

# WELCOME TO LEBANON

Our Town, Your Town 2019-2020

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A stylized hot air balloon with a red and white striped upper section and a solid blue lower section. The text "RE/MAX" is written across the white section in blue, with a red diagonal line separating "RE" and "MAX".

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# Here *for you* in Lebanon.



Mitch Bartley, D.O.  
Family Medicine



Dan Johnson,  
MSN, APRN-BC  
Family Medicine



Laura Seaman,  
FNP-C, Family  
Medicine



Neil Schwartzman,  
M.D., Internal Medicine

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# WELCOME TO OUR TOWN!

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to Lebanon. Since our founding in 1849 Lebanon has been a community that has always welcomed travelers. Positioned on historic Route 66, now Interstate 44, the community rests on the northeast side of the Ozarks. Lebanon is a growing community with a strong economic base consisting of manufacturing, service and tourism industries.

Whether staying for a day, a week or the rest of your life, Lebanon is committed to its motto of "Friendly people. Friendly Place." Once you are here it is easy to see why.

Being labeled as the "Aluminum Boat Capital of the World" is not by happenstance. There are several manufacturers located within Lebanon that help form our economic backbone. We boast several metal manufacturers that make products ranging from the housing industry and semi-trucks and trailers. We also are home to a stove mill, who makes wine and spirit barrels that are shipped worldwide. With the Information Age upon us, industry has changed to meet these needs and several companies in town have created a high-tech marketplace for industrial machines.



**Mayor Jared Carr**

Lebanon is home to the premier event center in the area – The Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center. With 128,000 square feet of space under roof including a 48,000 square foot exhibition hall, the Civic Center can accommodate corporate meetings, shows/conventions, weddings or other special events. It also features a 650-person theater with a full stage and orchestra pit. Let our friendly staff help plan your next event!

While here make sure to visit our Route 66 Museum located inside the library or stop by our Route 66 park with three murals depicting life on Route 66 in Lebanon.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy many shopping opportunities in our historic downtown and our mall. Wonderful local restaurants appeal to a wide array of tastes from steak to sandwiches to Mexican. If you are hungry we have it all!

When in town no visit is complete without a cruise down scenic Missouri 64 to Bennett Spring State Park. Just 12 miles from Lebanon, it houses a state-of-the-art hatchery releasing 400,000 trout per year in to the beautiful Niangua River. Lebanon is perfectly located within 30 minutes of three

rivers where you can float your cares away all while taking in the beautiful scenery that the Ozarks has to offer.

Thank you for being a part of our community whether you visit or live here you will see that our community is you.

**-Mayor Jared Carr**

## City Hall

401 S. Jefferson Ave.  
Lebanon MO 65536  
Ph: (417) 532-2156  
Fx: (417) 532-8388

## Office Hours

Monday - Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

## City Hall Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.





## Laclede County offers a little something for everyone

Shopping, antiques, fishing, tubing, camping, hiking, swimming, golfing, dining, sightseeing, fueling your need for speed or how about floating your cares away? Whether you're here for business or pleasure; we have something for everyone in and around Lebanon, Missouri!

Home to more than 14,000 residents and several native pioneers of industry, Lebanon is conveniently located directly on Interstate 44 positioned perfectly in the scenic Ozarks of south-central Missouri. The Lebanon and Laclede County Area offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor amenities to fit just about any event need. The City of Lebanon alone is home to 8 parks encompassing over 100 acres. Located within these parks are disc golf, baseball/ softball fields, basketball courts, paved walking trails, several playgrounds and 11 shelter. Boswell Aquatic Center and Route 66 Themed Boswell Park is a notable gem in the community that features several pieces of Route 66 History in Lebanon! The Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center is the areas crown jewel in indoor facilities; this multi-purpose facility will accommodate conven-

tions, trade shows, and expositions, sporting events, theatrical productions and business meetings. Come enjoy a demolition derby, bull riding, country music concert, county fair, gun show or even a community garage sale in our Cowan Civic Center.



**Tourism Director  
Nicole McGinnis**

amazing NCAA approved lap pool and a tennis court.

Lebanon is a great place to visit; our historic downtown features many unique shops and is growing and renewing daily! Lebanon also has many outlet stores, like The Mall, or Shepherd Hills Factory Out-

let, the world's largest dealer of top-selling Case Knives. The huge store offers Ozark Walnut bowls and a vast selection of home décor items. The Heartland Antique Mall is the largest between Joplin and St. Louis, with more than 250 dealers with a Russell Stover's candy outlet and exotic cheeses outlet. The area also has numerous other family owned antique stores which are sure to have the perfect vintage treasure for your collection.

Lebanon was an important stop along Historic Route 66 and Boswell Park located on the historic route is themed to recognize that. The park is home to 3 larger than life murals featuring historic images of the route and host an annual Route 66 Festival each June which features a parade, live entertainment, family games, vendors and more! Historic Route 66, often romanticized Mother Road, inspires in many of us something buried deep within us. Some may see Route 66 as a link to our parents and grandparents, others perhaps feel the sense of freedom that the road provided to those early travelers.



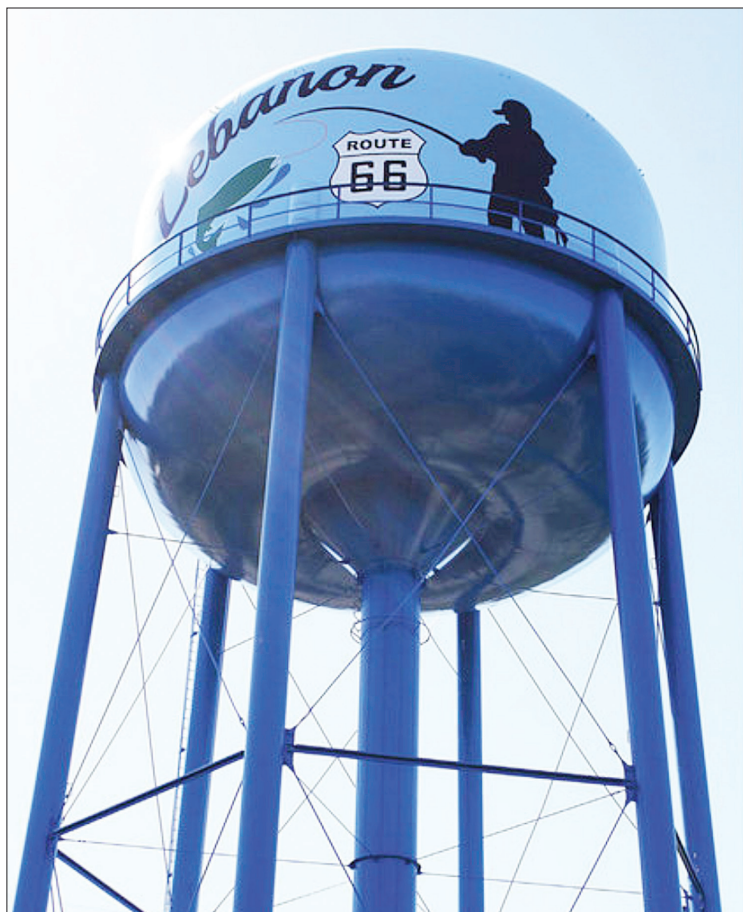


Most of the original auto courts and cafes are long gone, but a few sites still exist such as the Munger Moss Motel, the newly revitalized Wrinks Market and The Manor House Inn can be visited along the historic highway in Laclede County. Along with driving the Mother Road you can learn more about the historic route in Lebanon's world-renowned Route 66 Museum and Research Center.

Every weekend from April through September, you can feed your need for speed at the Lebanon I-44 Speedway, an oval asphalt track featuring several classes of races and Midway Speedway with its fast and wild dirt-track racing, two popular courses.

Lebanon is also conveniently located near Bennett Spring State Park. The pristine beauty of the park is a natural attraction. In addition to world class trout fishing, this popular and scenic park offers 12 miles of hiking trails, Niangua River float trips, interpretive center, a rustic dining lodge, hatchery tours, cabins & condos, or you can just pitch up a tent, whichever your preference you'll find dozens of campgrounds and RV parks throughout the area. No matter when you visit, we'll welcome you with open arms. Lebanon, we live, and you will love it! Come see us! For more information contact the Tourism Office for the City of Lebanon at toll free 844-4LEBANON, or visit our website at [www.VisitLebanonMO.org](http://www.VisitLebanonMO.org).

**-Lebanon Tourism Director  
Nicole McGinnis**



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# Lebanon is **REDI** for business



**John Carr with Carmeco Industries provides** a tour to attendees of a district-wide economic development effort that was sponsored by Lebanon-REDI.

## REDI works to bring jobs to Lebanon and Laclede County

Formed in 2004, Lebanon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (Lebanon-REDI) is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization established to serve the economic development needs of Lebanon and Laclede County. The core mission of Lebanon-REDI is “to strengthen the Laclede County economic base and increase the standard of living of all residents through retention, expansion, attraction and development of primary jobs and capital investments.”

