



Zizzer Soccer, Volleyball
teams celebrate
seniors, wins
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by Mayfield uto,
Whetstone Boys Ranch
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Fall Festivals
overtake Oregon
County communities
PAGE A12

WPPL named Library of Year

The Missouri Library Association (MLA) has named the West Plains Public Library the 2025 Library of the Year. To celebrate, a community reception and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the library, 750 W. Broadway.

The drop-in event is being held in partnership with the Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce. All are invited to attend, and refreshments will be served.

"We are incredibly honored to be chosen as Missouri's Library of the Year out of all the libraries

that also do incredible work in their communities," said Library Manager Dr. Greg Carter. "This award reflects the dedication of many including, the board of trustees, the staff, the City of West Plains, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation Board. Together, we continue to

See LIBRARY, A4

WEST PLAINS Daily Quill

WEEKEND EDITION

HUNDREDS GATHER at People's Park for Charlie Kirk vigil



State Rep. Lisa Durnell of Willow Springs, center, closes her eyes in prayer during a "We are Charlie Kirk" rally and prayer vigil Tuesday at the People's Park pavilion in West Plains. The event was held to show support following Kirk's shooting death on Sept. 10. Durnell represents the 154th District, which includes all but the extreme northeast corner of Howell County. The event, organized by the United Federated Republican Women of West Plains, drew over 300 people and concluded with attendees lighting candles in a show of support. Updates were given on the development of a Turning Point USA organization at Missouri State University-West Plains. Turning Point USA, founded by Kirk in 2012, is a nonprofit organization with a stated mission "to identify, educate, train and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets and limited government." PHOTO BY TONY LOGUE FOR THE QUILL

FYI

Deadline extended for Halloween pet contest

The deadline to enter the West Plains Daily Quill's "Cutest Halloween Show-down" online pet costume contest has been extended. Pet owners now have until Monday to submit photos of their costumed companions.

The online voting period has also been extended and will now run from Tuesday through Oct. 25.

The pet with the most votes will win a prize package from All Pet & Equine Supply in West Plains. The winner will be announced in the Oct. 29 edition of the Quill.

To enter a photo or to vote daily for a favorite pet, visit WestPlainsDailyQuill.net/contest.

County commission meets Monday

Howell County Commissioners will meet at 10 a.m. Monday in regular session.

On the agenda, a representative of the sheriff's office is expected to meet with the commission to set up accounting for a BlueShield grant, and a representative of the prosecuting attorney's office plans to meet with commissioners to review and approve an amendment to a Victims of Crime Act grant.

Howell County Collector Janet Crow is on the agenda to meet with the commission regarding tax credits for seniors.

Commissioners are expected to review and award a bid for machine chipping.

See FYI, A4

'It's a we thing': Simpkins credits community for honor



Former West Plains Zizzers football coach Greg Simpkins shares a moment with two of his former players after his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on Wednesday in Springfield. Reflecting on the honor, Simpkins credited the many people who helped build the program over the years. "It's not a me thing, it's a we thing. There are a lot of folks that are involved," he told former Quill sports editor and general manager Allison Skinner. "I'm proud of what we did 30 years ago, and I'm proud of the direction that the district is still continuing to take." COURTESY / ALLISON SKINNER, PHELPS COUNTY FOCUS

Gunnar Kennedy funeral planned in Alton

By ABBY HESS,
ABBYH@WESTPLAINSAILYQUILL.NET

Services for Gunnar Kennedy, a 2023 graduate of Alton High School, will be held Oct. 25, in Alton.

In a public timeline maintained by Kennedy's brother, Justin Thurman, his family announced that Kennedy's body began its journey home on Wednesday and was expected to arrive in the U.S. late Thursday evening before being transported to Alton.

Kennedy, a student at the University of Virginia, was studying abroad in Spain and had traveled to Slovenia for a weekend hiking trip. He was reported missing on Oct. 7 after he failed to return to his classes. After an intensive search in which his family participated, his remains were discovered by a mountain search and rescue team on Oct. 9.

Community Support Continues

An online fundraiser to help the family with the costs of bringing Kennedy home has seen a considerable outpouring of support. As of Friday afternoon, the GoFundMe campaign had raised more than \$24,700 from hundreds of donors, prompting the organizers to increase the goal to \$50,000.

In an update on the fundraising page,

See KENNEDY, A4

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website
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HOWELL COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

**Sept. 22 – Oct. 13
BY THE NUMBERS
Arrests & Court Actions**

Total arrests: 57
Court-related holds and detentions: 14
DWI: 5
Domestic assault: 9
Assault (non-domestic): 4
Drug-related: 16
Weapons-related: 5
Crimes against children: 5
Theft: 10
Outside-agency warrants/charges: 9
Calls for Service & Incidents

Total calls for service:.....799
Papers served:.....121
Traffic stops:.....63
Animal complaints:.....22
Well-being checks:.....27
Agency assists:.....30
Case follow-ups:.....20
Extra patrols:.....33
Civil matters:.....25
Suspicious activity:.....24
Prisoner transports:.....24
Alarms:.....12
Disturbances/Domestics:.....21
Traffic hazards:.....7
Stealing:.....13
Careless and imprudent driving:.....10
Child abuse reports:.....6
Death investigations.....4
Mental health/suicidal subjects:.....17
Property damage:.....5
Warrant arrests:.....16
Trespassing:.....8
Stranded motorists:.....9
Escorts:.....7
Found property:.....5
Fugitive Task Force reports:.....5
Total formal incident reports filed:.....45
Assault:.....3
Well-being checks:.....5
Nuisance violations:.....6

**AT A GLANCE
Sept. 23**

Thomas Earl James Brown, 48, was arrested by Deputy Hunter Ward on charges of first-degree domestic assault involving serious physical injury and first-degree property damage. He was held on \$7,500 bond.

Sept. 24

Frank Lee Roberts, 62, was arrested by Missouri State Highway Patrol Tpr. C.C. Battreal on charges of possession of a controlled substance and first-degree drug trafficking or attempt, two counts.

Oct. 3

James Daniel Stewart, 51, was arrested by Deputy Trenton Roberts on a charge of first-degree drug trafficking or attempt and held on \$100,000 bond.

Oct. 5

Cpl. Timothy Gordon was dispatched at 1:01 a.m. to County Road 8530 in West Plains for a report of shots being fired and people screaming. On his way to the call, he stopped to speak with a man near the area of the reported shots, and the pair were nearly struck by a large truck as they stood near the patrol vehicle. He stopped the driver, whom he suspected of being under the influence, and a DUI investigation was completed. The driver was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated and careless and imprudent driving.

Oct. 13

Jacob Allen Gist, 25, was arrested by Deputy Avery Stolba on charges of fourth-degree assault, first-degree burglary, second- and third-degree domestic assault and three counts of first-degree child endangerment. He is held on \$100,000 bond.

Christopher Thomas Wallace, 53, was arrested by Lt. Jason Long on charges of being a fugitive from out of state and predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, two counts. He is held without bond..

To see the complete report, visit
www.westplainsdailyquill.net/records.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By REP. LISA DURNELL,
Missouri 8th District,
Republican

Dear Constituents,

The state legislature returned to the Capitol earlier this month for a special session to work on initiative petition reform and federal congressional redistricting. A few weeks prior, I had written to Gov. Mike Kehoe and asked for a special session to address our broken initiative petition process, so it was an honor to go back to Jefferson City to address both critical issues for the people of our state.

I believe I have been clear on where I stand on initiative petition reform and my firm belief that we must utilize our representative form of government in the process by which we amend our constitution; otherwise, the rural voices in the state will continue to be silenced. With that in mind, I do believe that it was important to propose a method by which we can reform the process that requires more consensus across the state, instead of only the population centers. The proposed change comes in the form of a ballot measure that will be put before the Missouri voters next year. Hopefully, Missourians will understand the need to raise the threshold needed to amend our state's most important document — our Constitution.

When it comes to redistricting, I believe that the people of our state deserve representation that best represents them. When this topic was brought up, I committed to thoroughly reviewing the map proposed by Gov. Kehoe to ensure that it did not adversely impact our district. That said, I do believe that the new map proposed by Gov. Kehoe does reflect the feelings of the people of our district who want to see our values reflected in Washington, D.C. Based on my research and homework, I feel strongly that the map drawn in 2022 — a 6-2 map — was not a good representation of



REP. DURNELL

Missouri's true makeup and was happy to be able to vote on a map that better represents Missouri values.

Before I go any further, I want to pause and take a moment to recognize one of my colleagues who dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Jefferson County, District 114, in the Missouri House of Representatives. Representative Ken Waller was an outstanding public servant who will be missed by many in his community, the Capitol, and beyond. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

To the people of District 154, I want to assure you that I am still working hard for our communities. I've been out in the community talking to our cities, businesses, and everyday people that make our communities great. I have learned a lot by speaking to all of you, and I want to sincerely thank everyone that has taken the time to inform me about the issues our communities face. I am proud to work with state agencies and my colleagues in the legislature to address these issues.

As we wrap up summer and enter the fall months, my staff and I are still preparing legislation for next session. If you have any burdensome regulations or government red tape that you would like to see eliminated, please reach out to me or my office. If you have a great idea for some legislation, it is not too late to relay it to me or my office.

It is an honor to serve you, the citizens of District 154, in the Missouri House of Representatives. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of service to you.

Mtn. Grove semi driver hurt in rear-end crash

A Mtn. Grove man was injured when his semi trailer was rear-ended at 10:37 a.m. Tuesday on west U.S. 60, a mile west of Mtn. Grove in Wright County, according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Cpl. C.K. Johnson, Troop G of the patrol, Willow Springs, reported the man, 71, was driving an east-bound 2006 Kenworth and trying to turn left when his trailer was struck by a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox driven by a 50-year-old man from Norwood.

The driver of the Kenworth was wearing a seat belt and was transported by Mercy Ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Springfield for treatment of moderate injuries.

No injuries were reported for the driver of the Chevrolet, who was not wearing a seat belt, the report shows.

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"BLESS YOU!"

Total strangers will say "Bless You!" when you sneeze. They know nothing about you, but they will bless you. How much better would it be if we all chose to bless each other?

If you think about it, Christ is the head, and we are the body. How silly is it to curse your body?

"Bless the Lord!" says the Psalmist. How silly would it be to curse the Lord?

Bless and do not curse. Bless each other and Bless God!

- Tracey Jo Hollis-Cooper

We At Her

TODAY:
Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 79. South wind 7 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Sunrise: 7:18 a.m.
Sunset: 6:27 p.m.
Temperature Year Ago
High: 67
Low: 32
Precipitation: 43.38 inches
Last Year: 38.39 inches
Normal: 37.75 inches
SUNDAY: Sunny, with a high near 65. Northwest wind 10 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.
SUNDAY NIGHT: Clear, with a low around 41.
MONDAY: Sunny, with a high near 72.
MONDAY NIGHT: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.
TUESDAY: Sunny, with a high near 68.
TUESDAY NIGHT: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.
WEDNESDAY: Sunny, with a high near 69.

TONIGHT: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 10pm, then showers likely between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph becoming northwest after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts between three quarters and one inch possible.

**October is
BREAST
CANCER
Awareness Month**

Finding breast cancer early reduces risk of death from the disease by 25-30% or more.

Women should begin having mammograms yearly at age 40, or earlier if they're at high risk. Annual mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer in its earliest, most curable stages.

To be screened for breast cancer, call Ozarks Healthcare's Centralized Scheduling at 417-257-5901 to schedule an appointment.

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 **COMMUNITY**
Calendar

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Know of an event not listed here? Email submissions by 9 a.m. Wednesdays to news@westplainsdailyquill.net with "CALENDAR" in the subject line. Three sentence maximum must include event description, date, time, location, cost and source for more information. Weekly events will be printed for no more than a month at a time unless renewed by the host. Call the Quill, 417-256-9191 with questions. Unless otherwise noted, events are located in West Plains.

TODAY

Oct. 18 (10 a.m.-10 p.m.): The Ozarks Heritage Festival two-day celebration of traditional Ozarks music and arts continues in downtown West Plains. Email info@westplainsarts.org for more information.

Oct. 18 (1:30 p.m.) Find Waldo in West Plains at the Ozark Heritage Festival and win prizes. Sign up to play at giveabutter.com/findwaldo, and pick up your "seek sheet" at the Boys & Girls Club booth. Waldos can be found all around the West Plains Civic Center.

Oct. 18 (2 p.m.) St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will host Robert Arnold, aka Defiance13, at Arkansas State University's Sheild Auditorium in Mtn. Home. Arnold is a nationally known internet speaker on social justice issues and author of "Defiance Til Death." The book is sold out, but he will have copies available for signing and purchase following the presentation. He will present all-new material on the issues of Christianity and social justice as the first speaker in a new Social Justice Speaker Series hosted by the church.

Oct. 18 (6 p.m.) A Glow Down fun run will be held at Booster Field in Willow Springs to benefit Christos House domestic and sexual violence survivor support efforts. Participants can run or walk around the track while being sprayed with glow-in-the-dark colors. Admission is \$10 for ages 8 and older; younger children are admitted for free.

SUNDAY

Oct. 19 (11 a.m.) Eagle Heights Independent Baptist Church, 1078 County Road 8570, will host Cowboy Sunday. Pony rides will be given and a hot dog roast will be held. For a free ride or more information call 417-293-9888.

Oct. 19 (3 p.m.) The West Plains High School Fall Choir Concert, "Be a Hero," will feature performances from Varsity Choir, Swing Set and Concert Choir. Musical numbers relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World Wars I and II will be sung, as well as a song dedicated to those who help with natural disasters. Admission is free, and the choir is collecting nonperishable, single-serving food items in support of the West Plains R-7 Bridges Program.

MONDAY

Oct. 20 (1-5 p.m.) A Red Cross blood drive will be held at Willow Springs Methodist Church, 311 N. Harris St. Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org, by calling 800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app. Successful donors will receive a \$10 electronic gift to a merchant of their choice and be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. A photo ID is required.

Oct. 20 (5-9 p.m.) Lady Zizzer Basketball invites the public to El Charro Night at the restaurant, 1490 Mitchell St. Ten percent of the evening's sales will go toward the girls

blood.org, by calling 800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app. Successful donors will receive a \$10 electronic gift to a merchant of their choice and be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. A photo ID is required.

