

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

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WEDNESDAY

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Kirksville City Council discusses removal of downtown traffic lights

By **Marty Bachman**
Daily Express

The Kirksville City Council, at a study session held on March 10, received an update from the city's street's department concerning a Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation the city received several years ago. According to a staff report, the grant focused on conducting a traffic engineering assessment of the downtown area, determining the safest, most economical way to bring traffic in and out.

City Manager Mari Macomber told the council that the traffic engineering study was done in 2016, which resulted in many recommendations as to how to move traffic in and out of the downtown area. One of the recommendations was to change all of the downtown lights to flashing red, which was done. Another recommendation that wasn't done was changing the downtown one-way streets into two-way streets, "to try and create some consistency," she said. Representatives from the city's street department told the

council that the city's Airport & Transportation Commission had a change of heart and now wants to do away with the lights altogether and have six new four-way stops and by creating two-way streets. The department reps said that as time, budget and staffing allows, they would recommend the city start the process of removing the flashing red lights in the downtown area. The six new four-way stops will be located at West Illinois and Main Street; West Illinois and North Elson Street; North Main Street and West Missouri; North Elson Street

and West Missouri; North Main Street and West Harrison Street; and North Main Street and West McPherson. Macomber said that the lights are not warranted as there is not enough traffic. "And if you watch, people are not stopping," Macomber said, noting that drivers don't even stop at the light where the police station is located on McPherson and North Marion streets. "I think there's a false sense for some people. I think it's confusing for pedestrians." She said that the Airport & Traffic Commission had no objec-

tions to removing the lights and that it would now be reviewed by the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. "I do want to remind the council and everyone else that whenever you're making a change to a road and its use, whatever that might be, removing parking or changing to four way stop, that planning and zoning does have some responsibility to review and then make recommendation to the council," Macomber said.

See **COUNCIL**, Page A6

NCMRWC releases National Park Service report on recreational amenities at Roy Blunt Reservoir

By NCMRWC

In 2024 the NCMRWC was approved for a grant from the National Park Service to assist with visioning and planning for recreational amenities at the Roy Blunt Reservoir. Headed up by a professor and graduate student at Iowa State University with the support of Allstate Consultants and NCMRWC staff, the report is a culmination a number of community engagement activities and research. The report provides advice and guidelines for features, structures, trail types, architecture, material usage and design. The public favored natural or rustic designs and materials. They prioritized access and celebrating nature, as well as recognizing and memorializing the people and character of the people around the lake and in the area. The report prioritizes the types of activities that the community wants to see at the Roy Blunt Reservoir including public shelters, fishing access, boating and hiking trails. The report is filled with graphic displays, examples of features and the research and community engagement outcomes that informed it. It will be used for planning purposes as well as for supporting grant and funding applications. The entire report can be found at : <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16LCv0LNKS-8rqQ5Q3pMSG0EzWsuGEyNjF/view?usp=sharing>. It will also be posted on ELCR.Info.



Harve Rhodes, chairman of the NCMRWC stated, "The public, especially the people of Sullivan County enabled this reservoir. It is altogether fitting that the public express themselves and guide

our decisions. While we work and plan for the future every day at the commission, envisioning people enjoying the Roy Blunt Reservoir into the future is particularly exciting."



Ronnie Bean receives the 2025 Ramon Pollard Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award from Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board at the annual Spotlight Awards Banquet held at the Cornerstone Church in Kirkville.

SB40 Spotlight Awards Banquet

Ronnie Bean receives 2025 Ramon Pollard Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award at annual SB40 Spotlight Awards Banquet

Staff Reports

On Thursday evening, March 6, Ronnie Bean received the 2025 Ramon Pollard Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award from Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board at the annual Spotlight Awards Banquet held at the Cornerstone Church in Kirkville. Missouri Representative Danny Busick and Missouri Senate President Pro-Tem Cindy O'Laughlin's Legislative Assistant Lois Bragg presented Bean with Resolutions from the Missouri House and Senate along with all 12 Spotlight Award recipients. Mike Hartman, professional manager with CVA/CHS, nominated Bean for this award, and shared, "The Ramon Pollard Award celebrates those that really have become an integral part within their community, tearing down barriers to a full life and striving to make all people feel valued and respected. Ronnie Bean

represents the values of this award in all aspects of his life. It's in his DNA." Hartman said that Bean has persevered towards his goals since the moment he came to Kirkville. "His journey has not always been easy," Hartman said. "Ronnie would tell you, from the moment you met him, that he wanted to be on his own and not need staff support. Ronnie's attempts to gain this independence would be described best by this Paula Abdul song lyric, 'take one step forward and two steps back, we fit together cause opposites attract.'" Hartman said that at each step, whether going forward or back, Bean always continued to reach his goal. Hw said that while his idea of achieving this goal did not always line up with how the rest of his team thought it should go, despite bumps in the road, he persevered.

See **BANQUET**, Page A7



Spotlight Award recipient Cristal Peterson & LOQW.

Missourians can face years-long waits for records requested from some state agencies

While most state departments and elected officials have few open Sunshine Law requests, the Department of Social Services and MoDOT have requests pending for two years.

By **Rudi Keller**
Missouri Independent

When Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey took office in January 2023, he inherited a pile of more than 200 unfilled open records requests left over from his predecessor. Some of the requests had been languishing for more than a year before Bailey took over. It wasn't a good look for the state official specifically empowered to enforce the Missouri Sunshine Law. To tackle the backlog, Bailey assigned new staff to the problem and implemented a policy to work through requests on a first-come, first-served basis. It took more than two years, but in February

Bailey finally could say he had cleared the backlog and was down to 75 recent requests still pending. But Bailey's office isn't the only Missouri state agency where the public sometimes waits years to receive requested records. This is Sunshine Week, set aside each year to focus on open government and the public's right to know about the conduct of public business. To test state government compliance with the Sunshine Law, The Independent sent an identical request for logs showing pending requests to 26 state departments and divisions and the five statewide elected officials inaugurated in January. The requests were sent in the third week of February. By Fri-



day, every agency had provided its log — or reported that it did not maintain a formal log — except the departments of conservation, corrections and natural resources. The state agency where the public faced the longest delays getting access to government records was the Missouri Department of Social Services. The department received 988 records requests last year. As of last month, it had 54 still pending, including four from 2022 and five from 2023. Two of those longstanding requests were noted as "pending legal review" and seven as "time extension."

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OBITUARIES INSIDE
No obituaries reported

KIRKSVILLE AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

'The Wonder and the Worry' documentary screening

The Wonder and the Worry documentary screening will be held on March 20 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Truman State University. Documentary filmmaker David Baker will screen his film, "The Wonder and the Worry," which has screens at festivals around the world. This event is open to the public, free admission, and will have light refreshments.

Curtain Call Theatre Company will show adventure, romantic comedy 'Hatari'

Curtain Call Theatre Company will show the 1962 adventure, romantic comedy Hatari, starring John Wayne on Friday, March 21. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. Concessions will be available.

Spring Shoppers Delight

Spring Shoppers Delight will be held don March 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Novinger Firehouse in Novinger. Come enjoy shopping wither 25 top vendors and crafter. Curbside Kitchen an Coffee Cravings will also be there. Vendor information is available by calling Lena Rear-don at 660-341-0831.

Truman State University welcomes community participation for book club, author visit

Truman State University is sponsoring a free community-wide book club in preparation for an on-campus presentation by the author Anthony Ray Hinton, who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1985 and spent nearly 30 years on death row in Alabama. Since his conviction was overturned, he has become a sought-after speaker and author of "The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row." Hinton will be at Truman at 6 p.m., March 26, (location TBD) as part of the university's Holman Family Distinguished Speaker Series. In anticipation of his presentation, the Criminal Justice Studies program is offering free copies of "The Sun Does Shine" as part of a community book club, that is open to all members of the community. Small groups of book club members will be organized for weekly meetings in March leading up to Hinton's presentation. Those interested in participating in the book club can sign

up online at truman.edu/events/the-sun-does-shine. Copies of the book can be picked up in Truman's Social Sciences and Human Inquiry Department located in McClain Hall 213. To inquire about getting a delivered copy of the book, call (660) 785-7201, or email Wiles at ewiles@truman.edu. "The Sun Does Shine" is also available online or at the Adair County Public Library.

Kirkville Kiwanis Club Blood Drive

The Kirkville Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a blood drive at the Crossing Church, 810 E. Shepherd Avenue, Kirkville, Thursday, March 27 from 12-5:30 p.m. Walk in or schedule an appointment at www.red-crossblood.org. Bring a friend and your best pint of blood. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS if you have any questions.

Eyes on the Sky at Thousand Hills State Park

Eyes on the Sky at Thousand Hills State Park will take place on Friday, March 28, from 8-10 p.m. Come out to Thousand Hills State Park to take a look at the night sky. Learn about the importance of night sky to us and wildlife. There will be telescopes but everybody is welcome to bring their own telescopes, chairs, and binoculars.

Truman State University to host Children's Literature Festival

The Children's Literature Festival will return to the Truman State University campus, March 28. The event will feature 11 authors to share their books with fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students in the northeast Missouri region. This year's lineup includes Chris Barton, David Biedrzycki, Rob Buyea, Lindsay Currie, Chrystal D. Giles, Sandy Grubb, Jose Pablo Iriarte, Jane Kuo, Megan Wagner Lloyd, Jennifer Nielsen and Jennifer Ziegler. Students will participate in 30-minute sessions with the guest authors. In addition to the traditional literature festival activities, the Truman Theatre Department will perform a free live theatre production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. All the authors will be signing books from 3-4 p.m. in the Student Union Building Conference Room. There is no cost to attend the book signing and it is open to the public. At 6 p.m. there will be banquet in the Student Union Building Georgian Rooms. Attendees can choose to sit at the table with any of the authors. Cost for the banquet is \$20, and seating is

determined on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for banquet registration is March 26. Additional information about the event may be obtained from the Children's Literature Festival webpage or by contacting clf@truman.edu.

29th Annual Kirkville Women of Today Spring Arts & Crafts Show

The 29th Annual Kirkville Women of Today Spring Arts & Crafts Show will be held on March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at William Matthew Middle School, 1515 S. Cottage Grove in Kirkville. Lunch includes juicy burger, soup, hot dogs, walking tacos, nachos and soda. Pies include strawberry, rhubarb, blueberry, pecan, cherry, blackberry, gooseberry, lemon and raisen cream. For more information, call 660-341-3232. Registration form is available online at https://sites.google.com/site/kirkvillemenoftoday.

Truman State University students to volunteer time for The Big Event

Truman State University students will provide community service to local residents as part of the annual Big Event, March 29. The Big Event gives Truman students the opportunity to show appreciation for all the support the Kirkville community has offered to them. Hundreds of Truman volunteers will provide services to the residents of the community by raking leaves, washing windows, painting and more. Students will be working at job sites across Kirkville from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 29. Kirkville residents seeking assistance from volunteers can sign-up online at serve.truman.edu. Service requests should be submitted by March 21. For more information about The Big Event, contact the Truman SERVE Center at (660) 785-7222 or serve@truman.edu.

Shop Hop Downtown Kirkville

Support your local downtown businesses and join them for their Annual Spring Shop Hop, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by each participating business to get your Downtown Kirkville Passport stamped and experience what each unique business has to offer. Once your passport is stamped by at least five businesses, turn it in for an entry to win one of two \$30 gift cards to the participating business of your choice. To make it easy, passports can be picked up and returned to any of the participating businesses during the event. For more information: https://www.facebook.com/events/2126836411146536



Construction of North Park trail to begin next week

By City of Kirkville

The city of Kirkville announced that construction of a new trail at North Park will begin the week of March 17. Work will commence alongside Emmett Street before progressing throughout the park. There will be times during construction in this area that Emmett Street will have one-way traffic. There will

also be no street parking in the area during this phase of construction.

Andrew Shultz Contracting is constructing this project. The city reminds residents to pay attention to and obey signage and personnel when traveling through construction zones.

For more information, contact the city's engineering department at 660-627-1225.

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awards contracts

By Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

HANNIBAL – During its regular meeting on March 5, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded the following contracts for bridge replacements, bridge painting, and resurfacing projects in the Northeast District.

A \$1.8M contract was awarded to Gene Haile Excavating, Inc., for a bridge replacement project on Route J in Macon County, over Mussel Fork, 0.03 mile east of the Linn County line, near New Boston.

A \$514,431 contract was awarded to Omega Coatings & Construction, LLC for a bridge painting

project in Clark and Knox counties at the following locations:

Missouri Route 11 — Bridge over North Fork South Fabius River, 1.4 miles west of Missouri Route 15, near Baring, in Knox County

Missouri Route 156 — Bridge over North River, 0.28 mile west of Missouri Route 15, near Novelty in Knox County

Route P — Bridge over BNSF Railway, 3.23 miles south of Missouri Route 11, near Kenwood in Knox County

For more information on this and other projects in your area, contact MoDOT's Customer Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636).