Lebanon-REDI President/Chief Executive Officer Brian Thompson said he defines economic development as “wealth creation,” which can take on many forms.

“Wealth to one person may mean one thing while it is a totally different scenario for another person,” said Thompson. “While the goal is to retain and attract jobs and capital investments, you must also be active in the product development aspect of economic development to achieve long-term results and to help with wealth creation. If we can support a group of residents and help them improve their own skillset and marketability, that is a win.



**Lebanon-REDI President/CEO Brian Thompson speaks** to junior and senior students participating in the Greater Ozarks Centers for Advance Professional Studies (GOCAPS) Lake Region program.





"It may not look as spectacular as winning a big industry, but the impact should not be ignored."

Understanding the unique challenge of today's economy has allowed Lebanon-REDI to adjust its focus on a regular basis depending on the needs of the community. Thompson said that a lot of effort has gone into the enhancement of the county's workforce as times have improved.

"We now live in an economy that has more jobs than people available for those positions," he said. "You have to do what you can to develop the future workforce of your community whether that comes from students in our local educational institutions who will be the employees of tomorrow or by recruiting workers from outside our borders."

On the educational front, Lebanon-REDI has been actively engaged in several programs that assist in the development of the workforce including career fairs at Lebanon Technology and Career Center (LTCC); supporting LTCC in obtaining grant funding to provide 17 and 18-year-



**Lebanon REDI CEO Brian Thompson speaks** during a Lebanon City Council meeting.

old students with career readiness testing opportunities; actively engaging with the Greater Ozarks Centers for Advanced Professional Studies (GOCAPS) Lake Region program for junior and senior students; and support of new programming at Lebanon's higher education institutions – Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) Lebanon Center, Missouri State University (MSU) Lebanon and Drury Uni-

versity. Lebanon-REDI also works with state economic development partners on programming to support local businesses and industries. A recent example was a lunch-n-learn program targeting mid-level management and supervisors. Lebanon-REDI was a key sponsor of the event and offset registration fees for Lebanon and Laclede County participants.

"We do our best to help companies in whatever capacity is needed," said Thompson. "Sometimes it is as simple as helping obtain letters of support. In other cases, we may help navigate the process of receiving incentives and working with the City of Lebanon and other partners in those scenarios. It really is a case-by-case and need-by-need approach. We want to do what we can to remove the barriers to success for those we work with."

The office of Lebanon-REDI is located inside Lebanon City Hall at 401 South Jefferson Ave. For more information on the organization, contact Thompson at (417) 533-5627 or by e-mail at [brian@lebanonredi.com](mailto:brian@lebanonredi.com) or visit the entity's website at [www.LebanonREDI.com](http://www.LebanonREDI.com). ■



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# Chamber is here to serve

Welcome to Historical Lebanon and Laclede County Missouri! We hope your visit or move to our area is an enjoyable experience. Lebanon and Laclede County is a wonderful and relaxing destination for your vacation, get away, business meeting or permanent home. The area boast of several historical and unique blend of experiences such as Route 66, Trail of Tears, Civil War sites, the impressive Bennett Spring and thriving Downtown District.

Experience what Lebanon and Laclede County residents enjoy every day with family fun events, cultural activities and national attractions at the crown jewel of our community- the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center. The Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to stop by for a visit anytime and get to know our blend of past and present small town America with home town hospitality. See you real soon!



**Chamber Director  
Darrell Pollock**

**-Chamber Director  
Darrell Pollock**



**Retired Sergeant First Class Dana Bowman** parachutes in with a giant flag trailing behind him at the 2018 Wagons for Warriors event in Lebanon, which raises money for veterans.

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**DINE**

**STAY**



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# Public Schools



## Lebanon R-3 Schools

### ■ Lebanon R-3 Central Office

224 W. Commercial St.  
Superintendent Dr. David Schmitz  
Phone: 417-657-6001  
[www.lebanon.k12.mo.us](http://www.lebanon.k12.mo.us)  
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Joe D. Esther Elementary School

1200 Clark Avenue  
Pre-K-1st grade  
Phone: 417-657-6002  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Maplecrest Elementary School

901 Maple Lane

2nd and 3rd grades  
Phone: 417-657-6003  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Boswell Elementary School

695 Millcreek Road  
Fourth and fifth grades  
Phone: 417-657-6004  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Lebanon Middle School

2700 Buzz Pride Dr.  
Sixth through eighth grades  
Phone: 417-657-6005  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### ■ Lebanon High School

777 Brice St.

Grades nine through 12  
Phone: 417-657-6006  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Lebanon Technology and Career Center

757 Brice St.  
Grades nine through 12  
Phone: 417-657-6007  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

### ■ Hillcrest Education Center

301 Hoover St.  
Grades nine through 12  
Phone: 417-657-6008  
Office hours: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

## Other schools in the county

### ■ Joel E. Barber C-5 School District

16050 Route KK  
Grades pre-K to eighth  
Superintendent Tina Nolan  
Phone: 417-532-4837

### ■ Gasconade C-4 School District

32959 Route 32 in Falcon  
Grades pre-K through eighth  
Superintendent Jim Bogle  
Phone: 417-532-4821

### ■ Laclede County R-1 District

726 W. Jefferson Ave.  
Superintendent Mark Hedger  
Phone: 417-589-2951







# Higher learning in Lebanon

Degrees can be earned from Missouri State, Drury and OTC in Lebanon

Although Lebanon is a relatively small town, students with big city university ambitions can fulfill their dreams without ever leaving their community.

Ozarks Technical Community College, Missouri State University and Drury University all have campuses in Lebanon and offer a variety of programs.

## MSU and OTC

Thanks to a partnership between Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University, Lebanon students can receive a four-year degree in many fields, including elementary education, criminal justice, communications and general studies.

MSU, which used to be locally housed at the Nelson Education Center, moved into the OTC Lebanon Center's Reuben and Mary Lou Casey Hall, which is named after its 2010 donors, in the summer of 2013 and opened up for classes the following fall. OTC, which offered a two-year associate's degree, will now be able to give its students an option to continue into a specific degree



**Ozarks Technical Community College and Missouri State University share a building** on Route MM just outside of Lebanon.

program.

"Basically what it is going to do is allow the students to have easier access, where they can interact between both schools and end up not only graduating with an associate's degree but also at least a bachelor's degree," said Gib Adkins, outreach coordinator for MSU's Lebanon operations. While MSU students could achieve a bachelor's degree from MSU at the Nelson Education Center, they couldn't do it with the ease that they will be able to at OTC, Adkins added.

"This is going to give a seamless transition from your freshman year on forward with our close partner, Missouri State



**OTC LEBANON**  
Dusty Childress



**MSU LEBANON**  
Gib Adkins

University," OTC Chancellor Dr. Hal Higdon said when the partnership was announced.

The area that MSU moved into was a previously unfinished area of the campus. An open warehouse space was converted into six additional classrooms, restrooms

and an office area.

MSU offers classes in the form of traditional classes and iTV (interactive TV) classes. The iTV classes allow students to interact in real time with a professor in Springfield or 1 of 14 other locations in 4 states who is teaching through a video that is streamed to Lebanon.





## OTC LEBANON CENTER

22360 Route MM  
Lebanon MO 65536

### Phone:

(417) 447-8932  
(417) 532-5044

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## MSU LEBANON

### Phone:

(417) 532-0518  
(417) 532-5044

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**Drury University President Dr. Tim Cloyd cuts** the ribbon on Drury's new Lebanon facility on East Commercial Street in 2017.

"They can interact in real time with the instructor, share papers — everything they could do in a real class," Adkins said. There also will be classes that blend live and iTV classes.

This isn't the first time that MSU and OTC shared the same building. Both were at one time housed at the Nelson Education Center adjacent to Nelson Park.

OTC moved out of the building after the Caseys donated two industrial buildings on Route MM in late 2009. In 2013, the Caseys, who are from California, donated the 50 acres of land surrounding the buildings, bringing up the total value of the family's gift to OTC to \$3.1 million, the biggest gift in the college's history.

The campus opened up in fall 2011 with 13 classrooms, computer labs, a student lounge and student services department at Casey Hall. A second building includes workforce

development and technical education classes.

The finishing of Casey Hall, which allowed MSU to move into the Lebanon Center, was paid for with a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development loan and \$100,000 of OTC's own funds.

Adding MSU to the mix may only be just the beginning of OTC's expansion in Lebanon. The college has announced a master plan that would utilize the extra land donated by the Caseys. The plan includes extra buildings for general education classes, OTC's Allied Health program, agricultural services building, administrative offices and an arboretum. The plans also call for a fountain and several other water features.

MSU had been offering college courses in Lebanon for 15 years. It started offering classes at the Lebanon Technology and Career Center.