Oct. 23 (5:30-9:30 p.m.)
The Missouri Department of Conservation will hold a Hunter Education Skills course at the Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd. Advance registration is required and may be completed online at mdc-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/211332. The session is required for hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967 who are at least 16 years old and want to purchase a firearm hunting permit. It covers safe firearm handling, hunting ethics, regulations and wildlife conservation practices. A knowledge portion must be completed prior to the course; visit short.mdc.mo.gov or visit the conservation office for more information.

FRIDAY

Oct. 24 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare Pharmacy will host National Drug Take Back Day. Community members are encouraged to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications by bringing them to the secure drop box at the OZH Pharmacy location in the health system's main campus, inside the main entrance, 1100 Kentucky Ave.

Oct. 24 (noon to 6 p.m.)
and 25 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
The 60th annual Coin and Stamp Show will be held at Relics Event Center, 2015 W. Battlefl Id Road, Springfield. There is no admission and parking is free. Coin dealers from eight states and several stamp dealers will be present to buy and sell. Door prizes for all ages will be given hourly, and there will be treasures and activities for children ages 5 to 18.

Oct. 24 (4-10 p.m.) West Plains Pride will hold its inaugural annual meeting to vote on new board members and codify bylaws, followed by a Halloween party, at the Yellow House Community Arts Center, 209 W. Trish Knight St. For details, follow @westplainspride on Facebook.

NEXT WEEK

Oct. 25 (8 a.m. to noon)
Heritage Tractor, 3285
Porter Wagoner Blvd., will
host Halloween Howl.
Parents are invited to bring
their zombies, dines and
princesses to the store
for a morning of Hallow-
een-themed fun. The John
Deer dealer will put a twist
in traditional trick-or-treat-
ing with its "Trick or Trac-
tor" event, which includes
a costume contest with
a chance to win a prize,
sweet treats, a photo sta-
tion and a free John Deer
toy tractor given to each
child in costume, while
supplies last. For more
details, visit the "Heritage
Tractor Halloween Howl"
Facebook event page.

Oct. 25 (9-11 a.m.) Cars & Good Company, a local car community, will hold its Cars & Coffee meetup at Craft Cafe, 311 St. Louis St. All are welcome to bring their cars or just come look. Learn more at @Cars-NGoodCompanyWP on Facebook.

Oct. 25 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) West Plains Car Club will hold a Super Cruise In at Trinity Worship Center, 1807 E. K Highway. There will be V8 valve cover races, food, dash plaques, music and door prizes.

Oct. 25 (1 p.m.) Christos House will host its first-ever Cornhole Tournament at the West Plains Elks Lodge, 3336 U.S. 63. All levels of playing ability are welcome. Registration starts at noon and entry is \$25 per person. There will be prizes for the top three winners and a 50/50 giveaway. Hot dogs, burgers and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Oct. 28 & Dec. 30: Ozarks Healthcare's Mobile Mammography Unit will be offering mammogram screenings at Missouri Ozarks Community Health, 504 W. Broadway Ave. in Ava. To make an appointment, call 417-274-7911.

Oct. 28 (5:30-8 p.m.) The University of Missouri Extension will host “Baled Late, fed Smart,” a series of programs designed to help livestock producers effectively manage and use lower-quality hay. The session will be held at the Wright County Senior Center, 700 E. State St. in Mtn. Grove. Presenters include Texas County specialist Chloe Collins, Howell County specialists Elizabeth Picking and Josh Done and Taney County Specialist Jake Hefley. Registration is \$10 and includes dinner and educational materials. Sign up at muext.us/Baled-LateFedSmart.

Oct. 29: Ozarks Healthcare's Mobile Mammography Unit will be offering mammogram screenings

at Missouri State University-West Plains, 128 Garfield Ave. To make an appointment, call 417-274-7911.

Oct. 30, Nov. 12 & Dec. 10: Ozarks Healthcare's Mobile Mammography Unit will offer mammogram screenings at OZH Mtn. View, 220 N. Elm St. The Dec. 10 event will also include low-cost lab screenings: CBC, CMP, A1C and Lipid panel; prostate cancer; thyroid; and vitamin D. Visit www.ozarkshhealthcare.com for more information.

Oct. 30 (3-6 p.m.) Trike or Treat, a free event hosted by the Howell County Health Department WIC program and Children's Behavioral Services, will be held at Carmical Field with door prizes, games and infl. tables.

Oct. 30 (5:30-8 p.m.) The University of Missouri Extension will host "Baled Late, fed Smart," a series of programs designed to help livestock producers effectively manage and use lower-quality hay. The session will be held at the Gainesville Livestock Auction, 18214 U.S. 160 in Gainesville. Presenters include Texas County specialist Chloe Collins, Howell County specialists Elizabeth Picking and Josh Done and Taney County Specialist Jake Hefley. Registration is \$10 and includes dinner and educational materials. Sign up

at muext.us/BaledLateFed-Smart.

Oct. 31 (5:30-7 p.m.) The Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce will host Trunk or Treat in downtown Willow Springs. A costume contest will be held at 6 p.m. at Star Park next to the Star Theatre, the Willow Springs Lions Club will host free hayrides and the high school Future Business Leaders of America will have hot dogs for sale.

November

Nov. 1 (10-11 a.m.) The Ozark Spring chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will host a Children's Story Hour for elementary-age children at Lincoln School, 1400 E. Pony Thomas St. "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats will be read. The drop-in event has limited capacity and parents will need to stay with their children. The story-hour will include hands-on science activities for the children.

Nov. 1 (5:30 p.m.) A mixer will precede a mystery dinner theater performance to benefit 37th Judicial CASA at Robyadoo's Vintage Events, 9240 County Road 9190. The show, "Cutthroat Christmas," is under the direction of Kay Garrett and begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75. A cash bar will be offered and a prize will be awarded for the best ugly Christmas Sweater. Call 417-255-2100 to purchase tickets.

Pastor Bro. Justin Duddridge & the congregation of
CALVARY GENERAL BAPTIST
North Hwy. 63, West Plains (Just north of Richards School)
invites everyone to join them
Sunday, October 19 • 11:00 am
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a veteran speaker, will testify
From Tragedy to Triumph

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Brandyn Batterton, PT, DPT

Brandyn graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2020 with his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He was raised in Viola, AR and now resides there with his wife and daughter.

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The image is a vertical advertisement for Kleen Air Air Duct Cleaning Co. At the top, a red banner contains the text "ALLERGIES, MOLD, AND DUST?" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this is the company logo, which features the word "kleen" in red lowercase letters and "air" in red lowercase letters, with a red arrow pointing from "kleen" down to "air". To the right of the text is a blue circular arrow pointing clockwise. Below the logo, the text "Air Duct Cleaning Co." is written in blue. The middle section of the ad lists services in black text: "Family Owned and Operated", "Air Duct Cleaning,", "Furnace, Chimney", "Sweep, Coil Cleaning,", and "Dryer Vent Cleaning". At the bottom, a red banner contains the phone number "417-257-4941" in white, bold, sans-serif digits. On the far right edge, there is a vertical text string "693805ch".

HOEC's Dan Singletary honored for distinguished service

Dan Singletary, manager of Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative (HOEC) in West Plains, has received the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC). The award annually recognizes individuals who have tirelessly devoted themselves to the progress of rural electrification.

The award was presented to Singletary on Oct. 1 during the association's annual meeting. Eight days later, HOEC announced Singletary's retirement, set to take effect on Jan. 2. He will be succeeded by current HOEC Assistant Manager Aaron Wheeler.

"Bestowing this honor on Dan Singletary is most appropriate, because he has been an advocate for rural people throughout his cooperative career," said Caleb Jones, AMEC CEO. "As a cooperative leader and public servant, Dan worked diligently to improve the quality of life in his community. He's also a recognized leader in improving the safety of electric cooperative employees."

Singletary began his career at HOEC in 1985 as a computer pro-

grammer after graduating from the School of the Ozarks. He was promoted to assistant manager in 1992 and has served as the cooperative's manager since 1994.

Through his career, Singletary has prioritized employee safety, not just at HOEC but across the state. He is the chair of the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Insurance Plan (MECIP), an organization that promotes safe working conditions through training and safety audits.

In addition to his work at the local co-op, Singletary serves as the board president for Sho-Me Electric Power Cooperative and is on the board of Associated Electric Cooperative. He has also been active in the community, organizing fishing tournaments to raise funds for cystic fibrosis research and coaching Mighty Mite football.

"Dan Singletary embodies the spirit of distinguished service," Jones said in presenting the award. "His legacy will continue to inspire future generations in the cooperative movement for years to come."



Dan Singletary, center, is joined by his family after receiving the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Singletary has served as manager of Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative for over 30 years and recently announced his retirement, effective in January. From left are his daughter Brandi Anderson, wife Rhonda Singletary, and son Evan Singletary and his wife Shelby. COURTESY / HOEC

FYI

From Page A1

Accounts payable will be approved and guests recognized.

The commission typically meets each Monday and Thursday in the conference room on the third floor of the county office building, 35 Court Square in West Plains. The public is welcome.

Heritage Tractor to host Halloween Howl

Heritage Tractor, 3285 Porter Wag-

oner Blvd., will host Halloween Howl from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 25. Parents are invited to bring their children in costume for a morning of Halloween-themed fun.

The John Deere dealer will put a twist in traditional trick-or-treating with its "Trick or Tractor" event, which includes a costume contest with a chance to win a prize, sweet treats, a photo station and a free John Deere toy tractor for each child in costume, while supplies last.

For more details, visit the "Heritage Tractor Halloween Howell" Facebook event page.

LIBRARY

From Page A1

strengthen our mission of learning, connection and growth for all."

The MLA, which advocates for libraries and library professionals, recognized the West Plains library for remarkable growth and impact over the past year.

Over the past year, the library achieved that progress in nearly every area of service, said City of West Plains Public Relations Coordinator Cody Sanders. From expanding programs and increasing engagement to strengthening partnerships and improving access to technology, MLA recognized the West Plains Public Library for consistently going above and beyond to meet the needs of the community, he added.

Notable achievements in 2024 included a 27% increase in memberships and near-

ly 60% increase in program attendance, according to the City of West Plains. The library welcomed more than 55,000 visitors, who logged 33,000 wireless sessions and 6,000 computer logins, highlighting the library's role in digital inclusion.

There was also a 40% increase in participation in the 2024 summer youth program, requiring extra sessions

added to meet demand. Weekly story times, reading challenges for all ages and special programs strengthened family and community connections, and expanded digital service. The library also deepened its cultural and educational reach through partnerships with the West Plains Council on the Arts and the Missouri Humanities Council, and private donations nearly doubled from \$17,000 to \$32,000.

Grant funding was also secured to support security

upgrades, literacy initiatives and technology improvements. Looking ahead, the library plans to redesign community spaces and provide a dedicated area for readers in middle school grades. Signature events like the Foundation's Festival of Trees Christmas Gala and the Dino Dimensions field trip experience have served to bring the community together in memorable ways.

"The West Plains Public Library is more than a building. It is a vibrant, innovative cornerstone of our community," Carter added. "This recognition reflects the dedication of the staff and volunteers who serve West Plains every day."

For more information about library membership and programs call 417-256-4775 or visit the website at westplainslibrary.org or its Facebook page @westplainslibrary.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

KENNEDY

From Page A1

Kennedy's mother, Sherry Kennedy, said all funds raised will go toward remembering him, including his funeral, memorial and an above-ground burial in a mausoleum. The family added it was

working to cover travel expenses through other means, so the fundraiser could be dedicated toward remembering him.

Since his death, Kennedy's family has been working with the U.S. Consulate in Slovenia to navigate the complex process of repatriation. U.S. Sen. Eric

Schmitt's office has also reached out to the family to provide support.

The GoFundMe, "Help Bring Gunnar Kennedy Home," can be found online at gofund.me/158bdce7c. More details on the funeral service are expected to be announced soon.

Taylor Swift fans flood German museum to see painting echoing her hit video 'The Fate of Ophelia'

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER, Associated Press

BERLIN — A German museum has been unexpectedly overrun by Taylor Swift fans because one of its paintings bears a striking resemblance to the opening scene of Swift's current No. 1 hit video, "The Fate of Ophelia."

Hundreds of additional visitors came to the Hessische Landesmuseum in the central German city of Wiesbaden over the weekend to admire the painting, with one family traveling from the northern city of Hamburg especially for the occasion, museum spokesperson Susanne

Hirschmann told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Among the visitors were also many American families who are stationed at an U.S. Army base in Wiesbaden.

The Swifties' goal: an Art Nouveau painting by Friedrich Heyser featuring Ophelia, Hamlet's beloved in William Shakespeare's play of the same name.

In the original play, Ophelia, a young noblewoman of Denmark, ultimately becomes mad and drowns.

Heyser's oil-on-canvas painting presents the figure of Ophelia clad in white and surrounded by white

water lilies. The painting's exact year of creation is not known but experts believe it dates back to around 1900.

In the opening scene of the video for the hit song "The Fate of Ophelia," Swift slips into the role of Ophelia and becomes a living painting.

The scene shows similarities to the work of Heyser, museum director Andreas Henning told German news agency dpa.

Hirschmann said the museum team recognized the resemblance earlier this month and decided to invite Swifties for a special tour next month. Once they had posted an announcement of the tour on their website, news of the Ophelia painting soon went viral online.

"We're really enjoying this attention — it's a lot of fun," Hirschmann told the AP, adding that all fans showing up for the Nov. 2 tour "Taylor Swift's 'Ophelia' at the Wiesbaden museum" dressed as the pop star or

as "the tragic beauty Ophelia" will be able to attend the tour for free.

There's just one problem: the tour is already completely booked, so the museum may just have to add additional tours for all art-crazed Swiftie fans.

Henning said the museum has already tried to contact the singer, but has had no success so far getting a hold of the world star. "I would love to show Taylor Swift the original painting sometime," he said.

"We are surprised and delighted that Taylor Swift used this painting from the museum as inspiration for her video," Henning said. "This is, of course, a great opportunity to attract people to the museum who don't know us yet."

