



Dr. Tidmore
signs 2-year contract
extension

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Ozarks RFD:
Wish I could turn
off the news

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Two pages
of West Plains High School
sports

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Mtn. View
couple charged
with 'wantonly
vile' crimes
against child

BY KIMBERLY LANGSTON,
KIMBERLYL@WESTPLAINDAILYQUILL.NET

Editor's note: The following article describes a case of alleged sexual abuse of a child, spanning several years. While care has been taken to report on these charges with sensitivity to survivors and readers, it may still be disturbing to read. See something, say something: If you suspect a child is being abused, call the Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 800-392-3738. If you are experiencing domestic or sexual violence, or if you're a survivor of the same needing support, call Christos House's hotline, 800-611-5853.

A Mtn. View couple is charged with multiple counts of felony sexual assault after a teenager reported being sexually abused to medical personnel. The youth alleged it happened over the course of several years, beginning when they were 3 years old and continuing until a couple of years ago.

Dominick A. Abbott, 38, and Crystal L. Abbott, 36, are both in custody and held without bond, court documents show.

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W.P. Quill Daily

South Fork raises \$23K for St. Jude



South Fork Elementary students and staff raised \$23,000 this year for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through its "Kids Helping Kids" campaign in partnership with the K-Kountry 95 St. Jude Radiothon. Since 2010, the kindergarten-through-sixth-grade school has raised about \$148,000 total for the nonprofit Memphis hospital that treats children and conducts research into childhood diseases and cancers without charge to families. The most recent effort topped last year's donation by about \$1,000. Front row, from left: students Ben Dalton, Gaby Miller, Vyolette Riggs, Hazel Riggs and Aubry Holmes. Back row: teachers Jennifer Ryan, Caty Holmes, Heather Miller, Nichole Riggs, Ronna Dalton, Camisha Hunter and Principal Dr. Seth Huddleston.
STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

First-ever WP Tattoo Expo to be held in May

BY SAM MACPHERSON,
QUILL FEATURE CONTRIBUTOR

Mike and Tanai Devine have owned and operated Devine Designs Tattoo Collective in West Plains for nearly a decade. Since the studio's opening in August 2015, the Devines have cemented themselves as top-notch tattoo artists and

body piercers.

Next month, they're bringing something special to the community: the inaugural West Plains Tattoo Expo and Food Truck Festival, which will be the first of its kind. The Devines initiated the event, which will be held the last weekend in May, to promote the art of tattoos and body piercings

in the area.

"We have attended many tattoo conventions all around the U.S. and absolutely love the joy they bring to the tattoo community," Tanai Devine said. "We had always talked about bringing a convention to our town; we just didn't know how to go about it."

Eventually, she and her husband decided it was time. They knew West Plains had no shortage of body art enthusiasts and local vendors that could supply food and entertainment at such an event.

"We knew we wanted to do this for our community, so we jumped in with both feet," Devine said.

The expo will offer a variety of attractions and opportunities, with over 50 tattoo artists and piercers. Some tattoo artists are available for booking, while others will accept walk-ups; piercers will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

See **TATTOO**, Page A4

Voting now open for 2024-25 Best of West Plains

Where is the best place to buy that special someone a dozen roses? Where is the best place to go when you're craving some barbecue or an adult beverage? What nonprofit do you think does the most for our communities?

Readers are invited to weigh in with their answers to those questions and plenty more in the West Plains Daily Quill 2024-25 Best of West Plains Reader's Choice Awards, in which the Quill's readers decide



who's got the best of everything from pizza to fried chicken and from furniture to auto body repair.

Through March, readers nominated their favorites for an ever-expanding list of categories, including Best Live

See **VOTING**, Page A4

Ag science center dedication postponed

Due to the forecast of inclement weather this week, the dedication ceremony for Missouri State University-West Plains' Wulff-Risner Agriculture Science Center has been postponed.

The ceremony was to take place on Friday afternoon at the center, 911 Creamery Road. A new date for the event will be announced later, organizers said.

More about the event and center

The dedication will honor Dr. Linda Wulff-Risner, professor of agriculture at MSU-WP, who donated her 40-acre farm, Risner Stables, to the university

to support, enhance and grow its agriculture programs. The property will be named the Wulff-Risner Agriculture Science Center in recognition of the Wulff and Risner families' legacy of service and generosity, organizers said.

The Wulff-Risner Agriculture Science Center will serve as the hub for MSU-WP's applied learning courses in animal and plant science, consolidating the university's agriculture programs into one location. The property includes two large stables, offices, a tack room, hay barn, storage and kennel areas, and a 7,200-square-foot indoor riding arena, providing ample space to expand current offerings and add new programs.

Wildflower Café serves up opportunity and inclusion

BY CHRIS HERBOLSHEIMER,
QUILL CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance, The Wildflower Café on Aid Avenue may seem like just another small-town eatery, but step inside, and it becomes apparent it's much more than that. Operated by Ozark Independent Living (O.I.L.), the café provides a supportive and welcoming environment for high school students, many of whom have disabilities, to develop crucial job and life skills.

Since opening its doors in 2022, The Wildflower Café has been dedicated to helping students transition into adulthood by offering hands-on training in food preparation, customer service and teamwork. Students from West Plains High School and other area schools rotate through the program each school quarter, ensuring that as many young people as possible get a chance to experience the working world in a safe and structured setting.

For many of these students, The Wildflower Café is their first exposure to a professional work environment. They gain



The Wildflower Cafe team takes a short break from prepping lunch to have their photo taken. From left: Suzannah Johnston, Tracy Simpson, student workers Audri Dionne and Makela Tran, head cook Kayleigh Mooney, and Tracy Cale.

BY CHRIS HERBOLSHEIMER FOR THE QUILL

real-world experience handling tasks such as taking orders, preparing food, managing transactions, and interacting with customers. These skills prepare

them for potential careers in food service while also building confidence that carries over into other aspects of their lives.

"It's about more than just flip-

ping burgers or pouring coffee," said Tracy Cale of O.I.L. "We're teaching these students

See **WILDFLOWER**, Page A4

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Sunday crashes injure 4 in Troop G

Three Hartville residents suffered minor injuries in a two-vehicle crash at 1:24 p.m. Sunday on Highway 181, 3 miles north of Dora in Douglas County, according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Sgt. L.S. Elliott, Troop G of the patrol, Willow Springs, reported a northbound 2003

Dodge Ram driven by a 44-year-old woman made a left turn into oncoming traffic and was struck by a southbound 2007 Hyundai Santa Fe driven by a 21-year-old woman from Dora.

The driver of the pickup truck and two passengers, a 2-year-old girl and a 47-year-old man, were wearing seat

belts and were taken by ambulance to Ozarks Healthcare in West Plains for treatment, the patrol reported.

The driver of the Hyundai was not wearing a seat belt, the report shows; no injuries were reported for her.

Cpl. J.D. Wheeler reported a 36-year-old man from Springfield suffered from

minor injuries in a collision at 8:55 a.m. Sunday on CC Highway, 10 miles west of West Plains.

The crash happened when a westbound 2002 GMC 1500 driven by a 16-year-old boy from Willow Springs turned into the path of an eastbound 2024 Chrysler Pacifica.

The driver of the Chrysler

was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash and was transported by ambulance to Ozarks Healthcare for treatment, the report shows.

The patrol no longer identifies crash victims in its public reports, citing the possibility the information could be used to perpetrate scams against victims

HOWELL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

ARRESTS
Marty Adam Fox, 50, was arrested March 10 on a charge of first-degree harassment and held on \$10,000 bond. Deputy Trenton Roberts.

Michael Bradley Gillham, 28, was arrested March 11 on two warrants for failures to appear on felony charges and held on \$22,500 bond. Cpl. Logan Wake.

Zachary Lee Carver, 24, was arrested March 12 on a charge of third-degree domestic assault and held on \$10,000 bond. Cpl. Jacob Hamby.

Tristen Thomas Wilson, 23, was arrested March 12 on charges of armed criminal action and first-degree assault involving serious physical injury. He was released the following day on \$50,000 bond. West Plains Police Sgt. Wes Stuart.

Paul William Dugan, 20, was arrested March 12 on Texas County charges of driving while revoked or suspended and driving a vehicle without maintaining financial responsibility. West Plains Police Officer Whitley Dobbs.

Logan M. Clarke, 32, was arrested March 12 on an Oregon County warrant for failure to appear on a felony charge and released the same day on \$7,500 bond. Jailer Lowgun Creech.

Amiee Elizabeth Averill, 18, was arrested March 12 on a Class B felony charge of second-degree drug trafficking and released March 16 on \$10,000 bond. Cpl. Travis Weaver.

Christopher Ryan Henderson, 36, was arrested March 13 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and held on \$5,000 bond. Lt. Paul Bradshaw.

Keith William Geringer, 31, was arrested March 13 on a parole violation warrant and held without bond. Cpl. John Thomas.

Andrew Phillip Duncan, 57, was arrested March 13 on a charge of deliver of 35 grams or less of marijuana or synthetic cannabinoid and released the following day on \$10,000 bond. Deputy Brandon Barnes.

Darril James Alsup, 47, was arrested March 13 on two counts of a charge of failure to register as a sex offender and held on \$25,000 bond. Deputy Kyle Hambelton.

Danny Keith Haley, 61, was arrested March 13 on a charge of driving while intoxicated, resulting in physical injury. He was held on \$10,000 bond. Deputy Jacob Ryan.

Jason Matthew Wanagel,

37, was arrested March 13 on a Class B felony charge of second-degree drug trafficking, placed on a 24-hour hold and released on \$5,000 bond. Cpl. Weaver.

Harold W. Copeland, Jr., 47, was arrested March 13 on a charge of first-degree harassment and released the same day on \$100,000 bond. Deputy Avery Stolba.

Dominick Alexander Abbott, 38, was arrested March 13 on three counts of statutory sodomy involving a child younger than 12 and held on \$100,000 bond. Cpl. Dylan Webb.

Crystal Leann Abbott, 36, was arrested March 13 on three counts of stature sodomy involving a child younger than 12 and held on \$25,000 bond. Cpl. Webb.

David Wayne Fare, 54, was arrested March 14 on a charge of driving while revoked or suspended and released the same day without bond. Deputy Austin Ryan.

John Scott Ratliff, 61, was arrested March 14 on a charge of possession and placed on a 24-hour-hold. He was released without bond. John Healy, rank and agency unspecified.

Landon Lane Marsh, 19, was arrested March 14 on charges of armed criminal action, first degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon by exhibiting. He was released the same day on \$10,000 bond. Deputy Blaise Dudding.

Corey Louis Butts, 43, was arrested March 14 on a charge of possession, placed on a 24-hour hold and released without bond. Deputy Hambelton.

Christopher Lee Potter, 44, was arrested March 14 on a charge of possession, placed on a 24-hour hold and released without bond. Deputy Hambelton.

Joshua Brendan Risner, 33, as arrested March 16 on charges of stealing \$750 or more and stealing an animal. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bond. Deputy Hunter Ward.

Aaron Keith Dunn, 46, was arrested March 17 on charges of second-degree burglary and stealing, value \$750 or more. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bond. Jail Sgt. Shane Cronican.

Stephen Mikhael Sweeney, 61, was arrested March 17 on a Texas County charge of first-degree stalking and held without bond. Deputy First Class Talon Millard.

Alexandria Nicole Bennett, 35, was arrested March 18 on a charge

of possession of a controlled substance and released the same day on \$5,000 bond. Deputy Jordon Collins.

John Robert Scott, 51, was arrested March 18 on a parole violation warrant and two probation violation warrants, all without bond. He was released from Howell County custody March 21. West Plains Police Cpl. Brent McKemie.

Charles Christopher Coats, 46, was arrested, booked and released without bond March 18 on a DWI charge. Deputy Tyler Ryan.

George Franklin Becker, 48, was arrested March 19 on a warrant for failure to appear on a felony charge and held on \$15,000 bond. Cpl. Nicholas Bruno.

Jedediah Adam Wooten, 36, was arrested March 19 on charges of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy, second-degree statutory rape and second-degree statutory sodomy. He is held on \$1 million bond.

Randall Lee Franklin, 44, was arrested March 20 on a Dent County no-bond warrant for failure to appear on a felony charge and released from Howell County custody the same day. Deputy Stolba.

Daniel James Johnson, 41, was arrested March 20 on a charge of first-degree harassment and released the same day on \$7,500 bond. West Plains Police Sgt. Josh Wichowski.

Jessica Lynn Matty, 44, was arrested March 20 on two warrants for failures to appear on ordinance violation charges and a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was held on \$5,342.50 bond, of which \$342.50 was cash.

Dillon Leedale Stokes, 27, was arrested March 21 on a charge of resisting or interfering with an arrest for a felony and held on \$7,500 bond. West Plains Police Officer Daiman Meyer.

Jamie-Tommy Alfred Green, 31, was arrested March 21 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and held on \$5,000 bond.

Christian Lee Thacker, 34, was arrested March 22 on a Missouri State Highway Patrol charge of tampering with a motor vehicle and released

without bond pending formal charges.

Nathan Ray Hicks, 47, was arrested March 22 on a stolen property charge and placed on a 24-hour hold to be released without bond.

