from Silver Star patrons both before and after the movies. Some groups would order a keg of root beer to take in their vehicles to the theater, along with burgers and all the trimmings. What great memories were made in those bygone days for all ages!

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TURNING THE PAGE

This Week in Local History

By Larry Evans

115 Years Ago, Feb. 7, 1910

Kirksville proved that it was not far behind Kansas City and other Midwest cities with the addition of taxi services for Kirksville. Ralph Carothers of Centerville, Iowa, had purchased a modern Ford four passenger, electric lighted taxicab which he planned to run as a public carrier in Kirksville. The new Ford would deliver a passenger to any part of the city at the rate of twenty-five cents per customer.

90 Years Ago, Feb. 1, 1935

The southbound Wabash passenger train Number 14 derailed at the shoe factory after striking the switch to a stub track to the factory. The locomotive plunged several feet down the side track before it jumped the rails and overturned on its side down an embankment. Besides the engine, the tender and the baggage cars were derailed, and the engineer, J. D Morgan, was severely injured. The train was traveling about 20 miles per hour when the derailment occurred. Onboard passengers were uninjured, and one of the Pullman porters said he was asleep when the accident occurred and was not awakened. The quick action by members of the train crew prevented engineer Morgan from be-

ing scalded or drowned as he lay pinned inside the overturned locomotive. Dr. George Grim, the Wabash physician, was summoned to the scene to treat Morgan. The fireman, W. E Foose, of Moberly suffered sprains and bruises. The passengers on the train were removed from the train and taken to Moberly by bus. Wreckers were at work throughout the morning working on the derailed portion of the train.

90 Years Ago, Feb. 4, 1935

The Clyde White family, who lived on East Washington Street in Kirksville, felt as though their lives were saved by a stray dog when their house was destroyed by fire. The dog which showed up at the White residence about a month earlier was permitted to sleep in the house. When the house caught fire and the rooms began to fill with smoke, the dog jumped on the bed and awakened White. Upon investigating, White found the entire east side of the house on fire and smoke had filled the rooms on the other side of the house. After awakening the children, Clyde White ran across the street to sound the alarm. When he returned to the house to make sure everyone was out, the heat by the front door was so intense that his eyebrows and hair were singed. The two children had difficulty in

getting out of the house as the rear door of the house could not be opened. Fortunately, they broke a window pane and climbed out of the house. Mrs. White and another daughter were in Clark, Missouri, the night of the fire.

85 Years Ago, Feb. 1, 1940

The month of January 1940 proved to be Kirksville's coldest month on record. The weather records for the month showed a mean temperature of only 10.6 degrees. The average mean temperature for January in Kirksville in the previous half-century was 24 degrees. The coldest previous January, according to the available temperature records, was in 1918 when the minimum and maximum reading throughout the month averaged 13.5 degrees. The temperatures for January 1940 showed there were fourteen days in which the mercury was at zero or below, the temperature shrinking to 15 below zero on three days. Records showed at that time the highest reading ever recorded in Kirksville in January was 68 degrees, and the lowest reading ever recorded in January was 22 degrees below zero.

85 Years Ago, Feb. 4, 1940

Hog cholera was on the rampage in Adair County according to local veterinarians and the County Agent Smith T. Powell Jr. One farmer reported that he had lost between 40 and 50 hogs in just a few days. According to the reports by local farmers the outbreak was sudden, and the disease was gaining ground as it spread rapidly from farm to farm. The accumulation of dead hogs was creating a serious problem for some farmers. Missouri state law forbid the removal of dead hogs from the farm on which they died. They were to be disposed of by cremation.

85 Years Ago, Feb. 8, 1940

For the first time in Adair County's history a black man was selected to sit on an Adair County Circuit Court jury. Kirksville resident Harry W. (Ras) Coby, an employee of the Missouri Power & Light Company was selected for the jury hearing a case involving two white men—a Kirksville resident who was suing a resident of Chariton County. Black persons had previously been included on Adair County jury lists, but this was the first instance



in which a Black person was selected for jury duty.