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KIRKSVILLE

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Tru Crime Day provides interactive look at justice system

By Truman State University

The first-ever Tru Crime Day at Truman State University will take place on campus March 26. Open to campus and the Kirksville community, Tru Crime Day offers visitors a multidisciplinary exploration of crime and criminal justice. Through engaging panels, workshops, discussions and activities, attendees will uncover the science behind investigations, explore real-life cases and examine the social, legal and psychological dimensions of crime. Some of the events will be of particular interest for current and prospective students. “True crime is a popular genre with people of all ages, especially Gen Z,” said Elizabeth Wiles, assistant professor of criminal justice studies and chair of legal studies and pre-law programming at Truman. “This is not just for criminal justice or pre-law students, it’s for anyone teenaged or older interested in learning more about true crime from an interdisciplinary perspective.” Registration is not required for most events, but it is encouraged. Events marked with an asterisk require registration. To register for Tru Crime Day, visit truman.edu/events/tru-crime-day. Tru Crime Day participants are also invited to stay on campus for a presentation by Anthony Ray Hinton. Wrongfully convicted of murder in 1985, Hinton spent nearly 30 years on death row in Alabama. Bryan Stevenson at the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit based in Montgomery, Ala., picked up his case, handling his defense for 16 years. Since his conviction was overturned by the United States Supreme Court in 2015, Hinton has become a sought-after speaker and author of the bestselling book “The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row.” “This is a powerful memoir with themes of faith, hope, perseverance and justice, which should appeal to a broad audience,” Wiles said. “It is a powerful memoir, and this event is sure to be a transformative experience for anyone from any background.” Hinton will speak at 6 p.m. March 26 in Baldwin Hall Auditorium as part of the University’s Holman Family Distinguished Speaker Series. His presentation is free of charge and open to the public.

TRU CRIME DAY EVENTS
**Registration required*

Anatomy of an Autopsy: Virtual Cadaver Lab*
Unlock the chilling secrets of the human body with Truman’s state-of-the-art virtual anatomy lab. Visitors will use virtual dissection tools in this truly “cutting-edge” educational tool to dig through 3D cross-sections of the cadaver and uncover crucial clues about a mysterious murder.

Voices of Justice: Conversations with Criminal Justice Professionals
Hear from dynamic panels of criminal justice professionals as they pull back the curtain on their challenging and rewarding careers. Get a firsthand look at the complex and high-stakes decisions they face every day, from courtroom drama to the chaos of crime scenes. Hear their expert perspectives and learn how each professional plays a unique role in the pursuit of justice.

Crack the Case: Mock Crime Scene Investigation*
Step into the shoes of a detective in this hands-on mock crime scene investigation. Team up with current criminal justice and forensic science students to examine a staged crime scene, collect evidence and piece together the clues. Use real investigative techniques to analyze fingerprints, track down hidden evidence and solve the mystery before time runs out.

Hometown Horrors: True Crime Writing and Podcast Workshop*
Bring dark tales and dastardly deeds to life in this creative writing and DIY podcast workshop. Learn how to craft gripping narratives through written words and voice. Plus, get a behind-the-scenes look at the Villhard Innovation Lab’s podcast studio in Pickler Memorial Library and experiment with the equipment.

Prison Break Escape Rooms
In this brain-bending prison break challenge, participants will crack codes, solve puzzles and piece together clues to break free. Beat the clock and earn some “get-out-of-jail-free” prizes.

From Script to Scream: Indie Filmmakers Spill Their Guts
Join indie horror filmmakers and Truman alumni Nick Toti and Rachel Kempf for a chilling discussion on how they craft suspense, fear and thrills in their films. As founders of DieDieBooks, an independent publisher of horror film criticism, and DieDieVideo, a low-budget horror film production company, they’ll share behind-the-scenes secrets from their work. Hear about their debut movie, “It Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This,” which premiered at TIFF’s Midnight Madness program and was called “horror’s hottest ticket” by Variety.

Killer Psychology with Sal Costa
Peak into the minds of serial killers with Sal Costa, the legendary Truman professor who taught the infamous “Serial Killers” course for nearly three decades. In this captivating session, Costa will unravel the psychology and history of notorious serial killers, exploring the strange behaviors and dark motives behind their crimes.

Laundered Lies & Dirty Money: Financial Crimes Exposed
Unravel the secrets of financial fraud and white-collar crime in this fascinating session. Learn the truth behind the headlines about greedy elites who exploit the system while everyday people suffer. In this twisted world of lies and corruption, forensic accountants are modern-day Robin Hoods – using their skills to expose corporate crooks and high-powered con artists, bringing them to justice.

Criminal Law, From Courtroom to Classroom
Explore real criminal law in this interactive class session with current students. Learn about the sources of law and discuss how the criminal legal system functions. Through engaging activities and discussions, gain a better understanding of how laws are made and applied in real criminal cases. This session is ideal for aspiring lawyers or anyone curious about the justice system.



Rotary Club hears from former Truman Rotaract president, Everhart

By Rotary Club of Kirksville

The speaker at the March 5 Rotary Club of Kirksville meeting was former Truman Rotaract president, Amanda Everhart. She spoke about SVOH (Student Volunteers In Optometric Service To Humanity). Established in 1975, this group works closely with the Lions Club. Its volunteers are involved in sorting, cleaning, repairing and organizing eyeglasses and sunglasses for distribution to individuals in 14 countries in Central and South America. Along with Lions Club International, SVOH helps provide vital optometric services to those in need during yearly mission trips. In checking the general health of eyes, they include checking for retinopathy as well as visual acuity. The speaker is pictured with Rotary Past President Marie Murphree (right) who conducted the meeting.

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 AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Women’s History Month quilt exhibit at Sue Ross Arts Center

Kirksville Arts Association is celebrating March as Women’s History Month with an exhibit of 21 quilts by the late Kay Beach, in the Ellebracht Gallery at the Sue Ross Arts Center located at 215 S. Franklin Street in Kirksville. Beach was one of the founders of the Hands of Friendship Quilt Guild and the annual quilt show that displayed quilts for many years in Kirksville. The exhibit includes a Christmas Star quilt that was hung in the Missouri State Capital Rotunda in the first Missouri Statewide Quilt Show in 1995 sponsored by the Missouri State Quilters Guild. Beach often created quilts for special occasions and holidays which are included in the show. She incorporated embroidery in many of her quilts which added interest and often times humor into her work. The exhibit will run through Friday March 28. The Sue Ross Arts Center is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no cost to visit the exhibit.

Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive

Northeast Regional Medical Center kicked off its annual Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive benefitting The Pantry for Adair County, and is inviting community members to participate in this effort to fight hunger in the local area. Peanut butter is a sought after item for food banks because of its high nutritional value and long shelf life. Yet, it is one of the least donated items. The Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive will run through Monday, March 24. Public drop off for the Jars of Love drive is located in the main hospital lobby, at the Welcome Desk. NRMC will also be holding a Fill the Truck event with the Adair County Sheriff’s Department, Adair County Ambulance District, and the Kirksville Fire Department. The event will be held in the HyVee parking lot on Saturday, March 22 from 11 a.m.- 2p.m.

Kirksville’s Spring Brush and Limb Pick-Up week of April 7

Save the date for the city of Kirksville’s Spring Brush and Limb Pick-Up next month, scheduled for the week of April 7. This is the perfect time to remove dead branches and smaller dead trees from your yard. City crews will begin picking up tree limbs and large brush on Monday, April 7. Although the work is expected to take the entire week, to guarantee pick up, your brush must be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday. This includes limbs that are no longer than 10 feet in length, and/or no wider than 18 inches in diameter. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 660-627-1291.

Kirksville Parks and Recreation recreation registration program

Kirksville Parks and Recreation announced the launch of their brand-new recreation registration software. Now, signing up for your favorite programs, events, and activities is easier and more convenient than ever before. Whether you’re looking to join a sports league, swimming lessons, or a fun community event, everything you need is right at your fingertips. Create an account now and get a head start on program registration before the busy season kicks in. Easily browse available programs and register online. Stay up-to-date on upcoming events and activities. Track your registration and payment history. Visit Kirksville Parks and Recreation’s Facebook page for more information.

Art of John Tinsman exhibit at Sue Ross Arts Center

The Art of John Tinsman exhibit will be on display at the Sue Ross Arts Center-Gaber Gallery, through March 28. A reception and presentation will be made by Daryl Schafer on March 27 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The gallery is located at 215 S. Franklin Street in Kirksville and is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MOSI (Missouri-Southern Iowa) Art Guild invites artists to monthly meeting

The MOSI (Missouri-Southern Iowa) Art Guild encourages any artist, budding artist, and supporter of the arts to join them at their monthly meetings, 5:30 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month, typically at the Adair County Annex Building in Kirksville (March and April meetings will be held at The Crossing). MOSI will also exhibit at the Kirksville Downtown Art Walk on Friday, June 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m. For more information visit facebook.com/mosiartguild, The MOSI Art Guild | An Art Guild for Northeastern Missouri and Southern Iowa or email us at info@mosiartguild.org

Truman State University organization offers free tax assistance

A Truman State University’s Beta Alpha Psi will host a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) sessions from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on 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 volun-

teers 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.

Kirksville High School Exhibit at the Sue Ross Arts Center

Kirksville High School Exhibit at the Sue Ross Arts Center will run from March 31-April 10 with a reception on April 10 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Regional High School Showcase at the Sue Ross Arts Center

Regional High School Showcase at the Sue Ross Arts Center will run from April 15-April 24 with a reception held on April 24 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

City of 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: <https://kirksville.gov/p/parks-recreation>. For more information or to secure your sponsorship, contact Luke Callaghan at lcallaghan@kirksville.gov or by calling 660-627-1485.

Scholarships available for city recreational programs and lessons

The Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department Scholarship Program is an initiative to reduce financial barriers for participation in the department’s wide array of activities and programs. To be eligible for a scholarship, you must reside within the city limits of Kirksville and meet the household size/yearly income requirements, which can be found on the application. Applicants meeting the eligibility guidelines are awarded a 50 percent scholarship on programs and events, including the Kirksville Baseball and Softball Leagues, Little Sluggers Tee Ball, Kids Mini Mud Mile, Group Swim Lessons and more. Guidelines and the scholarship application can be found online at kirksvillecity.com/p/parks-recreation, or picked up in person at the Kirksville Aquatic Center. For more information, contact the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485. For more information, contact the Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

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ROBIN WRITES

A true daily double talk

John and I have been together for decades. Everything has been said, all opinions have been voiced, and nearly every life experience has visited our union as the years flew past.

Now retired together, our daily communication is mainly non-verbal. Shrugs, grunts, huffs, and eye rolls punctuate the silent talks we exchange. Speaking is saved for yells from one room to the other or bulletins of perceived importance: (the mail is here, your phone is ringing, what do you want for supper).

A relationship like this may sound sad to you, or a bit lonely, but let me assure you—this married shorthand has been happily earned through years of yakking. Finally, we know each other so well that there is nothing left to discuss.

The luxury of sharing silence together is a benefit of a long marriage. I can enjoy my own thoughts, uninterrupted by the niceties of courteous discussion.

Sure, we talk about things when we must. If the water heater began to leak or a storm knocked out the power, we'd get together and figure out what to do. If there were a catastrophe of some sort, we'd combine our points of view and decide together how to go forward.

We have separate routines we maintain in clockwork comfort. The days are predictable in the best ways possible. And when we go places, we settle into our respective "outside" roles; we talk when we interact with others and display a united front for all to see.

But, for the most part, we are two rubber duckies floating together in a little bathtub of contentment. Except for the occasional tiny wave that bonks our bickering beaks together, we ride the lukewarm waters of our shared lives in serene independence...

...except for that time, each day, when we really let ourselves exercise the old vocal cords. And it's right after supper each weeknight.

After the dishes are done, we head into the living room for thirty minutes of interaction. We kick back on opposite sides of the reclining couch and get ready to ask questions.

I turn on the TV... It's time to watch JEOPARDY.

From the first blare of the theme music and flashing lights, an excitement burbles between us. What will the contestants look like? Who will be the host? Will the Daily Doubles be answered correctly or botched?

The categories are announced and we each react to them with groans, yips of protest or approval...and actual words.

"Not Shakespeare again. YUK!"

"I hate geography."

"Oh, good. Potpourri. That can be anything."

My husband, who has otherwise mellowed into the calm caricature of a long-married man, transforms into an encyclopedic assassin who tosses question responses like grenades.

I spew words I've saved all day. Nouns and verbs sail toward the TV screen in staccato, sometimes scornful, tones.



ROBIN GARRISON LEACH
ROBIN WRITES

"Are you kidding? How could he not know that?"