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## Drury University

Drury University began classes, including law enforcement courses, in Lebanon in June 2017 in new quarters at 128 E. Commercial St., just across from Drury's Lebanon office.

Lebanon site coordinator Millie Gann said the new home is something Drury has been working on a long time.

"Drury in Lebanon has waited a long time to find a home," Gann said. "We have this beautiful landscaped courtyard to look at every day and we have four classrooms we worked very hard to provide our students."

Drury President Dr. Tim Cloyd said students taking classes in the new facility will have the advantage of a personal connection with instructors.

"We give our students individualized and customized experiences. We are like a boutique rather than a mass online program. We have connections with human beings and that's what's critical," Cloyd said.

Cloyd said the Drury College of Continuing Professional Studies, which offers evening and online courses,



**Future law enforcement officers learn** techniques from Tommy Barker, far left, during a local Drury class.

has been around since the late 1940s. He said Drury's alumni base includes 15,000 living alumni who are graduates of the CCPS.

"Drury was founded in 1873 and it has been serving Missouri and the country for almost 150 years," Cloyd said. "So Drury is not a fly by

night organization, Drury is a place that cares and a place that's a part of Missouri."

The classroom location at 128 E. Commercial St. is a new permanent home for Drury classes in the region and allows Drury to offer summer classes in Lebanon for the first time in several years. The space houses a new computer lab and student lounge. It is home to the Drury Law Enforcement Academy's second location, starting in June. This was the first time law enforcement courses will be offered by Drury in the Lebanon area.

Drury University began in Lebanon in 1986 by offering two courses at the Lebanon Junior High School.

At the Lebanon location students may receive associate's degrees and take courses toward bachelor's degrees.

### Drury University Lebanon

122 E. Commercial St  
Lebanon, MO 65536

### Email:

CCPS@drury.edu

### Phone:

(417) 532-9828, (417) 873-7373

### Website:

[drury.edu/ccps/lebanon](http://drury.edu/ccps/lebanon)



### Ralph Pitts

112 E. Commercial St  
Lebanon, MO. 65536  
BUS. (417) 532-6106

Email: [rpitts@Agent.shelterinsurance.com](mailto:rpitts@Agent.shelterinsurance.com)

### Kim Breeden

601 N. Jefferson  
Lebanon, MO. 65536  
BUS. (417) 532-4329

Email: [kbreeden@shelterinsurance.com](mailto:kbreeden@shelterinsurance.com)



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# Learning to fly

## OTC launches a new aviation program at Lebanon's airport

Ozarks Technical Community College's Lebanon Aviation Center at the Floyd W. Jones Airport launched in June.

The new Lebanon aviation program represents an expansion of OTC's Aviation Flight Technology program, which began at the Springfield campus in the fall of 2017.

City and OTC officials celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony in June.

At the ceremony, Lebanon Mayor Jared Carr said OTC has been a great partner at providing higher education opportunities in the community.

"These courses have made it possible for students to obtain degrees and stay close to home at the same time," Carr said. "OTC's programs have had great success here, from the lineman program to industrial technology, these programs have helped fuel growth and provide skilled workers for our industries."

Carr said the city hopes the aviation program partnership provides the foundation for even more significant growth opportunities for students and the city.

OTC Chancellor Dr. Hal Higdon said the program will help meet the demand for aviation education.

"We were extremely pleased but not surprised that there was a huge demand



for a college pilot training program in southwest Missouri," said Higdon. "Our Springfield program has far more applicants than seats. This expansion to Lebanon gives students more opportunities to pursue high-demand careers in aviation."

Students who complete OTC's Aviation Flight Technology degree earn a private pilot's license and are eligible to become commercial pilots. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, commercial pilots often work as corporate pilots, provide aerial tours or work in agriculture applying chemicals to crops. To become an Airline Transport Pilot, a student typically must earn a bachelor's degree and log additional flight hours.

Students in the program will attend ground school and take general education courses at the OTC Lebanon Center. The flight training labs will be conducted out

of the Floyd W. Jones Airport.

"We are excited to partner with OTC Lebanon to provide this facility for flight training to help meet a growing need in the workforce," Mike Schumacher, Lebanon city administrator said. "The aviation program will invigorate our airport with more activity and air traffic."

At the project's ribbon cutting ceremony, Schumacher said the project was an example of the area's entities working together.

"With everyone working together, great things will be produced for both the student community and the Lebanon community as a whole," Schumacher said.

Students interested in pursuing the Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Flight Technology at Lebanon can call (417) 447-8932 for more information.

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# The journey to a thousand adventures...

## Starts at the county library

The Lebanon-Laclede County Library is celebrating 15 years at its current location at 915 S. Jefferson Ave.

Fifteen years ago, a group of donors got together to transform an abandoned K-Mart building into the biggest library that Lebanon had ever seen.

Every year the library grows its selection. It is home to over 100,000 items, according to director Cathy Dame, and that's not including all the items that can be borrowed through online e-book lending services or from library to library borrowing.

There is wireless Internet service, books on tape, large print books, DVDs,



videos, a children's room and many research resources, like those found in the Missouri Room, the hot spot for genealogists and history buffs.

The Missouri Room houses obituary books published by the Laclede County Historical Society.





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These include obituaries for Laclede County residents, but are invaluable resources for anyone seeking clues about their ancestors. Marriage records and cemetery record books compliment that research, as do copies of published family histories.

There are two volumes of the Laclede County History and the 1888 Goodspeed history of the county that includes a number of biographies of prominent residents and original settlers.

A photocopier and microfilm reader-printers are available for patrons or visitors at the library's cost.

The library subscribes to Heritage Quest, an online genealogical database that carries all U.S. censuses, as well as lists of books and articles about family history and images of Revolutionary War pension records. Library cardholders have free access. Visitors can log on with the library's computer for two hours with a \$2 visitor's card.

The Missouri Room microfilm col-

lection, available free, contains all Missouri census records and many rolls of microfilmed local newspapers, including the Laclede County Republican, the Lebanon Rustic-Republican and all editions of The Lebanon Daily Record and Laclede County Record.

Three reader-printers are available for researchers at library cost.

There are also old editions of the Lebanon High School Magnet yearbook and Polk City Directories for many years.





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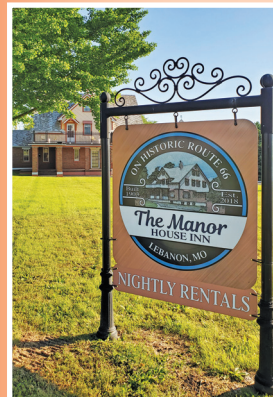
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Besides genealogical materials, the room is full of books and magazines containing Missouri and Ozark history. There are Missouri Blue Books, official manuals, dating from 1889 to the present. There is also a four-volume "Ozark Folksongs, a collection by Vance Randolph that was published in the 1940s.

Best selling books by authors with an Ozark connection are also located in the room. There is "Shepherd of the Hills," written by Harold Bell Wright while he lived in Lebanon and the "Little House" series written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, who lived at nearby Mansfield in Wright County.

The room is ideal for researching Missouri, with information on caves, the capital, flowers, archeology, geology and other subjects.

The library is also a place for fun educational programs for all ages.

Every year, the library sponsors a themed summer reading program for children, from the first of June to the end of July.

For highway and map enthusiasts, there is a complete library of road maps, dating from the 1900s to present.

The library is also home to the Route 66 Museum, which tells the local history of the Mother Road, and the Kinderhook Treasure gift shop, which is filled with numerous unique items.

The building is handicapped accessible.

More information about the library is available by calling (417) 532-2148 or visiting the website at [www.lebanon-laclede.lib.mo.us](http://www.lebanon-laclede.lib.mo.us). ■



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# Lebanon gets its kicks on



Route 66 Museum  
gets visitors from  
around the world

Most people know enough to visualize neon and chrome at the mention of Route 66, but if you really want the lowdown on the Mother Road, then Lebanon's Route 66 Museum is a must-see.

Located in the Lebanon-Lacede County Library, 915 S. Jefferson Ave., the museum is one of only two museums in Missouri that are dedicated entirely to Route 66.



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The other one is in Times Beach.

"You won't find just a ton of these out there," museum curator Mark Spangler said of the museum. "Some communities celebrate their Route 66 connection, and others do not. Some are catching on and actively developing that; we started that process s dozen years ago when we had the idea to do the museum, so we're kind of ahead of the curve."

Although Route 66 probably wasn't much different from other interstate highways in its day, a series of circumstances caused it be one of the most well-known roads from an era when the United States' infrastructure was just beginning to take shape.

"Route 66 wasn't the only highway, it wasn't the longest, it wasn't the first, it just became perhaps the most famous, perhaps

because of some quirky little things that happened," Spangler explained.

To begin with, promotors were exceptionally active in trying to draw attention to the road for economic purposes.