Luis Angel Mauricio Perez, 21, was arrested, booked and released without bond March 22 on a DWI charge. Deputy Dudding.

Darren Lee Johnson, 38, was arrested March 23 on a Willow Springs charge of domestic assault placed on a 24-hour hold without bond.

Zeith Aires McKinney, 21, was arrested March 23 on six warrants for failures to appear on misdemeanor charges and held on \$2,250 cash bond. Deputy Kory Taylor.

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PUBLIC AUCTION, Sat, Apr. 5, 10 am. Owner: Donna (McWilliams) Taylor. Location: 3667 Private Road 6921, West Plains, MO. Selling: Tractors, mowers, tools, furniture, household, misc.

PUBLIC AUCTION, Sat, Apr. 12, 10 am. Owner: Estate of The Late Michael Swenhaugen. Location: 520 CR 7040, Pottersville, Mo. Selling: Real estate, 20 ac m/l few miles from Cloud 9 Ranch, has power, well.

PUBLIC AUCTION, Sat., Apr. 12, 12 NOON. Owner: Previously South Fork's Only Bar. Location: 3493 W. US Highway 160, West Plains, Mo. Selling: Commercial building, over 5,400 sq. ft., 2 sets men's & women's restrooms, built in bar, stage, nice studio apartment with full bath, kitchen & more.

PUBLIC AUCTION, Sat, Apr. 12, 2:00 pm. Owner: Estate of the Late Jerry West. Location: 1203 Jefferson Ave. West Plains, Mo. Selling: Real Estate, 2 bdrm 1 bath home, new shingle roof, vinyl siding, large back deck.

PUBLIC AUCTION, Sun., Apr. 13, 1:30 pm. Owner: Howell County Sheriff Department. Location: 1106 Missouri Ave., West Plains, MO (Howell County Sheriff's Office). Surplus auction, cars, trucks, tractors, equipment, and more. Items to be added.

WEATHER



TODAY:

A chance of showers before 10 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. High near 74. Breezy, with a south wind 17 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between half and three quarters of an inch possible.
Sunrise: 6:51 a.m.
Sunset: 7:31 p.m.
Temperature Year Ago High: 76
Low: 57
Precipitation: 5.82 inches
Last Year: 11.01 inches
Normal: 10.15 inches
TONIGHT: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 p.m., then a chance of showers between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy,

with a low around 54. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.
TOMORROW: Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. High near 64. Northeast wind 6 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.
THURSDAY NIGHT: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 52. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
FRIDAY: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 68. Chance of precipitation is 100%.
FRIDAY NIGHT: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy with a low around 55.
SATURDAY: Showers. Mostly cloudy with a high near 65.

Hollis Tidmore renews contract with TCMH

Dr. Hollis Tidmore, a board-certified general and peripheral vascular surgeon at Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston, has signed a contract extension with the hospital.

Tidmore joined the TCMH medical staff in 2022 and currently serves as the vice chief of staff, providing inpatient and outpatient surgical services.

“Dr. Tidmore was instrumental in opening our new surgical center in March 2024 and has established a strong foundation for expanding our surgical services at TCMH,” said hospital CEO Bill Bridges. “His expertise, coupled with over 40 years of experience, is a tremendous asset to Texas County.”

Tidmore offers a broad range of general surgery

services, focusing on abdominal areas such as the colon, bowels, stomach, pancreas, liver and esophagus, said officials. They noted his skills include both open and laparoscopic abdominal surgeries, hernia repair and breast surgery. Additionally, said officials, his expertise in peripheral vascular surgery, which encompasses all areas except the aorta in the chest and the heart, enhances the scope of services available at TCMH.

“TCMH is very fortunate to retain a physician of Dr. Tidmore’s caliber,” Bridges added. “We greatly appreciate the community’s support of Dr. Tidmore’s practice.”

To schedule an appointment with Tidmore at the TCMH Professional Building, call 417-967-1252.



Dr. Hollis Tidmore, left, vascular surgeon recently signed a two-year contract extension at Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston. With him is TCMH CEO Bill Bridges. COURTESY / TCMH

Measles vaccinations and boosters

By Katie Sieber, Director of Nursing,
Howell County Health Department,

With information sourced from National Public Radio

In light of the recent measles outbreaks occurring in Texas and New Mexico, the Howell County Health Department urges community members to look into their immunity to measles. There are factors to consider, such as your birth year, how many doses you received, your risk level, etc.

Adults born before 1957 are assumed to have natural immunity. However, there is no harm in getting a shot if you're not sure of your immunity or vaccination status. Adults born after 1957 to 1968 should consider getting revaccinated because early versions of the measles vaccine were made from an inactivated (killed) virus. This vaccine was not very effective. The CDC recommends that anyone vaccinated before 1968 get at least one dose of the live attenuated vaccine.

Adults vaccinated between 1968 and 1989 likely received just one dose of measles vaccine, as opposed to the two-dose series that is standard today. While one dose is sufficient coverage for most people, you must consider whether or not you are at a higher risk.

High risk scenarios would include people who are in college settings, work in health care, live or are in close contact with immunocompromised people or are traveling internationally.

The health department would like to take this time to highlight that routine vaccination for children includes a vaccine at 12 to 15 months old and again at 4 to 6 years old. Vaccination offers the best protection against measles.

If you have questions about whether or not you should receive a vaccine, please call us. We want to arm our community with protection against this vaccine-preventable disease. Our number is 417-256-7078.

For more information, go online to www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/02/21/nx-s1-5304458/measles-vaccine-booster-health.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Spilling the beans on coffee and health

By Dr. Graham A. Colditz,
Siteman Cancer Center

For the morning coffee drinkers out there, a recent study found there may be one more reason to enjoy that first cup of the day. In a study of over 40,000 people in a national health survey, researchers found that morning coffee drinkers had a lower risk of dying prematurely than non-coffee drinkers. And the biggest beneficiaries might be those who drank coffee only in the morning rather than throughout the day.

Of course, these findings are from a single study, so further research is needed on the timing of coffee drinking. At the same time, this new study adds to a large and growing amount of research showing that coffee drinking overall can have many health benefits.

That could sound a little

surprising. For whatever reason, coffee can still feel like one of those things we enjoy but that may not be good for us.

Yet coffee has over 1,000 compounds that could aid health. Among other possible benefits, these compounds could help improve the gut microbiome, ease inflammation, help with DNA repair and help control blood sugar.

And studies have linked moderate coffee drinking with a lower risk of stroke, heart disease, diabetes, gallstones, Parkinson’s disease and some cancers. It may even help with longevity. And many of these possible benefits seem to include decaf as well as regular, caffeinated coffee.

Coffee drinkers in the U.S. average around two cups a day — within the range of up to two to four eight-ounce cups (or up to 400 milligrams of total daily caffeine) that’s likely safe for most adults, ac-

cording to the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Depending on the type of coffee and how it’s made, an eight-ounce cup of brewed coffee can have around 95 to 180 milligrams of caffeine.

For women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, general recommendations are lower — often under 200 milligrams of caffeine a day. Women who are pregnant, wanting to become pregnant or breastfeeding should talk to a health care provider about how much coffee or caffeine is safe for them.

Keeping it simple is usually the best approach when it comes to coffee drinks. Choose black, unsweetened coffee — or with just a little sugar and splash of milk. Try to limit specialty coffee drinks that have a lot of added sugar, unhealthy fats and calories, which can offset some of the benefits we may be getting from our coffee.

Unsweetened coffee can also be a great alternative to sugary soda, fruit drinks, energy drinks and other less-healthy, high-sugar options.

For something so many of us enjoy — and that’s so integrated into daily and social routines — it’s nice to know that moderate coffee drinking can be a healthy part of most people’s days.

And that may make our next morning cup taste that much better. Enjoy.

Dr. Graham A. Colditz,
associate director of prevention and control at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is an internationally recognized leader in cancer prevention and the creator of the **8ightWays®** to Prevent Cancer series.

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Ozarka College announces 3-Week CNA Fast-Track Course

Ozarka College will offer a Certified Nursing Assistant Fast-Track Course at its Ash Flat campus this summer, school officials announced.

The accelerated three-week program, running from May 5 through 27 is designed to equip students with essential healthcare skills while preparing them for state certification, officials explained. The deadline to register is May 1.

The course will be held from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, with clinical days and times to be announced. The total cost per student is \$800, with Employer Sponsorships and Workforce Scholarships available to assist with tuition.

“This CNA course is a great opportunity for individuals looking to start or advance their careers in healthcare,” said Caroline Smith, instructor for Ozarka College Allied Health. “With hands-on training, expert instruction and financial assistance options, students will be well-prepared to enter the workforce and make a difference in patient care.”

According to college officials, students enrolled in the CNA course will receive tuberculosis skin testing, cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, mandated reporter training and a CNA supplies bag.

Following course completion, students will take their state certification exams on

campus. Testing fees are not included in tuition: the written exam is \$30 and skills exam, \$95, for a total of \$125. Headphone accommodations are available for an additional \$10 fee.

Students who provide a letter of intent to hire from an approved healthcare facility may have their state testing fees waived.

Ozarka College encourages Arkansas residents with a high school diploma or GED to apply for scholarship funding. Applications must be submitted by Saturday, and students must list Ozarka College as their institution when applying.

Additionally, said officials, Ozarka’s Career Pathways Program offers financial assistance for parents or legal guardians who meet income guidelines. Eligible students may receive support for paid tuition, childcare, travel reimbursement, CNA testing fees and course-related supplies.

For more information or to register, contact Caroline Smith, Ozarka College Allied Health Instructor at caroline.smith@ozarka.edu or 870-751-6043, or Krystal Rush, Allied Health Instructor at krystal.rush@ozarka.edu or 870-368-2065.

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Athletics bat boy Stewart Thalblum takes down drone in left field

By JANIE McCAULEY,
AP Baseball Writer

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — When a drone suddenly appeared near the left-field wall at Sutter Health Park on Monday night, veteran Athletics bat boy Stewart Thalblum decided to help thwart it.

The drone tried to lift him off the grass but Thalblum used a bat and brought it down, careful not to cut himself with the spinning blades.

Once the device had been

corralled, Thalblum handed it off to a security guard.

The drone appeared with Seth Brown batting for the Athletics in the seventh inning of the Chicago Cubs' 18-3 rout and it delayed the game for a few minutes.

"I think for me I didn't want to cut my fingers off. I always see that on the news, people hurt themselves when it's hovering or whatever and their hand gets caught in it," said the 22-year-old Thalblum, a sixth-year bat boy. "I tried to catch it by the bottom and

it was there for me so I just grabbed it and then I just started whacking the wings of it basically with the bat just to snap them off so it wouldn't fly away from me because I was going to take it behind the wall. We couldn't figure out what to do with it and it was trying to fly away from me."

Thalblum is the son of long-time A's visiting clubhouse manager Mikey Thalblum.

Cubs manager Craig Counsell was impressed. When the drone was spotted by some Chicago players, Counsell

alerted plate umpire Adrian Johnson, who hadn't seen it.

"I guess that's the world we're in right now," Counsell said. "But it was funny because it looked like the drone was trying to fly away, it was trying to fly Mikey's son away, too. It's life in 2025."

Stewart Thalblum had noticed the drone the previous at-bat, a first for him, and then saw Johnson stop play — so he went to work.

"Everybody was just looking at it for a little while and I've never had something like that

happen," Thalblum said. "I was asking around, everybody's looking and nobody from security or anything had gone out there so I was like, I don't know whose responsibility it is, so I was like, OK, maybe it's mine."

Dad was plenty proud of his son — again.

"I'm proud of him for a lot of other reasons more so than getting a drone, just for being a good kid," the father said, chuckling and not surprised at the fast thinking. "He's a good clubbie."

TATTOO

Continued from Page 1A

“We will have multitalented tattoo artists, all with different skillsets and styles,” Devine said.

Each artist will have a portfolio available for patrons to peruse. Some styles include color art, black-and-grey, anime, neotraditional and henna. The artists will compete for awards, which will be presented at the conclusion of the expo. Patrons are encouraged to participate and attend the awards ceremony.

“We also have seminars booked for other tattoo artists to attend,” Devine said, “including a machine-building workshop, an anime seminar, and more for continuing education.”

She added that an Inked Magazine photographer would be present, documenting

the event and offering private shoots for those interested.

A variety of local vendors will be available for attendees and community members. Some include 10/40 Coffee, Madfox Oddities, Banana Fish Supply Co. and Sister Lillies Boutique.

Several different food trucks will also be in attendance. Mandy’s Hot Dogs, Roscoe T’s BBQ, KB’s Lemonade, Ozark Burger Co., K-Town Korean Cuisine, Cosmic Cravings and more will be available to convention attendees and community members.

A professional DJ will curate a selection of music, and activities will be available for younger attendees. All ages are encouraged to attend, but visitors must be

at least 18 to receive a tattoo or piercing.

“We hope the community will support this. Come out and have fun,” Devine said.

The West Plains Tattoo Expo and Food Truck Festival will take place from noon to 10 p.m. May 30 and 31, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 1, at the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St.

Admission is \$20 at the door. Visitors can also purchase a weekend pass for \$60. Entry is free for children 15 years and younger. Attendees are provided with an armband upon admission.