"Ben Franklin, you idiot. You knew that, didn't you, John?"

I know his voice as well as my own. John's eyes are glued to the screen, but he sends a sentence my way.

"Sure, I did. You know I did."

We're talking.

The game continues and finally winds down to Final Jeopardy. We hope for a good category and debate the strategies the contestants should employ.

They bet. They write their answers. We talk about our discussed and decided answer, and yell it out as the thinking music plays. Someone on TV wins, others lose, and we either cheer for them or grumble together at their luck.

We're satisfied. Companionable silence resumes. Heaven.

We've had just the right amount of togetherness for the day. The house is its cocoon-comfortable, quiet, self again, and our marriage continues its symbiotic silence until tomorrow's Jeopardy episode.

Jeopardy. Keeping couples talking for over 60 years.

Contact Robin at
robinwrites@yahoo.com

THE ROCKWOOD FILES

Midlife math

The numbers are adding up

My husband and I were born five years and two days apart in March.

Since it's birthday season again, here are 52 things I've noticed about turning 52.

1. Numbers are not my thing.
2. I struggle to remember the exact age I am during any given year.
3. Has this ever happened to you?
4. My shortcut is to ask Tom how old he is and then subtract five.
5. If Tom isn't around, I subtract 1973 from the current year and attempt to do the math in my head.
6. But I inevitably screw it up during the "carry the one" part.
7. So, I resort to using the calculator app on my phone.
8. Tom tells me this is the year I turn 52 and he turns 57.
9. This is also our first birthday season as empty nesters.
10. We've had a little more than six months to adjust.
11. But we still have mixed emotions about it.
12. This new peace and quiet is sometimes wonderful and relaxing.
13. And sometimes eerie and sad.
14. It's hard to know how the quiet will hit us on any given day.
15. One of the good things about having fewer people in the house is how much easier it is to keep the kitchen clean.
16. Sometimes it takes nearly a week to fill the dishwasher.
17. When our three kids were here, it only took about 40 minutes.
18. Another perk? We have time to take better care of ourselves.
19. Walking is one of our favorite medicines.

20. Because it makes us more agreeable humans.
21. When Daylight Saving Time began, we celebrated with a long walk listening to a great audio book on a gorgeous 70-degree day.
22. Our middle-aged Corgi didn't go with us.
23. He's a homebody with an intense fear of mailboxes.
24. He was never attacked by a mailbox, so we can't explain the weird phobia.
25. Last week while I was traveling, Tom coaxed the Corgi to go on a walk with him.
26. The dog made it past several menacing mailboxes.
27. He almost enjoyed himself.
28. But then his short Corgi legs got worn out after several blocks.
29. So Tom had to walk home carrying a 25-pound loaf of dog in his arms.
30. Carrying a tired dog home is a form of weight training, which is another thing we should be doing in our 50s.
31. Doctors say we should also be able to get up after sitting on the floor without using our hands.
32. It's so much harder than it sounds.
33. You might think you're in relatively good shape.
34. But you may change your mind after trying to get off the floor with no hands.
35. One of my recent attempts required not only hands, but also rolling over to a knee, then holding on to a nearby counter to accomplish it.
36. I didn't make it look easy
37. And I could feel the dog judging me.
38. How much walking, weight training, balance exercise, and stretching does it take to become a middle-aged maven who can spring up off the floor like a jack-in-the box?



GWEN ROCKWOOD
THE ROCKWOOD FILES

39. I bet it's a lot.
40. So for now, I'm trying to not end up on the floor in the first place.
41. Other than all the upkeep we have to do for our middle-aged bodies, Tom and I like this phase of our lives.
42. Even when the kids aren't here, we still have plenty in common.
43. We like hanging out with each other.
44. We laugh a lot.
45. And we're still learning how to be better versions of ourselves.
46. We love having a front row seat to watch our kids live their lives.
47. We try to eat our popcorn and give opinions only when asked.
48. It's their story to write, not ours.
49. We're just supporting characters who once changed their diapers.
50. And we'll love them no matter what plot twists come their way.
51. Overall, we're lucky because the numbers are going our way: 26 years of marriage, plus 3 kids, plus 2 dogs, plus 1 elderly cat, plus at least 20 friends and family who will help us off the floor if we need it.
52. Add them all together (remember to carry the one) and you'll get fifty-two.

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

POETRY CORNER

Poet's Life

A poet's life... is so wonderfully grand... something others would never see,
To write a verse... that touches your heart... means everything to me.
My goal is achieved... when the

thoughts I convey ... cause emotion to arise from within,
A picture I paint... that only your mind can see... from the words that are formed by my pen.

— Daniel D. Donovan



Columns

HOME COUNTRY

The incomparable medical advice of Windy Wilson

Where would we be without the incomparable medical advice of Windy Wilson?)

I timed 'er just right t'other day. Strolled on into the Mule Barn when I knew Doc and the guys would be there. Oh we unfiltered the world events for a while, then ... to take advantage of medical science when it's sippin' coffee, I rolls up my sleeve and shows Doc my elbow.

Then I said, "Doc, what do you reckon for an elbow with a carbolic uncle on it like this here?"

And ol' Doc, he looks right at me, takes a sip o'joe, and says, "Youth in Asia."

Youth in Asia? Hey, you know me, Alphonse Wilson. You know I ain't got a thing against them Chinese kids. I sure like to watch 'em in the Olympics. You see them Chinese girls divin'? Boy howdy! And them Korean guys shooting their bows? Flamtastic!

And I'm sure they're all really nice folks 'n all, but what do the kids know about elbows?

So I went to the library and asked Mrs. Cutter if she had anythin' on fixin' elbows in China or Japan or Korea or Cambloodia, or any a them Asian countries. She looked at me kinda funny there for a minute, I guess she wasn't 'spectin' me to be lookin' up medicine thingies. But then she brought me back a book on Asian medicine and I checked 'er out.

Wellsir, you ain't gonna believe this, but I even saw pitchers. You know what them guys do when they got a misery in a certain place? They stick pins in it!

See, told you you wouldn't believe me. But they do. They call it accurate puncture.



SLIM RANGLES
HOME COUNTRY

And if stickin' a pin ain't getting' the job done, why they ups 'n puts a marshmeller on the top of the pin and sets fire to it!

Hey, if I'm lyin' may my dog get coated in WD40 and come down with the lubricated scours!

Yessir.

Well, I thought this was about the dumbest thing I ever read, but I know ol' Doc wouldn't steer me wrong ... so I did 'er.

It hurt a little, but it was about like gettin' a blackleg shot at branding, 'cept on purpose a-course. But I sat there lookin' at my elbow through all of Gunsmoke and that there carbolic uncle didn't go away.

So I got me a marshmeller ... yes, I did. Had some left over from Halloween, you know, last year. And I put one on that pin and ignited it. Singed all the hair around my elbow, too.

Did it work? Well, no. Not really. Maybe you have to have a Asian elbow to get all the benefits of it.

But that there marshmeller shore tasted good.

And you can tell 'em I said so.

A book of Windy's best called "Wit and Wisdom of Windy Wilson" should be published before the year's out. You know you'll need one.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

By Kirstyn Dietle, MPH, CHES®
Health Educator
Adair County Health Department

Welcome to the Public Health Corner: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, an opportunity to recognize the experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities and the importance of improving support systems. This month encourages awareness, education, and action to address the unique challenges faced by those living with developmental disabilities.

Understanding Developmental Disabilities

Developmental disabilities are conditions that affect physical, learning, language, or behavioral development. These conditions, which often appear early in life, can impact a person's ability to perform daily activities. Examples include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and intellectual disabilities. Access to early intervention, medical care, and educational resources can significantly improve outcomes for individuals and their families.

The Importance of Awareness and Support

Raising awareness about developmental disabilities can help ensure that individuals receive the resources and care they need. Key areas of focus include:

- Early Diagnosis and Intervention: Identifying developmental disabilities early allows for specialized support that can improve long-term outcomes.
- Healthcare Access: Consistent and specialized medical care is essential to managing health needs associated with developmental disabilities.
- Education and Skill Development: Educational programs tailored to different abilities help individuals build essential skills for independence and daily living.

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, take the time to learn more about developmental disabilities and how they impact individuals and families. Support organizations that provide medical, educational, and daily living resources. You can also help by sharing reliable information, participating in community events, or encouraging conversations that promote better understanding.

TURNING THE PAGE

This Week in Local History

By Larry Evans

135 Years Ago, March 15, 1890

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed most of the south side of the Kirksville square. The fire did an estimated \$100,000 in damage to the structures and business contents on the south side. Among the businesses that sustained losses were Hannah & Six Grocers, Dutcher Jewelry, Kirksville Democrat (newspaper), Grove and & Co. druggist, First National Bank (owned by W. T. Baird), Edminston's Tailoring, and Smith & Patterson Real Estate. Numerous offices of doctors, lawyers, and other professionals were also destroyed in the fire. The rebuilding of the south side of the square began immediately. The fire occurred on Friday night and the next morning W. T. Baird ordered brick for a new bank building. He expected to have it open in sixty days. The work of clearing away the debris began the day after the fire. The estimated insurance coverage of the loss was about \$55,000. The adjuster for the Fireman's Fund Insurance of California made the first settlement to B. F. Lamkin for the loss of his business. The payment was made on the Monday after the fire.

130 Years Ago, March 15, 1895

The Missouri Secretary of States Office approved the incorporation of the Highland Park Cemetery Association with capital stock of \$4,000. The incorporators were C. R. Tinsman, J. C. Baird, E. C. Bestman and Charles Grassle, all of Kirksville. The Highland Park Cemetery contained forty acres lying one half mile east of the city limits at the terminus of Normal Street. The cemetery was plated on a beautiful tract of land and was to be laid out on the lawn and park plan. The entire cemetery was to be cared for by the association. The new Highland Park Cemetery had been talked of a lot by local citizens who claimed that the city cemetery (Forest-Llewellyn) was in an inconvenient location and limited for future expansion because of the constraints imposed by the growth of the town. The cemetery association went to great pains to gather information and develop the best plans, rules, and regulations for caring for the cemetery. Landscape engineers had been secured, and a topographical map was developed from which the working plans for the cemetery were to be developed. Lots in the new cemetery were to be sold on the distinct guaranty that they would be cared for permanently. A trust fund was created in which ten percent of the lot sales were to be set aside for perpetual care. The Kirksville community felt that the enterprise was a commendable one and was met with much public approval.

110 Years Ago, March 18, 1915

An article on the front page of the Kirksville Daily Express started with the question: "Is there any family in Adair County or this vicinity that would like to have on parole a lively, energetic boy and thereby save that boy from going to reform school?" The question was prompted by Adair County Prosecuting Attorney Mills' possible solution for punishment for a crime three Kirksville youngsters committed. The three youngsters, all about twelve, broke into and stole merchandise from Powell's store near the shoe factory. The boys confessed to the crime and faced a period of time in the state reform school. They had been truant from school and loafing about the streets of Kirksville. According to Attorney Mills, their main trouble was a super abundance of energy. This gave Mills the idea that maybe they could be "farmed" out to a farmer who could utilize their energy by working on the farm and thereby avoiding a sentence to reform school. If the boys violated parole by disobeying the farmer or running away, they would immediately be sent to reform school. The next day a farmer appeared in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney and indicated he would accept one of the incorrigible juveniles.

100 Years Ago, March 16, 1925

An announcement was made by the Kennedy family that they intended to build a new fireproof theatre in Kirksville with a seating capacity of 1,200 and a stage capacity to accommodate large road companies. The theatre was to be built at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Elson and West McPherson Streets. The Kennedy



family who operated the Princess Theatre stated that the new theatre would be used for larger shows which could not be accommodated at the Princess. The Kennedys believed that the Princess Theatre was not large enough to give Kirksville some of the plays and road shows which it deserved.

90 Years Ago, March 21, 1935

The mid-1930s witnesses one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, and with it came the notorious wind whipped dust storms. The "dust bowl" which encompassed the central and western United States and Canada was estimated to be one of the worst droughts in a thousand years. On March 20, 1935, the worst dust storm to visit the northern part of Missouri, struck Kirksville with suddenness at about 3:30 in the afternoon. The atmosphere was filled with the stifling dust carried in by strong winds from the extremely dry Great Plains. The storm lasted until about 10:30 that night. In its wake were dust-laden homes, stores, and offices, as well as a layer of silt on everything that was outdoors. The swirling dust hindered visibility, halting rail traffic and requiring at least one passenger train to be held at La Plata until the storm subsided. People complained of irritated noses and throats and experienced difficulty in breathing because of the dust that crept into every crack and crevice in homes and businesses. The sky was darkened by the dust to the extent that lights had to be turned on. Residents were happy the next morning when they awakened to clear skies and bright sunshine, but they spent the next several days cleaning up the dust.