A more specific event that helped launch Route 66 to its current fame was the publication of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath." The novel follows the members of the fictitious Joad family as they head toward California in an attempt to flee the Dust Bowl via — you guessed it — Route 66. Besides nudging the highway into the limelight, the book also coined the term "The Mother Road" in reference to Route 66.

Another popular culture reference to the highway came in the 1960s in the form of a television show simply titled "Route 66."

"It was just a couple of guys in a convert-

ible just out goofing around on Route 66, which kind of hearkens into the whole 'Get your kicks on 66' the whole song that kind of made it famous as far as a sound to go along with it. " Spangler said of the show. "But that's part of the problem. So many people think that's it — 'Get Your Kicks on 66' — and there's so much more to it. You can slice it and dice it in so many ways besides just a place to have a good time."

Lebanon's Route 66 museum originated in 2004 when the library moved from a smaller building into its current location, which was once a K-Mart building. The move allowed the library to have much more space than it had had before; in fact, it had a little space to spare. Route 66 Society member Bill Wheeler had some ideas about what the facility could do with that space.

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"I would say this was his idea. If you could credit any one individual, Bill was the one that approached the library about doing this," Spangler stated.

The library board approved of Wheeler's idea, and the Route 66 Museum was born.

Today, visitors to the museum can see a variety of displays, including three vignettes: one of a gas station, one of a diner and one of a tourist cabin. The museum also boasts a diorama of the intersection of Route 66 and Highway 5 as it looked in the 1940s.

Spangler stated, "Now there's nothing that remains of (the buildings shown in the diorama), but because the family

was careful about documenting their businesses, we have just a fabulous set of photographs of what was one of the jewels in our community of the Route, the Nelson Hotel and Dream Village. And we've got just a fabulous set of photographs — you seldom see a place documented that well with photographs."

The museum also has a variety of artifacts, including a switchboard from the office of the Munger Moss Motel and a piece of sign post from one of the "Our Town, Your Town" signs that used to mark the edge of the city.

"We had two of these signs at the entrances to Lebanon over Route 66,"

Spangler explained. "They were beside Route 66 trying to beckon folks into town. ... And unfortunately we lost those signs. When the route changed directions they were dismantled and scrapped and are now gone. When we redid Elm Street, they came across one of the supports, the one up on the east side of town, so that's as close as we can come to having a piece of the original sign."

The museum features two glassed-in displays, one describing different types of pavement that road builders considered using, and another one explaining the Good Roads Movement, which was the immediate precursor to Route 66. ▶▶

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Although the museum continues to be a work in progress, it receives a large number of visitors. According to Spangler, the Route 66 Museum draws people from around the world.

"You would be gratified to see the amount of people that come to the museum with no more advertising than we are able to do. We have a worldwide audience for that and it seems like it is growing every year. It's very gratifying to see people interested in the things that you spend so much time on," Spangler said.

A good museum always has a good gift shop, and Spangler said that he believes the new gift shop is a wonderful contribution

for the tourism aspect of the museum.

"I'm going to say that you are not going to see a nicer gift shop than ours. You just will not. We have all been working very hard on it, and it seems to have paid off. We set out to make this special and we've done everything we can to do that," Spangler said.

The gift shop features a wide variety of items, both functional and artistic. There are candles, books, tableware, jewelry, paintings, prints and everything related to Route 66.

"If you truly want a unique gift that you will not find anywhere else, we have something for you," Spangler said.

Besides the traditional Route 66-themed



items, the gift shop is actively trying to have American-made traditional arts and crafts. Spangler hoped to add wallets, purses and journals, all handmade.

"The next time you need to buy a wallet for someone, remember the gift shop. You can buy a wallet that is made right down the road in Marshfield," Spangler said.

Preserving Lebanon's history is very important to Spangler, he said. Although his work isn't done, he hopes what is already accomplished is something the community can take pride in.

"Every area has its own history that is interesting and relevant. However, not every area chooses to focus on that ... I would hope that our heritage and things around us are not only things that we care about, but also something that we care to present to people that come to visit us," Spangler said. ■



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# Celebrating Route 66



## Lebanon honors its history with the Route 66 Festival

Route 66 came through Lebanon in 1926, forever ensuring the good fortune that resulted from being on "The Main Street of America." Each year, Lebanon celebrates its good fortune for being included on that historic route with the Route 66 Festival.

The festival, a partnership between the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society and the

Lebanon Parks and Recreation Department, is held in two locations, both on Route 66, in June.

The two-day festival starts on a Friday at the 73-year-old Munger Moss Motel, one of only a handful of existing Lebanon businesses that were operating on Route 66 before it was bypassed locally by Interstate 44 in 1957.

On Saturday, activities move to Boswell Park,

which has been redeveloped with a Route 66 theme, including three murals depicting local Route 66 history.

"This is a good opportunity to celebrate our history and our rich local heritage of Route 66," Loretta Young, chairman of the Route 66 Society's Festival Committee, said.



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All events are free and open to the public. Attendees should bring lawn chairs or blankets, as no formal seating is available.

The festival kicks off Friday night at the Munger Moss Motel with a cruise-in of antique, classic and custom cars. Food and other items are sold by local vendors. Additionally, there's always live music.

Saturday's festivities at Boswell Park begin in the morning when craft booths and memorabilia vendors open.

Lineup for the parade of antique, classic and custom cars starts on Wyota Drive in the Lebanon Industrial Park, east of the Munger Moss on Route 66. The parade follows the route of Route 66 west to Boswell Park. More than 100 vehicles were in the 2018 parade.

Several bands play at the park during the festival. Route 66 fans can listen to the live music while shopping local vendors and enjoying fresh food from area food trucks.

There also is a games area for the younger enthusiasts. Games include a "Gasconade Bridge" casting contest, relay games from age 1 to 108, a sucker lickoff, a gunny-sack race and a stick-horse race. Each participant receives a prize every time he or she plays.

In 2019, the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society used the event to unveil the newest



**Mayor Jared Carr speaks** in front of the Camp Joy cabin during the 2019 Route 66 Festival at Boswell Park.

addition to the Route 66 area of Boswell Park: a genuine rental cabin from a local Route 66 business.

The last Camp Joy cabin now resides in Lebanon's Boswell Park, which has a new area dedicated to the Mother Road.

The cabin was moved from its former location to the park in May 2019.

Long a part of Route 66 history, Camp Joy was a campground that opened in the 1920s, providing shelter to travelers of the iconic roadway.



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Cliff Claxton of the Route 66 Society said the project was a community effort, including city officials and volunteers.

"It's just wonderful that the community came together and made this happen," he said. "A lot of volunteer work, people with different areas of expertise stepped in at no cost. Everything has been volunteer work. And we got to save a piece of Lebanon history."

The project came about when Lee Sing of Sing Rental bought the property where the last remaining Camp Joy cabin was located, according to Bruce Owen, Route 66 Society board member.

"Somebody wondered what he was going to do with it, I said I'll go ask him and he donated it to us just like that, he didn't hesitate at all," he said.

The Route 66 Society then worked to restore the cabin to its original condition and the city agreed to have the cabin located in Boswell Park, which already has a Route theme.

According to an article on the Route 66 Society website, the work included removing a bathroom that was added in 1940. The cabin now is its original size, 12-by-16 feet.

State Rep. Craig Fishel of Springfield, whose family operated Camp Joy for many years, said it brought back many



memories.

"Our family is over the moon, we cannot believe how much Lebanon has stepped up. It was part of our family history, my great-grandparents and grandparents were pioneers in the motel camping business," he said. "We're overwhelmed at what Lebanon is doing. As kids we played up there at Camp Joy and visited with the guests. It's our history, it's our family."

He said Route 66 has also become important to the area's economy.

"Route 66 has become quite an eco-

nomie driver," he said. "Lots of people are driving Route 66, this just adds to it and keeps our family in the history," Fishel said.

Camp Joy was established by a Nebraska family as a campground in 1927, only one year after Route 66, then a two-lane gravel road, was designated a federal highway. The name eventually was changed to the Joy Motel, which remained in the family until 1971. The motel closed in the early 1980s.

For more information about the next festival or Lebanon's Route 66 Society, visit [LebanonRoute66.com](http://LebanonRoute66.com).