For volunteering and sponsorship opportunities, contact Tanai Devine at 417-372-7237 or visit westplainsstattoo-expo.com.

WILDFLOWER

Continued from Page 1A

how to communicate, how to problem-solve, how to work as a team. Those are skills that they will carry with them long after they leave here.”

The transition from high school to adulthood can be daunting, particularly for students with disabilities. But programs like this make a difference by giving them the tools they need to thrive.

“We’ve already seen several students successfully transition into full-time and part-time jobs in the community,” Cale added. “It’s incredibly rewarding to watch them grow, take that scary first step and actually gain employment. That’s what this is all about — helping them build confidence and independence.”

The café is not only a training ground for students but also a fundraiser for the programs that support them. Money spent at The Wildflower Café is reinvested into O.I.L.’s initiatives, helping students in Howell and surrounding counties receive the assistance they need to achieve their goals of independent living.

“When people come in and buy a meal, they’re doing more than just eating lunch,” said Suzanna Johnston of O.I.L. “They’re supporting these kids. They’re helping them build a future. It’s a simple act, but it means so much.”

The Wildflower Café is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, serving up classic café fare with a smile. While it has built a loyal following over the past two years, organizers want to remind the community that the café is still here, still serving and still making a difference.

“We want people to know that when they support The Wildflower Café, they’re not just getting a meal — they’re getting a chance to be part of something bigger,” said Cale. “These students are learning, growing and gaining the confidence to step out into the world. And that’s something worth supporting.”

At its core, The Wildflower Café is a symbol of inclusion, empowerment, and the belief that everyone deserves a chance to succeed. As one of its guiding principles states, “Equality is giving everyone the same value, even if they have different abilities.”

VOTING

Continued from Page 1A

Music Venue, Best Romantic Getaway, Best Local Auto Salesman, Best Museum, Best Tattoo Shop, Best Craft Brewery and Best Public Park, to name just a few.

These awards are an annual project for

the West Plains Daily Quill. The nomination period closed March 31, and today marks the beginning of the voting period.

Votes may be cast once daily through April 30. All votes must be submitted

online at westplainsdailyquill.net/bestof-westplains; there are no paper ballots.

Winners and results will be published in print and online in June.

CRIMES

Continued from Page 1A

The two had initially been charged with three counts each of statutory sodomy involving a victim younger than 12, but the charges were upgraded after a grand jury indictment was filed. Dominick Abbott is now facing nine counts of a charge of first-degree statutory sodomy with a victim younger than 12, and two counts of first-degree "wantonly vile" sodomy. Crystal Abbott is charged with seven counts of statutory sodomy and two

counts of first-degree "wantonly vile" sodomy.

According to Missouri Revised Statutes, “wantonly vile” acts of child sex abuse are those that involve torture or “depravity of mind,” and a conviction of sex an act results in life in prison without eligibility for probation, parole or conditional release.

Howell County Sheriff's Office Investigator Cpl. Dylan Webb, in a statement to prosecutors, said the victim reported being sexually

abused by Dominick Abbott and described incidents that reportedly happened "frequently" over the years.

The victim also disclosed that when they were about 6 years old, Crystal Abbott witnessed one of the incidents of abuse and later participated in it as the abuse continued.

When Dominick Abbott was interviewed by Webb, he reportedly stated he couldn't remember all of the incidents but acknowledged three of

them.

Crystal Abbott, in an interview with Webb, said Dominick told her he and the victim had been engaging in sexual contact, asked her to join them, and she told him "no" at first, but after a few months he persuaded her to participate.

Dominick Abbott's arraignment is scheduled for Monday, but Crystal Abbott has requested a change of judge and future court dates have yet to be scheduled, court records show.



D. ABBOTT



C. ABBOTT

Restaurant chain Hooters goes bust and files for bankruptcy protection

Hooters is going bust.

The U.S. restaurant chain, known for chicken wings and its skimpy "Hooters Girls" wait-staff outfits, has filed for bankruptcy protection. HOA Restaurant Group filed the motion for Chapter 11 protection Monday in the North Texas Bankruptcy Court in Dallas.

It's the latest legacy restaurant chain to run

into financial trouble amid high food and labor prices, changing customer tastes and growing competition from newer casual chains like Shake Shack.

Red Lobster, TGI Fridays and Buca di Beppo all filed for bankruptcy protection last year, while the Tex-Mex chain On the Border filed for bankruptcy protection last month.

Under the Hooters bankruptcy plan, 100 company-owned U.S. restaurants would get sold to a group of Hooters franchisees. The franchisees, who include Hooters' founders, currently operate 14 of the 30 highest-volume Hooters restaurants in the U.S., the company said.

"For many years now, the Hooters brand has been owned by private

equity firms and other groups with no history or experience with the Hooters brand," Neil Kiefer, CEO of the franchise group Hooters Inc., said in a statement. "As a result of these transactions, the Hooters brand will once again be in the hands of highly experienced Hooters franchisees and we will be well-positioned to return this iconic brand to its historic success."

Hooters said franchisees or licensing partners would continue to operate all existing locations, including those outside the U.S. There are more than 420 Hooters restaurants in 29 countries.

Hooters, based in Atlanta, Georgia, was founded in Clearwater,

Florida, in 1983 by six businessmen with no food service experience who claimed they wanted to run a restaurant they couldn't get kicked out of.

But its business strategy has faced challenges over the years, including lawsuits over hiring only "Hooters Girls" to serve customers. In 2017, the company tried opening a restaurant that didn't feature servers in tight tops as a test of a different approach to its original concept.

Last year, Hooters agreed to pay \$250,000 to settle a race and color discrimination lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

According to the lawsuit, a Hooters in North Carolina laid off 43 employ-

ees during the COVID pandemic, but recalled primarily white employees and Black employees with lighter skin tones once it began rehiring workers.

The company has also been forced to scale back as its financial woes mounted. In 2019, the Hooters hotel-casino off the Las Vegas Strip was sold to an Indian hotel company and rebranded as the OYO Hotel and Casino. Last year, the company closed around 40 underperforming U.S. locations.

Hooters had sponsored the No. 9 NASCAR car driven by Chase Elliott since 2017, but last year, Hendrick Motorsports ended its ties to the long-time sponsor because it was not meeting its financial commitments.

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OBITUARY

Margaret Ann Honeycutt Tuttle

Sept. 6, 1948 - March 26, 2025



Funeral services for Margaret Ann Honeycutt Tuttle, 76, West Plains, Mo., will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the Rose Chapel at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home.

Mrs. Tuttle ended her earthly journey on March 26, 2025, surrounded by family at Brooke Haven Healthcare.

She was born Sept. 6, 1948 in St. Louis to George Washington and Beulah E. (Stark) Honeycutt. Margaret graduated from Summersville High School class of 1966 and attended beauty school in Rolla, Mo., until she married Oran Eugene Tuttle on Oct. 22, 1966, in Summersville.

After marrying, the couple moved to St. Louis, where Eugene was employed by Wagner Electric until 1977, when they moved to the West Plains area. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters Cheryl Diane and Catherine Eugenia. Over the years, the Tuttles enjoyed spending time camping, fishing, going to Branson for music shows, and taking lots of “day trips” to surrounding areas; they especially loved Mt. View, Ark. Occasionally on a random Saturday night they would drive to St. Louis for a case of White Castles, reminiscing of the days when they were a young couple in the city.

Margaret was a charismatic woman; she loved meeting new people and creating friendships. She spent lots of time on the telephone or sending cards with birthday, get-well or sympathy messages. She sold Avon, Amway, Tupperware and finally found her forte in selling Home Interior for many years. She loved to go into others homes to help them find things they loved to make their home beautiful.

She was a gracious hostess and a fantastic cook, once creating a deer steak gravy recipe that was published in a Bass Pro cookbook. Her deer steak gravy was a favorite of many guests to her home on Pine Street. She was also an outstanding baker; at Christmastime she created hundreds of boxes filled with cookies and goodies for family, neighbors, coworkers and friends. She loved sewing, hand-quilting, embroidery and designing silk floral arrange-

ments. She was a crafter and excelled at any hobby she picked up.

She enjoyed vegetable gardening and storing her spoils for winter. She always said, “These green beans will taste good when the snow flies.” Her backyard was full of perennials, some of her favorites daisies, lily of the valley, clematis and her treasured lilac bush, which Eugene planted under their bedroom window. Margaret loved music, she would put on a stack of records; country, bluegrass or gospel and begin cleaning her house, doing laundry or ironing. She kept an immaculate home, beautifully decorated.

Margaret leaves behind Cheryl Diane Thompson (Cecil Lee, Jr.) of West Plains; Catherine Eugenia Bell (Roy Lee, Jr.) of Nixa, Mo.; Cheryl’s daughters Megan Ann (Rick) of South Mills, N.C., Melanie (Matthew) of Elk River, Minn., and Ambrosia (James) and Alicia (Kyle) of West Plains; Catherine’s children Daniel Eugene (Sarah) of Springfield, Mo., and Jenna (Jody) of Nixa; 11 great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law Roger and Rick Tuttle of West Plains; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Margaret was preceded in death by her high school sweetheart, Eugene Tuttle, on Oct. 12, 1998 after 32 years of sharing their life together. She never regained her footing in the world after the loss of her rock, best friend and soul mate. She is also preceded by her parents Beulah E. Stark Honeycutt and George Washington Honeycutt; her “big sister” Lillian Ilene Young Jacks; three brothers Billy E. Honeycutt, Bobby Dean Honeycutt and George Dale Honeycutt; mother- and father-in-law Phyllis and Oran Tuttle; two nieces; three nephews; and Dixie, her four-legged companion and best friend. Dixie will be buried with Margaret as promised.

The family extends a thank-you to Kathy, Abbie, Kaleb, Kim, Nicole, Shaydon and Erik, a special heartfelt thank you to Gavann and Charolette for their sincere dedication and compassionate support of their residents at Brooke Haven Healthcare.

Visitation will be held from 5 until 7 p.m. Tuesday, at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home. Burial will be at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the West Plains Senior Citizens Center, and may be left at or mailed to Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, 211 W. Main St., West Plains, Mo. Online condolences may be left at www.robertson-drargo.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Kevin Tackitt

Kevin J. Tackitt, 65, South Fork. Died on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Ozarks Healthcare, West Plains. Always Faithful Memorial Services, West Plains.

Richard Mitchell

Richard Franklin Mitchell, 63, Caulfield. Died at 6:57 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2025, at his home. Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, West Plains.

Esther Rockenbach

Esther B. Rockenbach,

92, Willow Springs, died Sunday, March 30 2025, at her home. Always Faithful Memorial Services, West Plains.

Joe Harris, believed to be the oldest surviving WWII paratrooper, has died

By HALLIE GOLDEN, Associated Press

Sgt. Joe Harris, believed to be the oldest surviving World War II paratrooper and a member of the U.S. Army’s first all-Black parachute infantry battalion, has died. He was 108.

Harris died March 15 in a hospital in Los Angeles surrounded by family, grandson Ashton Pittman told The Associated Press. He will be honored with a full military funeral on April 5.

“He was a very loving, loving, loving man,” said Pittman. “That was one of the things that he was very strict upon was loving one another.”

Harris was among the last surviving members of the historic 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, nicknamed the Triple Nickles. The battalion helped protect the U.S. from deadly Japanese balloon bombs, according to Robert L. Bartlett, a retired Eastern Washington University professor who specializes in the 555th. In 1944 and 1945, the Japanese launched thousands of the balloons to be carried by the Pacific jet stream to the U.S. mainland to explode and start fires.

During World War II, Black Americans were often relegated to more support-level jobs in the racially segregated military and President Franklin Roosevelt faced pressure to put them in combat units. As a result, the military recruited Harris and

hundreds of other Black men, trained them and sent them into blazes on the West Coast, where they fought fires, Bartlett said.

Throughout their time in the military, they faced overt racism, including being barred from going to the base commissary and officer’s clubs unless they were specifically for Black people.

“This unit had to fight to be recognized as human beings while training to fight an enemy overseas, fight in their own country for respect even within the military,” Bartlett said.

That was not lost on Pittman, who said his grandfather was brave enough to serve the U.S. “during a time when the country didn’t love him, honestly, didn’t care about him.”

Harris was born on June 19, 1916, in West Dale, Louisiana, according to Tracie Hunter, spokesperson for WWII Beyond The Call, a nonprofit organization that works to document veterans’ accounts. After filling out his draft registration card, he began his military service in 1941 when he was 24.

By the time he was honorably discharged in November 1945, he had completed 72 parachute jumps, according to Hunter.

After the war, he worked for the U.S. Border Patrol. He also spent more than 60 years in Compton, California, where Pittman said he was the neighborhood patriarch, a man everyone on the block knew and grav-

itated to.

“His life is to be celebrated,” Pittman said. “Obviously people are going to mourn because he’s not here anymore. But ultimately what I know from conversations that I’ve had with my grandfather is that he wants to be celebrated. He deserves to be celebrated.”

He is survived by his son, Pirate Joe Harris Sr., and two daughters, Michaun Harris and Latanya Pittman, along with five grandchildren, according to Hunter. His wife, Louise Harris, died in 1981, and a sixth grandchild has also died.