80 Years Ago, March 13-March 31, 1945

This two-and one-half week period in March 1945, during World War II saw heavy casualties inflicted on Adair County's servicemen in both the European Theater (fighting in German and France) and the South Pacific Theater (Philippines, Iwo Jima, Japan, and South Pacific islands). During the period at least five Adair County servicemen gave their lives while fighting in Europe. They were Sgt. Garnet Maize, France; Pfc. Thomas Grogan, Germany; Pfc. Cleo Ledford, Germany; Pvt. Lennis O. Mills, Germany; Pfc. Noah L. Vincent, Germany. Those Adair Countians who were wounded were: Pfc. Donald James, Italy; Cpl. Leonard Bray, Germany; Pfc. Raymond Wilson, Philippines; Pfc. John Brummit, Iwo Jima; Pfc. Bill Novinger, Iwo Jima; Pvt. Charles Tindall Jr., Iwo Jima; Pfc. Ralph McCartney, Germany; Pfc. Jack Harding, Belgium; Sgt. Cecil Platz, Germany; Cpl. Charles Lanham, Philippines; Cpl. Abner Bragg, Iwo Jima; Pvt. Melvin Thompson, Europe; Seaman 2nd Class Oren Smith, Mariana Islands; Pvt. Ray Ambrosia, Germany; Pvt. John T. Bowles, Germany; and Pvt. Clyde Brown, Iwo Jima. The Battle of Iwo Jima, a pivotal event in the South Pacific Theater, took place from February 19, 1945, to March 26, 1945. It was the bloodiest and most costly battle in terms of American casualties in the entire history of the U.S. Marine Corps. In the European Theater of the war, intensified fighting was taking place as the Allied Forces launched their final offensive to defeat Hitler. The military maneuver eventually led to Germany's surrender on May 8, 1945 (V-E Day, Victory in Europe Day).

60 Years Ago, March 14, 1965

Thousand Hills State Park Superintendent, Don Mulford, reported that Forest Lake had reached full capacity, and water began running over the spillway. A six-inch rainfall on New Years Day 1965, practically filled the lake and subsequent precipitation since that time brought the lake to overflow level. Mulford also reported that the depth of the lake was about 50 feet in the deepest places when filled to capacity. The state park and Forest Lake were dedicated in September 1952, and the lake was opened for fishing July 1, 1953. It was nearly twelve years later before the lake's water level reached full capacity.

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EMBRACING LOCAL HISTORY Part 146

Running away with the circus - Harry Newcomb - chapter 1

By Blytha Ellis, President
Adair County Historical Society
and Museum



In years past, children used to dream of running away with the circus. Few ever really did, but one country boy from Adair County actually fulfilled that fantasy! He was Harry Waring Newcomb who was born April 11, 1880, and grew up on a farm in the community of Sperry. He was the only boy in his family. He had three sisters, Fannie, Maude, and Nellie. Harry had visions of seeing the world far beyond the pastures of his father and grandfather's farms in Adair County. And, one day Harry would do just that!

It was in 1856 when Harry's Kentucky-born grandfather, David Newcomb (then spelled Newcoun), moved his wife, Ann (Waring), and son, Leonard, out of Lee County, Iowa, to make their home in Missouri. They became some of the earliest settlers of Clay Township in Adair County, Mo. Here, David Newcomb spent 36 years farming the land that one day Harry's father, Leonard, would take over. Harry's mother, Melvina (Heryford), had come from nearby Scotland County, and she and Leonard seemed content with farm life. But, not their son, Harry.

Fortunately, Harry's parents were prosperous enough to be able to send their only son to college. Harry attended Kirksville Normal School and hobnobbed with future greats of this community such as George Still who became a renowned surgeon, Jack Heiny who distinguished himself as a decorated Army lieutenant in World War I, and D. I. Stephenson, future drugstore owner. But, Harry Newcomb would take a much different path in life.

Harry's close friend at the Normal School was another farm boy from Clay Township, John T. Ratliff. After college, they were both hired by the Chicago Portrait Company, a popular business in those days. They traveled for nearly two years as representatives of the portrait company, one day ending up in North Carolina. It was there that Harry and John parted ways. John Ratliff decided to join the Army in 1898 during the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. He served in the Philippines and Samoa before returning to his family's homestead in Clay Township of Adair County to farm and raise purebred livestock.

As for Harry, North Carolina offered him the unique opportunity to fulfill his childhood yearnings. His career would not be as noble as his friend's, but it was what Harry wanted to do — he left there with a carnival! He skipped from carnival to carnival and circus to circus in a wide range of positions, becoming a veteran showman for a lifetime. His various troops traveled by truck, train, bus, and any conveyance possible to almost every state in the Union as well as through Mexico and Canada.

Sideshows became Harry's specialty, and monkeys were his chief performers. Harry was their trainer. Upon one of his trips back to Kirksville in the 1930s, Harry was interviewed by a Kirksville newspaper reporter. At that time, he had been on the road for 31 years. Regarding his monkeys, Harry said he began by teaching them to come when called, to stand, and to perform other simple tricks. Then, he moved on to more complicated acts, always rewarding them with something they really liked, such as candy.

Harry said he worked with many different species of monkeys, baboons and apes. However, he preferred Java monkeys for his work as they weren't as nervous as other kinds, and therefore more adaptable to training. They were considered highly intelligent and closest to humans out of all the animal kingdom, making it easy for humans to relate to them. Harry said Javas were especially suited for training in what he called his "motordrome



Harry Newcomb, circus performer from Adair County

acts." Harry had small colorful cars which he taught the monkeys to pilot on a banked, oval track as well as on a flat surface.

Although Harry's body became covered with scars from monkey bites over the years, he said he never worried much about the danger as the wounds always healed quickly. Harry said that monkeys are somewhat like people in their ability to learn, "They are individuals who are either smart or dumb naturally. They are either inclined to learn or not."

At the time of Harry's interview for the newspaper, he had returned to Kirksville for his show's winter hiatus. He brought with him a newly purchased baboon housed in a circus wagon. This animal had sharp, nearly three-inch-long canine teeth. The reporter asked if the baboon was ferocious. Harry replied, "I'll say he is! A baboon or monkey won't bother anybody unless antagonized, but they are strong enough to kill a lion or tiger if aroused. With their strong teeth, they can rip through a throat before there is time to fight back!"

Because of his love for these primates, Harry, of course, owned at least one of his own. He told the interviewer that while he traveled, he kept a tiny, 30-year-old monkey at the home of a friend, John Flinchbaugh, who lived in this area. He told of a time when this little monkey got in a fight with a pit-fighting bulldog. "He killed the dog before I could separate them!"

During the off seasons from all of his adventures, Harry had the opportunity to live many places and also work other jobs, although being a showman was always his passion. In 1910, when Harry was 30, he spent some time living with his married sister, Fannie (Newcomb) Sparks, and her family in Spokane, Washington. During his time there, Harry worked as a real estate broker along with his brother-in-law, Oliver Sparks.

However, during all of his travels, Harry considered the Newcomb family farm in the Sperry community where he had grown up as his home. He usually wintered on the farm with some of his primates. Harry married later in life at the age of 40 in 1921. His wife, Nora (Seburn), was a widow from Indiana. After their marriage, she spent much of her time on this farm while Harry was on the road, although she sometimes went with him in his travels. What did the Newcombs' rural Sperry neighbors think of Harry and his primates? We will see next week.

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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/>. Inclement 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 – March 17-21, Closed for culvert replacement operations from Nova Street to U.S. Route 36 near Macon between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page A1

Street Superintendent Steve Taylor reiterated it will take some time for them to make the changes, which will allow people to get familiar with how it's going to work, making the transition easier.

Mayor Zac Burden said he liked where the project was headed and remembered when it first came up. He

said using the flashing red lights was a compromise.

"Flashing red has worked pretty well," Burden said. "We've had some concerns with it there, but essentially changing over to stop signs creates the same type of intersection."

He said that at the time the lights were changed to flashing red, visitors and residents saw them as being broken and the city unable to fix them. He said that the stop signs would

probably paint a more accurate picture of what's happening downtown.

Macomber said that at this point it was important to provide information to businesses and property owners around the areas that will be impacted. She emphasized to the council that giving notice to the public was important.

"So before anything's brought to the council, we will make sure that happens," Macomber said. She

said the new plan will add consistency to the downtown traffic plan, a benefit especially for visitors.

Taylor said the plan would include "bump outs" that would make the signs more visible to drivers from as much as a block away.

Council member Jennifer Walston said that she wants it to be safe to drive downtown and was aware of some issues with site distancing, but she also didn't want to deter people from coming

to the downtown area.

"I want downtown to be accessible and for people to feel like, oh yeah, that's a great way for me to get from point A to point B," she said, noting that she wanted people to drive near downtown and make stops in the downtown area. "

"I just want to make sure we're not needlessly adding encumbrances," she said.

"That's a good concern because we really want our downtown to be foot traf-

fic accessible and we want other vehicles, as they're passing through, to build confidence, so that everything is consistent," Taylor said, noting that pedestrians are often equally confused by the flashing red lights. "So whether we add encumbrances or we are being precautious, the hope is, ultimately, that this provides a safer downtown and one that people can trust—that everybody is aware of what's going on."

RECORDS

Continued from Page A1

Seven of the long-standing requests are from news reporters and two are from individuals. All sought records regarding child abuse investigations, including at least one looking for department records for the Agape Boarding School, the Stockton-based Christian residential that closed in January 2023 while under scrutiny for alleged abuse of its students over decades..

There is no reason records requests should drag on so long, said Echo Menges, president of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition. Requesters should expect complex requests to take a reasonable amount of time, she said, but requests that linger unfilled for years smack of deliberate delays.

"They're basically being stonewalled and withholding information," said Menges, editor of the Edina Sentinel. "There's no way to gently explain that."

Dan Curry, legal adviser to the Missouri Press Association, said the public is entitled to ask for a specific date for producing records and specific reasons if the response is delayed.

"They should always make that request if they feel like they're being slow walked or stonewalled in any way," Curry said. "Submit a written request demanding a detailed explanation, and the government body is required to provide a detailed explanation. A generic 'we just need more time' is not sufficient."

Other findings from The Independent's investigation:

The Department of Transportation was the only other agency besides social services with pending requests received before Jan. 1, 2024. It had two, one from 2022 and another from 2023. There is no indication on the log provided of the nature of the records sought.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol, which because of its work

generates thousands of crash and arrest reports annually, provided a 968-page log of its requests for 2024 that contains approximately 30,000 entries. There were 171 open requests listed.

There are 12 agencies that provide an online portal that requires registering an email address and creating a password to submit and retrieve records. The remaining agencies and officials handle requests through a dedicated email for the custodian of records.

The Department of Conservation, in an interim response, said to expect a copy of its Sunshine log by March 7. The department's custodian of records did not respond to a message sent early last week seeking a reason for the delay and the date when the records would be available.

The Department of Corrections sent the same formulaic response to two requests, one sent to the department's custodian of records and another sent to the Board of Probation and Parole.

"Due to the size of our agency and the volume of records we maintain, locating, reviewing and copying the records could take up to sixty working days," the response stated. "Should we find that we will not be able to get the records to you within sixty working days, we will contact you again to tell you the reason for the delay."

The Department of Natural Resources, in an interim response, said to expect a copy of its log by March 24. The department's custodian of records did not respond to a message sent early last week seeking a reason for the delay and the date when the records would be available.

"It is like an A-minus to me, state government as a whole," Menges said when asked to grade the quality of the responses. "Although graded on their own, natural resources still has some time, but conservation is an F."

When a public agency misses the date it has set for fulfilling a

request, or does not set a specific date in a response stating it cannot provide the records immediately, requesters should demand a specific date — and the specific reasons for the delay, said Dave Roland, litigation director of the Freedom Center of Missouri. Under the Sunshine Law, every request "shall be acted upon as soon as possible" with a requirement that the records, or a reason why they cannot be provided immediately, by "the end of the third business day following the date the request is received."

When responding to ask for reasons, Roland said requesters should incorporate the statutory language requiring "a detailed explanation of the cause for further delay and the place and earliest time and date that the record will be available for inspection."

"Then you see what they say," Roland said. "If they do not give an adequate explanation or an adequate estimate as to when they're going to comply, then you can let them know, well, you're at risk of violating the Sunshine Law."

The Missouri Supreme Court, in a 2021 decision, ruled that then-Gov. Mike Parson's office violated the Sunshine Law by giving an approximate number of days rather than a particular date when records would be available. That decision was also notable because it barred public agencies from charging for time spent by attorneys reviewing records before release.

The public's right to see government records is rooted in common law. The Sunshine Law, passed in 1973 to codify that right, wasn't the first statute to do so. In 1961, the legislature passed a law imposing criminal penalties on officials who interfere with the right to inspect public records and protecting the public's ability to make copies of those records.