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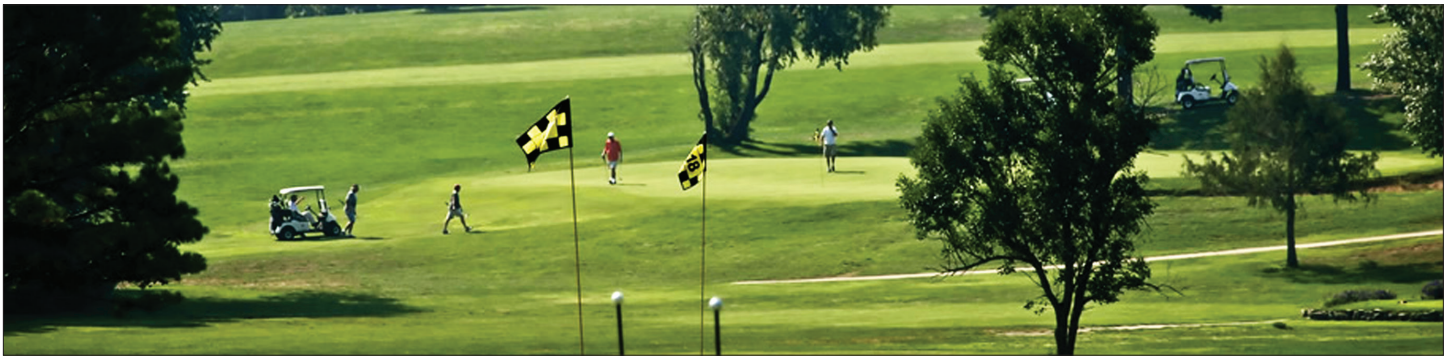
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Hole, and gives golfers an opportunity to relax, and the grounds also feature a swimming pool and tennis courts.

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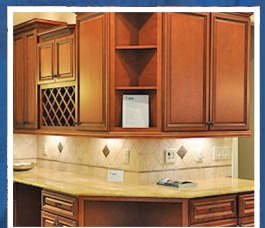
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## Gasconade Park

Located at 4th Street and Harrison, Gasconade Park was Lebanon's first. One shelter was built years ago, and the Lions Club soon added playground equipment. The park currently houses the Hughes Senior Center, for which the city donated land. The park has a quarter-mile walking track, dedicated to Emma LaBlank, who has a long history of serving food to senior citizens in the area.

A second shelter house was built on the foundation of the original bathhouse of the old pool. The park has a play area with equipment and a ball field. Gasconade Park provides green space for neighborhood children and areas for picnicking.

The Lebanon Parks Department turned its attention to upgrades at Gasconade in 2016, sending out a survey to area residents to find out what they'd like to see there. A dog park and a walking trail were some of the favored ideas for the space.

## Spiller Park

A small neighborhood park on Spiller Street near the water tower. It is a small, quiet green space with playground equipment and picnicking areas.

## Boswell Park

Originally known as Maplecrest Park, this area now bears the name of its largest benefactor. It is located on Historic Route 66 and in 2016, the park started being transformed into a tribute to Lebanon's history with Route 66.

After a donation from the Boswell family the park changed names. The family donated \$100,000 in the late 1970s to provide matching funds to build the outdoor pool. It was then named after James E. Boswell, Jr. (1937-1955).

The park includes three shelters for picnicking, a baseball field with spectator seating, concession stand, batting cages and restrooms.

It also has a well-utilized one-mile walking trail. It also includes two lighted tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court and a disc golf course.



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The crown jewel of the park is the Boswell Aquatic Center. The pool complex, located inside the park, is complete with two 26-foot water slides, a kiddie pool, a main pool, shade structures and a recently renovated bathhouse. Since the aquatic center opened in May 2008, thousands of pool-goers have lined up to splash around in the cool water.

The original pool was built in the 1970s and had undergone little in the way of improvements in 30 years of public use. The \$1.1-million pool project included the renovation of the earlier facilities and the addition of several new pool features.

The renovation was funded by the Capital Improvement Tax that was approved by Lebanon voters in February 2007.

Originally the Route 66 theme project was intended as a small "pocket park" inside Boswell Park, but in the summer of 2015 the Lebanon Park Board decided to expand the project to make the rest of Boswell Park Route 66-themed as well. The refurbished park includes three 10-by-20 foot Route 66-themed murals, a replica Route 66 fountain, a new shelter and a Route 66-themed playground.

## **W.T. Vernon Park**

Located on Greenleaf Street. It has one shelter for picnics, a restroom facility and a playground. The park is named after one of Lebanon's most famous residents, W.T. Vernon. Vernon was the first African American to be the United States Register of the Treasury. He was appointed to the position by President Theodore Roosevelt.

## **Wallace Park**

Lebanon's second newest park was the result of a gift from St. John's/Breech Medical Center after a new hospital replaced Wallace Hospital on Harwood Avenue. The land from the old hospital was given to the city, and most of the building was demolished.

Wallace Park also has beautiful new playground equipment and a small gazebo for picknicking. The Lebanon Community Band and Choir perform at the park.





# Atchley Park

Located on North Missouri 5. The park has four ball fields, restrooms, three park shelters, a fenced playground area and a disc golf course. A lighted walking trail surrounds the park.

There are entrances at the back and front of the park. Ample parking is provided. Several weddings are scheduled each year at the gazebo.

Along with the ball fields, patrons to Atchley Park can also enjoy Lebanon's only dog park, which is in a fenced in area near the Missouri 5 entrance and one of the city's newest playground, which was built to be all inclusive to children of all ability levels.

# Palmer Park

A green space located on the southern side of the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center property. The area contains a gazebo that is a popular picnic spot, and it is a good relaxation place after a walk on the trail surrounding the civic center.

# Harke Park

Named in honor of the generosity of Walter and Rene Harke, Harke Park is located on National Avenue just off Fremont Road. It includes a half-mile paved walking track. The park also has a beautiful gazebo, play areas with state-of-the-art playground equipment, a disc golf course, restrooms (heated in winter) and picnic areas.

A new, bigger playground was recently installed at the park. ■





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# GOING GREEN



**Planting a tree for 2019's Arbor Day ceremony in Lebanon are,** from left, State Forester Lisa Allen, Rotary Club President Kim Light, Mayor Jared Carr and Rotarian Don Allen, who helped lead the tree project.

## City named Tree City USA after planting more than 200 trees, shrubs

The City of Lebanon celebrated Arbor Day in 2019 by accepting the designation of Tree City USA in a ceremony at Gasconade Park.

Lisa Allen, state forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, presented

Mayor Jared Carr with the award.

Mayor Carr recognized the Lebanon Rotary Club for partnering with the city on this project.

"I grew up with my dad being in Rotary

and going to events and just seeing what can happen when the community works together to make this a better place to live," Carr said. "Getting this Tree City designation is a great honor for the community."



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The Tree City USA program has been offered in the United States since 1976 and is now in more than 3,400 communities, Carr said

“In the past two years, 225 trees and shrubs have been planted throughout the city of Lebanon and our hope is that through this initiative, Lebanon will become an even more beautiful city and the parks will become more popular with our citizens and visitors,” Carr said.

He said the Lebanon Parks Department has worked with the Lebanon Rotary Club, Lebanon Tree Board and the Missouri Department of Conservation to make the Tree City designation a reality.

John Shelton, parks director, said parks nationwide have started making the transition from open green spaces to more environmentally-friendly areas of trees, shrubs and native grasses. He said the city was now following this trend by planting more trees in its parks.

Shelton also credited the Rotary Club with starting the city’s tree project in 2018.

Lisa Allen said she was attending the event to celebrate Arbor Day and recognize Lebanon for becoming a Tree City.

“I’m very humbled by the work that you’ve done and the things I’ve heard about that you’ve done to become a Tree City USA to make sure that you have healthier trees for the citizens that you serve in this community so I can’t think of a better place to spend Arbor Day,” Allen said.

She said the day was all about the importance of trees.

“So celebrate trees today, they’re important, we can’t live without them, they make our communities more livable, healthier and more beautiful places to be,” she said.

According to the Arbor Day website, more than 3,400 communities have committed to becoming a Tree City USA. Those commitments include maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. ■



**Mayor Jared Carr and Bruce Owen**, whose grandparents donated Boswell Park to the city, plant a tree at the park in 2018.

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# The Nelson Legacy Lives On

City sells old park and uses the money to build a new park with the same name

The Lebanon City Council approved the sale of Nelson Park to White River Marine Group for \$2.5 million at a special meeting in June 2019.

The company plans to expand its Tracker Marine operations in Lebanon.

In a separate, but related contract, the company has agreed to purchase 20 acres located directly adjacent to the Lebanon Middle School for \$600,000.



**This aerial shot taken** by a drone shows the beginning of work on the new Nelson Park in late July 2019.

The City of Lebanon and the Lebanon R-III School District have reached a tentative agreement for a shared-use park facility which will occupy the purchased

land as well as land owned by the school district, according to an announcement from the city.



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"This will be a shared-use facility between the Lebanon R-III School District and our residents," said Lebanon Mayor Jared Carr. "The facility will include four ball diamonds, a concession stand, and eventually soccer and T-ball fields."

The park will also connect with the Missouri Department of Conservation Coleman Memorial Conservation Area and a walking trail.