The museum said it does not know for sure if the art work served as a template for Swift's song, which is currently a No. 1 hit both in Germany and the United States.

Meta adds parental controls for AI-teen interactions

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

Meta is adding parental controls for kids' interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots — including the ability to turn off one-on-one chats with AI characters altogether — beginning early next year.

But parents won't be able to turn off Meta's AI assistant, which Meta says will "remain available to offer helpful information and educational opportunities, with default, age-appropriate protections in place to help keep teens safe."

Parents who don't want to turn off all chats with all AI characters will also be able to block specific chatbots. And Meta said Friday that parents will be able to get "insights" about what their kids are chatting about with AI characters — although they won't get access to the full chats.

The changes come as the social media giant faces ongoing criticism over harms to children from its platforms. AI chatbots are also drawing scrutiny over their interactions

with children that lawsuits claim have driven some to suicide.

Even so, more than 70% of teens have used AI companions and half use them regularly, according to a recent study from Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that studies and advocates for using screens and digital media sensibly.

On Tuesday, Meta announced that teen accounts on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and won't be able to change their settings without a parent's permission. This means kids using teen-specific accounts will see photos and videos on Instagram that are similar to what they would see in a PG-13 movie — no sex, drugs or dangerous stunts.

Meta said the PG-13 restrictions will also apply to AI chats.

Children's online advocacy groups, however, were skeptical.

"From my perspective, these announcements are about two things. They're about forestalling legislation that Meta doesn't want to see, and they're about reassuring parents who are understandably concerned about what's happening on Instagram," said Josh Golin, the executive director of the nonprofit Fairplay, after Meta's announcement Tuesday.

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OBITUARY

Marlys Ulm
Oct. 13, 2025

Marlys Ulm, 92, of Oviedo, Fla., passed into eternity Oct. 13, 2025.
Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, West Plains, Mo.
There will be visitation from 1 p.m. until time of service on the same day.
Burial will be at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery, West Plains, under the direction of Carter Funeral Home, West Plains.

DEATH NOTICES

Elizabeth McColgin

Elizabeth Victoria McColgin, 63, Willow Springs. Died at 2:12 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, at Willow Care Nursing Home, Willow Springs. Yarber Mortuary, Willow Springs.
J.N. Deatherage
J.N. Deatherage, 82, Pomona. Died Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, at his home. Yarber Mortuary, Willow Springs.

NOTICE OF OBITUARY DEADLINES

Obituaries must be received by the West Plains Daily Quill no later than 9 a.m. Tuesday for publication in Wednesday papers, and no later than 9 a.m. Fridays for publication in Saturday editions of the West Plains Daily Quill.
All obituaries received after those deadlines will be published in the next printed publication.
Note that in case of holidays, deadlines may be moved earlier. In such cases, notices will be published in the Quill.
Submit obituaries by obits@westplainsdailyquill.net or bring them into the office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at 205 Washington Ave. in West Plains.

Diane Keaton, Oscar-winning star of ‘Annie Hall’ and ‘The Godfather,’ dies at 79

Diane Keaton, the Oscar-winning star of “Annie Hall,” “The Godfather” films and “Father of the Bride,” whose quirky, vibrant manner and depth made her one of the most singular actors of a generation, has died. She was 79.

A family member told The Associated Press that Keaton died in California with loved ones. People magazine first reported the death on Saturday, noting that her health had suddenly declined. No other details were immediately available and representatives did not respond to request for comment.

The unexpected news was met with shock around the world.

Francis Ford Coppola, who cast her in “The Godfather,” wrote on Instagram that, “Words can’t express the wonder and talent of Diane Keaton. Endlessly intelligent, so beautiful...Everything about Diane was creativity personified.”

Bette Midler, who she costarred with Keaton in “The First Wives Club,” wrote, “She was hilarious, a complete original, and completely without guile, or any of the competitiveness one would have expected from such a star. What you saw was who she was...oh, la, lala!”

Leonardo DiCaprio, who played her nephew in “Marvin’s Room” when he was 18, wrote on Instagram that she was “one of a kind. Brilliant, funny and unapologetically herself...she will be deeply missed.”

Keaton was the kind of actor who helped make films iconic and timeless, from her “La-dee-da, la-dee-da” phrasing as Annie Hall, bedecked in that necktie, bowler hat, vest and khakis, to her heartbreaking turn as Kay Adams, the woman unfortunate enough to join the Corleone family.

Her star-making performances in the 1970s, many of which were in Woody

Allen films, were not a flash in the pan either, and she would continue to charm new generations for decades thanks in part to a longstanding collaboration with filmmaker Nancy Meyers.

She played a businessperson who unexpectedly inherits an infant in “Baby Boom,” the mother of the bride in the beloved remake of “Father of the Bride,” a newly single woman in “The First Wives Club,” and a divorced playwright who gets involved with Jack Nicholson’s music executive in “Something’s Gotta Give.”

Keaton won an Oscar for “Annie Hall” and would go on to be nominated three more times, for “Reds,” playing the journalist and suffragist Louise Bryant, “Marvin’s Room,” as a caregiver who suddenly needs care herself, and “Something’s Gotta Give,” as a middle-aged divorcee who is the object of several men’s affections.

In her very Keaton way, upon accepting her Oscar in 1978 she laughed and said, “This is something.”

A child of Hollywood breaks through in New York

Keaton was born Diane Hall in January 1946 in Los Angeles, though her family was not part of the film industry she would find herself in. Her mother was a homemaker and photographer, and her father was in real estate and civil engineering, and both would inspire her love in the arts, from fashion to architecture.

Keaton was drawn to theater and singing while in school in Santa Ana, California, and she dropped out of college after a year to make a go of it in Manhattan. Actors’ Equity already had a Diane Hall in their ranks, and she took Keaton, her mother’s maiden name, as her own.

She studied under Sanford Meisner in New York

and has credited him with giving her the freedom to “chart the complex terrain of human behavior within the safety of his guidance. It made playing with fire fun.”

“More than anything, Sanford Meisner helped me learn to appreciate the darker side of behavior,” she wrote in her 2012 memoir, “Then Again.” “I always had a knack for sensing it but not yet the courage to delve into such dangerous, illuminating territory.”

She started on the stage as an understudy in the Broadway production for “Hair,” and in Allen’s “Play It Again, Sam” in 1968, for which she would receive a Tony nomination. And yet she remained deeply self-conscious about her appearance and battled bulimia in her 20s.

Becoming a star with “The Godfather” and Woody Allen

Keaton made her film debut in the 1970 romantic comedy “Lovers and Other Strangers,” but her big breakthrough would come a few years later when she was cast in Francis Ford Coppola’s “The Godfather,” which won best picture and become one of the most beloved films of all time. And yet even she hesitated to return for the sequel, though after reading the script she decided otherwise.

She summed up her role as Kay, a role she never related to even though she savored memories of acting with Al Pacino.

The 1970s were an incredibly fruitful time for Keaton thanks in part to her ongoing collaboration with Allen in both comedic and dramatic roles. She appeared in “Sleeper,” “Love and Death,” “Interiors,” “Manhattan,” and the film version of “Play it Again, Sam.” The 1977 crime-drama “Looking for Mr. Goodbar” also earned her raves.

Allen and the late Marshall Brickman gave Keaton

one of her most iconic roles in “Annie Hall,” the infectious woman from Chipewa Falls whom Allen’s Alvy Singer cannot get over. The film is considered one of the great romantic comedies of all time, with Keaton’s eccentric, self-deprecating Annie at its heart.

In the New York Times, critic Vincent Canby wrote, “As Annie Hall, Miss Keaton emerges as Woody Allen’s Liv Ullman. His camera finds beauty and emotional resources that somehow escape the notice of other directors. Her Annie Hall is a marvelous nut.”

She acknowledged parallels between Annie Hall and real life, while also downplaying them.

“My last name is Hall. Woody and I did share a significant romance, according to me, anyway,” she wrote. “I did want to be a singer. I was insecure, and I did grope for words.”

Keaton and Allen were also in a romantic relationship, from about 1968, when she met him while auditioning for his play, until about 1974. Afterward they remained collaborators and friends. She later appeared in “Radio Days,” in 1987, and “Manhattan Murder Mystery,” in 1993.

“He was so hip, with his thick glasses and cool suits,” Keaton wrote in her memoir. “But it was his manner that got me, his way of gesturing, his hands, his coughing and looking down in a self-deprecating way while he told jokes.”

She was also romantically linked to Pacino, who played her husband in “The Godfather,” and Warren Beatty who directed her and whom she co-starred with in “Reds.” She never married but did adopt two children when she was in her 50s: a daughter, Dexter, and a son, Duke.

“I figured the only way to realize my number-one dream of becoming an actual Broadway musical

comedy star was to remain an adoring daughter. Loving a man, a man, and becoming a wife, would have to be put aside,” she wrote in the memoir.

“The names changed, from Dave to Woody, then Warren, and finally Al. Could I have made a lasting commitment to them? Hard to say. Subconsciously I must have known it could never work, and because of this they’d never get in the way of achieving my dreams.”

When Keaton met Nancy Meyers

Not all of Keaton’s roles were home runs, like her foray into action in George Roy Hill’s John le Carré adaptation of “Little Drummer Girl.” But in 1987 she’d begin another long-standing collaboration with Nancy Meyers, which would result in four beloved films. Reviews for that first outing, “Baby Boom,” directed by Charles Shyer, might have been mixed at the time but Pauline Kael even described Keaton’s as a “glorious comedy performance that rides over many of the inanities.”

Their next team-up would be in the remake of “Father of the Bride,” which Shyer directed and co-wrote with Meyers. She and Steve Martin played the flustered parents to the bride which would become a big hit and spawn a sequel.

In 2003, Meyers would direct her in “Something’s Gotta Give,” a romantic comedy in which she begins a relationship with a playboy womanizer, played by Keanu Reeves. Her character Erica Barry, with her beautiful Hamptons home and ivory outfits was a key inspiration for the recent costal grandmother fashion trend. It earned her what would be her last Oscar nomination and, later, she’d call it her favorite film.

She also directed occasionally, with works including an episode of “Twin Peaks,” a Belinda Carlisle music video and the sister dramedy “Hanging Up,” which Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron co-wrote, and she starred in alongside Meg Ryan and Lisa Kudrow.

Keaton continued working steadily throughout the 2000s, with notable roles in “The Family Stone,” as a dying matriarch reluctant to give her ring to her son, in “Morning Glory,” as a morning news anchor, and the “Book Club” films.

She wrote several books as well, including memoirs “Then Again” and “Let’s Just Say It Wasn’t Pretty,” and an art and design book, “The House that Pinterest Built.”

Keaton was celebrated with an AFI Life Achievement Award in 2017.



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COMMENTARY:

Neighbors first, power second

By CALEB JONES,
cjones@amec.coop

Fall in Missouri means a lot of things — cool mornings, combines rolling through fields and leaves changing colors. It also means football, and on Saturdays, you'll find me at Faurot Field or next to a radio or TV tuned in to the Mizzou Tigers. It's a season full of energy — on the farm, in the community and in the stands.

In the middle of all this excitement is another tradition worth celebrating: National Co-op Month.

Now, when we say we're celebrating Co-op Month, what we really mean is we're celebrating you. The truth is electric cooperatives wouldn't exist without their members. Long before we ever flipped a light switch, neighbors banded together to form these life-changing organizations. That spirit of working side by side is still what keeps us strong today.

I was reminded of that not long ago when a neighbor called needing a hand with a downed tree. By the time I got there, three trucks had already pulled up, chainsaws buzzing and kids tossing branches like it was a game. Nobody asked whose tree it was. It didn't matter. Around here, when something needs to be done, folks pitch in.

That's the same spirit the teams at your electric co-op try to live out every day. Like our power lines, our concern for community runs through everything we do. That commitment shows up in

ways both big and small. It might mean sponsoring our state's brightest teenagers to spend a week on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Or it might mean helping a small business improve its energy efficiency so it can grow. Other times it might simply mean neighbors helping neighbors, whether through a community project, a safety program or a simple act of service.

We know your priorities go beyond simply keeping the lights on. You care about reliability, saving money and knowing if there's a storm that threatens your power, your local co-op will be there — whether that means fighting mud, snow or even tornadoes. That kind of grit is what it takes to be part of a team.

Around here, we like to think of ourselves as Team Co-op. Just like we can count on the Tigers doing their best on game day, your cooperative shows up for you day in and day out. That's not just a job to us. It's a promise.

So this Co-op Month, I want to say thank you for being the most important part of Team Co-op. You're more than customers — you're owners, neighbors and partners in this work. A cooperative isn't just about electricity. It's about people pulling together to make life better for everyone. That's worth celebrating, not just in October, but every single day.

Caleb Jones is the executive vice president and CEO of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. He is a member of Boone Electric Cooperative.

COMMENTARY:

Crackdown on student visas hurts more than just America's universities

By ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have lots of problems. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

So declared Donald Trump in 2015, kicking off a presidential campaign rooted in hatred, fear and xenophobic myth — though at least tempered by the "good people" afterthought.

But 10 years later, it turns out "good people" from around the world aren't welcomed in Trump's America, either. Even foreign college students here legally and on their own dime to study in America's great universities — the very definition of the "best of the best" — are getting the signal loud and clear that this president doesn't want them here.

In St. Louis, as around the nation, colleges and universities have seen their enrollment of foreign students here on student visas plummet this year. Some of it's due to stricter student visa requirements the administration is imposing for no good reason. Others are choosing not to come here out of concern about whether they will be allowed to stay and work after graduation — a concern exacerbated by the administration's new \$100,000 H-1B work visa fee on American employers who want to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations.

Still others, presumably, are repelled by the toxic and increasingly brazen anti-immigrant rhetoric from the MAGA movement and its expanding campaign to rid America of anyone not born here.

That campaign is especially self-destructive when it comes to supporting American higher education. Unlike most American-born college students, foreign students who study here generally are paying top tuition rates, a financial lifeline for institutions that have struggled with diminishing public funding and declining enrollment by American-born students.