80 Years Ago, Feb. 1, 1945

The world was in the midst of a world war, and the United States was doing all it could to direct maximum resources to the war effort. The War Production Board (WPB) had ordered a national "brownout" to conserve electricity. Kirksville's business district was expected to be considerably dimmer beginning February 1. The Missouri Power & Light Company, Kirksville's source of electricity, announced it would begin compliance on February 1, 1945. The WPB's

order applied mainly to outdoor displays and other outdoor lighting which was not deemed necessary. The order prohibited outdoor advertising and other outdoor promotional lighting, outdoor decorative and ornamental lighting, show window lighting, and marquee lighting more than 60 watts per marquee. Outdoor sign lighting was prohibited except for lighted signs required for fire and police protection, traffic control, and transportation terminals or hospital identification. The penalty for non-compliance was discontinuance of electric service.

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AGENT AFIELD

Spur Pond is stocked with trout



KEVIN POWELL
AGENT

The urban trout parks have been a great success and provide a close to home opportunity to get some high quality fishing. Spur Pond in Kirksville is just the right place. In November, the Missouri Department of Conservation stocked over 1,400 rainbow trout for the public to pursue. Several of those are “lunkers” that will exceed three pounds. February 1 will mark the start of the “keep season”. At this time, it will be legal to use all types of baits. Trout are aggressive hunters that can be taken with live bait, dough baits, and artificial flies.

In order to increase your odds of landing a large trout, try to use the minimum test of fishing line. Anything less than four pound test is best. Trout have excellent vision and can spook easily at any additional hardware, so avoid any swivels or sinkers close to your lure. Don't forget that

when you start trout fishing a bobber is now called an indicator!

Taking home some rainbows for the frying pan is an excellent winter dish. Remember that although the trout are in our backyard local pond, the daily limit is four. There are no size limits. The typical permits required are a fishing permit and trout stamp. Some age exemptions can apply.

As a winter activity ice fishing may be an option. It is recommended that the ice is at least four inches thick. Share your ice fishing plans with others and have an emergency pack available. If you plan to be out on the ice carry self rescue tools and a flotation device.

If you witness a Wildlife Code violation in progress, please call your local Conservation Agent or Operation Game Thief at 1-800-392-1111.

Upcoming Northern Missouri road work

By MoDOT

The following is a list of general highway maintenance work the Missouri Department of Transportation has planned in the Northern Missouri region for the next few weeks. All road closures and planned roadwork may be viewed on the Traveler Information Map at <http://traveler.modot.org/map/>.

In-clement weather may cause schedule changes in some of the planned work. There may also be moving operations throughout the region, in addition to the work mentioned below.

Macon County

Route K - Feb. 3-5, Closed for culvert replacement operations

from Route M to Route KK between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

Route K - Feb. 6-7, Closed for culvert replacement operations from Route KK to Kennedy Street between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

Scotland County

Route U - Feb. 3 - 4, Closed for brush cutting operations from CR 412

to CR 500 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Route U - Feb. 5 - 6, Closed for brush cutting operations from CR 166 to CR 165 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Putnam County

Route 129 - Closed at the North Blackbird Creek Bridge for a bridge rehabilitation project through February 2025.

Grant funding available for Project Prom, graduation lock-in events

By Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety

Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety



HANNIBAL - The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is offering grant funding to local schools that hold student lock-in events for Project Prom or high school graduation. Eligibility requirements include hosting a presentation or activity educating students on highway safety issues. There are many highway safety programs available at no cost to schools. A complete list can be found on the resource flyer posted on the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety website. Qualifying schools will receive \$200 each to assist with event expenses such as location

rental, food or entertainment, which will be paid directly to the school.

“These supervised events are a way for students to safely enjoy their special event with friends,” stated Northeast District Traffic Engineer Jonathan Bruner. “Impaired or distracted driving can have devastating consequences, changing lives in a matter of seconds. We want these students to have positive and lasting memo-

ries of these important occasions, not tragedies.”

The Northeast Coalition will be accepting grant applications now through Feb. 21. Interested schools and/or their sponsors can submit the online grant application by visiting Project Prom-Graduation Grant | Missouri Department of Transportation (modot.org). Funding is available for up to 20 local schools.