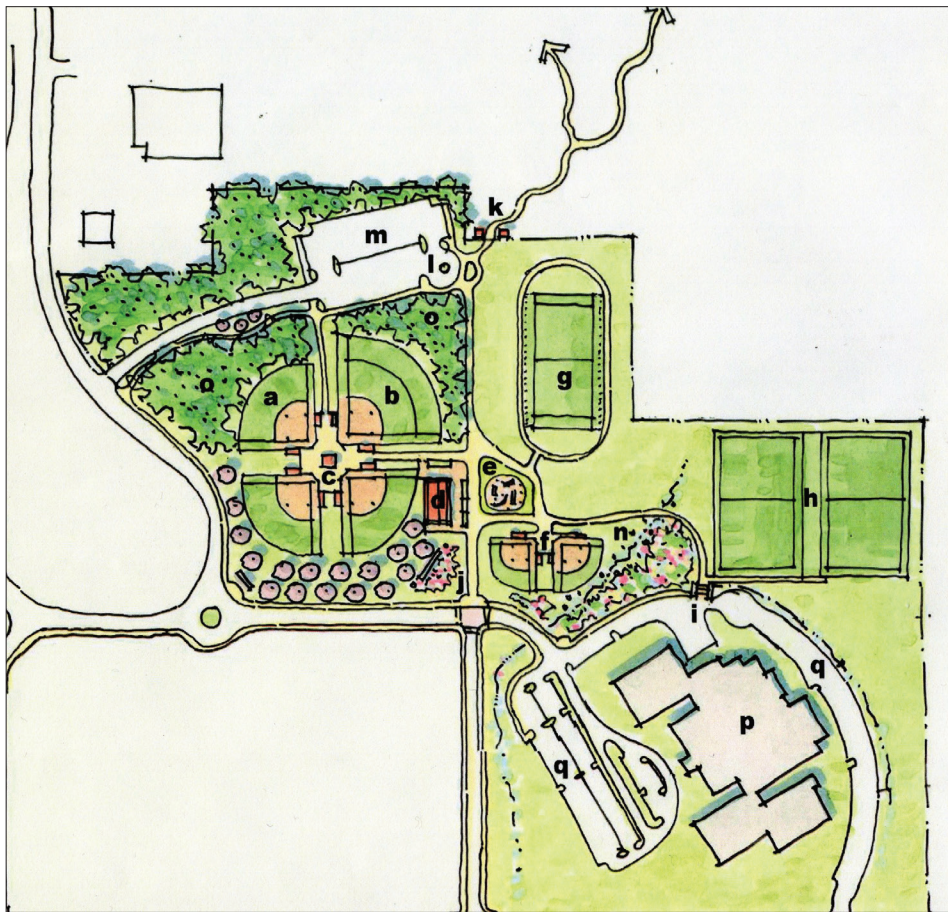
Officials plan to have the new complex ready by spring of 2020. Work began on the project in late July 2019.

Lebanon Middle School students will have access to the complex during the school day, and community teams can have games in the park in the evenings.

"This project is a win for our community and our students. We are glad to be able to partner with Lebanon R-III School District in making this a reality," Carr said.

The Lebanon R-3 School District, in a statement, said the partnership would benefit the community.

"We're excited to be exploring opportunities for a new sports complex and park next to Lebanon Middle School and believe it would be a great asset to our kids and our community," the statement said.






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"We're celebrating this multi-agency partnership between the City of Lebanon, Missouri Department of Conservation and the Lebanon School District to provide an enhanced resource for our community."

The Missouri Department of Conservation said it welcomed the opportunity for more people to experience nature.

"At this time, the Department does not have a defined plan for future collaborative opportunities," said Guerric Good, Missouri Department of Conservation forester. "However, as local staff gain further understanding of the new park plans, they welcome new ways to share and learn about the resources evident at Coleman."

Preliminary plans show that the sports complex area of the new Nelson Park will include four ball fields. Three fields will be for youth baseball with 200 foot outfields and a fourth field will be set up for middle school players with a 275 foot outfield.

Also in phase one of the project a playground will be installed at the park. Equipment will be moved to the new park from the current Nelson Park.



The rest of what is completed in phase one will be dependent upon how much everything is going to cost to implement, Schumacher said. The 20 acres at Evergreen Parkway and Slate Street cost \$600,000, leaving basically \$1.9 million of money from the sale of Nelson Park to complete the new park. Schumacher has said that he could not release a total estimate of what it will cost to build the new park, but he did say that \$1.9 million would not be enough to finish the job.

"We aren't in a position to put out solid numbers yet," Schumacher said.

Preliminary plans show that the park

will also feature picnic areas, two T-ball fields, two soccer fields and a concession stand/restroom.

A parking lot, whose entrance/exit will come off of Evergreen Parkway north of the roundabout, will be able to accommodate up to 150 cars. The parking lot will be a public entrance to the park as well as a trail head to connecting trails in the Coleman Memorial Conversation Area.

The park is being built as a joint project in conjunction with the Lebanon R-3 School District and Missouri Department of Transportation. ■

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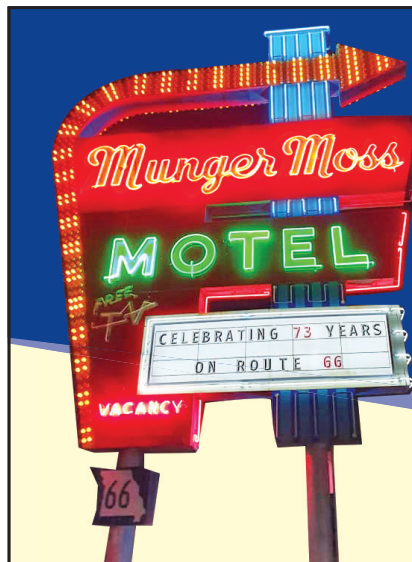
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According to Missouri Department of Conservation Research Forrester Steven Laval, the Coleman Memorial Conservation Area is a 64-acre hidden gem that is beneficial to everyone who visits it.

"I think the Coleman area has something for everyone who enjoys being outside," Laval said.



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"It's great for hiking, seeing wildlife, and for educational field trips. And it's even more special when you consider it's location and the history behind it."

Before the property became a place of Wildlife Restoration, the property was home to Henry Kenneth "Hap" Coleman and Louise Evelyn (Moore) Coleman. Louise Coleman would go on to donate the land after she saw an article in the Lebanon Daily Record written about a high school biology teacher who was seeking land to be used as an outdoor classroom for group projects. Louise Coleman wanted the land to be used for educational purposes, and for those in the community who were interested in observing wildlife inside the city limits.

"She wanted to make sure it went to a good cause, and to people who would love the area as much as she did," Laval said. "She loved the idea of finding a good home for the land. I think it's good that we have a connection to her through the property. The area has a lot of history, and I think her story adds to the property in a way that makes it very special."

Laval says the MDC has worked hard to make sure the property stays as natural and unique as it Louise Coleman left it. The trail on the property is just over a mile and a half in length. When walked completely, hikers will see several types of habitats including an old growth forest with trees that are more than 200 years old, a sink hole that's almost 100 feet deep, and a natural grass land area that is home to deer and turkey.

"We made the trails through the property, but we didn't make any changes to it. The rest of it we try to keep natural. We have a warm season grass field there with natural bluestem and old switchgrass. The deer love to hide there, and we have the closest you could get to an old-growth



forest in this area."

Each section of the land is marked on interpretive signs near the side of the trail. The signs are easy to see and feature an image example, as well as an in-depth definition of the habitat.

"It's great to have a place like this for conservation, but it's even better when there is information available throughout the land to teach people what they are seeing," he added.

Laval believes Coleman would be proud, as the Coleman Memorial Conservation Area is being used "exactly the way she hoped it would be." Several times a year, science and biology classes of the Lebanon R-3 School District take field trips to the area to learn about property, and to observe an ecosystem in person. In the past, the MDC hosted a Conservation Day at the Coleman property for middle schoolers to learn about aquatic life, forestry and all things relating to preservation.

"We always have something going on there. Now that the middle school is right there next door, we've connected the trail system on the property to the school athletic area. And they are using it a lot

more than ever before. They use it to walk, and all of their classes that relate to the land," Laval explained. "It's a natural tie-in. I think that is the neatest thing about the new school. They have a backdoor entrance to the property, and it will always be there."

Although the area is close to the Lebanon Middle School and is used to feature events for younger students, Lebanon High School biology teacher Shane Rebmann believes the area is resourceful for students and adults of all ages. "I love that place, and (I've) used it several times with my classes," Rebmann said. "We've used the area for forestry assignments, leaf and ower projects, soil sampling, water and invertebrate collections out of the pond, and some clean up in the sinkhole. We've actually done quite a few different things out there. It all seems to help these kids get a first hand experience."

Rebmann has been scheduling field trips to the Coleman Memorial Conservation Area for more than 16 years, even before the MDC managed it. In that time, Rebmann says hundreds of students have been able to observe a biological community.