As the Post-Dispatch's Monica Obradovic reports, a survey of four St. Louis-area universities found a drop in international enrollment of more than 2,700 students this year compared to last. St. Louis University alone has dropped by more than 1,500 international students. Washington University in St. Louis is down almost 1,000 foreign

students. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville is down 15%.

It's part of a national trend that has dire implications for America's economy. The NAFSA Association of International Educators estimates that foreign students contribute close to \$44 billion to the economy annually, including supporting more than 378,000 jobs here. The New York Times reported this month that nearly 20% fewer international students arrived in the U.S. for the start of the current school year in August compared to last year. That's the largest one-year drop on record except for the 2020 pandemic year.

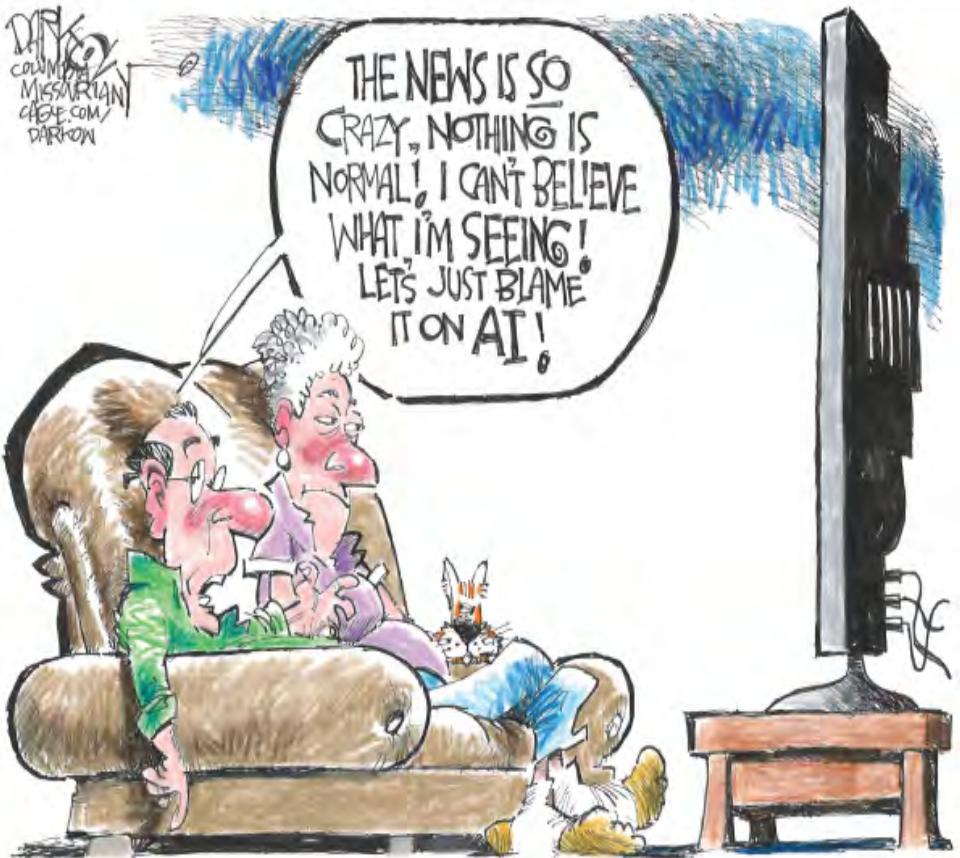
Some of the administration's student visa revocations have been in response to foreign students engaging in peaceful protest against U.S. policy regarding Gaza and other controversies. That's a shameful statement to the world about how little our current president values our own First Amendment.

But most of the decline in international students is due to stricter student visa restrictions, travel bans from specific countries — and students simply (and understandably) declining to come here because of the current xenophobic political climate fueled by this administration. A spokesperson for Webster University in St. Louis County, for example, told the Post-Dispatch's Obradovic that the private school has seen international enrollment fall at its three domestic campuses in favor of its seven foreign campuses.

The issue is bigger than money. International students tend to be the best and the brightest from their countries. A 2022 report from the National Foundation for American Policy found that fully one in four billion-dollar American startups have founders or co-founders who initially came here as international students. George Mason University reported in 2024 that almost one-third of Nobel laureates affiliated with American academic institutions were born somewhere else.

In terms of both economic and intellectual benefit to the U.S., these are exactly the "good people" Trump alluded to a decade ago. Yet under his current regime, they're being expelled, barred or just convinced to stay away in record numbers. We're all the poorer for it.

- ASSOCIATED PRESS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IT'S TIME FOR MISSOURI TO INVEST IN FREE SCHOOL MEALS

To the editor:

As a college student in Missouri, I know never questioning where my next meal was coming from played a huge role in my academic success.

Just like books, computers, and reliable transportation, access to food is fundamental for students to reach their potential. But significant barriers prevent kids from eating at school. That's why I support eliminating the reduced-price meal copay in Missouri. The copay is still a great financial burden for many families, and it has been identified as the biggest reason students enrolled in reduced-price meals don't



eat at school. We have to eliminate this copay to ensure every student gets enough food at school. If we do, it's possible we could be putting nine million more meals in the hands of children.

Free school meals have been shown to improve children's test scores, behavior, and attendance at school. Children who eat school meals earn more during their lifetimes, especially those from low-income households. And

when they earn more, they spend more money in our state. Plus, through federal reimbursements, schools actually make money by providing students with free meals. Missouri's schools would have millions more in funding by eliminating the reduced-price meal copay. If we provide more free school meals, our students will do better, our schools will get more funding, and our economy will thrive.

Tell your legislators that we need a bill to eliminate the reduced-price meal copay in Missouri. For our schools, for our students, and for all of us.

Sincerely,
Sydney Regan
St. Louis

THANKS TO AN 'ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS'

To the editor:

Saturday, Oct. 4, Willow Springs celebrated the 51st annual Bear City Fall Festival. Each year this community tradition continues to grow, and with 110 vendors lining Main Street, this year marked one of our largest festivals ever. With that growth, the Willow Springs Chamber Board and I realized we could no longer manage the entire event on our own, so for the first time, we put out a call for volunteers to help with early-morning setup and activities throughout the day.

The response was overwhelming. An absolute army of volunteers showed up Saturday morning, and it was perhaps the smoothest setup we have ever experienced.

The Bear City Fall Festival is a wonderful draw for Willow Springs, and seeing it grow to this point is exciting. But even more exciting-and heartwarming-is seeing so many people step up to make it a success. The Chamber Board and in addition to thanking event and stage sponsors, I would

like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the following groups and individuals.

Volunteers and community partners: Kim Rich, Emmy Jensen, Matt Knapp, Kim Osborn, Sabrina Lee and the FBLA group, Paul McCormick, Lacy Schwein, Grant Talburt and the FFA, Melanie Buster and the FFA Alumni, Shane Collins and the city street crew, Nick Tooley and Hunter Hicks with the city electric department, Chief Andy Logan and the Willow Springs Fire Department, Chief Wes Ellison and the Willow Springs Police Department, and MFA for the use of straw bales. Chamber ambassadors: Caleb Hines, Michele Myers and Sidney Collins.

When we asked for volunteers, we hoped for five to eight people. What we got was far beyond that! A huge portion of that group came from FFA and FBLA, and we cannot say enough about their incredible work ethic. Under the leadership of Mr. Grant Talburt and Mrs. Sabrina Lee, these students were everywhere: directing

traffic, unloading vendors, setting up canopies, positioning food trailers, and even moving picnic tables multiple times to accommodate vendor needs. They set up the main stage and all the straw bales for both event areas. Their teamwork and energy were simply outstanding.

We truly could not have had such a smooth, successful festival without the help of our community members, school groups, and sponsors. Their dedication made this event shine and it showed! Several food vendors sold out before the festival ended, many reported their best day of sales ever, and crowds packed in for contests, live entertainment, and, of course, the always unpredictable Doxie Dash!

Thank you, Willow Springs, for showing once again what makes Bear City so special: community, teamwork, and hometown pride.

Thank you,
Kim McCormick,
Executive Director,
Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce

Editor Standards Of Acceptance:

The West Plains Daily Quill encourages readers to express their views. Viewpoints expressed in letters to the editor are those of the writer and not the viewpoints of The West Plains Daily Quill. Letters are limited to 400 words, about one page typed or two pages hand written. Longer letters will be condensed.

Frequent writers should limit submissions to one letter per month. The West Plains Daily Quill reserves the right to accept or reject letters based on content and reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity in order to conform to good taste, readability, the laws of libel and space considerations. Writers may address local political issues but specific candidate endorsements will not be published as a letter. Political letters will stop when early voting begins. All letters must include a single name of one author, complete address and phone number for verification purposes (address and phone number will not be published). Personal attacks on private citizens or businesses will not be published. Unsigned letters, multiple signature letters and third-party letters or letters requesting that the writer's name be withheld will not be published. Submitted letters will not be returned.

Letters may be brought to our office at 205 Washington Ave., downtown West Plains; emailed to news@wpdailyquill.net, or mailed to us at P.O. Box 110, West Plains, MO 65775. Letters may be faxed to 417-256-9196.

Sliding into fall fun



The giant slide was a big hit with the preschoolers from Friendship Circle and Grace Academy visiting the McWilliams Pumpkin Patch this week. The pumpkin patch is located at 4007 County Road 6920 off of West U.S. 160 just outside of West Plains, and has been a popular fall destination for children and families for over 25 years. The farm is an agri-tourism site which educates youngsters on farm practices with displays of crops including pumpkins, zinnias and sunfl wers, plus common and exotic farm animals and activities for all ages. STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 10/14/2025 (Final)						
VIDEO AUCTION						
	This Week			Last Reported (10/7/2025)		
	Offered	Reported	% PO	Offered	Reported	% PO
Total Receipts:	1,007	804	20.2%	1,447	1,447	
Feeder Cattle:	1,007	804 (100%)	20.2%	1,412	1,412 (97.58%)	
Replacement Cattle:				35	35 (2.42%)	
Special Notes: Video Auctions start at 1:30 p.m. during the Tuesday feeder sale. Demand was very good on a moderate supply for this Video Auction held in conjunction with ORS' feeder cattle sale. All cattle offered are in Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. All deliveries are current through November 20, 2025. Current deliveries are cattle that will be delivered up to 14 days from the video sale date. Current delivery is through October 28, 2025. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (24% Steers, 9% Dairy Steers, 67% Heifers). Feeder cattle over 600 lbs was 91%. Feeder Cattle prices FOB based on net weights after a 0-3% pencil shrink or equivalent, with a 0-15 cent slide > 600 lbs and 10 cent slide <600 lbs.						
FEEDER CATTLE						
South Central (KS, MO, NM, OK, TX)						
STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Nov	70	700	700	414.50	414.50	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Oct-Nov	135	780	780	348.50	348.50	
	65	815	815	331.00	331.00	
Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)						
STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Nov	120	860 - 870	865	352.50 - 358.50	355.52	
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Current	52	1050	1,050	319.50	319.50	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Oct-Nov	67	720	720	363.50	363.50	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Head / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Oct	55	850	850	3025.00	3025.00	Replacement
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Oct-Nov	70	740	740	349.25	349.25	
Nov	75	725	725	353.50	353.50	
Northeast/Upper Midwest (Great Lakes) (CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI)						
DAIRY STEERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt / Est. Wt)						
Delivery	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
Current	95	520	520	370.00	370.00	
Please Note: The above USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted.						
Explanatory Notes Stage (Cattle): - Represents pregnancy stage (0 = open; T1 = 1st Trimester, 1 to 3 months; T1-2 = 1st/2nd trimester, 1 to 6 months; T2 = 2nd Trimester, 4 to 6 months; T2-3 = 2nd/3rd Trimester, 4 to 9 months; T3 = 3rd Trimester, 7 to 9 months; T1-3 = all trimesters, 1 to 9 months; E = Exposed; B = Bred) Age - Numerical representation of age in years.						

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 10/15/2025 - Final						
AUCTION						
	This Week	Last Reported (9/16/2025)		Last Year		
Total Receipts:	670	596		764		
Slaughter Cattle:	291 (43.4%)	261 (43.8%)		569 (74.5%)		
Replacement Cattle:	379 (56.6%)	335 (56.2%)		195 (25.5%)		
Compared to last week, slaughter cows and bulls were steady to 2.00 higher. Demand was good on a moderate supply of slaughter animals and bred cows and a light supply of pairs. The top slaughter bull sold for 212.00/cwt. and the top slaughter cow sold for 175.00/cwt. Replacement cattle outnumbered slaughter animals with the top bred cow selling for 3700.00/head and the top pair also selling for 3700.00/pair. Supply included: 43% Slaughter Cattle (92% Cows, 8% Bulls); 57% Replacement Cattle (37% Stock Cows, 55% Bred Cows, 2% Bred Heifers, 6% Cow-Calf Pairs, 1% Bulls).						
SLAUGHTER CATTLE						
COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing	
31	1300-1730	1459	156.00-165.00	160.82	Average	
9	1300-1575	1402	167.00-174.00	169.87	High	
8	1320-1540	1385	142.00-154.00	148.85	Low	
COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing	
71	1010-1340	1145	152.00-165.00	158.33	Average	
8	1085-1330	1202	168.00-174.00	169.71	High	
8	1055-1265	1140	137.00-149.00	145.81	Low	
COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing	
65	835-1290	1056	128.00-148.00	134.99	Average	
21	890-1605	1076	149.00-175.00	155.24	High	
38	740-1265	954	105.00-127.00	120.14	Low	
8	805-1075	901	90.00-101.00	97.74	Very Low	
BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Dressing	
12	1402-1795	1633	180.00-198.00	188.55	Average	
4	1335-1920	1713	200.00-212.00	206.30	High	
7	1155-1520	1345	152.00-175.00	164.34	Low	
REPLACEMENT CATTLE						
STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	0	4	1185-1315	1266	160.00-220.00	186.19
STOCK COWS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	0	17	831-1068	869	250.00-277.50	273.24
2-8	0	52	700-1150	956	163.00-230.00	189.90
STOCK COWS - Medium 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	0	22	870-1010	965	131.00-160.00	148.75
BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T1	3	1195-1200	1198	2300.00-2350.00	2333.31
2-8	T2-3	27	1175-1415	1270	2400.00-3600.00	2827.56
>8	T2-3	3	1180-1310	1240	2250.00-2400.00	2335.89
BRED COWS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T1-3	14	1110-1322	1200	1950.00-2300.00	2113.01
BRED COWS - Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2-3	5	1440-1595	1530	2500.00-3050.00	2646.21
BRED COWS - Medium 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T2-3	28	1015-1140	1095	2300.00-3700.00	2542.32
BRED COWS - Medium 2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T1-3	41	825-1390	1075	1600.00-2250.00	1941.75
>8	T1-3	14	865-1135	1033	1300.00-1900.00	1727.66
BRED COWS - Small and Medium 2-3 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	T1-3	7	700-1010	889	1000.00-1600.00	1181.93
BRED HEIFERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	T1-3	5	700-1020	921	2400.00-2800.00	2522.04
COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Estimate Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	0	2	1195	1195	3700.00	3700.00
COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium 1-2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Estimate Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	0	5	1020-1140	1086	3100.00-3300.00	3180.00
COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium 2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf (Per Unit / Estimate Wt)						
Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-8	0	8	980-1075	1028	2200.00-2850.00	2518.75
BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
Age	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2-4	3	1425-1560	1502	2900.00-4000.00	3375.03	
Please Note: The above USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted. Explanatory Notes: Stage (Cattle) - Represents pregnancy stage (0 = open; T1 = 1st Trimester, 1 to 3 months; T1-2 = 1st/2nd trimester, 1 to 6 months; T2 = 2nd Trimester, 4 to 6 months; T2-3 = 2nd/3rd Trimester, 4 to 9 months; T3 = 3rd Trimester, 7 to 9 months; T1-3 = all trimesters, 1 to 9 months) Age - Numerical representation of age in years.						
Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News MO Dept of Ag Market News - Dan Hill, Market Reporter Jefferson City, MO (573) 751-5618 www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/1651						