For additional information, contact Northeast Coalition Facilitator Gerri Jeffries at (573) 248-2502 or Northeast Coalition Representative Tina Lee at (573) 248-2517, or visit the Northeast Coalition's website at: www.savemolives.com/mcrs/Northeast-Region.

Northeast Christian High School is an official A+ Scholarship Program school

By Northeast Christian High School

Northeast Christian High School (NHCS) in Kirksville announced that they are an official A+ Scholarship Program school through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of Missouri. The A+ Scholarship Program is a merit based scholarship that provides

scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools in Missouri. Students may earn two years paid tuition at state community colleges, state vocational and technical schools and certain private two-year vocational and technical schools.

In order to be eligible, students need to perform at least 50 hours

of unpaid tutoring or mentoring of which up to 25 percent may include job shadowing prior to graduation. Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or greater in order to receive the scholarship. An attendance record of 95 percent is also required. Students must also maintain a record of good citizenship.

“NHCS continues to offer a

wide variety of classes, opportunities and experiences along with a kingdom education,” school officials said. “Our school has a dedicated staff that pride themselves on family christian values that drive a quality education. Our goal is to produce students who will thrive as productive Christian citizens who lead and serve their communities.”



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Kirksville closes game on 10-0 run to skirt past Moberly

By Henry Janssen
hjanssen@kirksvilledailyexpress.com

The Tigers' win in Tuesday night's home Pink Out game certainly wasn't glamorous, but Kirksville latched a 47-44 victory to keep them behind only Mexico within the conference. Moberly led 44-37 with a little over two minutes left to play before senior forward Connor Hall snapped a nearly three-minute drought with a transition layup. The Spartans never scored again.

"Both teams played hard throughout a physical game, and maybe we waited too long to turn the heat up (with a full-court press)," Kirksville coach Tyler Martin said.

Kirksville took a 17-9 deficit into the second quarter, and trailed 28-20 at the halftime break. Both teams scored 10 points in the third quarter to keep the Spartan lead at eight.

In the end, Kirksville went on a 17-6 run, and out-scored Moberly, 27-16, in the second half. The Tigers' first lead since the opening moments of the first quarter came when junior Cutler Lincoln knocked down a transition layup. Lincoln has been a breath of fresh air for the Tigers recently, finishing at the rim both off of the pass and creating his own open looks off of the drive.



Kirksville senior forward Connor Hall proverbially parts the Red Sea for an easy two points in Tuesday night's victory.

Lincoln finished with 13 points. Senior Cole Kelly returned to his usual form, scoring 17. Jace Kent scored 10.

"In the half court, we were not at all efficient tonight," Martin said. "They blew up the majority of our sets and it felt like we fought our butts off just to get to 30 by the end of the third."

"We called a timeout early in the fourth to kind of reset. We wanted to space it and attack it in the open floor, and our guys answered. It's a tough win but a really good one."

Kirksville heads for Hannibal on Friday night. The Tigers are now 11-6 and Moberly falls to 9-9.



Junior forward Chloe Carter knocks down a contested runner in Tuesday night's Kirksville victory. PHOTOS BY HENRY JANSSEN/DAILY EXPRESS

Tigers nurture second half lead, improve to 5-1 in NCMC

By Henry Janssen
hjanssen@kirksvilledailyexpress.com

The Kirksville girls took care of a struggling Moberly side in Tuesday night's home Pink Out game, 49-41, to improve to 9-7 overall. The win kept the Tigers firmly in control of their own destiny in the conference, and likely the District – the Spartans, Mexico, and Fulton are all in Class 4 District 8 as well.

Wright City and Hallsville are also in the District, but neither is within four games of .500.

"We knew it'd be a good conference win for us if we could get it, and I think we just kept our heads up knowing that," freshman point guard Eva Danielson said. "Tonight was a great environment to play in. We thought it gave us that little bit of energy we needed."

Moberly falls to 3-13 on the season and the Tigers improve to 9-7.

Kirksville trailed early on Tuesday as it struggled to find shots to fall. The Tigers took a 14-9 deficit into the second quarter, but managed to take a 20-18 lead into the halftime break.