Pittman said that his grandfather would sometimes ask him if he would ever jump out of a plane. In October, Pittman had the opportunity to follow in his grandfather’s airborne footsteps.

For a week, he did paratrooper jump training in Corsicana, Texas, through the Liberty Jump Team, an organization that works to preserve the memory of veterans.

“When I got my wings, I actually broke down and started crying because everything in that moment just resonated with me,” he said. “It was like, dang I’m literally doing what my grandfather did.”

Shortly before Harris’ death, he got a landing zone, in Tuskegee, Alabama, dedicated in his name. Pittman said he plans to be the very first person to jump in the Sgt. Joe Harris Dropzone.

Richard Chamberlain, TV actor who starred in ‘Dr. Kildare,’ dies at 90

By BOB THOMAS, Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Chamberlain, the handsome hero of the 1960s television series “Dr. Kildare” who found a second career as an award-winning “king of the miniseries,” has died. He was 90.

Chamberlain died Saturday night in Waimanalo, Hawaii, of complications following a stroke, according to his publicist, Harlan Boll.

“Our beloved Richard is with the angels now. He is free and soaring to those loved ones before us,” Martin Rabbett, his lifelong partner, said in a statement. “How blessed were we to have known such an amazing and loving soul. Love never dies. And our love is under his wings lifting him to his next great adventure.”

Tall, with classic good looks and romantic style, Chamberlain became an instant favorite with teenage girls as the compassionate physician on the TV series that aired from 1961 to 1966. Photoplay magazine named him most popular male star for three years in a row, from 1963-65.

Not until 2003 did he acknowledge publicly what Hollywood insiders had long known, that he was gay. He made the revelation in his autobiography, “Shattered Love.”

The actor became known as “king of the TV miniseries” in 1978 when he landed the starring role in “Centennial,” an epic production 24 hours long and based on James Michener’s sprawling novel. He followed that in 1980 with “Shogun,” another costly, epic miniseries based on James Clavell’s period piece about an American visitor to Japan. He scored his greatest miniseries success in

1983 with another long-form drama, “The Thorn Birds,” based on Colleen McCullough’s best-seller. He played Father Ralph de Bricassart, a Roman Catholic priest in Australia who falls in love with beautiful Meggie Cleary (Rachel Ward). The ABC production, which also starred Barbara Stanwyck, reportedly attracted 100 million viewers.

Chamberlain won Golden Globes for his work in “Shogun” and “The Thorn Birds.” Years earlier, he received one for “Dr. Kildare.”

When the public began to lose interest in miniseries, Chamberlain turned to the theater, where he displayed a fine singing voice. He appeared as Henry Higgins in a 1994 Broadway revival of “My Fair Lady” and as Captain von Trapp in a 1999 revival of “The Sound of Music.”

He reprised his role of de Bricassart in the 1996 TV movie “The Thorn Birds: The Missing Years.”

He also appeared in numerous films, including “The Music Lovers” (as Tchaikovsky), “The Madwoman of Chaillot,” “The Towering Inferno” and “The Three Musketeers” and its sequels.

The “Kildare” series was based on a string of successful 1930s and ‘40s films that had starred Lew Ayres in the title role.

Chamberlain’s hunky, all-American appearance made him an overnight star. Another medical show that debuted the same season, “Ben Casey,” also was a smash and made its leading man, the darkly handsome Vince Edwards, a star, too.

The “Ben Casey shirt” became a fashion item, both shows’ theme songs made the pop Top 40 (the Kildare song performed by Chamberlain himself) and there was even a pop

song called “Dr. Kildare! Dr. Casey! You Are Wanted for Consultation.”

But in his book, Chamberlain recounted how he was forced to hide his sexuality. He would escort glamorous actresses to movie premieres and other public events at the request of studio executives and dodge reporters’ questions about why he had never married with a stock reply: “Getting married would be great, but I’m awfully busy now.”

“When I grew up, being gay, being a sissy or anything like that was verboten,” he said in an NBC interview. “I disliked myself intensely and feared this part of myself intensely and had to hide it.”

The book also described a troubled childhood and an alcoholic father, and Chamberlain said that writing it finally lifted a heavy emotional burden. He also expressed relief that he was no longer hiding his sexuality.

“I played a cat-and-mouse game with the press. Game over,” said Chamberlain.

Born George Richard Chamberlain in Beverly Hills on March 31, 1934, the actor originally studied at Pomona College to be a painter. But after returning from the Army, where he had served as an infantry clerk in the Korean War, Chamberlain

decided to try acting.

He studied voice and drama, and after appearing in guest roles in a handful of TV shows and in the 1960 film “The Secret of the Purple Reef,” he won the Dr. Kildare role.

When “Dr. Kildare” was canceled he initially found it difficult to shake the image of the handsome young physician.

He moved to England for a time to find work and hone his acting skills. While there, he appeared in three of director Richard Lester’s films, “Petulia” (1968), “The Three Musketeers” (1973) and “The Four Musketeers” (1974). He reunited with Lester in 1989 for “The Return of the Musketeers,” once more playing Aramis.

In 1969, Chamberlain played the title role in “Hamlet” at England’s Birmingham Repertory Company and repeated it in a TV adaptation that appeared on NBC in the United States. He also appeared as Octavius in a film version of “Julius Caesar,” which co-starred Charlton Heston and Jason Robards.

He continued to act well into the 21st century, appearing on such television shows as “Will & Grace,” “The Drew Carey Show” and “Touched by an Angel.”

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MOMENT IN THE WORD

Salvation is near
By Edwin Woolsey

Zephaniah 1:12: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will search Jerusalem with a candle, and will take vengeance on the men that despise the things committed to them; but they say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do any good, neither will he do any evil.’” (Greek Septuagint)

This ancient verse is very familiar to devout individuals who celebrate the Jewish holy day of Passover when all dirt (leaven) is diligently removed from the house to be ritually burned or buried as a sign of spiritual purity. In the same Scripture, God’s warning implies, “You can either clean up your lives, or else I’ll search with a flame and clean you up Myself!”

What gave God the right to make such a fiery demand?

After judging the cruel Egyptians, God blessed His people with unimaginable benefits. He gave them “a land with large, flourishing cities they did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things they did not provide, wells they did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves they did not plant,” di-

rectly linked to a somber warning, “then, when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” (Deuteronomy 6:10-12)

Americans also enjoy the bounty of God’s unmerited favor in this glorious land that we currently call “home.”

“O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crowned thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!”

Sadly, Jacob’s children eventually forgot all of Heaven’s benefits before slipping into foolish agnosticism, “God is irrelevant because He doesn’t do anything good or bad!” (Zephaniah 1:12)

Due to their rebellious opinion, the people became corrupt, and God noticed: “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done. This was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed

and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore, I took them away as I saw fit.” (Ezekiel 16:48-49)

Despite brutal tornadoes in Missouri, horrific floods in North Carolina, the burning of Los Angeles, devastating fires in South Carolina, unimaginable hurricanes in Florida and unexplained tragedies all around this country; the children of Puritan ancestors still flaunt the same careless notion that God “doesn’t do anything good or bad!”

But since the Almighty graciously established our Pilgrim Fathers in this New World, He still reserves the right to search us – as their descendants, “I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in the midst.” (Ezekiel 22:21)

But why are good, decent people also included in God’s “national” judgment? Saint Peter warned, “For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)

Maybe those who do “obey the gospel of

God” are used as visible examples for the wicked who are not ready to face judgment but would be lost in the end? To support his initial statement, St. Peter quoted Proverbs 11:31 from the Bible of his day – the Greek Septuagint: “And, if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” (1 Peter 4:18)

Regardless, these current calamities will become more frequent and more destructive as time progresses, for Jesus said, “Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.” (Matthew 24:7-8)

The day approaches when God will pass through the entire length and breadth of this land with a burning torch to examine our careless attitude and our neglected spiritual devotion. “It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.” (1 Corinthians 3:13)

But for those who hope in Heaven, “When all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!” (Luke 21:28)

CIRCUIT THOUGHTS

The offer
By Kent Wilfong, Pastor,
Alton & Doniphan Methodist Churches

In the old Doniphan United Methodist Church, there hung a painting that I fell in love with. It was a depiction of a significant event in the history of the Methodist Movement painted by Kenneth Wyatt. It was called “Offer Them Christ.” It showed an aged John Wesley standing on the dock while Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were loading up in a boat to board the ship that would take them to America. It is said that as they were leaving, they asked once again what they were to do, and John Wesley said simply, “Offer them Christ.”

Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke would be instrumental in developing the Methodist Movement into an independent organization on the American shores. When all the English clergy left America during the Revolution, Asbury would stay behind and nurture the budding church. For me, that painting tells me all I need to know to be a pastor.

You see, being a minister is simple, it just isn’t easy. As we develop in our beliefs, we even try to make it harder, but following Christ really isn’t that complicated. When we meet someone, we are to just “Offer them Christ.” See? Simple. The world sometimes makes it very difficult. Denominational rules and regulations make the simple, difficult. Dogmas and doctrines can sometimes get in the way of the simple idea of “Offer them Christ.” Even the Great Commission is simple: “Go into all the world and make disciples of all people.” (Matthew 28:19a). When we get bogged down in organizational propriety, we tend to lose sight of the simple.

As a Methodist pastor, my task is to offer Christ in any way I can to all the people I can. Offering Christ is the first step in making disciples, so you see how that simple statement fits into the Great Commission.

Every minister, pastor, priest, preacher, has the same job expectations. But they don’t always have the right support, and this is where you come in.

Your pastor needs your prayers. I don’t care what church you go to or what pastor you follow, that person needs your prayers. Prayer is probably the strongest means of support you can give them. They also need your understanding. As we roll upon Easter, the pastors are getting quite busy. Give them a break before you criticize their availability.

Respect their time off. I know many ministers who work every waking hour and will put in 60-plus hours a week. Their excuse is often, “The devil doesn’t rest, so neither should I.” My thoughts on that are, “Why have the devil as a role model? Christ napped and rested and took time away from the group.” Ministers need to rest and recoup, so give them the chance, and give it to them often.

Look, I am in a good place here at Doniphan/Alton UMC, but I know other pastors that are just trying to keep it together. One of them might be yours, so try to be a blessing to them so they can continue to “Offer Them Christ.”

Just a thought.

Shalom My Friends and I hope to see you in church.

Improving your relationships
By Tim Richards

Many years ago, I read of an unhappy woman who had an appointment with the well-known and highly respected psychologist, Dr. George Crane. She told him she did not like the way her husband treated her, that she planned to divorce him, then asked how to hurt him as much as possible in the process.

Dr. Crane gave her this extremely wise advice: “Well, if you really want to hurt him... start showering him with

compliments. Tell him how much you love him and that he is a good husband. Reassure him that after all these years, you’re still glad you married him. Leave him little love notes. Do everything you can to convince him you are more in love now than you’ve ever been. Then, in a few months, when he believes everything is great, start the divorce.”

The woman was pleased with Dr. Crane’s advice and started to put his plan into practice. At her next appointment, a few months later the psychologist asked, “Well, are you

ready for your divorce?” She replied, “Why would I do that? I love my husband!”

The vindictive wife experienced how her change in behavior changed the way her husband responded to her. Usually, if we are kind and loving, our spouse will also be as well. When we are understanding, our spouse will more likely be understanding. The bitter wife learned that when she changed how she treated her husband, he began treating her differently also and their relationship blossomed once more.

In a larger sense, Jesus’ rule of loving our neighbor as we love ourselves pays huge dividends with more than just our neighbors, it yields even richer rewards for husbands and wives. It is important to find the right spouse, but even more important

to be the right husband or wife. When we are the best we can be, it often motivates our spouse to be more loving, kind and understanding.

A variation of this principle is found in King Solomon’s wise words: “A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.” (Proverbs 15:1, NLT)

Combining a gentle attitude and the right words lowers the emotional volume in our relationships, and we get along better.

Although this principle applies universally, it is true in all our relationships. If you desire better relationships, be a better friend, coworker, parent or spouse. We cannot force others to become better people, but when we become the best version of ourselves, we inevitably encourage those around us to make positive changes too.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Pray
By Diane Cooke, Pastor,
Willow Springs & Mtn. View Presbyterian Churches

Prayer is essential to the life of faith. Prayer was important to Jesus, and he prayed often.

In Matthew 6:5 Jesus said, “And when you pray...” He didn’t say “if you pray” or “try to remember to pray.” No, Jesus understood prayer as a holy habit, the means of communication with God.

It is not like making a wish list for Santa Claus. It is a conversation. We speak and we listen when we converse with a friend,



DIANE COOKE
COMMENTATOR

and we do the same in prayer. God has made prayer the way for us to experience God’s presence. There is no wrong way to pray, so just trust that God listens and responds.

In Luke 18:1, Jesus said to “pray always and not lose heart.” Be persistent in prayer, and may God bless your week.

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Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Morning

Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
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Wednesday Evening

Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
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Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.