"It's been very beneficial resource to our school. Kids can see things in person. When we talk about succession (the process by which a biological habitat changes over time), I can show them pictures of the pond. The pond there has changed considerably over ten years. And they can see that when they are there, and when I show them pictures I've taken," Rebmann said. "It's not a long trip for us from the high school, and the kids get a chance to explore the trails and take notes that will help them in class. And our school encourages us to use this resource. As long as they tell we can go, we're going to be out there every year." ■

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# Lebanon's Crown Jewel

Everything from community garage sales to concerts are held at the CCC

The people of Lebanon decided in the late 1990s they needed a cultural hub, a place they could hold everything from weddings and graduation ceremonies to plays and concerts.

They voted for a Capital Improvements Tax that funded the building of the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center, which is named for a former mayor of the city. Now not a weekend goes by that something isn't going on at the CCC.

It holds a theater, an exhibition hall, an atrium, meeting rooms and the Lebanon Family YMCA.

Considered by many to be "the crown jewel of Lebanon," it also hosts the

Wall of Honor, which depicts dozens of citizens who have contributed greatly to the community.

The variety of events and activities at the CCC is amazing. While the city's main tourism draws are outdoor, warm weather activities such as visiting Bennett Spring State Park and cruising on old Route 66, the CCC brings visitors to the city year-round.



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The indoor facility is big enough to house numerous events that bring in visitors. Demolition derbies, bull riding events and the state horseshoe pitching and cornhole championships take place there each year. Sporting events such as youth wrestling and roller derby also take place there.

The CCC serves as a venue for the Lebanon High School graduation ceremony and hosts various plays for schools in the theater. Local lovebirds also take advantage of the site for weddings and receptions.

Event the parking lot is used for car shows and outdoor movies for the community.

Probably the most popular event for the CCC has been the Gospel Music Spectacular, drawing top-shelf gospel artists and their fans from all over the country.

The CCC also serves as the site for a humongous community wide garage sale twice a year, gun shows, educational seminars about everything from alpaca wool to economic development, a high-school percussion artists competition and the annual



Miss Merry Christmas pageant.

Most of the events come to Lebanon because of local people who have suggested the CCC to their promoters as a venue. The city also advertises the facility. ■



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# Looking for something fresh?

Everything from homemade bread to fresh vegetables to locally raised beef are for sale at Lebanon's Farmers Market

Kate Bolden, manager of the Lebanon Farmers Market, has been preparing for a busy spring and summer at the market.

Customers can begin buying a wide variety of fresh vegetables, meats, goods and even some crafts on Saturday when the Lebanon Farmers Market opens for the season.

Vendors will be selling fresh flower



and vegetable bedding plants, bramble plants and berries, farm fresh eggs, home-grown (some pesticide free) produce, heirloom vegetables, pastured pork and beef, baked goods, raw honey

and some crafts. The market is a producer-only market, so the vendors will be selling products that they made or grew themselves.

The outdoor market is located across from MFA on Jefferson Street next to the rail-road tracks, and is open rain or shine. Market hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and then on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m. starting in April.

According to Bolden, many people don't know that sales at Farmers Markets are regulated by guidelines from the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Health and the County Health Departments. It is important to the market members to feature safe, quality products.

Bolden is still accepting vendors for the season so if you need more information you may call her at 417-426-5690 or her cell phone 314-608-9848. ■



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# Fun at the fair

The Laclede County Fair arrives the second week of July every summer

**E**ach year in the second week of July, The Laclede County Fair Board brings a week of excitement to Lebanon.

The fair includes livestock exhibits, a carnival and other events throughout the day at the Laclede County fairgrounds in Lebanon with the carnival opening up each night.

In 2018, the fair was able to begin using the Agriculture Legacy Building. The new building has long be a dream of the fair board.

"I don't know of any other county fair in the state that has a facility like this," said Fair Board President Glen Raef. ▶▶



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"It's always been a dream of the whole fair board to get another facility down here because our fair was just growing so fast, we ran out of room," Raef said. "We worked and worked on it and finally we got it going and here we are today."

He said at previous fairs, the livestock has always been housed in the fair barn, which had become crowded.

"All the hogs now will be housed under the new pavilion so that will open up space for more cattle, we'll have a little more room, it won't be quite so cramped and tight," Raef said. "It will be lot nicer showing the hogs and lambs over in that facility, it's air-conditioned. It's a lot easier on the hogs, heat really hurts hogs, it hurts all livestock."

He said the city has also ordered big fans for each barn.

This year, the fair board added a new event the weekly fair festivities, the Ranch Rodeo.

It included mugging, trailer loading, branding, sorting and a calf scramble for the kids. First place received belt buckles, second place breast collars and third place prize money.

The carnival always begins on the



Tuesday night of the fair week.

Also on Tuesday, events begin as the family exhibit building. There's also Senior Day at the Civic Center.

Events throughout the week usually

include a four-wheeler rodeo, antique tractor pull and lawn and garden pull, draft horse pull and truck and tractor pulls.



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Throughout the week kids will be showing off their animals, including everything from chickens to cows. Judging begins in the middle of the week with the sale of champions happening on Thursday night.

On Saturday, along with more animal showing competitions, the annual Pampered Pets Contest is held.

Fair Board President Glen Raef said he has been involved with the fair all his life and started showing livestock there as a kid.

"I've always been a part of the fair, always have been," Raef said. "I've always

had a passion for it, to help the rural youth of Laclede County, give them a place to come and show, and make some memories."

He says the chance to help youth is one of the things that's drawn him to the fair.

"I like the fact that we're helping kids with their projects and we're teaching them responsibility through FFA, 4-H, the home ec part of it," he said. "It gives them a chance to show off what they've accomplished with their projects."

For more information, call (417) 991-8040 or (417) 991-8041. ■

# 83

## Years

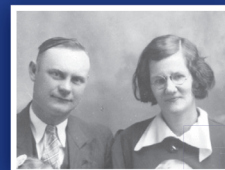
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# Cowboy Cookin'

## Wagons for Warriors raises thousands for local veterans

Every year for nearly a decade, cowboy chefs from around the nation have made the journey to Lebanon to raise money for veterans.

The ninth annual Wagons for Warriors event drew a large crowd May 25, 2019, and raised money for area veterans.

The attendees who paid \$10 to sample the hot food from all the chuck wagons pushed the amount to about \$46,000. Organizer Steve Hull was pleased with the outcome.

"That's what we're about. Helping our local warriors in need," Hull said.

Hull said Wagons for Warriors is not affiliated with any national organization with no paid staff so all the money raised goes directly to the warriors who need it.

"We've got so many good friends that help us put this on, and so many good



sponsors to sponsor us. We couldn't do this without their help," Hull said.

Hull said the chuck wagons came from many states: Texas, Iowa, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Indiana and more.

He said the sponsors and the weather were a blessing.

"It's all come together good this year," Hull said.

Hull attends chuck wagon events and

has made a network of friends. Friendship is a key part of the success of Wagons for Warriors. It is what keeps bringing back the same old faces and some new ones as well.

Bit Pruitt from Henrietta, Texas came to Wagons for Warriors for the first time this year. He left his own G12 Cow Punchers Ministry chuck wagon at home but brought his team of horses to pull his friend Johnny Kee's wagon and to help with the cooking.



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He had a few reasons for coming to Lebanon. The first was patriotic.

"My whole family has been military. Just to give back," Pruitt said.

Another was the camaraderie the chuck wagon aficionados felt from each other after attending other charitable events and cooking competitions across the country.

"A lot of these cooks here are almost like family," Pruitt said.

Camaraderie was a word often heard from the cooking crews, often whole families, when asked what keeps bringing them back.

Unlike Pruitt, many were repeat attendees who even parked their wagons in the same spot as last year, making them easy to find for last year's fans of their brand of chuck wagon cuisine.

Smoked, sliced chuck roast, biscuits, green beans, chunk potatoes and no bake cookies for dessert were on Johnny Kee's menu for the day.

He came up from Beebe, Ark. with his wife Linda for many of the same reasons as Pruitt.

"We see some of these people once a year. Some of them every other weekend, but we still like to be around them," Kee said.

Kee stood in a half-circle of Dutch ovens, cook pots and a smoker that defeated the nice breeze and a pleasant temperature elsewhere. He kept checking the clock in his Ozark Bullwhackers chuckwagon and his biscuits.

The hard work did not bother him.

"If you enjoy it and it's for a good cause, the work becomes secondary," Kee said.

Rodney and Angela Ashworth brought the family's chuck wagon, Trails and Tales, down from Collins, Mo. near Clinton. Their specialty is beef stew that takes four hours to prepare.

His son Cole was injured twice while serving as a Marine in Afghanistan. He knows being a veteran can come with a price.

They brought their younger son Will, 13, daughter, Tiffany Farris and her daughter Amelie, 9, who was in charge of washing dishes and serving the food.