Livestock Weighted Average Report for 10/14/2025 - Final					
AUCTION					
	This Week	Last Reported 10/7/2025	Last Year		
Total Receipts:	1,812	1,759	2,219		
Feeder Cattle:	1,812 (100.0%)	1,759 (100.0%)	2,219 (100.0%)		
Special Note: An additional 804 head sold through the Video Auction. ***Close*** Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers were 7.00-10.00 higher. Steer and heifers calves under 700 lbs. were 10.00-25.00 higher with peewee calves under 450 lbs. 20.00-30.00 higher. Demand was very good on a moderate supply. The largest draft of the day was 126 head of 855 lb. steers which sold for a state record, in the 850-900 lb. weight range, at 376.50/cwt. That record was short-lived as a few drafts later, 61 head of 861 lb. steers sold for 379.00/cwt. Live Cattle Futures traded higher and Feeder Cattle Futures traded sharply higher on Tuesday. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (58% Steers, 39% Heifers, 3% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 55%.					
FEEDER CATTLE					
STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
16	354-398	377	570.00-585.00	576.44	
11	403-445	430	515.00-545.00	528.14	
10	448-449	449	472.50-485.00	475.00	Unweaned
40	454-496	476	485.00-525.00	500.41	
13	515-516	516	475.00-485.00	476.54	
20	503-544	520	410.00-436.00	427.14	Unweaned
35	562-592	587	412.50-437.50	434.69	
59	609-635	620	397.50-435.00	413.93	
11	634	634	380.00	380.00	Unweaned
21	657-682	670	385.00-400.00	392.60	
5	677	677	372.50	372.50	Unweaned
35	712-735	728	375.00-387.00	385.76	
62	775	775	384.00	384.00	
64	837	837	379.00	379.00	
221	855-861	857	369.00-379.00	376.04	
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
7	336-337	336	480.00-490.00	485.71	
25	350-392	365	475.00-500.00	482.19	
14	403-448	421	450.00-470.00	460.60	
16	444	444	430.00	430.00	Unweaned
15	518-539	534	385.00-410.00	397.51	
40	643-644	643	372.50-377.50	376.62	
6	668-679	675	342.50-372.50	352.39	
26	702-746	732	360.00-366.00	364.18	
26	752-786	776	327.50-352.50	334.03	
23	963	963	331.00	331.00	
STEERS - Medium 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
9	453	453	465.00	465.00	
STEERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
5	589	589	385.00	385.00	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
5	302-305	304	485.00-495.00	491.02	
18	364-386	377	445.00-490.00	469.57	
49	406-448	428	430.00-475.00	453.30	
6	410	410	490.00	490.00	Fancy
26	451-474	464	430.00-475.00	460.60	
10	450-483	467	407.50-422.50	415.27	Unweaned
46	505-541	522	397.50-435.00	410.35	
117	560-583	578	384.00-390.00	389.41	
42	600-638	623	360.00-380.00	368.94	
31	661-680	675	350.00-375.00	364.12	
80	732	732	345.00-359.00	356.03	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
9	300-338	326	405.00-445.00	426.37	
7	352-380	366	390.00-415.00	401.12	
9	416-431	423	400.00	400.00	
11	455-492	474	370.00-390.00	379.41	
10	529-542	536	350.00-355.00	352.27	
21	572-582	576	342.00-375.00	351.21	
10	655-668	663	325.00-337.50	329.94	
8	803	803	301.00	301.00	
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
17	732	732	300.00	300.00	
HEIFERS - Medium 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
13	507-518	511	402.50-410.00	405.42	
HEIFERS - Medium 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
5	377	377	405.00	405.00	
5	546	546	365.00	365.00	
BULLS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
7	391	391	450.00	450.00	
9	440-443	442	412.50-420.00	414.16	
5	546	546	380.00	380.00	
BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
11	463-482	472	385.00-400.00	393.04	
14	638-648	639	350.00-358.00	351.16	
Please Note: The above USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted.					
Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News MO Dept of Ag Market News - Dan Hill, Market Reporter Jefferson City, MO (573) 751-5618 www.ams.usda.gov/lpgmn https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/ https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/1249					

Mayfield Auto marks 30th anniversary with ribbon-cutting

By JADEN MASSEY, Quill Contributing Writer

Mayfield Auto Repair celebrated its 30th anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce. Community members and family were on hand for the celebration, which included refreshments.

Mayfield Auto Repair initially opened its doors to the public on Dec.1, 1994, with only Lora and Mike Mayfield at the helm. An auto mechanic business was not an entirely new venture for the two, as they had worked and met at O'Reilly's Auto Parts beforehand. Their first expansion would be the purchase of a building in 2003, before moving to their current location in 2017 following the



Ambassadors with the Greater West Plains Area Chamber of Commerce join the Mayfield family and staff on Oct. 3 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Mayfield Auto Repair with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Front row from left: chamber ambassador Kathy Hensley; Mayfield employee Jim Clemens; Emersynn Storey, Paislee Hayes, Maximus Clemens and Violet Clemens (in front); Hailey Mayfield; Damon Mayfield with his wife Madison and their children Wrenlee and Rhett; owners Lora and Mike Mayfield; Jacob Brassfield; and chamber ambassador Jeremy Beasley. BY JADEN MASSEY FOR THE QUILL

historic flood that April.

The milestone celebration held Oct. 3 marks three decades of progress, perseverance and continued involvement with the West Plains

community.

The local, family-owned business offers oil changes, inspections, head gasket replacements, engine swaps, tune-ups and a variety of other

vehicle services. Mayfield Auto Repair is located at 2090 Clark Ave. and can be reached by phone at 417-256-9452 or email at mayfieldauto@centurytel.net to schedule repairs.

Mtn. Grove veterinarian to chair MSU board of Governors

Dr. Melissa Gourley of Mtn. Grove has been elected to serve as the 2026 chair for the Missouri State University Board of Governors, beginning Jan. 1. The election took place during the board's regular meeting on Oct. 3.

Gourley is a veterinarian at Whetstone Veterinary Service in Mtn. Grove, a practice she previously owned. She has served on MSU's West Plains Development Board and is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from MSU and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine.



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WP, Willow chambers celebrate Whetstone expansion



MOUNTAIN VIEW — Whetstone Boys Ranch Director of Development Brandon Maxwell, center, prepares to cut the ribbon during a recent open house celebrating the ranch's new facility in Mtn. View. The ceremony was hosted by the West Plains Chamber of Commerce. The new 15,000-square-foot lodge-style building doubles the ranch's capacity from nine to 18 boys and includes classrooms, a multimedia room, a therapy room, a kitchen and dining hall and house-parent quarters. Whetstone Ranch was established 14 years ago as a Christian-based boarding home for boys ages 12 to 16 in need of therapy for behavioral, substance abuse and mental health issues. Clients come from all over the country and during their stay, typically six to 12 months, attend school onsite and have weekly sessions in a rural setting focused on biblical teachings, emotional wellness and occupational therapy. Future plans include expansion to house 30 clients total. Attending were representatives of the West Plains and Willow Springs chambers of commerce, 154th District Rep. Lisa Durnell and community members. STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

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OZH BJB thanks sponsors for supporting record-breaking fundraiser

The Ozarks Healthcare Foundation's annual Blue Jean Ball raised a record-breaking \$100,000 on Oct. 4 to support local healthcare. The foundation continues to recognize area businesses for their sponsorship of the event.

BÜRO Office Supply, Cochran Sales, Hirsch Feed & Farm Supply, Leonardo DRS, NHC HealthCare West Plains, and Restoring Hope were all among the sponsors for the annual fundraising gala, which was held at Silver Springs Ranch in West Plains.

Proceeds from the event support local healthcare initiatives and enhance patient care throughout the Ozarks Healthcare system.



Donating \$2,500, Hirsch Feed & Farm Supply supported the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation's Blue Jean Ball as a sponsor of the fundraising event. Josh Reeves and Sammi Radosevich from the foundation accept the contribution from Hirsch staff. COURTESY PHOTOS / OZH



BÜRO Office Supply recently supported the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation's mission as a Straight Leg Sponsor of the Blue Jean Ball, contributing \$1,000 to the cause. Ozarks Healthcare Foundation representatives Josh Reeves and Sammi Radosevich are pictured with staff from BÜRO.



Donating \$1,000 to the cause, Leonardo DRS was a Straight Leg Sponsor of the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation's annual Blue Jean Ball. From left: Sammi Radosevich, Ozarks Healthcare Foundation; Steve Foster, Leonardo DRS Vice President of Operations; Bruce Vincent, Leonardo DRS Security Manager; Debra Bowman, Leonardo DRS Senior Human Resources Generalist; and Josh Reeves, Ozarks Healthcare Foundation.



Restoring Hope recently supported the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation as a Straight Leg Sponsor of the upcoming Blue Jean Ball, contributing \$1,000. Ozarks Healthcare Foundation representatives Josh Reeves and Sammi Radosevich accept the contribution from Restoring Hope staff.



NHC HealthCare West Plains gave \$1,000 for local healthcare as a Straight Leg Sponsor of the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation's Blue Jean Ball. Sammi Radosevich, Career Pathways Coordinator for the foundation, is pictured with staff from NHC.

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Cochran Sales, with a \$1,000 contribution, supported the Ozarks Healthcare Foundation as a Straight Leg Sponsor of the Blue Jean Ball. From left: Sammi Radosevich, Ozarks Healthcare Foundation; Mason Cochran of Cochran Sales; and Josh Reeves, Ozarks Healthcare Foundation.

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West Plains Daily Quill

OZARKS RFD

Chickened out on chickens

By JIM HAMILTON,
Quill Columnist

I was absolutely sure when I gave away my last hens that I was done with chickens.

I actually started with my small flock just to please my granddaughter. When she saw those cute little barred rock chicks skittering around the tank at the Fair Grove MFA she was sure we needed some, and I didn't put up much of an argument.



JIM HAMILTON

They were for my granddaughter, after all, not for me.

But, some years later, after that half-dozen were grown and providing eggs every day, I missed raising the chicks, so I made a trip to Cackle Hatchery in Lebanon and bought a dozen more. Breed? "Mix them up," I said. "Make it interesting," and so they did. I ended up with blacks, reds and whites of several breeds, a couple of crested Polish roosters, various Cochins with feathery legs and I can't recall

what else. I loved it.

Later I added some bantams and others, expanded my chicken pen and counted some 25 or 30 hens, total. Just once I even bought Cornish crosses to raise and butcher. Never again.

I enjoyed my chickens, but they never made good business sense. In peak laying season I had eggs to give friends and neighbors, but never considered selling them. Along about 2023, I decided I was done playing farmer. After selling my last two freezer calves I began planning to get rid of the chickens, too. I told myself it was time to fully retire and take a few trips with Martha.

So, now, a couple of years later both the calves and the chickens are gone, but we've yet to go anywhere for more than a night or two. So, this past spring I did a reality check and went back to Cackle Hatchery. In May I came home with seven Rhode Island red chicks.

Meanwhile — sure I was done with calves and chickens — I had torn out a few fences and destroyed all my chicken pens. I converted my hen house to a garden tool shed, planted strawberries in one old chicken run and cucumbers in another, keeping only a small brooder room intact.

Good thing.

My wife and daughter were never convinced I was done with chickens for good. Turns out they knew me better than I know myself.

At 4 months my seven chicks had outgrown the brooder room and repurposed dog pen used for an outside run. As of September I was able to move them back to my former hen-house and a reconstruct-

ed outdoor run. When the ground softens after another rain or two I'll transplant the strawberries. Meanwhile, my six pullets and a rooster are making themselves at home in more spacious quarters, and I'm out only about \$300 to replace the poultry fence I tore out last year.

In a couple of months I expect to see eggs show up, but a half-dozen hens will never produce enough to offset their room and board. But, neither did two dozen — not the way I do business.

I reckon that's just the way farming works. Profitable or not, I still get to call myself a "chicken farmer." At least I've given my red rooster something to crow about, and he does, every morning. Eggs can't be far behind.

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LIVE AND LEARN

The difference between serving and neighboring

By DAVID BURTON,
Columnist

Service is one of the most beautiful words in the English language. It means giving of yourself for the good of others. Every town needs people who serve — those who donate food, volunteer for cleanup days, or help lead community drives. Yet, as valuable as it is, service alone is not the same as being an engaged neighbor.