Under the Sunshine Law, every public agency from the largest state department to the smallest water district must have a custo-

dian of records responsible for providing access. There is no requirement that a requester state a reason for seeking the records and no requirement that the requester be a resident of Missouri or the place where a local agency has jurisdiction.

Agencies are not required to create new records in response to a request. And they are allowed to require payment for staff time needed to search for records and the costs of copying them. The costs are limited to no more than 10 cents per page for copying costs and by "using employees of the body that result in the lowest amount of charges for search, research, and duplication time."

High charges for public records have been found to be a violation of the law. In 2020, Boone County Circuit Judge Jeff Harris ruled that the University of Missouri had sought an excessive amount when it demanded \$82,000 for records of dogs used in research.

"The cost estimate in this case was tantamount to a denial of the request," Harris wrote.

The general compliance by state agencies in their responses to a simple request isn't surprising, Menges said, because as the largest and most complex organizations subject to the law, they should set the standard. The most common violations, she said, are by local government agencies. Throughout Missouri, there are fire, hospital, water and other districts governed by part-time boards with members who have never been subject to the Sunshine Law before.

The attorney general's office provides training, as do many state associations, but it is the responsibility of those board members to learn the law and make sure their agencies follow it, Menges said. "On a local level, we have a huge education issue, which is people do not understand or know how to follow the Sunshine Law in public boards, public offices. It's rampant, es-

pecially in rural communities."

Failure to follow the law can be costly. A lawsuit to enforce the Sunshine Law means large legal fees even if the government agency wins.

The Western District Court of Appeals is considering a case against the Western Cass Fire Protection District where a former board member accuses it of 46 violations at 11 different meetings. One of the meetings had an agenda item "special considerations" with no other explanation; the intent was to remove two board members.

The attorney general's office filed a brief in the case, supporting the accusations that the district violated the law. Agenda items must be written to describe what will be discussed, Assistant Attorney General Jason Lewis wrote in the brief.

"That means that a public governmental body cannot hide an elephant in a mouse hole by using vague or excessively broad terms to hide what the body intends to do," Lewis wrote. "The tentative agenda must be specific enough for the public to be able to make an informed decision about whether to attend the meeting."

In tiny Edgar Springs in Phelps County, Roland represented Rebecca Varney in a case where she was banned from city hall because staff became annoyed at her visits seeking city records. The city was found to have purposefully violated the Sunshine Law and ordered to pay \$750 to Varney and almost \$80,000 to Roland for his time. The city is appealing an order compelling it to turn over most of its available cash to pay the judgment, with interest accumulating since the 2023 ruling

"It really flows through not just publicly elected officials, but voters themselves," Menges said. "It's OK if you want to vote for someone who doesn't care to follow the Sunshine Law, but what that case has shown us is you're going to pay for it."

Kirksville-Thousand Hills Club Rotarians learn about volunteer optometry program

By Kirksville-Thousand Hills Club Rotary

Rotarians from the Kirksville-Thousand Hills Club recently learned about a vision program sponsored by SVOH-Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity. Amanda Everhart, who is a member of the organization at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn., spoke to club members about the mission trips to Central and South American countries sponsored by the student organization. Student volunteers, alongside professional optometrists, run clinics

where up to 300 patients per day are seen. The volunteers do eye exams, make referrals, and fit patients with donated, used, refurbished eye glasses. SVOH partners with civic organizations such as Rotary and Lions to fund the trips and collect used eyeglasses. In SVOH's history, over 200,000 patients in 14 countries have been served.

The Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary Club meets on Thursday mornings at 7 a.m. at the Aquatic Center, 801 E. Mill Street. Anyone who would like to learn more about the club or Rotary International is welcome to attend.



Kirksville-Thousand Hills Rotary Club President Courtney Bonnell and Amanda Everhart.

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BANQUET

Continued from Page A1

“Ronnie literally doesn’t know a stranger,” Hartman said. “Almost everyone he encounters knows him. Whether that’s from one of many jobs he’s worked with in the community, whether they were part of a program he may have been involved in or a previous staff member, everyone knows Ronnie Bean. Conversations usually start with, “How are you doing Ronnie?” and end with, “I can’t believe how well you’re doing now. You’re such a nice guy.”

Hartman said truer words could never have been said and that Bean thrives on being a helper and a protector. Everywhere he has lived in Kirksville, he is always thinking about his neighbors and how he can help them. From shoveling the sidewalk for a neighbor that he knows can’t do it themselves, to walking pets, lifting heavy things or simply bringing a smile to someone’s face, he wants everyone in his neighborhood to feel valued.

“These are qualities that I, and everyone, should strive toward daily,” Hartman said. “It is one of the many reasons I admire Ronnie.”

Hartman said that Bean wants to make sure that people see him, not as someone with a disability, but as a caring, hardworking, valued individual.

“He works hard daily to build a feeling of community,” Hartman said. “When you’re around him, you also feel like you’re valued and seen. Ronnie more than deserves this award that is named after his friend, and it is my honor to nominate him.”

Adair SB40 Executive Director Sean Jacob said he enthusiastically supported the nomination for Bean.

“I’m so proud of Ronnie,” Jacob said. “He has worked so hard over many years. He has grown into a great communicator and strong self-advocate.”

SB40 Service Coordinator Andy Magruder said, “Ronnie’s the epitome of a selfless individual who’s always looking to help others. He’s such a valuable member of his organization and always goes above and beyond with anything that’s expected of him.”

Magruder said that Bean has numerous responsibilities at his job and has been employed at Centers for Human Services-Chariton Valley Association for many years.

“Ronnie continues to show that limitations don’t define a person,” Magruder said. “His role is just as valuable as anyone else’s, and he sets such a good example for others.”

Along with Bean receiving the Ramon Pollard Award, the 12 monthly Spotlight Award recipients from April 2024-March 2025 were Andrew Pickett, Hannah Andino, Tyson Treasure, Jadis McAtee, Jason Underwood, James Broom-Bartlett, Ronnie Bean, Shelly Boland, Mike Renshaw, Dominic Thompson, Cristal Peterson & LOQW, and Don Crosby.

Anyone is welcome to nominate a candidate for a monthly Spotlight Award from Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board. Nominations may be made in the following categories:

- Kids Inclusion Spotlight Award for children in kindergarten — 8th grade
- Youth Leadership Spotlight Award for youth in grades 9-12
- Community Volunteer Spotlight Award (any age)
- Outstanding Entrepreneur or Outstanding Employee Spotlight Award (any age)

Community Partnership Award for any person or group supporting people with developmental disabilities.

Each March, all Spotlight Award recipients will be honored at the annual Spotlight Awards Banquet



Ronnie Bean receives the 2025 Ramon Pollard Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award from Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board at the annual Spotlight Awards Banquet held at the Cornerstone Church in Kirksville.



Spotlight Award recipient Don Crosby.

hosted by Adair SB40. Nominations can be made throughout the year by emailing sb40@sb40life.org or by contacting any SB40 staff member to assist you at (660) 665-9400.

The Adair County SB40 Developmental Disabilities Board is a not-for-profit governmental organization providing services and supports to local citizens with developmental disabilities. It is funded through a special property tax passed by Adair County voters in April 2005, as approved through the Missouri State Senate Bill 40 in 1969.

The organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors who are appointed by the Adair County Commission. The agency operates the Community Learning Center located at 1107 Country Club Drive in Kirksville. Adair County SB40 also hold a contract with Missouri Department of Mental Health, providing Targeted Case Management services in Adair, Putnam, Scotland, Schuyler and Sullivan Counties.

Adair County SB40’s mission is to engage in advocacy, promote inclusion, and provide essential resources to assist people with developmental disabilities to live self-determined lives. For more information on this organization, go to <https://www.sb40life.org/>.

If you would like more information about this topic, contact Sean Jacob at 660-665-9400 or email seanjacob@sb40life.org.



Spotlight Award recipient Jadis McAtee's parental supports and her sister, Jensen, receive the award on her behalf.



Spotlight Award recipient Mike Renshaw



Adair SB40 Executive Director Sean Jacob (right) and SB40 Service Coordinator Andy Magruder, received the award on behalf of James Broom-Bartlett.



Spotlight Award recipient Hannah Andino.



Spotlight Award recipient Shelly Boland



Spotlight Award recipient Dominic Thompson

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Memphis Community Health Center: Solving complex health problems with personalized care

Dr. Shane Wilson has over a decade of service to the Memphis community

By Memphis Community Health Center

For over 10 years, Dr. Shane Wilson has been more than just a physician to the people of Memphis—he’s been a trusted partner in their health journey. As an internal medicine specialist at Memphis Community Health Center, a service of Northeast Missouri Health Council, Wilson has spent his career treating adult patients with chronic and complex health conditions, offering them something rare: peace of mind. Living with chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease or hypertension can often feel like navigating through a maze of symptoms, medications and appointments. Many patients find themselves overwhelmed and unsure of where to turn for help. That’s where Wilson comes in. Known for his calm demeanor and compassionate approach, Wilson specializes

in helping patients put the “calm” back in their medical chaos. “I appreciate the high level of attention Dr. Wilson has given me from my first visit with him to now,” said one patient. “I was at my lowest thinking the worst. Dr. Wilson listened and gave comfort. He assured me that he would help me figure out what was going on. I left the office feeling that he would go above and beyond to get me feeling better.” “It’s about actually listening to the patient’s concerns and making complex medical conditions easier to understand,” Wilson said. “When you can break things down in a way that’s relatable, it empowers the patient to take charge of their health and work alongside me to develop a treatment plan that fits their life.” Wilson’s approach is rooted in his belief that healthcare should be accessible, understandable, and, most importantly, personalized. Whether it’s a preventative visit or an ongoing consultation to manage a chronic condition, Wilson takes the time to listen to his patients. He works to build a treatment plan tailored to each

individual’s unique health needs, offering guidance every step of the way. As another patient shares: “Dr. Wilson has always taken the time to listen and answer all my questions. He explains things so I understand what is going on and never gives up until he finds an answer to my healthcare needs. I always feel better when I leave his office.” What sets Wilson apart is his ability to coordinate and manage care across specialties as a patient’s primary care provider (PCP). Many patients have complex health needs that require specialists, and one of Wilson’s key roles is to help his patients navigate these multiple avenues of care. He works closely with specialists to ensure that all aspects of a patient’s health are being addressed and that the care they receive is cohesive and well-managed. “I remember Dr. Wilson telling me that I was sick enough for insulin, but that he had faith in me that with a bit of education and a couple of needed medications, I could get my A1c’s back to normal,” said another patient. “His faith in me gave me the strength and determination

to work hard and change my way of life with food. In three months, my labs proved his faith in me was correct. I was in control.” Being a 1992 graduate of Scotland County R-1, Wilson is a familiar face in the community. His patients trust him not only because of his medical expertise, but also because he’s someone they know and feel comfortable with. He understands the unique challenges of living in a rural community and works tirelessly to ensure that everyone receives the best care possible. Wilson’s patients vary from young adults managing weight issues and preventative care to older individuals dealing with more serious chronic conditions. Wilson’s ability to meet patients where they are has earned him respect and admiration. It’s clear that his commitment to delivering quality care transcends the medical office. One patient adds, “Upon entering the clinic, there is no waiting for an hour past your appointment time before being taken to an exam room only to wait another 30 minutes. The staff is very prompt and attentive.



Dr. Shane Wilson, an internal medicine specialist at Memphis Community Health Center.

Once Dr. Wilson arrives, he is very attentive to your medical concerns. There is no feeling like he is in a hurry to get to his next patient; he is genuinely concerned about your care and takes the time to explain any questions you have. I am very pleased with his knowledge, competence, and compassion. Memphis is truly fortunate to have Dr. Wilson as a member of our community.” The mission of Memphis Community Health Center is simple: provide quality, compassionate care to all. With Wilson leading the charge in internal medicine, Memphis Community Health Center has become a beacon of hope for those in need of care, particularly for those with complex or ongoing health concerns. Whether you’re looking for a routine checkup, need help

managing a chronic condition, or are ready to take control of your health for the first time, Wilson is here to help. He’s more than just a doctor—he’s an advocate, a guide, and a caring presence in an often overwhelming healthcare system. Wilson and the entire team are ready to help you manage your health with compassion, expertise, and personalized care. Make an appointment today to begin your path toward better health at Memphis Community Health Center, a service of Northeast Missouri Health Council. Wilson and the entire team are ready to help you manage your health with compassion, expertise and personalized care. Call 660-465-7522 to schedule your appointment today or visit them online at www.nemohealthcouncil.com for more information.