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Rhubarb crumble perfect way to start spring pie season

The other evening, I harvested my rhubarb, just enough for a pie. I'm hoping the other two plants I have will produce, too. I'm not a big fan of rhubarb alone, but I love it combined with strawberries. Since rhubarb is old-fashioned and not so popular anymore, I want to make an old-fashioned pie. Pairing the tart rhubarb with strawberries or cherries cuts the tartness and blends the flavors well. As the pie season goes, this will be our first spring pie and hopefully not the last. This pie recipe can be made with two crusts, but I like to make it extra special by replacing the top crust with a crumble. This classic twist comes from an unknown baker who didn't have enough crust for a pie to have a top, so they resorted to a sweet mixture that was crumbled on top, so the internet says. But a crumble pie is a nice change, like springtime. Here's to all the spring pies to be baked in this new season ahead.

Rhubarb and Strawberry Crumble Pie

- 1 homemade pie crust (or store bought will do)
- 3 cups diced rhubarb
- 4 cups strawberries, sliced
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon orange zest (or 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest)
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 pinch kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons salted butter, melted

In a large skillet, mix the chopped rhubarb and sliced strawberries with sugar and place on the counter. Allow the mixture to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes while making the pie crust (this extracts the juices; do not skip this step!).

Make the pie crust. Refrigerate while you make the topping.

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Place the skillet on a burner on the stove. Stir in the cornstarch, orange zest and vanilla extract. Add medium high heat and cook about 5 to 6 minutes, until the sauce becomes very thick (but not longer, since the rhubarb will cook in the oven).

Make the crumble topping: In a medium bowl, add the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and kosher salt. Mix together with a fork. Pour in the melted butter while mixing with the fork until a crumbly mixture forms.

Roll out the pie dough, transfer it to a standard 9-inch pie pan, and crimp the edges. Pour in the rhubarb filling. Use your fingers to sprinkle the crumbles evenly over the filling.

Place the pie on a large baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes. Keep the pie in the oven and turn the oven temperature down to 350°F. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the crust and crumble topping are golden. (Check on the pie around 20 minutes and cover with aluminum foil if the crust is getting too brown). Remove from the oven.

Allow the pie to cool for 3 hours at room temperature before serving.

SIMPLE STAPLES

HOMEMADE MUSTARD
By Chris Herbolsheimer,
Quill Contributing Writer

Welcome back to my little culinary experiment, where we take everyday essentials we usually toss in our grocery carts and turn them into homemade staples that taste better and often cost less. Today, we're kicking off a new series all about condiments, starting with my personal favorite — mustard. Mustard is one of those kitchen staples we don't think twice about. It's always there in the fridge, waiting to be slathered on a sandwich, mixed into a salad dressing, or paired with a bratwurst hot off the grill. But once you've tasted homemade mustard, there's no going back. The depth of flavor, the slight tang, the customizable spice level, it's a game-changer. Luckily, making mustard from scratch is incredibly easy. With just a few basic ingredients and a little patience, you'll have a jar of bold, flavorful mustard that's better than anything you can buy at the store. Let's dive in.

Homemade Mustard Recipe Ingredients

- ½ cup yellow mustard seeds (for a mild mustard) or brown mustard seeds (for a spicier kick)
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar (or white wine vinegar for a milder flavor)
- ½ cup water (or beer for extra depth)
- 1 tablespoon honey (or maple syrup for a richer sweetness)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon turmeric (for color and warmth)
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder (optional, but highly recommended)
- ¼ teaspoon paprika (smoked paprika adds extra depth)

Instructions

In a glass bowl, combine the mustard seeds, vinegar, and water (or beer). Cover and let them soak at room temperature for at least 12 hours, preferably overnight. This

softens the seeds and helps develop the flavor. Once the seeds have soaked and plumped up, pour the mixture into a blender or food processor. Blend until you reach your desired consistency – smooth for a creamy mustard or slightly grainy for a more traditional texture. Stir in the honey, salt, turmeric, garlic powder and paprika. Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed. If it's too thick, add a little more water or vinegar to thin it out. Transfer the mustard to a clean glass jar and let it sit in the refrigerator for at least 24 hours before using. This resting period helps mellow out the bitterness and allows the flavors to blend beautifully. Use your homemade mustard on sandwiches, in salad dressings or as a dipping sauce. It will keep in the fridge for up to a month, but I doubt it'll last that long.

Pro Tips

Want it spicier? Use more brown mustard seeds, add a pinch of cayenne or let it sit for a few extra days before using. Prefer a milder mustard? Stick with yellow mustard seeds and use white wine instead of beer. Looking for extra depth? Swap out the apple cider vinegar for balsamic or sherry vinegar. Homemade mustard is an easy way to elevate your pantry staples and bring bold, fresh flavor to your favorite dishes. And the best part? Once you've mastered this basic recipe, you can experiment with endless variations: think honey mustard, whole grain Dijon or even spicy beer mustard. Stay tuned for next week's installment as we continue our condiment series. I'll give you a hint, if you're a fan of ketchup, you won't want to miss it.

Asian-style chicken strips

THIS LIGHT MEAL WITH A FAR EAST FLAIR WILL BE AS TASTY AS IT IS ORIGINAL ON YOUR EASTER TABLE!

Ingredients

Servings: 4

- 2 chicken breasts
- 4 tablespoons hoisin sauce, divided
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar, divided
- 2 tablespoons mirin sauce, divided
- 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil, divided
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 heads of Boston lettuce, separated into leaves
- 1 carrot, finely julienned
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 1 teaspoon chili flakes (optional)

Directions

Place the chicken in a bowl or resealable bag, along with half the hoisin sauce, rice vinegar, mirin and sesame oil. Mix well and refrigerate for at least an hour and up to overnight.

Heat the remaining sesame oil and vegetable oil in a frying pan. Sear the chicken breasts about 6 minutes on each side, or until cooked through. Let stand for 5 minutes before slicing into strips.

Prepare the sauce by mixing the peanut butter with the remaining hoisin sauce, rice vinegar and mirin. Add a little water to thin the sauce if it's too thick.

Arrange the lettuce leaves, chicken strips, carrots and green onions on a serving platter. Garnish with sesame seeds and chili flakes.

Mirin is a sweet, fermented Asian seasoning. It's readily available in grocery stores but can be replaced by honey or maple syrup.

‘GO FARM’ FARMER’S MARKET

Saturday market may cancel for rain

By Patrice Jennings

Due to the predicted storms coming in this week, and with possible flooding in this area, we cannot definitely say we will be open this Saturday. If we need to cancel, we will get the word out as best we can, as fast as we can. If we are open, our market continues to grow each week with returning vendors and new vendors setting up with something for everyone! Check our Facebook page @gofarmwestplains for the latest updates. You can also call 417-293-0590 for updates. We are in the Endurance Church parking lot next to Hirsch. EBT, cash, credit and debit are all accepted.

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MONDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

47 Tear into tatters

48 Heart, for one

6 Cassettes and eight-tracks

11 Cheering loudly

12 Green hue

13 Mission priest

14 Become ready for picking

15 Violent anger

17 Finish

18 Coast Guard vessels

22 Defeat

23 Untie, perhaps

27 Aids illegally

29 Trombone part

30 Former Spanish coin

32 Inkling

33 Unwilling

35 Snaky shape

38 Toenail treatment, for short

39 Speedy

41 Map collection

45 Japanese port

46 Com-motion

DOWN

1 Maple fluid

2 S&L offering

3 Like '60s fashions

4 British lawyer

5 Regions

6 Bullfight stars

7 Boxing's "Greatest"

8 Plumbing piece

9 Smooth

10 Dispatch

16 Hair goo

18 Applaud

19 Spa cover

20 Calls on

21 British lawyer

24 Flank

25 Genesis garden

26 Tidy

28 Mom's new hubby

31 Feasted

34 Sun Valley setting

35 Amorous archer

36 Window part

37 Prepare for a bout

40 Presidential nickname

42 Fireplace item

43 Cry of insight

44 — Francisco

Saturday's answer

3-31

TUESDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Choose

7 Spice from nutmeg

11 Incite

12 Stratford's river

13 Task guaranteed to fail

15 Kind of pool

16 Oxford, e.g.

18 Moves swiftly

21 Come together

22 Soon-to-be grad

24 Caribou's kin

25 Passing craze

26 Status —

27 Busy

29 Supply with cash

30 Oil container

31 Downhill glider

32 Basil-based sauce

34 1971 James Stewart film

40 Script unit

41 Napoli's nation

42 Trebek of "Jeopardy!" fame

43 Bank worker

DOWN

1 Clumsy one

2 Old hand

3 Overly

4 Steamboat pioneer

5 Davis of "Do the Right Thing"

6 Clarinet part

7 Swordfish's kin

8 Gardner of movies

9 Swindle

10 Put a stop to

14 Tore down

16 Not flimsy

17 Trail follower

19 Irritated state

20 Wide inlet

21 Fast plane

22 Easy victim

23 Baton

25 Is furious

28 Two-level apartment

29 Like some wallpaper

31 Declare

33 Rotisserie part

34 Ga. neighbor

35 Pipe-line flow

36 Binary digit

37 Maximum amount

38 Game cube

39 Corn spike

Yesterday's answer

4-1

MONDAY

PUZZLE NO. 685

SUDOKU

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

3 1 7 2 4

6 4 8

2 8

7

2 1 6 4

1 2 8 6

2

5 1

4 3 6 3

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 685

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

TUESDAY

PUZZLE NO. 686

SUDOKU

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

2 5 9

5 8 3

1 7 9 2

3 2

6 7

4 9 3

6 8

8 6

3 8 2 4

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 686

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

WEDNESDAY

PUZZLE NO. 687

SUDOKU

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

4 7 1

2 4 8 7 5

9

5 9 8

2 6

8 6 5 4

8 3 4 5 1

4 2 9

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 687

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: you must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

MONDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

LYUFL

URGDO

DSIEBE

ZYNZSA

THE PUB WAS VERY POPULAR WITH GECKOS, IGUANAS, MONITORS AND OTHER ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AROMA CHURN ABACUS BELONG

Answer: The bird who considered herself in charge of the roosting birds was the — BRANCH MANAGER

TUESDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

ENHYO

LRBTU

MRLAFO

GRTIBH

WHEN IT CAME TO KEEPING THE BALL ON THE FAIRWAY, THE GOLFER WAS HAVING A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FULLY GOURD BESIDE SNAZZY

Answer: The pub was very popular with geckos, iguanas, monitors and other — LOUNGE LIZARDS

WEDNESDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

NNOOI

NRKIB

WPNEEH

SARYGS

WHEN THEIR EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONED DURING THE INTERVIEW, IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HONEY BLURT FORMAL BRIGHT

Answer: When it came to keeping the ball on the fairway, the golfer was having a — ROUGH TIME

WEDNESDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Striped

1 Army post cat

5 Gum 40 Give a

masses new

9 "Love look to

Story" actor

11 Greenish

brown

12 Narrow

shelf

13 Fill with

joy

14 Failure

15 Ballooned

17 Entered

a bee

19 Slalom

maneuver

20 Slow

mover

21 Baseball

need

22 Arabian

city

24 Nile snake

26 Hunter in

the sky

29 Put away

30 Stank

32 Like

ready-to-

eat shrimp

34 Word on

a bill

35 Marisa

of "My

Cousin

Vinny"

36 Seething

38 Correct,

as text

O	P	T	F	O	R		M	A	C	E
A	R	O	U	S	E		A	V	O	N
F	O	O	L	S	E	R	R	A	N	D
			T	I	D	A	L			
	S	H	O	E		Z	I	P	S	
J	O	I	N		S	E	N	I	O	R
E	L	K		F	A	D		F	U	O
T	I	E	D		U	P		F	U	N
	D	R	U	M		S	L	E	D	
			P	E	S	T	O			
F	O	O	L	S		P	A	R	A	D
L	I	N	E		I	T	A	L	I	A
A	L	E	X		T	E	L	L	E	R

Yesterday's answer

11 Listen to

28 Like the

German

"das"

29 Showy

flower

30 Glided

31 Plow

pioneer

John

33 Fallon's

predeces-

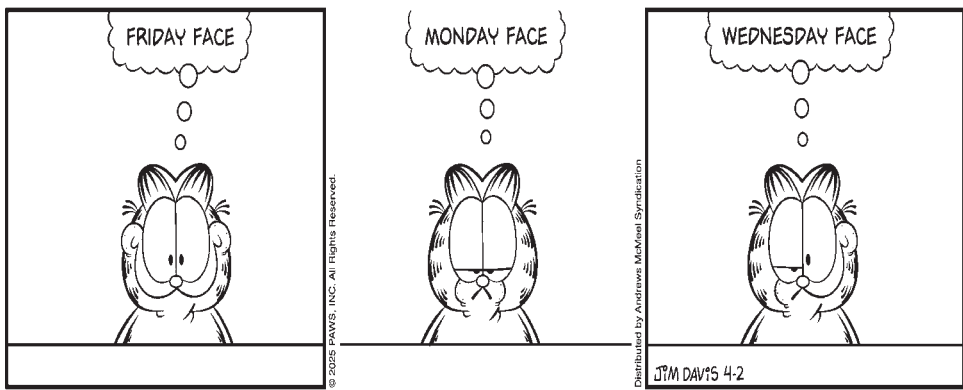
sor

37 Brink

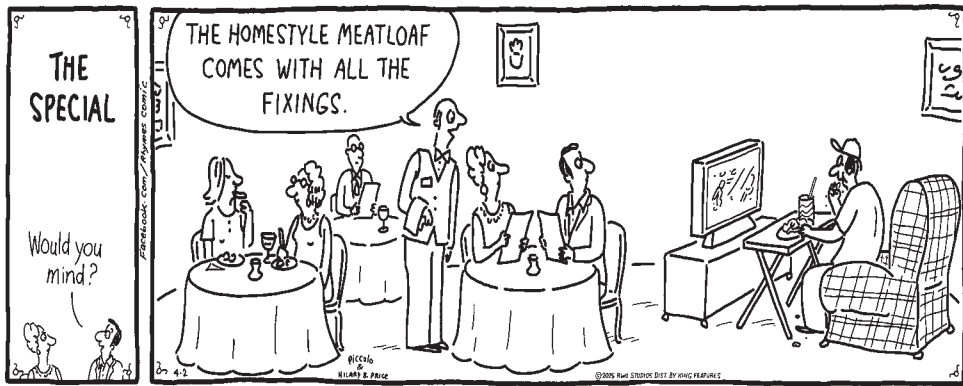
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
			22			23		
	24	25		26			27	28
29			30					31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