The Tigers never trailed again. Kirksville scored the first six points of the second half to help it jump to a 33-23 lead, then the next three minutes of the third quarter slowed to an absolute crawl. From about the 5:30 mark to 2:30, the only point scored was a single Moberly free throw as shot after shot refused to fall for both sides.

Kirksville's Paishynce Fouts nailed a three-pointer to put her team up 46-37 with just over two minutes remaining to all but seal the victory.

"Sometimes in conference play, familiarity makes it tough," Kirksville coach Nick Totta said. "I don't think we're playing as well as we're capable of, and we're going to have to elevate our play. But if you can get a win at this point in the year for conference play and District seeding, you'll take the victory."



Sophomore Megan Kinney drains a three moments before the horn sounds at the end of the third quarter in Tuesday's win.

"At the end of the first quarter, we talked about our issue being our effort. Our girls really responded – we turned them over and made plays on defense."

Fouts had 18 points, and Chloe Carter continued to come on, finishing with 13. Danielson finished with eight and Megan Kinney scored seven.

This was the Tigers' first match-up against Moberly. They meet again at the Spartans' place on Feb. 11. Kirksville travels to Hannibal on Friday.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Danielson was one assist shy of a triple-double in last Friday's win against Mexico. She officially finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds, and nine assists. Totta said that he was nearly certain he has never coached any girl on the evening of a triple-double.



Cole Kelly (traditionally jersey no. 55) absorbs contact under the rim against Moberly.



Jace Kent rolls it off the fingertips and through the net on Tuesday in a 47-44 victory. PHOTOS BY HENRY JANSSEN/DAILY EXPRESS

Gopher girls hold off Milan to win fifth straight

By Henry Janssen
hjanssen@kirksvilledailyexpress.com

Green City improved to 15-2 at home on Friday night, topping Milan 60-56. The Gophers never trailed in the second half, but Milan hit a three to tie the game with around six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

From that point, Green City only had a lead cut to within three points once with 20 seconds left to play before Milan was forced to foul.

All of Green City's scoring came from three players. Sophomore Macy Jeffries and junior Jaryn Hatcher had 23 points apiece, and senior Lily Crist scored 14. Jeffries rattled home five three-pointers.

The Gophers are in the La Plata tournament this week. By the time of this publication, the top-seeded Gophers will have played Schuyler County in the opening round on Tuesday night.



Jaryn Hatcher finished tied with Macy Jeffries for a team-high 23 points.



Sophomore guard Macy Jeffries finished with 23 points on Friday night as the Gophers keep rolling ahead of the La Plata tournament. PHOTOS BY HENRY JANSSEN/DAILY EXPRESS

Green City blasts Milan, keeps rocking ahead of La Plata tourney

By Henry Janssen
hjanssen@kirksvilledailyexpress.com

The Gophers had little challenge remaining undefeated against the visiting Wildcats on Friday night, taking a 39-5 lead into the halftime break.

The final score was 64-24, and Green City didn't play any of its starters in the second half. Milan falls to 5-14. The Gophers have won all 17 of their games entering the La Plata tournament.



Senior Noah Tipton pushes the tempo at home on Friday night. PHOTOS BY HENRY JANSSEN/DAILY EXPRESS

By the time of this publication, top-seeded Green City will have played the tournament host in the opening round on Monday night.



Green City senior Ty Hall absorbs contact at the rim and converts in Friday's dominant win.

'Dogs score final 10 at Jewell to improve to .500 in league play

By Henry Janssen & Truman Athletics

Ten unanswered points over the final two minutes allowed the Bulldogs women to pull away from William Jewell and climb to even in league action on the road Saturday afternoon, 73-61.

Truman State — winners of four of the previous five dating back to a 69-60 win in Kirksville over a tough Lewis III. squad on Jan. 18 — now sits at 6-6 in Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) with one month to play.

Truman coach Theo Dean said that he was glad to get out of Liberty with a victory. He thought his team played flawed basketball but was pleased with how his team scrapped for a win

on a day that felt like they looked a little off.

"We missed layups, we turned the ball over six more times than they did, but we still found a way to win," Dean said as he shrugged. "This group really plays for one another and they don't get down on each other. That's just the difference some days. Sometimes you're just a little flat but you can still battle."