Christopher S. Huffman is new member of American Angus Association

By American Angus Association

Christopher S. Huffman of Novinger is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, according to the national

organization headquarters in Saint Joseph. Junior members of the association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus

Association and take part in association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events. The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with more than

21,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association. The American Angus Association® is the nation’s largest beef breed organization, serving more than

21,000 members across the United States, Canada and several other countries. It’s home to an extensive breed registry that grows by more than 300,000 animals each year. The Association also provides programs and services to farmers, ranch-

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Mascot and Tortoise battle in March Madness Challenge

By Truman State University

University mascot Spike and Nugget, a tortoise from the herpatarium, are competing head-to-head for the most accurate March Madness bracket.

Nugget will make his selections by eating food placed near logos of each of the competing teams. Spike claims to have a secret “fool-proof formula” he predicts will result in a perfect bracket.

All members of the Truman community are invited to fill out free brackets and see how they stack up against Spike and Nugget. Pools for both the men's and women's NCAA tournament can be found online at playncaa.com under Truman State Univ. (men's bracket, women's bracket). The password is TrumanState1867.

Updates for Spike and Nugget will be shared on Truman's Instagram throughout the tournament.



ALL-CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL

GREAT LAKES VALLEY

NCAA DIVISION II

GLVC

CONFERENCE

XAVIER HALL

FIRST TEAM

ALL DEFENSIVE TEAM

KOBI WILLIAMS

SECOND TEAM

CASEN LAWRENCE

SPORTSMANSHIP



Hall, Williams named All Conference in GLVC awards

By Truman State University

Truman guards Xavier Hall and Kobi Williams claimed all-conference honors for the 2024-25 Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) season. Guard Casen Lawrence was named Truman's GLVC James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award nominee.

Hall, who led the GLVC in assists and assists per game all season long, was named

not only to the first team but also the league's all-defensive team. The junior averaged 5.7 assists per game, 13th in NCAA Division II, recording 160 total assists on the campaign, 12th in NCAA Division II.

Williams was named all-conference second team while pacing the Bulldogs with 411 points scored during his sophomore season. Among league leaders, Williams ranks 19th in rebounds (5.3 per game), 14th field goal

percentage (.496), 10th in free throw percentage (.846), 16th in 3-point field goals per game (1.9), 23rd in assists per game (2.3) and 24th in blocked shots per game (0.5).

Redshirt sophomore Casen Lawrence claimed Truman's GLVC James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award nomination and is now eligible to win one of Truman's two Spalding Award Winners to be announced at the end of the academic year.



Kirksville Parks and Rec launches Beyond Boundaries Adaptive Swim Team

By Kirksville Parks and Recreation

The Kirksville Parks and Recreation Department announced the Beyond Boundaries Adaptive Swim Team program, a swimming program designed specifically for athletes with physical and/or developmental disabilities. This program offers an inclusive team experience that encourages athletes to enhance their abilities in the water by focusing on strength, body awareness, endurance, and water safety.

The Beyond Boundaries Adaptive Swim Team will meet every Friday evening from 6-6:50 p.m. from March 21 through May 16, at the Kirksville Aquatic Center. Swimmers should be comfortable in the water and able to swim one length of the pool (any stroke or modified stroke) with or without assistance. An adult parent or guardian must be present on the pool deck during practice times. Parents or guardians are welcome to join their child in the water for additional support as needed.

Practices start with basic full-body movement, allowing athletes to get comfortable with their abilities in the water.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 660-627-1485.

ALL-CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GREAT LAKES VALLEY

NCAA DIVISION II

GLVC

CONFERENCE

JORDAN CUNNINGHAM

FIRST TEAM

MOLLY JOYCE

SECOND TEAM

KAITLYN PATKE

SPORTSMANSHIP



Cunningham and Joyce earn All-GLVC Women's Basketball honors

By Truman State University

Jordan Cunningham and Molly Joyce earned first- and second-team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference women's basketball honors, respectively, while Kaitlyn Patke was the team's nominee for the James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award.

Cunningham, a graduate

student, was the regular-season statistical leader for the Bulldogs this season, averaging 16.1 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 1.6 steals and 0.9 blocks per game. She ranked fifth in the conference in overall scoring per game and fourth in conference-only scoring at 17.1 points per game. She earned the GLVC Player of the Week honor,

Feb. 24, and recorded three double-doubles this season while starting all 30 games.

Joyce led the league in 30-point games with three this season. She was the GLVC Freshman of the Year last year and followed up that campaign with a 15.1 points-per-game average this season. Joyce set a career high with 34 points against Ursuline

and is one of the top free-throw shooters in the GLVC at 84.8%.

Patke, a three-year member of the program, was recognized as part of Senior Day activities, March 1. She scored more than half of her season points in the last four games and has been serving as president of Truman's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.



5K Run supports Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

By Truman State University

Delta Sigma Pi is collaborating with Delta Phi Epsilon and Community of College Entrepreneurs to host a 5K run for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The event will take place at 9 a.m. April 26 on the corner of Patterson and Franklin Streets. The cost is \$20 per runner. Sign up by March 26 to receive a free t-shirt.

NEMR’s splicing and construction crews teach hands-on fiber optic skills to KATC students

By NEMR

NEMR recently brought real-world fiber optic technology to the classroom, as the employees of its splicing and construction crews volunteered their time to teach students at Kirksville Area Technical Center’s Building Trades Class.

During the interactive session, students gained hands-on experience in fiber optic technology, learning how to splice fiber, construct networks, and install fiber services. The crews demonstrated state-of-the-art splicing equipment and provided an up-close look at a cable plow used to bury fiber, giving students a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to build and maintain a high-speed internet network.

“Fiber technology is the future, and we’re excited to give students a glimpse into this growing industry,”

said Kyle Rogers, NEMR plant manager. “By sharing our knowledge and experience, we hope to inspire the next generation of skilled workers who will help expand, maintain and enhance connectivity in our communities.”

Students engaged in hands-on activities, getting a feel for the precision and expertise required in fiber optic work. Many were excited to learn how the technology they use every day — whether for streaming, gaming or schoolwork — is built and maintained.

“NEMR is committed to investing in the future workforce and strengthening community partnerships,” company officials said. “By bringing industry professionals into the classroom, the company hopes to encourage students to explore careers in fiber optics, construction, and telecommunications.”



Students learn to splice cable.



Instructor Destry Knupp teaches splicing.



Instructor Destry Knupp teaches splicing.



Students check out the cable plow.

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A group of students are gathered around a table, focused on a task. One student in a black Champion hoodie is using a tool to work on a piece of equipment, while others in grey and black hoodies look on. The equipment appears to be a fiber optic splicing machine.

Students learning to splice cable.

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Medical staff member provides information on shingles

By Northeast Regional Medical Center

News that Harrison Ford withdrew from the 2025 Oscars ceremony due to a diagnosis of shingles has brought attention to this common, often painful, condition.

Usually thought of as a childhood disease, chickenpox can have lasting effects well into adulthood because the virus remains inactive in the body even after recovery. Years after you have had chickenpox, the virus can reappear in the form of shingles.

One in three Americans will experience shingles in their lifetime according to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention. There is no cure for shingles, but there are a variety of treatment options that can make symptoms less serious.

“Shingles cause a blistering rash most often on either side of the torso,” said Tysen Petre, D.O., Family Medicine, member of the medical staff at Northeast Regional Medical Group. “The rash may last two to four weeks, but some people still experience pain after the rash goes away.”

Adults over the age of 50 are at risk of developing shingles, but the disease can appear in younger individuals who have had the chickenpox. Other risk factors include having other diseases such as HIV/AIDS, having undergone radiation or chemotherapy, or taking certain medications.

The first symptoms of shingles may be itching or pain, which, depending on the location, can sometimes be mistaken for other issues. A rash appears typically after the pain, but some experience the discomfort of shingles without a rash. Other signs of shingles include:

- Burning, numbness or tingling
 - Sensitivity to touch
 - Fluid-filled blisters
 - Itching
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Sensitivity to light
 - Fatigue
- Visit a physician promptly if you have symptoms of shingles, especially if you experience pain or rash around the eye, you are 70 years or older, you or someone in your family has a weakened immune system or the rash is widespread and painful.
- Shingles is contagious. Someone who has not had chickenpox and who has direct contact with the shingles rash could contract chickenpox, not shingles. Chickenpox can be very dangerous for anyone with a weak immune system, newborns and pregnant women, so if you have shingles do not come into physical contact

with these people. When your blisters scab over you are not usually contagious any longer.

“There is no cure for shingles, but prescription drugs can speed recovery and reduce your risk of complications. Your physician may also prescribe creams or painkillers,” said Petre. “Adults 50 and over, as well as younger adults at increased risk of shingles, are eligible for the two-shot vaccine which is more than 90% effective at preventing outbreaks.”

Some people experience complications from shingles if they do not receive the right treatment. Shingles around the eye can cause painful infections and vision loss. The disease can also damage nerve fibers causing pain even after the disease is gone. If shingles blisters are not treated properly they can become infected.



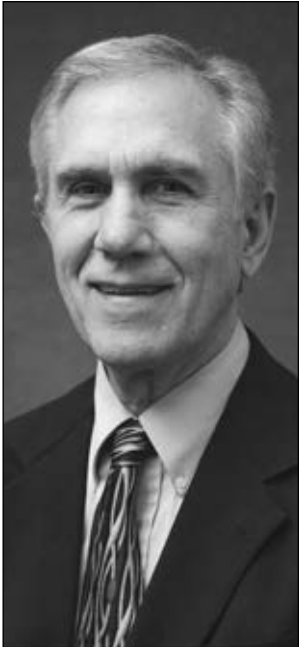
Tysen Petre, D.O., Family Medicine

Talk to your primary care or family physician immediately if you suspect shingles. If you need assistance finding a doctor, visit <https://www.nermc.com/find-a-doctor>.

Complete Family Medicine provides life-saving colorectal cancer screenings

By Complete Family Medicine

As March marks Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Complete Family Medicine is reinforcing its commitment to community health by highlighting the critical role of colonoscopies in preventing and detecting colorectal cancer. Dr. Philip McIntire, general surgeon at Complete Family Medicine, is urging individuals to prioritize this potentially life-saving screening.



Dr. Philip McIntire, general surgeon at Complete Family Medicine

“Colonoscopy is a powerful tool in our fight against colorectal cancer,” McIntire said. “It remains the gold standard for colorectal cancer prevention and detection. Early detection through colonoscopy significantly increases the chances of successful treatment and survival. By identifying and removing precancerous polyps, we can prevent cancer from developing altogether. The importance of taking this proactive step for your health cannot be stressed enough.”

Colorectal cancer remains a significant health concern, but it is highly preventable with regular screenings. McIntire emphasizes that many individuals may not experience symptoms in the early stages, making screenings crucial.

“Colorectal cancer can develop silently, which is why screening is so vital,” McIntire said. “We recommend that individuals at average risk should begin reg-

ular screenings at age 45. A screening may be indicated before 45 in certain high risk individuals. This includes people with a family history of colorectal cancer or other risk factors.”

McIntire and the team at Complete Family Medicine said they are dedicated to providing comprehensive care and support throughout the screening process.

“We understand that some may feel apprehensive about colonoscopies, and we are here to address any concerns and provide clear information,” McIntire said. “Our goal is to make the process as comfortable and accessible as possible.”

This March, prioritize your health. Schedule your colonoscopy today by contacting McIntire’s office at (660) 665-4432.



Carousel Productions to present ‘Smoke on the Mountain’

By Carousel Productions

Carousel Productions announced its upcoming production of “Smoke on the Mountain”, a lively and heartwarming musical that brings the spirit of a 1930s Southern gospel revival to the stage. Running from April 25 through May 3, this beloved show will take audiences on a journey of faith, laughter, and foot-stomping bluegrass music.

Set in a small North Carolina church, Smoke on the Mountain follows the Sanders Family Singers as they perform at Mount Pleasant Baptist

Church’s Saturday Night Gospel Sing. Packed with classic hymns, heartfelt storytelling, and comedic moments, the production is an uplifting celebration of community and tradition.

This production will be an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages, particularly those who cherish gospel and bluegrass music. The local (home-grown) talent has the musical expertise and energy to bring this play to life.

“The music is infectious, the humor is charming, and the message is uplifting,” said Mary Bethi Truitt, music director of the production. “We’re

excited to bring this joyful and nostalgic show to the stage, and we know audiences will leave with smiles on their faces and songs in their hearts.”

Tickets for Smoke on the Mountain are available now at the Royal Theatre box office in Macon and online at Eventbrite.com. Due to high demand, early reservations are strongly encouraged.

Join them for an evening of music, laughter, and revival spirit! For more information, contact Carousel Productions at carouselproductions78@gmail.com or visit them on Facebook at Carousel Productions-Macon, MO

Susan Knox named new Adair County Library director

Staff Reports

The Adair County Public Library Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Susan Knox as the new library director. Knox began her work in this position on March 1.