4-2

Garfield by Jim Davis



Rhymes with Orange by Hilary Price



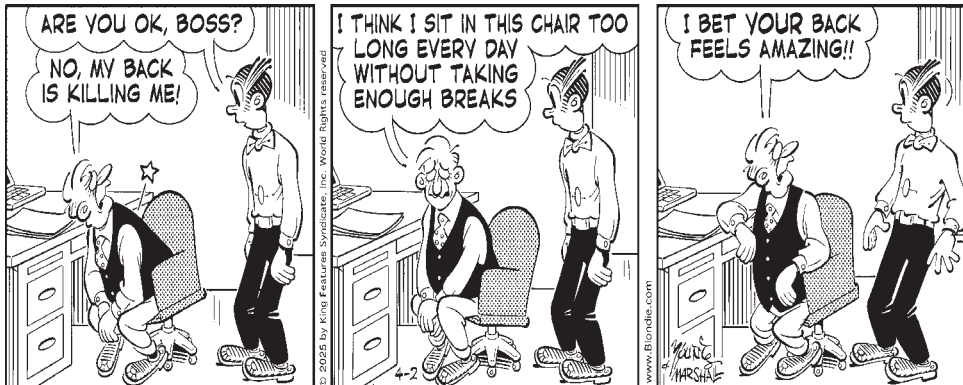
Pickles by Brian Crane



Zits by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



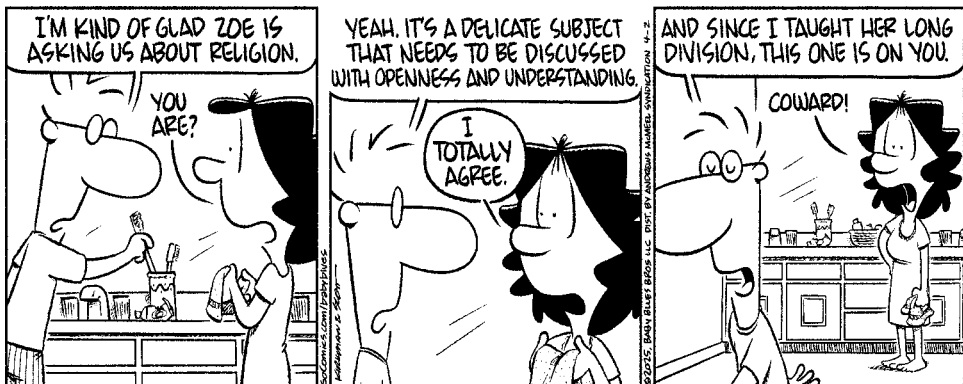
Blondie by Dean Young and Stan Drake



Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker



Baby Blues By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



The Family Circus by Bil Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Why do shadows only come in black and white?"

MONDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-31 CRYPTOQUOTE

VKNUTS. IQNOJ WQTV UG,

QKNUF OJNUVGTV UG, QTR

IQX KLG V BT UGV MQOZYG

QTR GNBLYNV. — JYTNX

RQCUR GJBNYQL

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I INTEND TO LIVE LIFE, NOT JUST EXIST. — GEORGE TAKEI

TUESDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

QLSHMBCW BO H YHGHEK IA

AIIZO, HME B HS HC CQK

AGIMC IA BC, CVBGZBMX H

PHCIM. — EKHM FIIMCR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRING. MARCH FANS IT, APRIL CHRISTENS IT, AND MAY PUTS ON ITS JACKET AND TROUSERS. — HENRY DAVID THOREAU

WEDNESDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

O I L A N T L M N U

KWRWHVWVOX YSQ QLKLM

H L P Q G L M L R O W B S O L G .

— B S M C S M L O Y I N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HUMANITY IS A PARADE OF FOOLS, AND I AM AT THE FRONT OF IT, TWIRLING A BATON. — DEAN KOONTZ

WPS&L contributes to cystic fibrosis cause



Cystic Fibrosis of West Plains recently wrapped up its signature fundraiser concert, and between ticket sales, auctions and giveaways of donated items, and monetary donations from individuals and businesses, the organization collected a total of \$79,000. West Plains Savings & Loan contributed \$250 to the effort. Front row, from left: Cystic Fibrosis volunteer Katlyn Johnson, Savings & Loan employee Vicki Oberdorf and Cystic Fibrosis volunteer Jessica Joice-Frazier holding her dog Olive. Second row: Savings & Loan employees Cheryle Owens, Connie Collins, Shan Gable and Brenda Reavis. Back row: Savings & Loan employees Jeff Lindquist, Ricky Vonallmen, Pam Woodward, Jennifer Barks and Niki Luna, and Cystic Fibrosis volunteer Lois Frazier. STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

WPHS honor roll students named

West Plains High School recognizes students earning a GPA of 2.9 to 3.8, placing them on the school's honor roll.

FRESHMEN

Elizabeth Allen, Indie Barry, Lexi Bohrer, Macy Brewer, Izabella Bridges, Dakotah Brigman, Kaiden Brown, Pantera Broyles, Jayson Brucker, Camen Bryant, Jordan Bullock, Brayton Cobb, Jane Cobb, John Cochran, Breanna Cole, Mya Collins, Xavier Cooler, Patricia Crider, Jackson Crosser, Parvity Culton;

Jacob Cutler, Isabella Dailing, Eric Dilbeck, Hailee Ellison, Riley Erickson, Zachary Evans, Emma Fare, Baron Floyd, Huxley Freeman, Brody French-Ledbetter, Gracey Gatewood, Brayden Gerdes, Olivia Gibson, Ocyrus Godina, BriAnna Greenlee, Morgan Groves, Miley Hall, Edie Hart, Lucas Howell, Madison Jennings;

Logan Jones, Bella Juline, Angel Kelly, Gavin Kenslow, Aaron Kharitonov, Avenier Kulakavich, Cheyenn Ledbetter, Kristian Lugo, Gracie Lundry, Mylie Mace, Roman Martinez, Gabriel Martinez Cruz, Connor McCauley, Aiden McCord, Charles McMahon, Cameron Miller, Bailey Moody, Andrew Moore;

Bentley Moore, Presley Moore, Tegan Mueller, Kynlee Norberg, Parker Ogden, Leelah Osborn, Keyonna Patterson, Colton Peterson, Elijah Pohl, Tristan Powell, Kallie Pyatt, Ella Roberts, Eric Rodriguez, Body Rutledge, Kaison Salkil, Kyler Simonds, Carter Smith, Zackary Smith, Bella Snyder, Ethan Spencer;

Makenna Squires, Rae-lynn Steckman, Jared

Stock, Jade Swingle, Ava Thompson, Jalee Thompson, Alaiyah Wade, Hannah Wheeler, Garrett Whisenant, Brooklyn White, Emma Wiedemann, Keegan Williams, Logan Williams, Patsy Wilson, Hunter Wollin, Xuan Hang Zheng.

SOPHOMORES

Cash Adamson, Mia Alexander, Randi Lynn Barker, Serenity Barker, Kaylee Barnard, Skylar Bell, Alexia Bishop, Kay-sen Bonham, Lucas Boze, Chance Bradfute, Ruben Brawley, Cali Bruffett, Zaid Cardoza, Lyndzey Casey, Vanessa Cates, Kailyn Cauthen, Eli Collins, Jragen Collins, Jacob Constable, Alexza Cope, Malakai Coy, Braden Crites, Ean Cunningham, Trinity DeLuna, Arianna Donner, Rylee Driskell, Kamira Dunbar;

Juno Fithen, Abigail Fraley, Keril Gerasimov, Byson Gerdes, Blake Goodwin, Christopher Goodwin,

Grayson Hale, Kira Hobbs, Gabriel Hoffman, Charlie Huddleston, Haylee Ingalsbe, Fredrick Jordan, Hunter Judd, Brooklyn Kalina, Marilee Kaufman, Tanner Kerley, Landon Kintner, Cecilya Knox, Jaxon Lancaster, Bailey Laws, Landen Legler, Bailey Logue, Chloe Loring, Kennedy Martindale, Cyric McGee, Anai-ka Miller;

Josalynn Moss, Jayden Mulford, Halen Mullen, Ashley nix, Chase Norris, Cordale Palmer, Daigeen Parrish, Isaac Patten, Brayden Reffitt-Danner, Alec Rogers, Promise Russell, Jack Sander,

June Sanderson, Preston Sargent, Willard Shell, Haley Smith, Nickalas Stage, Tyler Stewart, Benjamin Stone, Iann Tune, Thomas Vance, Divina Vega, Natalie Verrall, Ivy Wallace, Kaden Warren, Katelyn Wheeler, James Wilkerson, Nakia Wilson and Kylea Young.

JUNIORS

Jacob Basham-Friend, Drew Bauer, Eleanor Bendon, Jaiden Brickey, Makayla Brown, Jazzman Broyles, Kenter Button, Whitlee Callahan, Maxine Clinton, Hailey Collins, Hunter Collins, Addison Combs, Jesse Contreras, Kaidyn Cuninghame, Caden Cutler, Emma Dixon, Hannah Dugan, Bronsen Dunbar, Rylie Eskew, Julian Flores, Braelynn Fox, Kaitlyn Gale, Yair Godina, Sean Graham, Sarah Granger, Michelle Greenlee;

Aubrey Gross, Dominic Hale, Kael Harrison, Hayden Hawkins, McKenzie Henderson, Brian Howell, Jaxon Hunter, Kaleigh Jenkins, Chance Johnson, Raleigh Johnson, Jacob Jones, Cole King, Seri King, Peyton Lambert, Avery Lankford, Taylor Lawrence, Braden Lewis, Zackary Maddux, Corrine Martin, Akili McClung, Drew Melvin, Timothy Mondy, Landon Montgomery, Jacob Moore, Joslyn Parm-er, Cienna Perez, Nathan Pickett;

Logan Ray, Ian Reyes, Xarian Richardson, Duston Rishton, Emylee Robbins, Sophia Roberts, Daniel Robinson, Reese Rutledge, Jared Simpson, Joshua Smith, Ashton Stacel, Luke Stacy, Macie Stout, London Thompson, Chase Vargas, Lillian Vaughn, Mason Webb, Benjamin Wilken-ing, Graham Williams, Rayden Wilson, Braydon Wood and Lily York.

SENIORS

Steven Bailey, Gracie Barnard, Madison Bar-rett, Parker Bell, Lilia Bennington, Andrew

Bradley, Reese Brown, Alexis Bryan, Isabelle Bryant, Alexandria Bunting, Preston Carroll, Kensley Cobb, Levi Cole, Jada Curtin, Danielle Dooks, Natalie Doyle, Caleb Eades, Brooklyn Earls, Savana Easley, Remington Elliott, True Fink, Kassiya Gerasimo-va, Kyler Gunter, Grace Gutierrez, Joshua Ham-lett, Silas Havens, Mad-dox Hawkins;

Dillon Heath, Kailynn Hendricks, Jenaca Hens-ley, Adalyn Holden, Ala-na Hood, Gabrielle Hoyt, Emerald Hutchinson, Delainee Irvin, Pierson Jackson, Connor Kenslow, Carson King, Elizabeth Lair, Audrey Land, Chase Larsen, Hannah Larsen, Jaysie Lawrence, Elias Leslie, Brooke Lincoln, Tori Lipford, Brenden Lovan, Jayden Massey, Mad-ilyn Mayfield, Colten Mc-Guire, Alanna McNichols, Madyson Melvin, Lincoln Miller;

Serenity Mondy, Austin Moss, Katelyn Murphy, Evy Myers, Aubrey New-ton, Zoi North, Hayden O'Mary, Britton Osgood, Kadin Ostermeier, Allie Pace, SierraRain Pache-co, Taylor Palmer, Elijah Perry, Abby Peterman, Luke Pitts, Andrew Qui-mby, Wayland Raines, Ol-ivia Reid, Jillian Rhoads, Layne Richardson, Sad-ie Richardson, Chance Roberts, Hunter Roberts, Michael Rudes, Addison Sanders, Kathrine Sand-ers;

Kaydence Schoffstall, Brooklynn Smith, Harm-ony Stewart, Hoyt Stiner, Gregory Taylor, Antoni Tharp, Isaac Thomas, Cavan Tomlinson, Emma Tugwell, Daniel Ulm, Adam Vaughan, Zackary Vonnallen, Annie Wake, Brett Walker, Aeryn Weisbrod, Joshua White, Jalenn Wiggs, Dominic Williams, Caitlyn York and Kadence Young.