Graduate student Jordan Cunningham's 23 points marked the ninth time this season she tallied more than 20 points. Sophomore Molly Joyce reached double figures for the third consecutive game with 14. The Bulldogs finished with a 21-10 advantage in bench points with graduate student guard Gra-

cie Neff's season-high nine points leading the way. Neff also recorded season highs in minutes (31), FGM/FGA (3-for-6), three-pointers made (3), and rebounds (6).

Jewell narrowed the gap to two, 63-61, with 3:08 left in the game before the Bulldogs converted five straight two-for-two trips to the free-throw line to finish things. Cunningham and senior forward Emma Bulman each went 4-for-4 in the span with Joyce sinking the other two.

Truman continues into February 9-13 overall, while William Jewell finishes the day 5-13 overall and 9-13 in GLVC play. The 'Dogs return to Pershing Arena at 5:15 p.m. Thursday against Drury (Mo.) in this season's Black Out game.



Kobi Williams led the 'Dogs with 15 points on Saturday at William Jewell's place in Liberty.



Xavier Hall pulls up for a 15-footer in Saturday's victory. Hall said his team's resilience was the biggest key to the victory after William Jewell busted out to close the gap in the early part of the second half.

Stymying first-half defense helps Truman past Jewell

By Henry Janssen & Truman Athletics

Truman got back on the gas pedal after William Jewell climbed back from 15-point halftime deficit in Liberty on Saturday. The 'Dogs won 65-55, and after scoring 30 points in 12 minutes in the second half, the Cardinals didn't have much left in the tank.

Down to the 'Dogs 33-18 at half and struggling, Jewell blew up for 30 points in the next less than 12 minutes to tie the game at 48 with 8:19 remaining. The Cardinals recovered from 23 percent first half shooting from the floor to shoot 50 percent in the second half.

Junior point guard Xavier Hall who has been heart-and-soul for the 'Dogs said that he was proud of his guys' fight.

"We did such a good job defensively in the first half that we knew there was no way they weren't going to punch back," the Shawnee



Trey Shearer has found his shot in the first half of Saturday's win, knocking down a pair of threes. He finished with 12 points on 5-of-11 shooting. PHOTOS BY HENRY JANSSEN/DAILY EXPRESS

Mission native said. "We just weathered the storm and kept fighting. That's

kind of been the story all year, we're gritty. I trust my guys and they trust me — games like this it's great to get out of here with a win any way you can."

Hall finished with nine points, six assists, and a pair of rebounds.

As a team, Truman out-rebounded Jewell 37-26.

Junior forward Brennan Lovette sank a three out of a Truman State timeout after sophomore guard Kobi Williams corralled an offensive rebound on a missed three by redshirt sophomore guard Casen Lawrence to right the ship.

Williams led Truman State with 15 points and season-highs in rebounds (9) and assists (3). Lovette scored 14 with six boards while senior guard Trey Shearer recorded 14 points with a season-high seven rebounds.

Truman State is now 12-8 overall, 6-6 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play while William Jewell falls to 6-14, 3-9 GLVC. Thursday marks a return to Pershing Arena for the Bulldogs with a 7:30 tip against Drury. The 'Dogs are home against Southwest Baptist on Saturday as well.



Grad senior Jordan Cunningham continued to impress in her only season with the Bulldogs on Saturday, posting a game-high 23 points in a tightly-fought victory.

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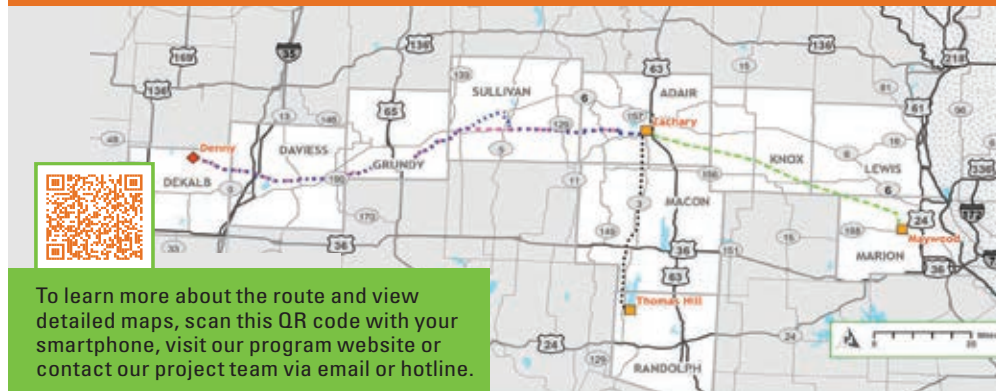
PROPOSED ROUTE FILED WITH THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern Missouri Grid
TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