Being an engaged neighbor is something deeper. It is service that repeats itself. It's service that takes root on your street, among people whose names you know and whose stories you share. It's not just about meeting needs — it's about building relationships.

Most acts of service happen outside of where we live. We go downtown to volunteer or to the community center to help. But engaged neighboring happens right where you are. It's the ripple of kindness that begins when you shovel a driveway or check in on a widow next door. Those acts may seem small, but they become habits. And over time, they transform neighborhoods into communities of belonging.

Sociologists call this the power of proximity. When people live near each other and have regular, positive interactions, trust grows. And trust, as research repeatedly shows, is the foundation of every thriving community.

Community service is like planting a single flower. Engaged neighboring is cultivating a garden. One is generous; the other

is relational. Both are good — but one lasts longer because it involves ongoing care.

When you are an engaged neighbor, your service has a face, a name, and a shared story. You aren't serving strangers; you're investing in relationships. The difference isn't what they're doing — it's where and with whom they're doing it.

One of my favorite parts of engaged neighboring is how it multiplies. When a single neighbor starts organizing a block party, delivering cookies, or waving at the bus each morning, it gives others permission to do the same. Over time, that repetition becomes culture.

The best neighboring happens when we decide to care about the people closest to us — again and again.

So yes, volunteer at the shelter. Join the community cleanup. Join Rotary. But don't stop there. Look around your own block. Who might appreciate a word of encouragement, a helping hand, or a shared meal?

Being an engaged neighbor doesn't replace community service — it multiplies its impact. When service becomes a rhythm of relationship, we move from being helpers to being friends, from being residents to being community members.

The truth is, programs, governments, and nonprofits can't build belonging — only neighbors can.

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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OHRC to host 'The Cherokee Nation' presentation Nov.11

Officials with Ozarks Heritage Research Center at Missouri State University-West Plains will host a presentation, "The Cherokee Nation," at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 at Garnett Library on West Trish Knight Street in West Plains. Refreshments will be provided.

Guest speaker, Carol Silvey, emeritus professor of history at MSU-WP, will present the topic about the Cherokee nation from 16th to the 21st centuries.

Silvey received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southwest Missouri State College, now Missouri State University, in 1964 and her master's degree in education from the University of Missouri in 1968. She has also completed postgraduate work at the University of Missouri.

Silvey joined the university staff on Sept. 1, 1968, as a history instructor. She remained in the classroom until August

1994 when her nine-month faculty appointment changed to a 12-month administrative appointment upon being named director of development for the local campus.

As a faculty member, Silvey was promoted to assistant professor of history in Aug. 1979 and associate professor of history in Aug. 1988. In Oct. 2012, she became the first staff member from MSU-WP selected for the MSU Wall of Fame. The award recognizes and honors employees who have excelled at Missouri State and significantly contributed to the success and positive collegiate experience of students.

In April 2017, she was appointed to a six-year term on the Missouri State University Board of Governors. During those six years, she served as both vice chair and chair of the board.



Carol Silvey

Eagle Heights church to hold Cowboy Sunday

Eagle Heights Independent Baptist Church, 1078 County Road 8570, will hold a Cowboy Sunday event at 11 a.m. Sunday. Pony rides will be offered and a hot dog roast will be held as part of the festivities. For a free ride or more information, call 417-293-9888.



Willow Springs Chamber announces annual Trunk or Treat

The Willow Springs Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Trunk or Treat from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Halloween, which falls on a Friday this year, on Main Street in downtown Willow Springs.

The family-friendly event is a local tradition that provides a safe and festive trick-or-treating experience, said chamber Director Kim McCormick. Main Street will be lined with decorated vehicles and community booths offering candy and games.

Additional activities will include a costume contest at 6 p.m. in Star Park next to Star Theatre, sponsored by Waggoners Home Center, and free hayrides provided by the Willow Springs Lions

Club. The Willow Springs High School Future Business Leaders of America chapter will also be selling hot dogs.

"This is one of our favorite events of the year," said McCormick. "It's a fabulous way for our community to come together, showcase creativity and make Halloween special for local families."

The event is free and open to the public. Any local businesses, churches, or organizations interested in hosting a trunk can simply arrive downtown between 4 and 5 p.m. for setup. All trunks must be ready for trick-or-treaters by 5:30 p.m. No registration is necessary.

For more information, contact the chamber office at 417-469-5519.

WPRAS

Pet of the Week

This week's featured pet is Stella, a red heeler mix estimated to be about a year old. According to West Plains Regional Animal Shelter volunteer Trish Hammen, Stella was found as a stray in Pomona in July. The dog is now available for adoption at the shelter, located BB Highway. The fee to adopt a dog is \$50. Hammen added that the shelter is in need of donations to help pay a large veterinarian bill. She also invites the community to see the new shelter building, which will allow dogs to be inside during the cold winter and give cats access to fresh air. COURTESY / WPRAS

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R. COLLINS - 35 Blk Bal cows 3 yrs, 1250#, bred Ang bulls to calve Jan 20th / 60 days. 25 Blk & BWF cows 6 yrs to SS, bred to Ang or Herf bulls.

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Fall FeSt IVALS

Alton celebrates 40th Black Gold Walnut Festival

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON,
kimberlyl@westplainsdailyquill.net

ALTON — The Black Gold Walnut Festival, a celebration of the fall black walnut harvest, has been held for 40 years in Alton. This year's celebration was held Oct. 4.

Walnut-themed contests are a highlight of the festival, with participants using walnut wood for woodworking projects and black walnuts as a central ingredient in baking.

The top three places in the woodworking contest were awarded to Perry Carder, first place for a banjo birdhouse; Ryker Shelton, second place for a spoon; and Curtis Thomas,

third place for his knife.

In the baking contest, cookie category, Bella Barr took first, Griffin Therkeld took second and Amanda Thomas took third place.

In the cakes category, James Clayton won first and Kylie Dale took second. First place awards also went to Kylie Dale for bread and Tiffany Fisher for pie.

Activities also included a pumpkin carving contest, and a 1-mile run/walk and 5K run/walk, entry fees from which raised \$1,155. The proceeds were split evenly between the cross country programs at Alton and Couch schools, with each receiving \$577.50.



ABOVE, Universal Groove Society, hailing from St. Louis, performed on the main stage of Alton's Black Gold Walnut Festival. The group plays a mix of Celtic, world, blues and Middle Eastern music featuring flute and drums.



LEFT, Andy Leach of West Plains demonstrated the ancient art of flint knapping at the 40th annual Black Gold Walnut Festival. Leach created stone arrowheads, spearheads and knives. A sampling of his works may be found on Facebook @ gettothepoints.andyleach.

STAFF PHOTOS / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

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Community gathers for fall fun in Thayer



THAYER — Fall was the theme for the Thayer Fall Festival, held Oct. 11, and for the decorations on this buggy, with a dash of red, white and blue. Children enjoyed a short ride in the rig as part of the celebration, plus bounce houses, games and a pumpkin carving and pumpkin painting contest.



THAYER — Pumpkin painting and pumpkin carving contests were sponsored by Harps Food Store of Alton and Thayer and Walmart of Thayer. The activity was one of many available at the well-attended Thayer Fall Festival, held Oct. 11 and hosted by the Thayer Chamber of Commerce. STAFF PHOTOS / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

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LocalSPORTS



The 2025 Zizzer Soccer seniors were honored alongside family members Tuesday evening at Zizzer Stadium. From left: Keenan Holloway, escorted by Shane and Allena Holloway; LJ Temple, escorted by TJ and Alanna Temple; Cooper Murray, escorted by Jason and Stephanie Murray; Chance Pabian, escorted by Steven Davis and Ashley Myers; Reed Cobb, escorted by Sam and Rachel Cobb; Ian Hufstедler, escorted by Jonathan and Heather Hufstедler; Johnny Sutherland, escorted by Kelly Sutherland and Brandi Richardson; Julien Ayala, escorted by Jose Ayala; and Logan Ray, escorted by Raven and Kayla Collins. PHOTOS BY JOHN DEATHERAGE FOR THE QUILL



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Dr. Afroze brings nearly 20 years of experience in pulmonary and critical care medicine. She completed her medical education in India, residency at the University of Oklahoma, and fellowship at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell before serving as an attending physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital. Since 2012, she has practiced at CoxHealth in Springfield and taught at the University of Missouri. Her expertise includes interventional bronchoscopy, lung cancer diagnostics, critical care, asthma, COPD, and pulmonary hypertension. Passionate about rural health, she was drawn to Ozarks Healthcare’s commitment to expanding access close to home.

Learn more here:



Zizzers soccer caps Senior Night with 4-0 shutout of Marshfield

By JOHN DEATHERAGE,
Quill Sports Contributor

The West Plains Zizzers varsity soccer team celebrated its seniors in style on Tuesday, capping an eventful stretch of games with a dominant 4-0 shutout victory over the Marshfield Blue Jays at Zizzer Stadium. The win was the team’s fourth in its last five matches.

“We are playing some of our best soccer as a team late into the season when it matters most,” said Head Coach Jimmy Miller.

SENIOR NIGHT VS. MARSHFIELD (OCT. 14)

“We started slow in the first half,” Miller said, “but we did control the pace of the game and possessed the ball really well.” He praised the team’s “precise and deliberate passing,” particularly in the back line.

West Plains’ first goal came in the first half when Malakai Coy sent a pass through Marshfield’s defense to Caleb Cobb for the finish.

“We made some adjustments at halftime and came out of halftime focused and with a mindset of ‘taking what the opponent was giving us’ rather than trying to force things that weren’t working,” Miller explained.

The Zizzers’ defense dominated their back half of the field in the second half, “with team possession and ball movement being very crisp and effective,” said Miller,

and the offense scored three more goals. Coy scored on a rebound, LJ Temple played a long ball to a streaking Hudson Cox for a goal, and Johnny Sutherland chipped a pass upfield to Cameron Miller, who beat the defense for the final score with nine seconds left to play.

“Our defense and goalkeeper Keenan Holloway recorded their fifth shutout on the season and have improved a lot,” said Miller. “They have been a strength for us as of late.”

A LOOK BACK AT A BUSY STRETCH Win at Waynesville (Oct. 2)

The Zizzers varsity earned a historic 3-0 shutout victory over Waynesville on Oct. 2, marking only their second win against the Tigers in 17 years. Goals were scored by Cox, Coy and Temple. Cox also made two assists, and C. Miller made one.

Strong showing vs. Rolla (Oct. 6)

West Plains played Rolla Oct. 6 at home on the grass field, where the varsity Zizzers won 3-1 and the junior varsity lost 4-0 in what Miller called “the best and most complete game of the season” to date. The win was only the third for West Plains over the Bulldogs in the last 18 years.

Goals were scored by Reed Cobb, Ian Hufstедler and Cox; Cox had one assist,

See SOCCER, B2



Zizzers senior Johnny Sutherland heads the ball toward teammate Logan Ray, also a senior, during the West Plains varsity soccer team’s 4-0 win over the Marshfield Blue Jays on Tuesday at Zizzer Stadium.

Justin Shelby

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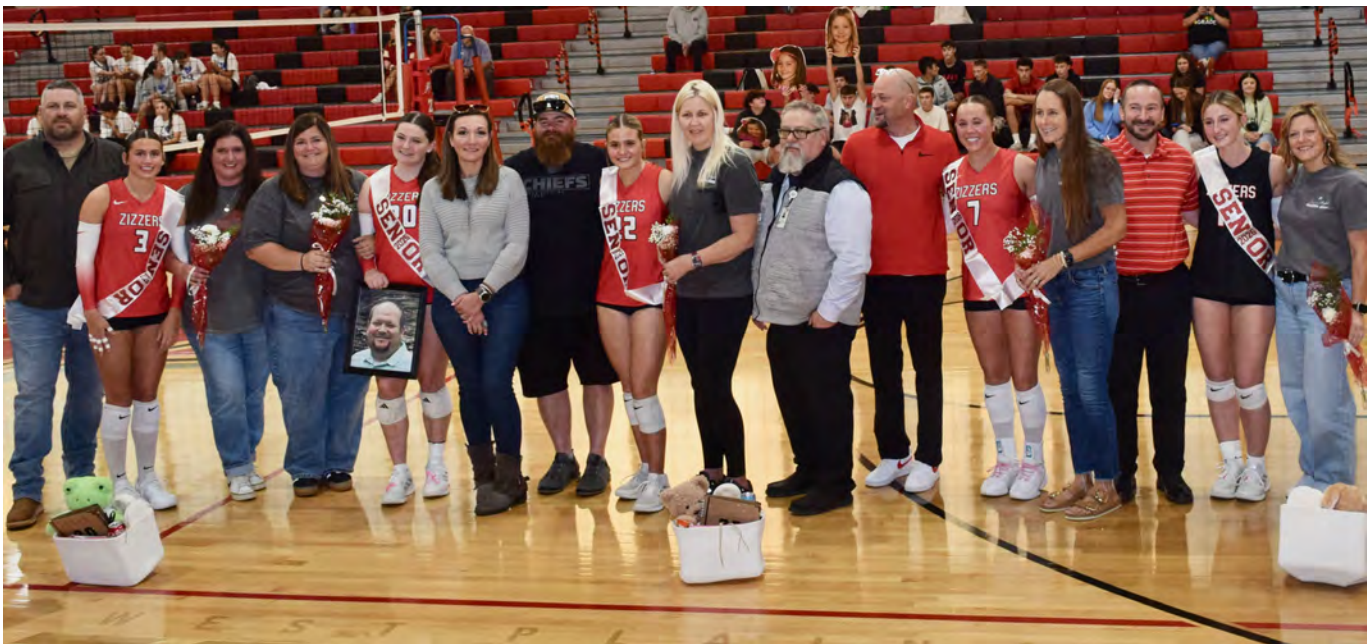
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Senior Night 2025 for the Lady Zizzers volleyball team was held Oct. 9 at the West Plains High School gym. This season's seniors and their families are, from left, Josh Adams, player Mylea Adams and Ashlea Adams; Tara Orr and player Ella Orr, holding a picture of her late father, Jason Orr; Brittany and Dustin Brill, player Cameron Brill, and Jana and RD Reid; Jeremy Hafer, player Lucy Hafer and Quanna Hafer; and Jeff Welch, player Libby Welch and Casey Welch. In the background, fans can be seen holding cardboard cutouts of some of the players as young children. PHOTOS BY JOHN DEATHERAGE FOR THE QUILL

Lady Zizzers take 2nd at Lebanon Tournament, honor seniors

By JOHN DEATHERAGE,
Quill Sports Contributor

The West Plains Lady Zizzers have had a busy and successful last two weeks, with a 3-1 road win over the Mtn. Home Lady Bombers Monday in Arkansas, and a win over the Carl Junction Lady Bulldogs Thursday evening at home.