ASU fall chancellor's, dean's list students announced

Students on the chan-cellor's and dean's Lists for the fall 2024 semester at Arkansas State Uni-versity have been an-nounced. The lists recog-nize undergraduate stu-dents who achieved the highest grade-point av-erages while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours of study.

The chancellor's list includes students who earned a perfect GPA of 4.0. The dean's list in-cludes students with a GPA of 3.6 to 3.99.

lyn Mann and Kirsten Sherrill, Calico Rock; Dawnyel Davis-Bissing and Tiffany King, Horse-shoe Bend; and Thom-as Wren, Melbourne. **Sharp County, Ark.:** Bridgett Sullenger, Ash Flat; Dakota Beaty, Cait-lan Boyce, Christina Conforth, Breanna Mill-er, Nona Saulnier, Asher Snook and Darla Sum-mers, Cherokee Village; Nicholas Ivey, Highland; and Lily Ann Morris, Wil-liford.

- Chancellor's list**

Howell County: Ram-sey Brower and Landry Pitts, West Plains. **Oregon County:** Laina Richardson, Alton, and Elizabeth Bu-chanan, Koshkonong. **Ozark County:** Tay-lor Suter, Gainesville **Baxter County, Ark.:** Ma-lia Beshears, Clarkridge; Lauren Goeke, Cot-ter; Gracie Uchtman, Gassville; Alexis Bates, Blake Luna and Kinsey Taylor, Lakeview; Jas-mine Allen, Mattie Belk, Christopher Burkhart, Faelan Burr, Mikayla Carlton, Shawna Case, Lauren Dewey, Talon Estes, Celinie Flowers, Emma Hale, Matty Horn, Merick King, Haley Moore, Anna O'Connor, Kaitlyn Richard, Man-delyn Smeltzer, Laney Stout, Gianna Taylor, Dustin Tucker and Sydnie Zimmer, Mtn. Home; and Delaney Faulkner and Madison Hall, Norfork. **Fulton County, Ark.:** Al-lison Webber, Ash Flat; Cortney Goans and Lau-ren Skaggs, Mammoth Spring; Tressie Carter, Olivia Dockins, Samantha Guiltner, Kelsey Hum-phries, Kylee Humphries, Luke Keen, Danielle Pe-terson, John Smith, Jaid-en Strong, Jaycie Strong, Katy Walling and Sarah Young; Tia York, Sturk-ie; and Emily Martin, Andrea Mccandlis and Quade Perryman, Viola. **Izard County, Ark.:** Jewell Beckwith, Jess-
- Dean's list**

Howell County: Ken-nedy Sisco, West Plains. **Oregon County:** Rea-gan Buckley, Myrtle. **Ozark County:** Abby Bentley, Bakers-field, and Jenna Ucht-man, Gainesville. **Baxter County:** Michael Altenbaumer, Lance Cunningham and Adria-n King, Gassville; and Kiah Beard, Natalie Bruce, Royce Dieck-hoff, Caitlyn Fitzgerald, Samuel Hoskins, Isaiah Kemp, Gretchen Kerns, Jessica McMahon, Nicole Rodriguez, Katie Rorie, Zeke Sanders, Abby Taylor, Kevin Von Berg-mann, Kenna Vostatek, Ashley Vredenburg, Ol-ivia Wham and Karoline Yeakley, Mtn. Home. **Fulton County:** Trevor Blythe, Ash Flat; Cory Duncan, Gepp; Rhonda Harris, Sara O'Dell and Tessa Smith, Mammoth Spring; and Dustin Bul-lard, Madison Busch, Hannah Dailey, Kate-lynn Estes, Alexis Gher-ing, Hannah Guffey, Kelsi Jackson and Madeline Keen, Salem. **Izard County:** Carter Bray, Chase Duncan, Hannah McCullough, Ste-phen McDaniel and Seren-ity Sanders, Melbourne. **Sharp County:** Blane Nicholson and Kristy-na Schalchlin, Ash Flat; Madison Gentry, John Howard and Grant Sand-ers, Cherokee Village; Rebecca Skinner, Har-dy; and Zachary Duncan, Highland.

ACADEMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS IN BRIEF

Two from Texas County earn Wichita State honor roll listings

Wichita State University in Kansas has announced two Texas County residents are among 3,865 students who were on the WSU dean's honor roll for fall 2024.

Honored students are Radeef Ashhab Bin Karim, Cabool, and Kelly N. Bon-nell, Licking.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time in at least 12 credit hours,

and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Zizzer grad named to Rhodes College's fall honor roll

George Fisher of West Plains was named to Rhodes College's fall 2024 honor roll, announced officials with the school in Memphis, Tenn.

To qualify, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 credits of academic work and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better.

Mammoth Spring State Park to celebrate Earth Day

An Earth Day celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 19 at Mammoth Spring State Park, followed by an Easter egg hunt near the ballfields. The Easter egg hunt is sponsored by the Spring River Lions Club.

The Earth Day event is free of charge, except for the Cast A Line gift shop, and activities include mak-

ing bird feeders, native wildflower seed planting, crafts with recycled materi-als, blue bird houses, fly-ty-ing, dried flower art and a compost education station.

Participants can register at the visitor center for a chance to win a door prize. The park is located off of South U.S. 63 just inside the Arkansas state line.

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OZARKS RFD:

Wish I could turn off the news

Most days I wish I could turn off the evening news, but I can't.

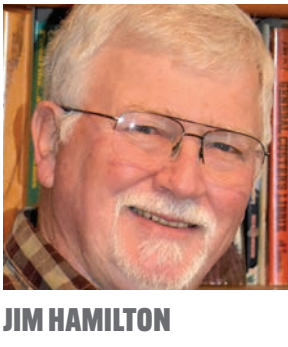
I can't help myself. I've been a news junkie for almost as long as I could read. I blame my mom and her mother. All of my years at home, Mom brought home the Springfield newspapers. What I looked for then was the same things we look for now — names and places we're familiar with. In my teenage years that meant perusing the court records to learn which of my peers from Fair Grove or Elkland had been cited for speeding or a noisy muffler. I was alert to the names of anyone I knew, whether the news was good or bad. I was especially thrilled to find items I had submitted as my FFA chapter reporter.

Of course, I read many other things, too, like fishing reports and local crime stories.

Aside from reading the current news, I devoured the World War II reports and photos in stacks of old newspapers my grandma had saved. That's when I became acutely aware that today's news is tomorrow's history.

The same is true today, and I don't want to miss witnessing history, from movie star profiles to murder reports, or from wars to rumors of wars.

I'm sure reading all of those news-



JIM HAMILTON

papers as a boy contributed to my decision to become a newspaper reporter. Though many of the local stories were unpleasant to research and write. Still, they needed writing.

That's kind of where I am with national news today. I don't like much of what I read, but I still need to be informed.

That's where the rub comes in. Much of the national news is disturbing and demoralizing, the result of flawed leadership on the part of people we entrusted with the fate of our nation. I am referring, of course, to the chaos coming out of Washington and the dearth of courage or conviction in Congress to do anything about it.

Were I still writing newspaper editorials, I would liken our ship of democracy to the ill-fated Titanic, and I would encourage readers to become familiar with the locations of her lifeboats.

I do not write editorials today. My time has come and gone. Bowing to better minds and louder voices than mine, I urge no one turn off the evening news.

Rather, devour it. Know what is being said and done. Implore elected officials to take seriously their oaths of office. Democracy demands it.

That means we cannot turn off or ignore the evening news.

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SUMMERSVILLE BOOKENDS:



By Kathie Ledgerwood-Cox, Branch Librarian

It's tea time! The Summersville Library's 11th annual Princess Tea Party StoryTime will be held from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday! The Miss Texas County Pageant winners will be our guests of honor.

Every Princess Tea we've held has had a side story to go with it. One year, I was flaunting my "Super Car-Hop" tray skills when I dumped part of our desserts on the floor. Another year, we learned while decorating for the tea that dads are not good bow-makers. My favorite all-time memory is of the little prince who came with his sister. Infatuated with one of the little princesses, he stared at her for a bit before saying quite seriously, "You're adorable".

Anyone wanting to help decorate for the event is welcome to join us at 1p.m. on Friday, to turn our library into a "Royal Tea Room"! New arrivals to our fiction shelves include "The Crash,"

Freida McFadden, "The World's Fair Quilt," Jennifer Chiaverini, "Apples Never Fall," Liane Moriarty and a nonfiction, "It's All Under Control," Jennifer Dukes Lee.

New children's easies include "Raccoon On His Own," Jim Arnosky, and "The Big Slide," Daniel Kirk.

Summersville Friends of the Library have set the annual Plants & Books Sale for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 25th, so mark your calendars!

We'll be needing plenty of vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs to sell, so pot your volunteers and bring them in! Thanks to local greenhouses, the sale always has a wide selection of affordable garden plants and books.

Ongoing activities at Summersville Branch Library

Story Time & Craft: 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
Chain Gang Crochet Club: 2-4 p.m. Thursdays.
Lego Club: Any time during business hours!

Friends of the Library meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Contact the library for more information on any activity or a suggestion for new ones!

The Summersville Friends of the Library group needs new members to continue the beneficial work our group does to help with activities for the children, adults and our community. New members are encouraged to join this active group in supporting and participating in the continuing growth of the Summersville Branch Library. "Like" the Friends' Facebook page @SummersvilleFriendsOfTheLibrary.

Texas County Library now has e-books and audio books available to download for Texas County Library patrons. To view the catalog and download, go to our website: texascountylibrary.lib.mo.us, click on e-books, or come by the library for assistance. Texas County Library cards are required.

To view the catalog and download, go to our website: texascountylibrary.lib.mo.us, click on "e-books," or come by the library for assistance. Texas County Library cards are required.

Summersville Library is a branch of Texas County Library and located at 480 First St., on the south side of the square, next door to Open Door in Summersville.

Business hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Summersville Branch librarians are Kathie Cox and Diana Richardson, and the Texas County library director is Louise Beasley.

Visit texascountylibrary.lib.mo.us or contact the library by phone, 417-932-5261; email, svlib@texascountylibrary.lib.mo.us; or fax, 417-932-5262. Be sure and LIKE our Texas County Library Facebook page!

LIVE AND LEARN:

Civic bullies only win when no one else speaks up

By David Burton

As I travel across Missouri, meeting with community leaders and residents, working to strengthen neighborhoods and encourage civic engagement, I hear the same concern in every town: civic bullies.

You see them on Facebook pages like "[Insert Community Name] News and Events." They tear down every idea, drown progress in negativity, and discourage others from getting involved. Whether through toxic social media posts, obstructionist positions, or pessimism, they do more than frustrate — they hold communities back.

In every town, people have stories of how these pages discourage business owners, stop people from running for office, and stir up drama. I understand because I've seen it happen in my own hometown of Republic, Missouri.

Civic bullies remind me of something David Engwicht once said about weeds in a field. Weeds are everywhere, but they only take over when the land is unhealthy. It's the same with communities.

A strong town will always have critics — that's normal. But in a healthy, engaged community, those voices don't dominate. The problem isn't the bullies themselves; it's the silence of the majority. When good people check out, bullies fill the space, making it seem like their opinions are the only ones that matter.

Like any bully, civic bullies thrive when no one else speaks up. They show up when things go wrong, grab attention, and take over by default. But here's the truth: Most people don't agree with them.

Civic bullies are a loud but small minority. They dominate because most people don't like engaging in negativity or conflict. Meanwhile, civic bullies enjoy stirring the pot.

But there's good news — when the rest of the

community speaks up, bullies lose their power. And we fight back with positivity.

In Great Bend, Kansas, when local online discussions turned toxic, Ryan Fairchild, owner of Dry Lake Brewing, helped create a Positive Social Response Team.

Whenever negativity spiked, they sent out a text or email, rallying people to respond with positive, supportive comments. Over time, the bullies lost their influence. Without attention, they faded into the background.

Bullies will always exist. But their voices only matter when everyone else stays silent.

The solution isn't to fight them — it's to make sure more positive voices join the conversation. When the silent majority speaks up, the bullies lose control.

Do not let social media in your community become a wasteland filled with negativity. Because communities thrive when good people refuse to stay silent.

David Burton is a community development specialist for University of Missouri Extension with a special focus on neighbors and neighborhoods. He was the editor of a weekly newspaper from 1989 to 1994.