After careful consideration of feedback from landowners, community members, interested agencies and local officials, ATXI has selected and filed a Proposed Route with the Missouri Public Service Commission (MoPSC).

On December 11, 2024, ATXI submitted an application to the Mo PSC for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the DZTM Project. As part of this application, ATXI submitted route options to the Mo PSC for the Denny-Zachary line segment that include the MISO Selected Single Circuit Design OR the Double Circuit Design along with a summary of public feedback and stakeholder input. Routes are not final and are subject to final approval by the Mo PSC. The expected timing for Mo PSC decision is by year-end 2025.

Visit efis.psc.mo.gov/Case and enter EA-2025-0087-EFIS in the search box for information.



To learn more about the route and view detailed maps, scan this QR code with your smartphone, visit our program website or contact our project team via email or hotline.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M IMPACTED?

Landowners who own property along the Proposed Route have been sent a letter in regards to the regulatory filing. To view detailed maps and learn more, visit our website or contact our team.



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Nominations open for Missouri Public Safety Medals honoring heroic first responders and civilians

Honors include Red, White and Blue Heart Award; Missouri Medal of Valor; Governor's Medal; and Public Safety Civilian Partnership Award



By Missouri Department of Public Safety

JEFFERSON CITY – The Department of Public Safety is accepting nominations for the state of Missouri's highest awards honoring first responders who took heroic actions beyond the call of duty in 2024. The awards are the Red, White and Blue Heart Award, Missouri Medal of Valor, and Governor's Medal. DPS is also accepting nominations from Missouri public safety agencies for the Public Safety Civilian Partnership Award. The awards will be presented during a ceremony in Jefferson City in late 2025.

The deadline for public safety agency leaders to nominate members of their organizations for any of the Public Safety Medals for actions performed in 2024 is Feb. 28, 2025. Nominations must come from the leader of the public safety agency. Nomination forms and additional information about the awards, including who is eligible to make a nomination, is available at: <https://dps.mo.gov/medal/>. There is a different nomination form for each award.

For the purposes of these awards, a public safety officer is defined as a person serving a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or emergency personnel or emergency management personnel. The term "law enforcement officer" includes a person who is a state or local corrections or court officer. EMS personnel are eligible.

The four public safety awards are:
 The Red, White and Blue Heart Award may be presented to any Missouri peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, EMT or emergency first responder who under honorable circumstances is critically, seriously or fatally injured while performing official duties in the line of duty. It is conferred in recognition of first responders seriously injured and sustaining permanent impairment of health or death. The injury or condition must require long-term treatment by a medical professional and considerable loss of time from duty. In a fatality incident, the award will

be presented to a family member.

The Missouri Medal of Valor recognizes heroic service by first responders in an effort to save a life. The Medal of Valor is Missouri's highest award for public safety officers and is awarded to those who exhibit exceptional courage, decisiveness and swift action without regard for their own safety in their attempt to save a life. Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, state and local corrections officers, court officers and emergency management personnel are eligible.

The Governor's Medal recognizes extraordinary actions by an organized or ad hoc team of first responders for brave actions above and beyond the call of normal duty during a critical situation in which their teamwork was essential to the successful resolution of the situation. Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, state and local corrections officers, court officers and emergency management personnel are eligible.

The Public Safety Civilian Partnership Award honors a civilian who has provided valuable or courageous assistance to first responders in an emergency situation, without regard for their own personal welfare. It may also be bestowed on a civilian or team of civilians who train public safety officers in life-saving techniques which are later utilized to save a life.