Complete results are still pending publication on the Missouri State High School Activities Association; watch the Quill next week for game recaps.

Highlights from the week prior included honoring the team's seniors with a home victory before capping the stretch with top-three finishes at the Lebanon Pink Fest Tournament on Oct. 11.

The varsity team had a strong showing at the Lebanon Tournament, finishing in second place, while the junior varsity team brought

home third.

"It was a long, great day of battling together," said West Plains Head Coach Hailey Beazley.

"We ended up first in pool play, beat Fatima in the first round of bracket, beat Lebanon in the semis for the first time since MSHSAA records (began) online in 2008... and then lost 1-2 to Marshfield in the finals."

Seniors Mylea Adams and Lucy Hafer were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The JV team also had a successful day, winning its pool before falling to Carl Junction in the semifinals and defeating Central for third place.

SENIOR NIGHT VS. HILLCREST (OCT. 9)

The Lady Zizzers celebrated Senior Night on Oct. 9 with a commanding 3-0 sweep of the Springfield-Hillcrest Lady Hornets (25-13, 25-17, 25-14).



Natalie Ell gives the ball a bump Monday as the Lady Zizzers varsity volleyball squad defeated the Mtn. View-Birch Tree Liberty Lady Eagles 3-1 in varsity play during their home game on Oct. 6.

EARLY WEEK MATCHES

The week began with a home win on Oct. 6, as the Lady Zizzers defeated the Mtn. View-Birch Tree Liberty Lady Eagles 3-1 (25-15, 25-22, 14-25, 25-18).

The next day, the team traveled to Marshfield, falling to the Lady Jays 3-0 (19-25, 22-25, 13-25).

Zizzer Swim Team finishes dual season 23-5 with win over Poplar Bluff

By JOHN DEATHERAGE,
Quill Sports Contributor

The West Plains Zizzers swim team scored a 79-52 win Tuesday over the Mules at the Poplar Bluff Duals, finishing up the dual meet season with a record of 23-5.

"Everyone had a good meet," said Zizzers Head Coach Ryan T. Smith. "Most of them swam right around their best times for the season. Tristan Powell had the most time drop in his 100 Breaststroke, 11 seconds, and 100 Freestyle, seven seconds."

Smith said there was no diving competition at the meet, due to lack of facilities. He also noted he is still experimenting with relay configurations to find the best combinations for the upcoming championship meets.

"We continue to work on our sprint freestyle, especially our kick, to be able to compete in the relays," he said.

TOP WEST PLAINS RESULTS

200-Yard Medley Relay: first place — Alec Morrison, Dane Kirby, Tanner Land, Tristan Powell (2:13.03)

200-Yard Freestyle: first place — Rhys Kerley (2:08.46); second place — Caleb Kentner (2:32.04)

200-Yard Individual Medley: second place — Alec Morrison

(2:29.55)

50-Yard Freestyle: first place — Tanner Land (25.86); second place — Bryson Kittrell (27.80)

100-Yard Freestyle: second place — Rhys Kerley (57.72); third place — Tristan Powell (1:18.58)

500-Yard Freestyle: first place — Tanner Land (5:44.64); second place — Bryson Kittrell (6:01.38)

200-Yard Freestyle Relay: first place — Alec Morrison, Rhys Kerley, Bryson Kittrell, Tanner Land

100-Yard Backstroke: first place — Caleb Kentner (1:15.50); second place — Dane Kirby (1:22.72)

100-Yard Breaststroke: second place — Alec Morrison (1:28.37); fourth place — Tristan Powell (1:40.96)

400-Yard Freestyle Relay: second place — Caleb Kentner, Rhys Kerley, Dane Kirby, Bryson Kittrell (4:16.15)

UP NEXT

The team is scheduled to be at an invitational tournament, with competition beginning 9 a.m. today, in Sedalia.

Following that, the Zizzers will look to defend their conference title at the Ozark Mountain Conference Championship meet, which is set to begin at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Springfield.

Orr's 3-run homer lifts Lady Zizzers to 5-4 comeback win

By JOHN DEATHERAGE,
Quill Sports Contributor

Putting on a show for the fans, the Lady Zizzers softball team came from behind to defeat the Carl Junction Lady Bulldogs 5-4 Oct. 9 at Zizzer Ballpark. The comeback was powered by a dramatic home run by Molly Orr in the fifth inning.

"It was a great game all around. I'm really proud of how the girls battled back," said West Plains head Coach Amy Marshall. "Carl Junction came out strong, scoring a run in each of the first four innings, but our team stayed composed and kept grinding."

West Plains answered with two runs in the fourth inning before Orr's fifth-inning blast sealed the win.

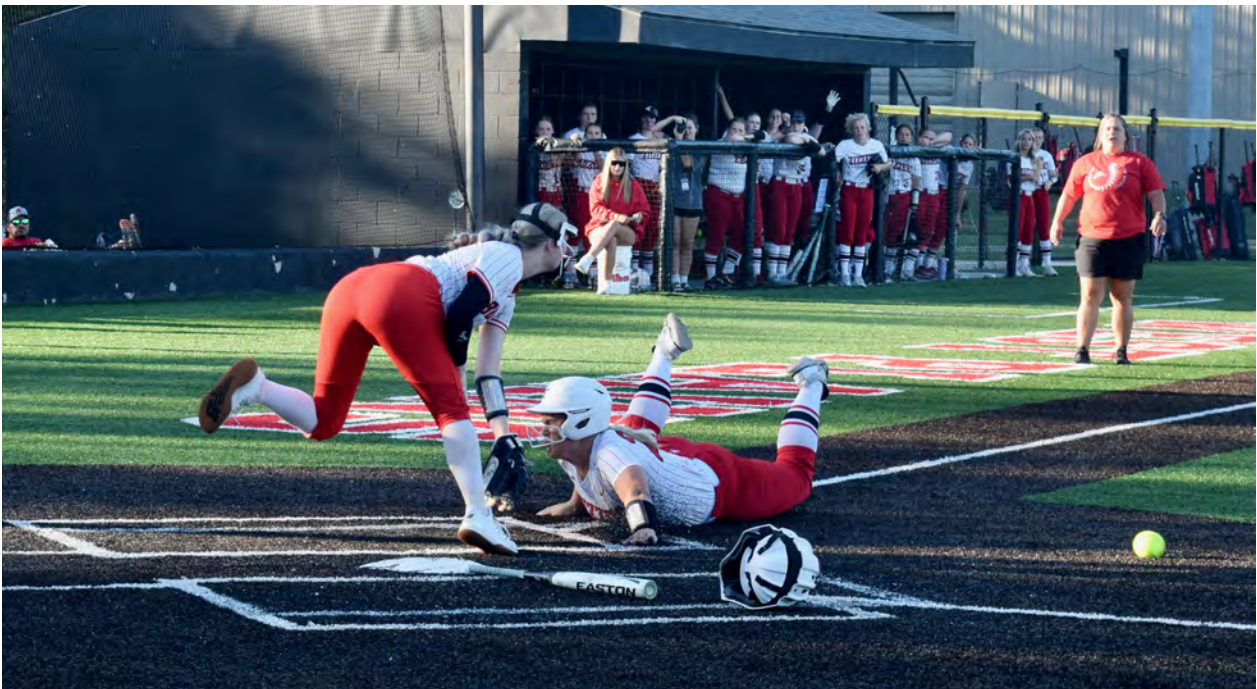
"Molly Orr came up huge for us with a go-ahead three-run homer in the fifth," Marshall said.

shall said. "She finished the night 2-for-3 with a single, a home run, two runs scored and three RBIs."

Shaylee Peterson also contributed at the plate, going 1-for-2 with a double and a run scored. Bailey Wake added an RBI and pitcher Zoe Scharnhorst helped her own cause with a hit and a run scored.

Scharnhorst went the distance in the circle, pitching all seven innings. She allowed just two earned runs on eight hits, walked one and struck out two.

"Zoe really stepped up for us. She's always ready to do whatever the team needs, and she pitched a solid game," Marshall added. "Defensively, we made some great plays and kept ourselves in it. It was a team win, and I thought everyone contributed."



Shaylee Peterson of the Lady Zizzers softball team slides safely into home as the ball gets away from Carl Junction pitcher Kiley Spencer during the Oct. 9 game at Zizzer Ballpark. Peterson went 1-for-2 at the plate against the Lady Bulldogs, with a double and a run scored in the contest, which West Plains won 5-4 after a dramatic comeback. BY JOHN DEATHERAGE FOR THE QUILL

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From Page B1

as did Cole Talburt. Miller also praised the team's defense of Talburt, Isaac Ayala, Brooks Cobb, Caleb Cobb and goalkeeper Keenan Holloway for their "supreme focus and connected team

defense," and noted they set up the offense for success.

Tough loss at Branson (Oct. 7)

Just 14 hours after the emotional win over Rolla, the Zizzers traveled to Branson, the varsity team falling 2-1 and JV falling 3-2 in a tough conference match.

West Plains scored first on a header by Cox off an assist from C. Miller and held the lead for most of the game, but fatigue played a factor as Branson scored twice in the final 10 minutes to secure the win.

"The back-to-back nights definitely played a factor, as fatigue and heavy legs seemed to creep in as we got later into the game," said Miller. "The guys gave great effort, played with heart and never quit, even through the fatigue and some adversity."

In the JV game, after being down 3-0 at halftime, the Zizzers rallied with two second-half goals

from Eric Rodriguez via a penalty kick and Landon Legler, assisted by Roman Martinez, but ultimately fell 3-2. Miller noted goalkeeper Hunter Lange played well, managing at least 10 saves.

LOOKING AHEAD

"We just need to stay focused, disciplined and healthy these last four games of the season," Miller said, "and have some momentum going into districts, which begin Nov. 3 in Cape Girardeau."

In the first of the regular season's last four games, the Zizzers are scheduled to take on Springfield-Hillcrest 5 p.m. Tuesday at JFK Stadium in Springfield.

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Outdoors with Larry Dablemont

How to spend a fall day

By LARRY DABLEMONT,
Outdoors Columnist

What a banner year it is for walnuts and acorns and hickories. There are nuts everywhere! If I can just get my daughters and grandsons out here on Lightnin' Ridge picking up walnuts I will sell enough of them to pay for my duck stamp.

The best parts of the year come and go so quickly. Fall is like that, more than any other season. It is my time of the year. Half of October is gone and I haven't yet picked up my .22 or shotgun for a hunting trip. I realize now that it is time to spend more time in the woods or on the river than ever before, to try to see and experience as much as possible while it is still here.

Tonight I need to put some new line on a couple of reels, because over the next three or four weeks, there will be some great fishing in the Ozarks. Fish feel that cooling water, and begin to abandon the shallow water, heading to deeper spots. But they do not yet reach that point where metabolism decreases.

Fall fish feed in deeper water, but they aren't on a diet yet; they are fattening up, sometimes eating more

than they can hold. It is primarily in the fall that I have seen white bass, and black bass gorging on shad, to a point where they attack a lure and have more shad or minnows in their gullet than they can get down.

If you want to catch a big bass on a reservoir, fish deeper points and bluffs with a brown or black jig, with one of those salty rubber crayfish added to the hook. But if you have some pork rind, up to 4 or 5 inches long, that will work too. Some folks use nothing else but the pork, attached to a jig. For big bass, I am not talking about small jigs; I like the big heavy ones that will fall quickly down over ledges into deep water, or scrape against the standing timber 10 or 12 feet down.

Crappie fishermen love October, but I seldom fish for them after I catch them in Canada in early October. I like smallmouth, and if I have a day to fish, I'll probably be floating down a river, fishing a buzz-spin or a spinner-bait. You would be surprised to see how big the smallmouth are on some of our Ozarks rivers if you fish those waters without the bright canoes and kayaks



DABLEMONT

seen there in the summer, banging and bumping by.

The buzz-baits and top-water lures still catch fish in the deep water below the shoals, but they won't work much longer. Smallmouth later in the fall will be deeper, gorging themselves on crayfish, and anything that looks like a "crawdada," as Ozarks anglers call them,

will attract smallmouth, Kentuckies and largemouth bass on our rivers.

If a fisherman doesn't have a knack for those jig and pork-rind combos, he can do well with crankbaits that imitate crayfish. Trouble is, in the fall, you have to fish a crankbait deep, but slow. It takes a while to master that, too.

There are few float trips I take in October when I don't have a shotgun or .22 rifle along. One of my favorite hunting guns is an over and under, .22-20 gauge combination my dad owned since I was a boy. The rifle barrel is on top, and the shotgun on the bottom. You flip a button on the side to determine which barrel you shoot.

If you want a mess of squirrels to take home and cook on the grill, or with a pot of dumplings or stew, you use the .22. If you go quietly down a river, you'll see plenty of squirrels, and they seldom know you are there. Close, still shots are common.

You do not use the brightly colored kayaks or canoes along a stream if you want to see wildlife or catch big fish. In fact, I would never ever hunt from a flimsy craft of any kind, and that's what 17-foot canoes are, accidents waiting to happen. My river boats are 19-foot or 18-foot square-sterned canoes, or 16- to 17-foot johnboats.

In years past I have used my boat, with a blind attached to the front, to bow-hunt for deer. And when November gets here, I will hunt ducks from my boat, while I fish a little as well. But as I get older, the most important thing I have as I slowly and quietly move down an Ozarks stream is my camera. You can see some of the photos I have taken from my boat by visiting my website, www.larrydablemontoutdoors.blogspot.com. You can always contact me by writing to me at P.O. Box 22, Bolivar, MO 65613, or emailing lightninridge47@gmail.com.