Assistant Director Sonja Hannah welcomed the appointment: “On behalf of myself and the staff we are thrilled to welcome Ms. Knox as the Adair County Public Library Director. We look forward to introducing her to our patrons and supporting her in the library’s future growth.”

As library director, Knox will help the library fulfill its mission of serving the people of Adair County through excellent library services, collection development, and programming, library officials said in a press release.

“I am excited to join the Adair County Public Library as director, and I feel very fortunate to be joining a skilled and experienced library staff,” said Knox. “I am humbled by this opportunity, and I will work to ensure our library remains a vibrant hub for community engagement and learning.”

Knox has lived in Adair County for over 20 years. Knox said she is looking forward to meeting current patrons and welcoming new patrons to the library.

Previous to serving as the library director, she worked for the Kirksville R-III School District. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in Literature. Knox lives in Kirksville with her spouse, Mark Jennings, and two sons.

The library, located at One Library Lane in Kirksville, is open Monday, Thursday, Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library is closed on Sundays.

For more information, visit the Adair County Public Library website (www.adairco.org) or call 660-665-6038.



Adair County Public Library Director Susan Knox.

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Kirksville Daily Express

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Large bales mixed hay, net wrapped, never wet. Call 660-216-7696.

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Miscellaneous

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NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

On March 13, 2025, the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri, entered Judgment in Cause Number 24AR-CV00702, changing the name of Chloe Ann Collis to Chloe Ann Lewis.

Notice is hereby given that by an order of the Circuit Court of the County of Adair, Case No. 25AR-CV00153 made entered on the record on March 6, 2025, the name of Jordan Elizabeth Chapman was changed to Jordan E Chapman.

WANTED:

Someone to mow and WEEDEAT Refuge Cemetery for the 2025 Season.

Located north of KTVO – off highway 63, turn east on Rt. T. Taking bids now through April 1st.

Contact Jon at (660) 216-7718

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Supervised Administration - Non-Resident Fiduciary)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of STEPHANIE LYNNE BISSEY, Decedent: On March 14, 2025, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of STEPHANIE LYNNE BISSEY, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri. The personal representative's name and business address is: TREVOR E. BISSEY, 107 RUTH ROAD , BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: LESLIE J. SILVERNAI, 803 SOUTH BALTIMORE, KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501, 660-956-0997

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is: LESLIE J. SILVERNAI, 801 KINGS ROAD, KIRKSVILLE, MO, 63501, 660-956-0997

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

Date of the decedent's death: January 11, 2025

Date of first publication: March 19, 2025

/s/Martha Cole
Adair County Circuit Clerk

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

PUBLICATION DATES: 3-19-2025, 3-26-2025, 4-2-2025, 4-9-2025

Notice of Non-Election for General Municipal Election

April 8, 2025
Adair County, MO per 115.124.1 RSMo

The districts included in the non-election are:
Adair County Ambulance District Board of Directors 3yr term: Sub District 2- David Powell; Sub District 5- Terry Combs

Village of Millard Board of Trustees 2yr term: Felicia Scott, Timothy E. Scott, and Tena Yadon

Adair County R-II School District Board of Directors 3yr term: Jessica Lunsford and Julie Hettinger

Kirksville R-III School District Board of Directors 3yr term: Julie James-Sneddon and Michael Bishop II

Kirksville R-III School District Board of Directors 1yr unexpired term: Ted Frushour

Adair County Health Department Board of Trustees 4yr term: Brenda C. Higgins, Robin R. Darr, and Curt Platz

Adair County Nursing Home District Board of Directors 3yr term: Justin D. Puckett and Elizabeth Clerk

La Plata Nursing Home District Board of Directors 3yr term: Sub District 2- Gary Cripe; Sub District 3- Lana Daniels

I, Sandy Collop, County Clerk/Election Authority herby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct list of the candidates that shall assume the responsibilities of office as certified to me by said districts. In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the said County Commission. Done in my office in Adair County, this 28th day of January 2025.

Sandy Collop
Adair County Clerk/Election Authority

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE: Hunter Joseph Maxymczak, a single person Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Hunter Joseph Maxymczak, a single person dated May 30, 2023 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Adair County, Missouri as Document No. 202300001125 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 3:30 PM), at the South Front Door of the Court House, City of Kirksville, County of Adair, State of Missouri, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Adair County, State of Missouri, to wit:

A PART OF THE NORTHEAST FOURTH OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 62, RANGE 15, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT 849 FEET WEST AND 254 FEET 4 1/2 INCHES SOUTH OF THE CENTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 62, RANGE 15, THENCE WEST 108 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 108 FEET, THENCE EAST 108 FEET, THENCE NORTH 108 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, PC.,
Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No: 226030.041525.453969 FC

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON: March 19, 2025 03/26/2025, 04/02/2025, 04/09/2025

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE: John Rice and Kimberly Rice, husband and wife Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by John Rice and Kimberly Rice, husband and wife dated April 3, 2023 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Adair County, Missouri in Book 1149, Page 833 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 3:30 PM), at the South Front Door of the Court House, City of Kirksville, County of Adair, State of Missouri, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Adair County, State of Missouri, to wit:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3, PATTERSON'S FIRST ADDITION TO KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI, THENCE EAST 103 FEET 8 INCHES, THENCE SOUTH 146 FEET 3 INCHES, THENCE WEST 103 FEET 8 INCHES, THENCE NORTH 146 FEET 3 INCHES TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, PC.,
Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No: 225725.040125.453380 FC

Notice

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON: March 5, 2025 03/12/2025, 03/19/2025, 03/26/2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF:)
ROBBY LEE KING,) Estate No.: 22AR-PR00031
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ROBBY LEE KING, Deceased.

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in interest of the personal/real property of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interests therein and for distribution of such property, in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Adair County, Missouri, on or about March 26, 2025 or [7 days after last publication] or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

/s/Rodney King
Rodney King, Personal Representative

MCCLAMROCH & WILLIAMS, LLC
1003 E. Jefferson Street
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 665-7777 Telephone
(660) 665-4444 - Telefax
mlwilliamsmmw@gmail.com

ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

BY: /s/Mark L. Williams
Mark L. Williams

DATES OF PUBLICATION: February 26, March 5, 12, and 19.

NEMR selects 2025 FRS Youth Tour attendees

By NEMR

NEMR has selected three local high school students to attend the 2025 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The selected students are Katie Halley of Unionville, daughter of Todd and Jamie Halley; Morgan Jackson of Memphis, daughter of David and Jodie Jackson; and Keregan Middleton of Memphis, daughter of Andrew and Rane'e Middleton. These students will represent NEMR on the trip in June. Each student applied for the Youth Tour and

participated in an interview dinner with the NEMR Education Committee. During the dinner, they introduced themselves, shared their interests and future goals, and explained why they wanted to be part of this opportunity. Since 1995, the FRS Youth Tour has provided students from rural communities with the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., learn about rural broadband, and engage with key legislative, regulatory, and government leaders. The tour also allows students to share their community's story and connect with



Morgan Jackson of Memphis, Katie Halley of Unionville, and Keregan Middleton of Memphis.

peers from across the country. "NEMR looks forward to seeing Katie, Morgan, and Keregan represent their communities during this educational and lead-

ership-focused experience," NEMR officials said in a press release. The group picture L to R: Morgan Jackson, Katie Halley, and Keregan Middleton.



Katie Halley of Putnam County.



Keregan Middleton of Scotland County.



Morgan Jackson of Scotland County.

Survey seeks insights from Missouri sheep, goat producers

By University of Missouri Extension

Missouri sheep and goat producers are encouraged to participate in a survey to help shape the future of the state's small ruminant industry. The initiative is a collaboration between University of Missouri Extension and Lincoln University Extension. "Sheep and goat farming plays a vital role in Missouri's agricultural landscape," said Jennifer Lutes, MU Extension agricultural business and policy specialist. "However, there's much we still don't know about the inner workings of these operations." That's where dedicated producers come in, Lutes said.

What data is being collected

- Operation size and inventory: "We want to understand the scale of your operations — whether you're a small family farm or a larger commercial enterprise," Lutes said. How many sheep and goats do you raise, and what breeds are prevalent?
- Sales and marketing: How and where do you market your products? Your insights will help researchers identify best practices and potential areas for improvement.
- Production costs: Understanding the financial aspects of sheep and goat production is crucial. What are your costs related to feed, veterinary care and other inputs? This information will contribute to a comprehensive economic analysis.

How information will be used

- Detailed industry report: Researchers will compile a comprehensive report on Missouri's small ruminant indus-

try. This report will provide insights for producers, policymakers and researchers alike. • Training and guides: Targeted training materials and guides will be developed based on the findings. Whether you're a seasoned producer or just starting out, these resources will enhance your knowledge and skills, Lutes said. • Economic impact: "By understanding the economic contributions of sheep and goat farming, we can advocate for policies that support sustainable growth," she said. • Policy recommendations: "Armed with solid data, we'll advise policymakers on ways to strengthen the industry, promote resilience and address challenges," Lutes added.

How to contribute

- Gather your financial data: Use the production worksheets in the survey to organize your financial information. Every dollar counts.
- Take the anonymous survey at <https://bit.ly/Goat-SheepSurvey>.

Make a difference

"Your participation will not only help us understand the current state of the industry but also pave the way for future advancements and support," said Homero Salinas, state extension and research specialist at Lincoln University. Producers are encouraged to fill out as much as they can even if they don't have all their financial information for 2024. Direct link to survey: <https://www.lincolnu.edu/cooperative-extension-and-research/cooperative-extension/small-ruminant-program.html>.

Crosby named Adair County SB40 Community Volunteer Spotlight Award recipient

Staff Reports

Adair County SB40 has selected long-time board member, Don Crosby, as the Community Volunteer Spotlight Award Recipient for his service on the Adair County SB40 Board. SB40 officials said that after 20 years of volunteer services to the board, Crosby, who has impacted people and the community significantly, will be leaving his role this spring. Jeff Silvernail, vice-chairman of the Adair County SB40 Board who nominated Crosby for the award, said, "Don more recently was instrumental in brokering the integration of sheltered workshop resources into current DD employment resources in our community, further assisting integration of employment of the DD employed in Adair County." Silvernail said Crosby was retired from Alliant Bank and is the current HR director for the city of Kirksville, which he is retiring from soon. "He helped to grow the organization into taking over targeted case management, which significantly increased funding and services in our county for the people with developmentally disabilities," Silvernail said. Previous Adair SB40 Executive Director Crystal Amini-Rad, who is a co-nominator of Crosby for this award, enthusiastically stated, "Don is one

of the silent heroes of our community, who sacrifices his time and energy to support many agencies and services for community members everywhere. Adair SB40 has been incredibly blessed to have Don involved from our beginning, as our leader and our guide. His efforts have assured that SB40 operations are efficient, trustworthy and entirely focused on our mission." Amini-Rad said that SB40 staff, board and the people with developmental disabilities which they serve have felt the enormous impact of Crosby's commitment to SB40. "We are so grateful to him for all that he has achieved," Amini-Rad said. Former Adair SB40 Director Nancy Pennington said that Crosby is one of the most kind, humble, intelligent leaders she has had the privilege to know. "His dedication to the Adair County SB40 board has been admirable, taking us through leadership changes, growth and transitions," Pennington said. "His knowledge of regulations, policies, Sunshine Law, and Robert's Rules of Order have kept things running smoothly. His heart for service has helped to improve the lives of so many, especially those with developmental disabilities. I wish him all the best in his next adventure!" Another previous Adair SB40 executive director, Deb Wohlers, agreed em-



Adair SB40 Executive Director Sean Jacob (Left) with March Spotlight Award recipient Don Crosby.

phatically. "The Adair County SB40 would not have achieved all that it has done since its inception without the leadership of Don Crosby," she said. "He was there from the very beginning, providing the professional knowledge of non-profit organizations and how they function, as well as the vision of making the world a better place for people with developmental disabilities. His dedication, his hard work and his commitment to doing the right thing, set an example for the whole organization." The original Adair SB40 executive director, Nan Davis, said, "I want to take

a moment to express my sincere gratitude for Don and his selfless service in helping establish the administrative business practices for the Adair County SB40 Board. His expertise in budgeting and unwavering commitment to the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars have been invaluable to the board's success. His dedication to ensuring that public funds are managed wisely has made a lasting impact on our community and the individuals this board serves." Davis said that Crosby's time, effort and the leadership he has invested have set a strong foundation that

will benefit Adair County and its citizens with Developmental Disabilities for years to come. "As he steps away from this role we hope he realizes that his contributions are deeply appreciated," Davis said. "His public service has made a meaningful difference, and I am honored to have worked with him to launch the SB40 Developmental Disability Board in its early beginnings." Adair SB40 Executive Director Sean Jacob, who also co-nominated Crosby, said he 100% deserves this recognition for all he has done for people in the community. "He has been a strong voice and advocate for people with Developmental Disabilities," Jacob said. "I want to echo how deserving he is of all the comments above, and want to especially iterate the massive gap that is left behind by Don not being on our board in the near future. He will be greatly missed, and we did not want his time and dedication to our community to be under-appreciated

or underestimated." If you would like to nominate a great candidate for a monthly Spotlight Award, Adair County SB40 accepts nominations. Anyone can make a nomination. Nominations can be made in any of the four following categories: • Kids Inclusion Spotlight Award for children in kindergarten — 8th grade • Youth Leadership Spotlight Award for youth in grades 9-12 • Community Volunteer/ Partner Spotlight Award (any age) • Entrepreneur or Employee Spotlight Award (any age) In March, all monthly Spotlight Award winners are recognized at the annual awards banquet. Nominations can be made throughout the year by visiting the Adair County SB40 website or by contacting a SB40 staff member to assist you at (660) 665-9400. You can also find more information about the four nomination categories by visiting Adair County SB40's website, <https://www.sb40life.org>.