Ron and Elsie Gaber and Hannibal Regional President and CEO Todd Ahrens present the Gaber Award to Carrol Davenport in 2024.

Nominations open for Gaber Founder's Award for Excellence at Hospice of Northeast Missouri

By Hospice of Northeast Missouri

Nominations are now open for the Gaber Founder's Award for Excellence. The award was established in 2023 thanks to the generous donation by Drs. Ron and Elsie Gaber of Kirksville to the Hannibal Regional Foundation to support hospice services in northeast Missouri. The endowment created assists in recognizing hospice care workers and volunteers who go above and beyond in their service to hospice care and the patients of Hospice of Northeast Missouri.

The inaugural award was presented last April to Carrol Davenport, Spiritual Care and Bereavement Coordinator for Hospice of Northeast Missouri. Nominations for this prestigious award are accepted for both hospice employees as well as volunteers. Nominations are open until March 10, and the nomination form can be found at hospiceofnortheastmissouri.org. The Gaber Founder's Award for Excellence will be announced in April.

Without the visionary leadership and dedication of Ron Gaber and others, Hospice of Northeast Missouri would not exist today. Ron saw a need to address end-of-life care for those living in Adair County, and with the help of other dedicated volunteers they created Hospice 2000 in 1993. Ron served as

the founding president of Hospice 2000 from 1993-97, as well as the volunteer and bereavement coordinator in the early years. As Hospice 2000 developed, they recognized the need for this service was much greater than just Adair County and grew the organization to its current status as Hospice of Northeast Missouri.

Hospice of Northeast Missouri became a part of the Hannibal Regional Healthcare System family in 2022, and is supported in part by donations through the Hannibal Regional Foundation. Money raised through the Foundation for hospice services in northeast Missouri are used for financial assistance and gift cards for patients and families when on hospice services.

Hospice of Northeast Missouri is a non-profit hospice that focuses on quality of life for people and their caregivers who are experiencing an advanced, life-limiting illness. Hospice of Northeast Missouri, a partner agency of the United Way of Northeast Missouri, serves Adair, Clark, Knox, Lewis, Macon, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby and Sullivan counties.

For more information about Hospice of Northeast Missouri or to access the nomination form, visit hospiceofnortheastmissouri.org or call 660-627-9711.

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A.T. Still Memorial Library named Library Excellence in Access and Diversity Award recipient by INSIGHT Into Diversity

By A.T. Still University

A.T. Still University's (ATSU) A.T. Still Memorial Library has been named a recipient of the 2025 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity (LEAD) Award by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

This marks A.T. Still Memorial Library's second consecutive year receiving the honor.

The LEAD Award honors academic libraries' programs and

initiatives that encourage and support diversity, equity, and inclusion. These include but are not limited to research, technology, accessibility, exhibitions and community outreach. A.T. Still Memorial Library will be featured, along with 33 other recipients, in the March 2025 issue of Insight Into Diversity magazine.

"ATSU is immensely proud of the work done by A.T. Still Memorial Library and thanks Insight Into Diversity magazine for this recognition," said ATSU Chancel-

lor Craig Phelps. "Congratulations to library leadership and staff on our Missouri, Arizona and California campuses."

"Receiving the LEAD Award for a second year highlights the dedication of library staff to the library's values of being a responsive, inclusive, and collaborative library for our university community," said ATSU Library Director Hal Bright. "I am proud of the library's accomplishments, acknowledged by receiving the 2025 LEAD Award."

Insight Into Diversity maga-

zine selected A.T. Still Memorial Library because of the library's multitude of projects in support of its diversity statement and action plan, including developing diverse collections, promoting open-source publications, designing and implementing equitable programming, and engaging with ATSU's Office of Diversity & Inclusion, student organizations, university diversity initiatives and committees.

A call for nominations for this award was announced in October 2024.

"We know that many academic libraries are not always recognized for their dedication to diversity, inclusion, and access," says Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of Insight Into Diversity magazine. "We are proud to honor these college and university libraries as role models for other institutions of higher education."

For more information about the 2025 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity (LEAD) Award, visit insightintodiversity.com.



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