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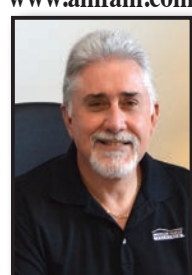


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Lady Zizzers split results at Branson tourney: Win, two losses

By John Deatherage,
Quill Sports Contributor

It was a win and two losses for the West Plains Lady Zizzers varsity soccer team Friday and Saturday at the Branson Tournament. West Plains beat Carthage 3-2 Friday to open up the tournament. Lyndzey Casey scored two goals and Jasmine Tackitt scored one for

the Lady Zizzers. Saturday morning, West Plains played Bolivar, and fell 4-1. Lilly Hamilton had the goal, Casey with the assist, for the Lady Zizzers.. Lighthouse Christian Academy was the next opponent Saturday for West Plains, and the Zizzers lost that one with a score of 5-1. Casey scored the Lady Zizzers' goal.

"All the girls worked exceptionally well together," Lady Zizzers assistant coach Courtney Stockton said. "Lyndzey has had an ankle injury, so everyone has had to step up to the plate and help her out more, because she can't do her fancy footwork as well as she used to with her ankle so swollen and sore. She can still play well, but it has hindered her slightly." Stockton said the girls on the team this season have been working on positive attitudes, and believes they are doing very well with that. "They keep each other's heads up, give

See **TOURNEY**,
Page 13A



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Huddleston named WPHS head boys basketball coach



West Plains R-7 School District officials have announced Dr. Seth Huddleston as the new head coach of the West Plains High School Boys Basketball team. Huddleston has a long history of coaching, most recently leading the West Plains Middle School boys' basketball program. His experience, dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on student athletes at every level, said officials. In addition to his new role, Dr. Huddleston will continue serving as principal of South Fork Elementary School, where officials say he has been a "valued leader and advocate for students and staff." He has been employed with the district since 2008. From left: Huddleston with wife Suzanne, daughter Charlie and son Rhett. COURTESY / WPHS

Zizzers make good showing at Waynesville Open

By John Deatherage,
Quill Sports Contributor

Several athletes from the West Plains Zizzers track and field teams earned candy stripe performance standards Thursday at the Waynesville Open. "It was a very good showing, being this early in the season," Zizzers Head Coach Greg Dixon said. "I am very pleased with both the boys and girls teams at this point in the season". "We need to sharpen our relay exchanges in the sprint relays, and continue to develop depth in the field events on both teams," he said. "Our distance crew is showing signs of good depth on the boys team with some high level performers at the top." The boys 4X200-meter relay team finished in first place, with a time of 1:31.64 earning the team their candy stripes. Members of that relay were Will Stauffer, Trentin Jeffords, Cameron

Miller and Zack Tinsley. The girls 4X200-meter relay followed the boys' with a candy stripe performance of their own, clocking at time of 1:47.84 and capturing first place. Those relay members were Mylea Adams, Lily Dixon, Anna Welch and Ashlyn Tinsley. The boys 4X100 meter relay earned some more stripes, winning the event and clocking a season best time of 42.62. Relay members were Tinsley, Lincoln Miller, Cameron Miller and Stauffer. The girls followed the boys again with yet another relay candy stripe performance, getting second place to the Waynesville Tigers in a close race. The girls team consisting of Tinsley, Dixon, Welch and Adams clocked a season best time of 50.74. The boys distance crew had two seniors, Carson King and Kyler Gunter, earn their candy stripes in the 3,200-meter run by finishing first and second respectively, with times of 9:41 and 9:45. Junior Emily Ritter capped off the running events, earning her candy stripes in the 3,200 meter run by finishing first in a time of 11:56. In field events, sophomore Jragen Collins had a big night, earning his candy stripes in both the long and triple jump. In the girls jump, Adams, a junior, also had a big night, likewise earning her stripes in both the long and triple jump.

See **OPEN**, Page 13A



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Meet the Coach: James Sharp, Zizzers Baseball



Zizzers baseball Head Coach James Sharp has 40 players on his roster, including returning seniors Hunter Roberts, Ethan Tuma, Hoyt Weisbrod, Avery Miller, Blake Chitwood, Brett Walker and Isaiah Jones. Returning varsity members are Tuma, Roberts and Landon Montgomery. The team is coming off an impressive 24-5 record last season, and Sharp seems optimistic about what's ahead. "I think we will have a pretty decent year. We have a really good pitching staff and good defense," he said. "If we can piece it together offensively, we'll have a pretty good season." PHOTO BY JOHN DEATHERAGE FOR THE QUILL

Lady Zizzer Basketball Camp dates set

This year's Lady Zizzer Basketball Camp will be held May 20 through 22, with time slots available for girls in third through eighth grades and ninth through 12th grades. Registration is \$25 and includes a free T-shirt if turned in by May 9. Time slots will be from 1 to 3 p.m. all three days for the younger group of participants, and 3:30 to 5 p.m. each day for high school girls. Players in third through eighth grades at any school are welcome, and transportation is available for those who are also attending summer school on the West Plains R-7 campus. Those players entering seventh grade and up must have a current physical to participate. The link to sign up can be found in the @ladyzizzerball Facebook page's post from March 26 about the camp. Email Athletic Director Dr. Ashley Cooley at ashley.cooley@zizzers.org with questions.

OPEN

Continued from Page 12A

JV BOYS TRACK MARCH 25

It was a third-place win for the West Plains Zizzers junior varsity boys track and field team March 25. They placed behind Nixa and Willard. "The boys all competed well and had many personal bests in their events in this meet," Coach Tim Smith said. The top three medaled in each event. Following are the Zizzers who medaled: In the 4X800 meter relay, West Plains scored second place, with Zion Barnett, Byron Davis, Blake Romans and Dylan Wade. In the 110-meter high hurdles, third place went to Judah Harvey. In the 4X200 meter relay, first place went to Malachi Maupin, Preston, Sergeant, Aiden Pabian and Gavin Kenslow. In the 4X100 meter relay, third place went to Warren Lawson, Pabian, Maupin and Gavin Marshall. In the 400-meter dash, third place went to Kenslow. Sargent took third place

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 12A

a ton of encouragement, and are still having fun playing the game, which at the end of the day, in my opinion, is the most important thing," Stockton said. "Yeah, winning is fun, but these girls know that not everyone gets the chance to play this sport, so they are all just grateful for the time they have playing this sport, and playing with each other."

THURSDAY MATCHUP NETS WINS

It was a win apiece for the varsity and junior varsity Lady Zizzers soccer teams vs. Springfield-Central on the field in West Plains. The varsity game was tied 1-1 at half time. By the end of the second half, the Lady Zizzers had won 2-0, with Casey scoring both West Plains goals. The JV girls won their game 2-1. The score was 1-1 at the end of the first half, with the first West Plains goal being made by Vivian Fite. Alena Branch scored another goal for the Lady Zizzers in the second half, for the final score.



LJ Temple of the West Plains Zizzers varsity tennis team prepares to make contact Thursday during a singles match, as the team played Salem on the courts at West Plains High School. The Zizzers lost 3-6 overall to the Tigers. During the matches, Temple and doubles partner Adam Vaughan secured their first win of the season as the Zizzers' No. 1 doubles team. BY JOHN DEATHERAGE FOR THE QUILL

Zizzers Tennis seeks first win after early season struggles

By John Deatherage, Quill Sports Contributor

The West Plains Zizzers varsity tennis team fell 3-6 Thursday to Salem on the courts at West Plains High School. Despite the loss, Zizzers Head Coach Nathan Huddleston had some bright spots to point out: "Senior Adam Vaughan got his first win at No. 1 singles, which is extremely competitive and an impressive thing to do." Vaughan and junior LJ Temple also secured their first win as the Zizzers' No. 1 doubles team vs. Salem's No. 1 doubles team. "Junior Reilly Joliff also picked up his first varsity win at No. 4 singles in a tie breaker that ended up 7-3," Huddleston said. "All of our players continue to improve." On March 26, Zizzers lost to both Cam-

denton and Waynesville on the courts at Camdenton. The losses put the West Plains record at 0-3 on the season. "Sophomore Michael McKale got his first varsity win at singles vs. Camdenton, and we're seeing continued growth across the board," said Huddleston. Watch Saturday's Quill for coverage of the Zizzers at the Reeds Spring/Branson Dual meet held Tuesday afternoon.

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HOWELL COUNTY CLERK’S NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the following political subdivisions and special districts that a General Municipal Election will be held on the 8th day of April 2025:

City of Brandsville, City of Mountain View, City of West Plains, City of Willow Springs, Howell Valley R-1 School District, Willow Springs R-4 School District , Mountain View-Birch Tree HR-3 School District, Richards R-5 School District, Oregon-Howell OR-3 School District and Bakersfield OR-4 School District.

Also, pursuant to the provisions of the statutes of the State of Missouri, the polling locations for said election will be as follows:

Cities-	POLLING LOCATIONS
City of Brandsville City of Mountain View City of Willow Springs	Brandsville City Hall Mountain View Community Center Ozark Family YMCA
City of West Plains Inside City Limits of West Plains - Howell #1 (Richards School inside city) Howell #2 Howell #3 Howell #4 (Howell Valley School inside city)	First Church of God National Guard Armory West Plains Public Library West Plains Civic Center
Outside City Limits of West Plains - School Districts Howell Valley R-1 School District Mountain View-Birch Tree HR-3 School District Howell County Shannon County - Montier Shannon County- Birch Tree Willow Springs R-4 School District Howell County Douglas County Richards R-5 School District Oregon-Howell OR-3 School District Bakersfield OR-4 School District	Howell Valley School Building Mountain View Community Building Montier Church of God Birch Tree Church of God Ozark Family YMCA Eastern Douglas County Community Center Richards School Building Brandsville City Hall Bakersfield School FEMA Building

Said polling locations will be open from the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. during which time any person properly registered to vote in said county/ cities/ districts will be given the opportunity to cast his or her ballot.
Done by Order of the Election Authority of the County of Howell, State of Missouri, this 12th day of March 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

Notice of Municipal General Election

In compliance with the Statues of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of West Plains of Howell County, Missouri that the General Municipal Election of said City election will be held on Tuesday, the eighth of April 2025 beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day to vote upon the propositions included on the sample ballots attached hereto.

Done by the order of the West Plains City Council this 2nd day of January 2025.

Kellie Mayers
City Clerk Kellie Mayers

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and Sample Ballot attached hereto.

Done this 2nd day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

CITY OF WEST PLAINS

FOR COUNCIL PERSON
FOUR YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ RON GRENNAN

☐ JARRYD ALSUP

☐

WRITE IN

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Willow Springs, Missouri that an election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the sample ballot attached hereto.

Done this 22nd day of January 2025.

Heather Tooley
City Clerk

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and Sample Ballot attached hereto.

Done this 24th day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS

FOR MAYOR
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ KIMBERLY D. RICH

☐ ADAM H. WEBB

☐

WRITE IN

FOR ALDERMAN WARD I
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ BRYAN HOGAN

☐ LUKE BARTOW

☐

WRITE IN

FOR ALDERMAN WARD II
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ MICHEAL R. TOOLEY

☐

WRITE IN

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the City of Mountain View, that an election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the sample ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 14th day of January 2025.

Signature

CITY CLERK
Title

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and Sample Ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 14th day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

FOR EAST WARD ALDERMAN
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ BRIGG PIERSON

☐ JENNIFER McADAMS

☐

WRITE IN

FOR WEST WARD ALDERMAN
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

☐ BARBARA "GAIL" WALLANDER

☐

WRITE IN

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Howell Valley School District, that an election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the sample ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 17th day of January 2025.

Superintendent

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and Sample Ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 17th day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

HOWELL VALLEY R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR BOARD MEMBER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

☐ JUSTIN FRAZIER

☐ WADE COLLINS

☐ MEGAN NICKEY

☐

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

LEGAL NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Mountain View - Birch Tree R-III School District that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of April, 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the sample ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 21st day of January 2025.

Rhonda Henry
Secretary, Board of Education

Received in the office of the Howell County Clerk on this 24th day of January 2025.

County Clerk/Election Authority

MOUNTAIN VIEW-BIRCH TREE R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR BOARD MEMBER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

☐ MIKAEL ORCHARD

☐ JOSH ROBERTS

☐

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

NOTICE OF SCHOOL ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the Willow Springs R-IV School District of Howell County, Missouri, that an election of said district will be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of April, 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the Propositions Included on the sample ballot attached hereto.

Done this 31st day of December 2024.

Mandy Scarbrough, Secretary
Willow Springs R-IV School District Board of Education

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and the Sample Ballot attached hereto.

Done this 15th day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

WILLOW SPRINGS R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT

To choose by ballot two directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three years each.

Vote For TWO

☐ ROGER SHANKS

☐ LORI FOSTER

☐ MEAGAN JONES

☐

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

NOTICE OF ELECTION

In compliance with the statutes of the State of Missouri, notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Richards R-V School District that an election will be held on Tuesday, April 8th 2025, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. of said day, to vote upon the sample ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 7th day of January 2025.

Signature

I, Kelly Waggoner, County Clerk and Election Authority for the County of Howell, State of Missouri, do hereby acknowledge receipt of the above and forgoing Notice of Election and Sample Ballot(s) attached hereto.

Done this 7th day of January 2025.

Kelly Waggoner
Howell County Clerk/Election Authority

RICHARDS R-V SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR BOARD MEMBER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

☐ JERRY LEWIS

☐ BRIAN MORRISON

☐ RYAN KURTZEBORN

☐

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