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Red Cross Giving Day, March 26, rallies 30,000 supporters to deliver aid when help can't wait after disasters

Financial and blood donations are needed now

By Red Cross

COLUMBIA — The American Red Cross of Central and Northern Missouri is issuing a call to help ensure no one faces a disaster alone by donating on Red Cross Giving Day, March 26.

During the first 50 days of 2025, Red Cross volunteers responded to more big disasters in the U.S. than days — including the wildfires in Los Angeles and flooding in Kentucky. And that's on top of everyday crises like home fires that have upended lives here in Central and Northern Missouri. Meanwhile, more Red Cross blood donations

have gone uncollected so far this year due to weather than throughout all of 2024.

“This year’s disasters have set a whirlwind pace, displacing thousands of people from their homes across the country and disrupting the nation’s blood supply for patients,” said Rebecca Gordon, executive director, Red Cross of Central and Northern Missouri. “As we enter spring disaster season, families are relying on us to come together as a community and support them when help can’t wait during future crises. Join us today by making a financial donation or giving blood.”



Visit redcross.org today to make a financial donation or schedule an appointment to give blood in March. Donations will be part of Red Cross Giving Day, which aims to rally 30,000 individuals to help people affected by disasters big and small. A gift of any size makes a difference. For example, a donation of \$3 can provide a comfort kit with supplies like a toothbrush, comb and shampoo, and a gift of \$11

can provide a nutritious meal, snack and drink.

For those who are able, any donor who gives \$140 or more in March will receive a choice of a Red Cross monopak or a pair of socks as a thank-you for supporting their mission. Donors can make their gift and claim their thank-you by visiting redcross.org any time during March.

To help overcome the significant weather impact on blood donations, the Red

Cross also urges the public to give lifesaving blood by making an appointment today at RedCrossBlood.org, on the Red Cross Blood Donor App or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS. People of all blood types are needed now to help avoid further strain to the blood supply.

The Red Cross is expanding its health offerings by performing free A1C testing (commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes) on successful blood, platelet and plasma donations in March. Additionally, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March for details on both offers.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities March 17-31:

Adair County — Kirksville

March 26: 11 a.m. — 3 p.m., A. T. Still University, 800 W. Jefferson, Conference Rooms Faculty Resource Rm/Center for Medical Humanities

March 27: 12 p.m. — 5:30 p.m., The Crossing, 810 E Shepherd Ave.

Putnam County — Unionville

March 20: 1 p.m. — 5:30 p.m., Putnam County Fairgrounds Lions Club Building, 615 N 22nd Street.

Sullivan County — Milan

March 19: 2 p.m. — 6 p.m., Milan C2 High School, 373 S Market.

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KIRKSVILLE AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

This Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. The Church Listings below are provided at NO CHARGE to our area churches in Kirksville. If your Church is not listed, please call us at 660-665-2808.

Faith Lutheran Church 1820 S. Baltimore, Baltimore & LaHarpe David Lukefahr, Pastor 7:30 a.m. The Lutheran Hour KLTE 8:15 a.m. Worship Service Peace, Milan 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study Faith 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Faith 10:15 a.m. Worship Service Faith 10:00 p.m. Issues, Etc. 107.9 KLTE www.faithkirksville.org	Catholic Newman Center 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday 7:00 a.m. Monday 9:00 p.m. Wednesday	Trinity Episcopal Church 124 N. Mulanix Rev. Amy L. Fallon, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	LaPlata Christian Church Scott McNay, Pastor 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Hamilton Street Baptist Church 802 W. Hamilton Pastor Tim Ingle 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups 10:15 a.m. Worship Service www.hamiltonstreet.org	Union Temple Church Southwest of Kirksville Alan Coonfield, Pastor Every Sunday Evening 5-5:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Church Service	Seventh Day Adventist Church 1301 N. Elson Kent Dunwoody, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School (Saturday) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Saturday) Fellowship Dinner on 4th Saturday. 712-541-4675	Queen City Christian Church Queen City, Mo. Justin Briney, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Bible School 10:30 a.m. Communion/worship Hour
Rehoboth Baptist Church 100 Pfeiffer Rd. Curtis Ferguson, Pastor 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Worship Service rbchurch.net • 660-665-7577	Sugar Creek Baptist Church 5 mi South on Hwy 3 Pastor, Virgil K. Jones 10:00 a.m. Worship Service	United Methodist Church Brashear Charge, Brashear Lay Minister, Nancy Douglas 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Singerspiration - 1st Sunday	United Pentecostal Church 1502 E. Northtown Road David E. Brown, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship
First Presbyterian Church (USA) 201 S. High at McPherson Communion 1st Sunday 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time. 11:00 a.m. Church School/all ages 5:30 p.m. College Fellowship	Hazel Creek Primitive Baptist Church 2 mi. W. Greentop on Rt. K then 1/2 mi. S. Elder Dillion Thurman, minister Services on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 10:30 a.m. Song Service 11:00 a.m. Preaching	Willow Bend Association East Center Community Church 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	Brashear Community Bible Church Donny Powell, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 660-323-5305
Kirksville Church of Christ 110 Pfeiffer Ave. Elders/Pastors: Dan Green, Dean Hansen 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Weds 6:30p.m. Bible Study www.kvcc.org	St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church Novinger, Mo. 7:30 a.m. Sunday Life Church of Kirksville 112 W. Potter Jeremy Pingle, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Service	Illinois Bend Community Church Highway 3 Pastor Terry Hunsaker 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 660-349-0052	First Baptist Church of LaPlata B. J. McAlpin, Pastor 9:00 am "Donut Hole" Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Worship 6:00 pm Monday – AWANA http://laplatafbc.org/ Email: laplatafbc@gmail.com
First Baptist Church 207 E. Washington Jason Marlin, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Bible Study for all ages 10:45 a.m. Worship & Kidz Worship firstbaptistkirksville.com	Community Presbyterian Church 210 N. Owensby, LaPlata, Mo Pastor Rev Jeff Carter 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Worship Service	Baring Community Church 11:00 a.m. Worship.	Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church 8 mi. N.W. of Kirksville on Rt. B. Tim Hodges, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Faith United Methodist Church 1602 E. Illinois Pastor: Joshua Ritzheimer 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	Cornerstone Church 1702 N Elson St Kirksville, MO Jeremy Broach, Senior Pastor Chad Stearman, Associate Pastor Sunday 10 am - Morning Worship Wednesday 6:30 pm-8 pm Family Ministry Night www.cornerstonechurch.faith	Downing Christian Church 430 E. Prime Street Minister Walker Franke Associate Minister Larry Smith 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Service 660-379-2329	Worthington Baptist Church Worthington, Mo. Roger Busnell, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Southside Baptist Church 1010 W. Burton Pastor: Aaron Rodgerson 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Preaching 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	Countryside Christian Church S. Boundary St. Rt. H, Troy Mills Preacher, Harold R. Engel 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Bible Study www.countrysidekv.com	Willow Bend Church <i>Find Us on Facebook for Event Schedule</i>	The Salvation Army 1004 W. Gardner Brian and Michelle Bump, Pastors 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Central Church of Christ 2010 S. Halliburton 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 am. Worship Service	Gifford Christian Church Minister: Darren Potter 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship	New Hope Methodist Reformed Church - Millard 9:15 a.m. Bible Stud 10:00 a.m. Worship	Queen City First Baptist Church 6th at Washington St. Sam Burkholder, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
Faith Baptist Church 502 N. Florence Pastor: Brandon Rhea 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 12:30 p.m. Noon Lunch	Lake Road Chapel 22963 Potter Trail Pastors: Andrew Turner, Andy Thompson 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service www.lakeroadchapel.org	Trinity United Fellowship Church Pastor: Josh Botello 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 660-626-4446	St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA North of Queen City go East on Rt. O Pastor, Bill Iammatteo-Code 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
The Crossing Church 810 E. Shepherd Ave. 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday Service www.thecrossing.net	Church of God (Holiness) 1601 N. Elson Pastor Ralph E. Wheeler, Jr. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Lancaster United Methodist Church Pastor: Joshua Ritzheimer 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	Hurdland First Baptist Church Robert Shobe, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Sun. & Weds. Worship and/or Bible Study
Grace Community Bible Church 1501 E. Northtown Rd. Benjamin Jorden, Pastor Affiliated with the Evangelical Free	New Hope Evangelical Church 620 Steer Creek Way 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. Bible Class 10:20 - 10:30 a.m. Fellowship time 10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship Sean Killin, Pastor 816-351-0623 Jim Maxey, Calling Pastor 660-665-6949 or 660-216-4183	Shekinah Mennonite Church 15981 Blueberry Way, Kirksville John Mark Miller, Pastor Roger Berry 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. 2nd Sunday - hymn sing 6:00 p.m. 4th Sunday of month Topic	Colony Baptist Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. 4th Sunday worship
Church of America 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. Small groups KirksvilleGCBC@gmail.com www.KirksvilleGCBC.com • 660.665.1615	First Assembly of God 2401 S. High St., Kirksville Shawn Meintz, Pastor Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Worship Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Family Night www.kirksvillefirst.org info@kirksvillefirst.org	Bethel Community Church 12 miles NE of Kirksville on Rt. T Marvin Cross, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Kid's Klub/Youth Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship.	Cornerstone Community Church Meeting at the Fohn Family Center 404N. Elson 9:30 a.m. Sunday Small Group Bible Study designed for adults
First United Methodist Church 300 E. Washington Pastor: Choongho Kwon 9:30 a.m. Worship In Person & Online kvumc.org	First Liberty Full Gospel 1302 E. Filmore Rev. Fred Baker, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Lancaster Baptist Church Southeast Side of Square, Lancaster Lonnie Johnson, Pastor 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Locust Hill Community Church Rt. I, Novelty, Mo William Gaines, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
Pure Air Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship TBA Bible Study	Novinger Baptist Church Highway 6 & 149 Rev. Darrell Crooks, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Winigan Christian Church Ryan Crist, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	New Harmony Free Will Baptist 3 miles West of Greentop on Rt. K 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
Church of God of Prophecy 807 Benton Way Pastor: Rob Linhart 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) High & Harrison Timothy Polley, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	First Baptist Church Winigan, Winigan, Mo. Sam Burkholder, Pastor 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Word Alive! Family Church Hwy 63, Greentop Pastors: Robert Gange 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, Adult service, Childrens Church
Fellowship Baptist Church 1701 S. Jamison St., Kirksville Larry Gibson, Pastor 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Study fbck@sbcglobal.net www.fellowshippb.org • 660-665-0633	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 2000 E. Normal	Bible Missionary Church 508 S. Main St. Bro. Glenn Kiger, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship	Schuyler County Church of Faith Highway 136 East, Lancaster Sonny Smyser, Pastor 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sunday Services 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday Class 3rd Sunday Fellowship dinner 12 noon
Yarrow Methodist Church Highway N., Yarrow Pastor David Stuckey 10:00 a.m. Sunday Services	Kirksville First Ward Bishop John Grider 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday Services Kirksville Second Ward Bishop Isaac Ison 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Sunday Services	Fairview Baptist Church 53610 Knob Hill Road, Pollock Sam Burkholder, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening	Gospel Outreach Church 209 W. Washington Norman Keller, Pastor Gonda Manning, Co pastor 7:00 p.m. Thursday Services 7:00 p.m. Sunday Services
Mary Immaculate Catholic Church Weekday Masses: Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Wed. & Friday: 7 a.m. Thursday: 8 a.m. Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.		Victory Baptist Church Of Greentop -Meets at the Willmathsville Community Church on Hwy A. Pastor Joshua Wesley 10:30 a.m. Worship	Union Temple Pastor Alan Coonfield Sunday evening worship 5:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Worship