MDC, CFM ask hunters to 'Share the Harvest'

As deer season continues, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) are encouraging hunters to donate venison to the annual Share the Harvest program. The program provides lean, healthy protein to local food banks and pantries to help feed Missourians in need.

Since its start in 1992, Share the Harvest has provided more than 6 million pounds of venison to hungry Missourians.

"Through Share the Harvest, Missouri hunters can help provide their fellow Missourians in need with high-quality protein in the form of naturally lean, locally harvested deer meat," said Jake Hindman, MDC's Share the Harvest expansion coordinator.

Hunters can donate all or part of their harvested deer by taking it to an approved meat processor and specifying how much they wish to donate. Processing fees are



The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Conservation Federation of Missouri are encouraging deer hunters to donate venison to the Share the Harvest program. The donated meat goes to local food banks and food pantries to help feed hungry Missourians. COURTESY / MDC

often covered entirely or in part by local and statewide sponsors. A list of participating processors is available at mdc.mo.gov/share.

There are special requirements for deer harvested within the state's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone. These deer must be tested for

CWD and receive a negative result before the meat can be released by the processor for donation. Deer harvested outside the zone do not require testing.

"Through Share the Harvest, they're helping feed families in need and showing what true conservation stewardship looks like," said

CFM Executive Director Tyler Schwartz.

Missouri's archery deer season runs through Jan. 15, with several firearms portions occurring throughout the fall. The first of the two youth firearms portions runs Nov. 1 and 2, and the second, from Nov. 28 through 30.

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Local hunting area closes to public access

Hunters in Howell County have lost access to a local hunting spot after a lack of federal funding forced some private landowners to withdraw from a state-managed program.

The Missouri Department of Conservation announced that the Twin Chimneys Tract in Howell County is no longer open to public use. The property, located near Noblett Lake southeast of Willow Springs, was part of the Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program (MRAP), which provides incentives to private landowners who allow public access for hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing.

The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Bill.

"We've recently had some properties leave the program because of the lack of available federal grant funding," explained Lisa Potter, MDC Private Lands Program supervisor.

With fall hunting seasons underway, MDC is urging hunters to check the status of their favorite spots before heading out, especially if they use MRAP lands.

In addition to the Twin Chimneys Tract, several other properties across the state have withdrawn from the program and are now closed to the public:

- SF Tract in Gentry County (will close Nov. 1)
- Uncle Doolittle Farm Tract in Reynolds County
- Highway E. North and South Tracts in Iron County
- Arcadia Woods Tract in Iron County
- Little Creek Tract in Bollinger County
- Hieber Woods Tract in Cape Girardeau County

MDC officials noted that additional properties may withdraw from the program in the future. Hunters can find an updated map of available MRAP properties at mdc.mo.gov/mrap. Alternative public hunting and fishing locations, including MDC conservation areas, can be found using the "Places to Go" tool at mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places.



The Missouri Department of Conservation reminds hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers to check the availability of their favorite spots, particularly if they are on private lands. Some Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program participants have recently been removed from the program due to a lack of federal funding and are no longer open to the public.

WILLOW SPRINGS PHOTOGRAPHER PLACES IN DNR PHOTO CONTEST



A Willow Springs resident has been recognized for her photography in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' 2025 Photo Contest. Beverly McDaniel won third place in the "People Enjoying Missouri's Outdoors" category for her photograph, "Treats for Donkey." The winning image captures the joyful expression of a young girl named Evie as she offers a slice of apple to a donkey through a fence. The annual competition invites amateur photographers to capture the beauty of Missouri's natural resources. This year, more than 400 entries were submitted, showcasing the state's parks, scenery, weather phenomena, wildlife and outdoor recreation. First-place winners included, in the category of Natural Resources, "Just Missed" by Ivan Leung of Ballwin; People Enjoying Missouri's Outdoors, "Happily Exploring the Cotton Field" by Lyndsey Neely of Bernie; and Unique Places, "Sandy Creek Shade" by Ray Huskey of DeSoto. The winning photographs can be viewed on the Missouri Resources magazine website at missouriresources.mo.gov. They will also be displayed at the 2026 Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. The 2026 photo contest will open on April 1. More information is available at dnr.mo.gov/photo-contest. COURTESY

FISHING REPORT

A tribute to the humble crankbait

By DAVID WOODS,
Quill Outdoors Columnist

This year I have thrown a lot of crankbaits. From the tiny shallow baits of spring to the deep-divers I've been throwing of late, I think fishing with crank and jerk baits is as much of an art as any type of fishing is and it may be some of the most fun to be had with a pole and a reel. They come in all shapes and sizes, with different shaped bills and performance statistics.

It's like the best Hot Wheels a kid ever had, small model replicas of real life that we get to pull through the water, but with a real life results. When everything goes as planned, a big fish takes the bait and the fight is on. I've caught as many trophies on cranks as any other bait I've ever thrown. It's worth every effort to learn the art of the crankbait.

My dad and grandpa taught me by pulling out their aluminum hardshell UMCO tackle boxes when I was a kid before we went on a float or camping trip that a great day of fishing begins as any successful endeavor and preparation is key. They would recount the great fish they'd caught on each plug. I like to reload my tackle box the day before every trip, by removing what has not been working and what is past its prime time for use and replacing it with what I think has a lot of potential for the trip on hand. If I have a tough day on the water before, hopefully I at least feel inspired to try something different next time. As the seasons change, so do the shapes and colors of plugs that I throw in the box.

Their boxes were filled with all manner of Heddon Go-Deepers, Rapalas, Devil's horses, and Bombers. My boxes don't look all that much different, stuffed with Rapala Shad Raps, Husky Jerks, and Berkley baits. Gone are the days when all the baits were made with balsa with hand-painted finishes. I wish they still made some of those plugs today, but what we have to work with catches fish better, is mass-produced, and much cheaper than they were originally.

Crankbaits just haven't gone up much in price since their early days. The same \$7 buys the same Rapala that it did in the 1960s, only \$7 is a lot easier to come up with today. Crankbaits are at a historical recreational bargain today.

As for tips, tricks, and the technical stuff, I like to use monofilament or fluorocarbon only on my crank bait rods. Braided lines aren't hydrodynamic by design, causing more drag in the water and keeping the baits from digging deep. I use fluorocarbon on my trolling rigs and monofilament line for casting. Fluorocarbon lines, with their greater densities and smaller diameters allow the baits to dig the deepest. I like dark olive and brown cranks for emulating crawfish and lighter colors for bait fish and shad. I typically stick with natural colors.

Always carry a pair of pliers for adjusting the baits and removing treble hooks from fish, they tend to run wonky after a fish or two and need tinkering with for the best results. Tight lines, folks.



A colorful crankbait proves its worth, bringing in a beautiful trout. WOODS

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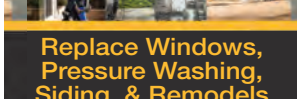
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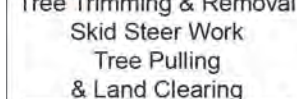


1994 CHEVY CAPRICE, 4.3 motor, automatic, leather interior, 118,000 miles. In the family since new, great condition. Asking \$9,600. Hagerty's valuation for good condition. 870-620-0012.

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1999 BMW Z-3 convertible, 2.5 L motor, 5 speed manual, 87,000 miles, new top, Bluetooth radio, battery, brakes. Just in time for Fall. \$9,995. 870-620-0012.

YARD SALES

Baxter County

GARAGE SALE, FRIDAY October 17th and Saturday October 18th, 8 AM - 3 PM. Lakeview corner of Surrey and Sanders. New men's clothes and good worn, new and good used stuff. Half price on Saturday.

Howell County

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Boone County

LARGE YARD SALE 5849 Rock Springs Rd Harrison to many items to mention. Every Saturday 8-12 until Nov 1st 870-741-0339

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THURSDAY 3pm

A stylized map of Missouri and Arkansas. Missouri is shown in light blue and labeled "MISSOURI". Arkansas is shown in light green and labeled "ARKANSAS". The map is set against a red background that looks like a torn piece of paper. There are six location pins: a blue pin in the northwest of Missouri, a green pin in the center of Missouri, a red pin in the northeast of Missouri, a blue pin in the southwest of Arkansas, a green pin in the center of Arkansas, and a red pin in the southeast of Arkansas.

WEST PLAINS
(417-256-9191)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Early shepherd
5 "Halt!" from a salt
10 Casting slots
12 Debussy suite
13 Capital of Belarus
14 Barrel piece
15 Quarter-back Manning
16 Marital promise
18 Buddhist school
19 Reply to "Gracias"
21 Tear
22 Boisterous behavior
24 Man of morals
25 Loquaciousness
29 M's top agent
30 Sweet treat
32 "Very funny!" in a text
33 GI-entertaining grp.
34 Sheltered side
35 Figure of speech
37 Purple shade

DOWN

- 39 Locker poster
40 Located
41 Prophetic ones
42 Clutter
1 Ready for war
2 Home heater
3 Climate-affecting current
4 Guitarist Paul
5 To boot
6 Dyeing tub
7 Floors
8 Common dice rolls
9 Pollster's find
11 Spun out
17 Bouquet staples
20 Tony, for one
21 Push away
23 Corporals and privates
25 Surfer's car
26 Like some chats
27 General greeting
28 Kitchen gadgets
29 Radar sights
31 Oboists' needs
33 Game callers
36 Owned by us
38 Objec-tive

V	O	C	A	B	E	L	I	D	E
A	N	O	D	E	S	E	V	E	R
L	E	N	D	S	S	E	E	T	O
E	S	C	E	M	E	R	G	E	D
T	I	E	T	I	N	O	R	E	
S	E	N	D	S	C	O	T	S	
	T	O	O	E	R	A			
	D	R	I	V	E	A	S	I	S
S	E	A	E	L	L	E	M	T	
O	N	T	A	R	I	O	C	P	A
L	O	I	N	S		C	O	R	A
A	T	O	N	E		K	N	E	L
R	E	N	E	E		S	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
				11		12			
						14			
				16	17			18	
			20					21	
	22							23	
				24					
	25	26					27	28	
29					30				31
32				33				34	
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41						42			

10-18

Baby Blues



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



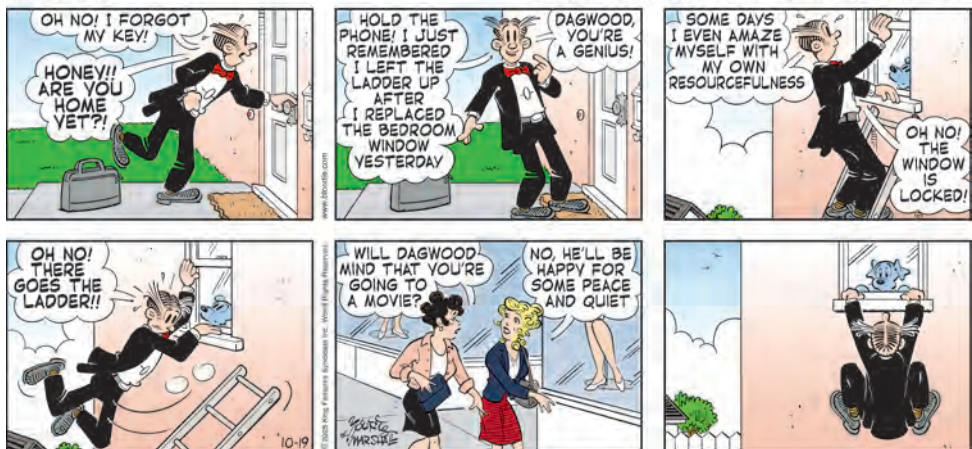
BORN LOSER

BY ART & CHIP SANSOM



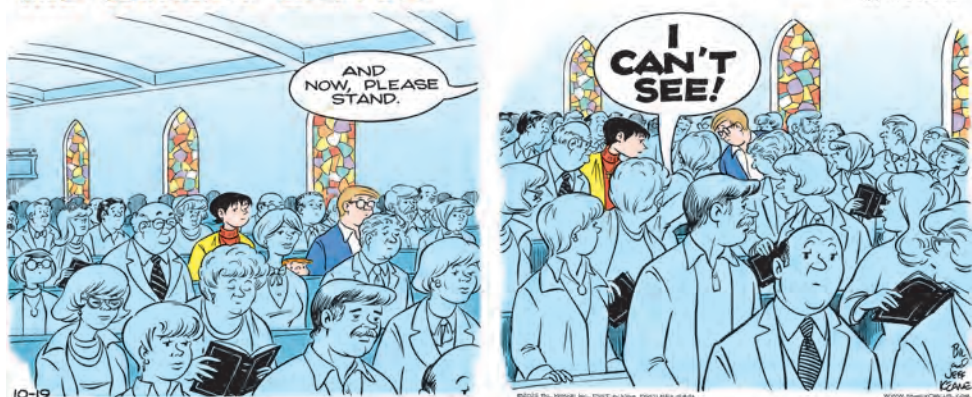
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



THURSDAY

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.
10-16 CRYPTOQUOTE
Z S K S X D L G J D S G K S
E S N I F D R M D O Z H L G C D V D L G
K S G D Y D L G . — V D S B Z J K S
T Y Z S E F K S
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LEARNING HOW TO BE STILL, TO REALLY BE STILL AND LET LIFE HAPPEN — THAT STILLNESS BECOMES A RADIANCE. — MORGAN FREEMAN

FRIDAY

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.
10-17 CRYPTOQUOTE
N V I Q I C Y J H Y G J Q C Y I Y H
U I Z G N C L G T N V Z N C N C Y
R H Q N V R Z S C J A W I G E N H Y I I
C N . — W C J O X S Z T C J A
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

SATURDAY

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.
10-18 CRYPTOQUOTE
Z A S A S O Z M V O R Z R J K D F
U D V V S W S K Z V W M J Z A S A S O Z
M V F R J J S W . M K S W D G S K F
O G G P S F , Z A S M Z A S W Z R W K F
Z A S J Z M H D U S W . — Q O K S
A D W F H A V D S P U
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NO SUNRISE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT IT IS WORTH WAKING ME UP TO SEE IT. — MINDY KALING

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