"We try to give back all we can to our soldiers," Ashworth said.

Bit Pruitt summed up why he and the other chuck wagon workers come to Wagons for Warriors.

"We come on our own accord, on our own dime to get here... We just know we come to be a blessing to someone else. We hope folks love what we do, and we love what they have already done for us. We wouldn't have the right to do this if it weren't for the sacrifices made. This weekend to be a Memorial Day weekend, what an honor for us to be able to take our hats off and say thank you," Pruitt said. ■



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## Lebanon celebrates Easter with Eggstravaganza

For nearly a decade, area churches, the Lebanon Family YMCA and Lebanon Parks Department have been teaming up for one of the biggest Easter egg hunts in the area.

A huge crowd of families gather at the Mills Center the Saturday before Easter for the annual Eggstravaganza. Kids are divided into groups for each hunt. The youngest age group will go first.

Along with the eggs, they can also win prizes. Before the event children can also pre-register to be entered in a drawing for prizes. Prizes offered in drawings in the past include bikes, scooters and helmets.

Attendees also get to enjoy hot dogs and drinks during the event.

In between egg hunts, kids can play on inflatable attractions or climb on the rock wall. Many games will be available for kids to play and other prizes will be offered.

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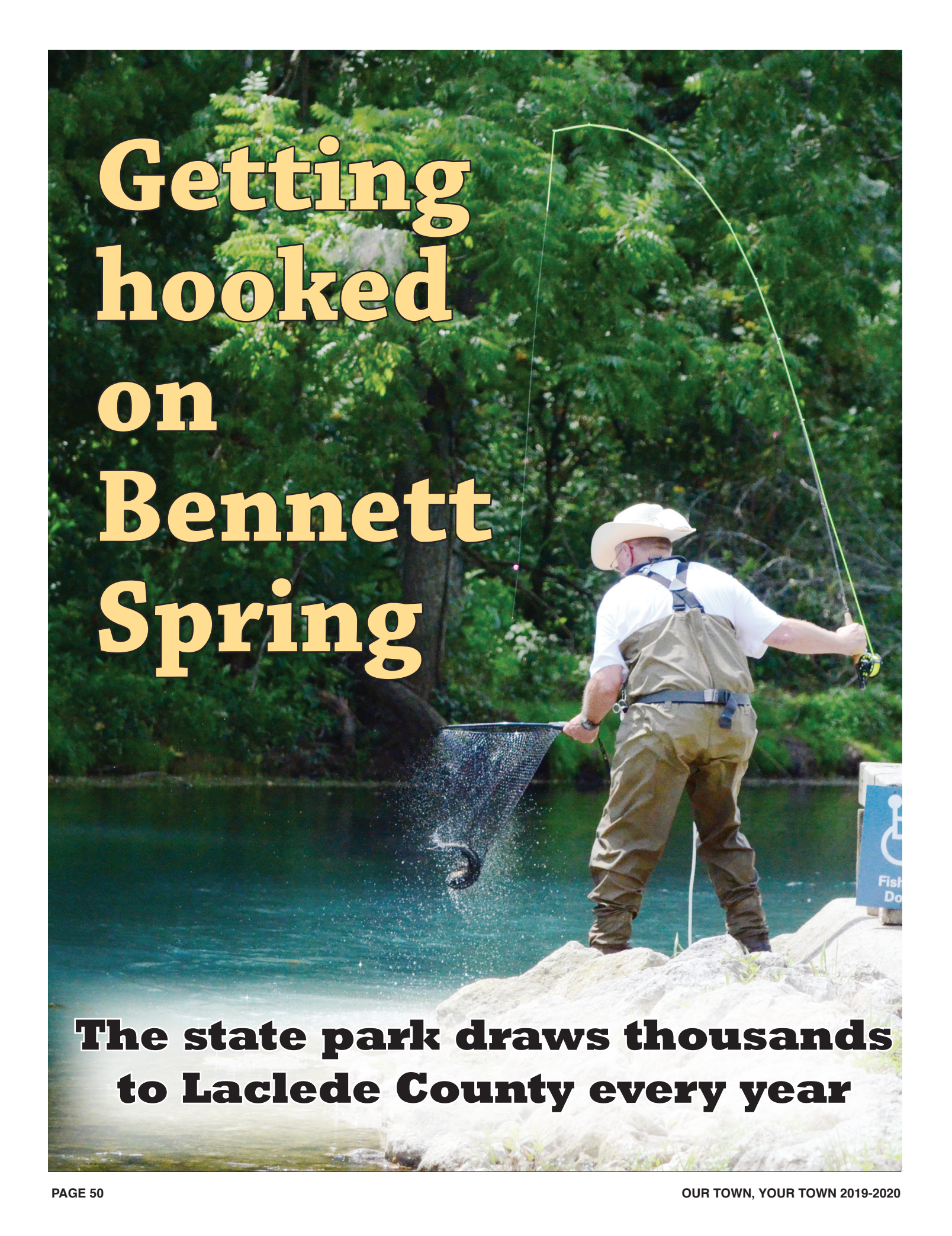
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A man wearing a white shirt, tan waders, and a cowboy hat is fishing from a rocky shore. He is holding a fishing rod that is bent, indicating a catch. A net is visible in the water, and a fish is being splashed out of the water. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

# Getting hooked on Bennett Spring

**The state park draws thousands  
to Laclede County every year**



Just a few miles west of Lebanon is Bennett Spring State Park, one of Missouri's first and most popular state parks, which attracts a growing number of tourists every year.

The third largest natural spring in the state of Missouri pumps 100 million gallons of water each and every day. Anglers from around the nation wade in the spring's waters in search of lunker-sized trout, and those looking for adventures in camping and canoeing come in droves each year, but there was once a time when Bennett Spring State Park was simply known as Brice, Mo.

During the 1920s when America was enjoying prosperity following World War I, Bennett Spring (then known as Brice) was one of many areas considered by state planners to be preserved as a state park.

A Dec. 12, 1924, article in the Laclede County Republican stated that Lebanon Chamber of Commerce President O.A. Mayfield requested that the state consider Bennett Spring as a possible state park site. The article said the first parcel of land, 8 1/2 acres belonging to Josie Bennett Smith, would become a part of Bennett Spring State Park. The land was purchased from Mrs. Smith on Dec. 27, 1924.

Several weeks later, another contract was signed between William Sherman Bennett, Mrs. Smith's brother, and the state for the sale of 565.33 acres. Of that land, 427 acres can be traced as belonging to James Brice, who settled there in 1837. The land where today's park store, office, dining lodge and hatchery buildings stand once belonged to the Bennett family.

Records indicate that James Brice came here from Illinois in search of productive land and a healthful climate.

He decided to stay at the beautiful spring area, which reportedly teemed with wildlife. Elk, deer, wild turkeys, buffaloes and even panthers were said to drink from the enormous spring.



Mill Race below Trout Hatchery at Bennett Spring State Park  
near Lebanon, Mo. BL 25



BIRDS'-EYE VIEW OF  
BRICE, MO.  
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Brice homesteaded 160 acres, which included the spring, and eventually homesteaded additional acreage that included all of the land and spring branch area. He built the first mill in the vicinity where early-day farmers brought their corn for grinding. The mill eventually was washed away during a violent rainstorm and flood.

Brice, the first permanent settler in the Bennett Spring area, died in 1855 and is buried in the Bennett Cemetery.

The Bennett family later settled at the spring area on land known as the Elmer Conn farm, site of the present Sand Spring Motel and Restaurant. The enterprising Peter Bennett built a mill at the spring outlet and Niangua River, which also was washed away in a rainstorm and flood. Bennett built a second mill known as Bennett's Mill during the Civil War years, and it became a center for tradesmen and farmers.

The mill was too small to accommodate the increase in business, so Bennett built a third mill and included a carding machine that prepared wool for the spinning wheel. He also built a sawmill in one section of the mill.

As business continued to grow, Bennett decided to construct a three-story building, and he purchased equipment for it in St. Louis.

Since the railroad track went only to Rolla, Bennett and his employees had to meet the train there and haul the equipment to Brice in ox-driven wagons — a slow process over the rocky fords of that time.

Peter Bennett married Anna Brice, the daughter of homesteader James Brice. After Brice's death, Peter and Anna inherited the property.

When Peter Bennett died in 1882, his son, William Sherman Bennett, continued to run the mill. Bennett's daughter, Josie Bennett Smith, operated a hotel at Brice for many years.

The Bennett Mill was destroyed by fire in 1895. The last mill at Brice was built by Dr. John B. and Freeman Atchley. Others who operated the mill in later years were J.E. Kelly, Mr. Runge and B.J. Usery. The mill stood as a landmark at Bennett Spring for sightseers and tradesmen alike. The Civilian Conservation Corps, which worked in the area during the 1930s, improved the mill. However, it later was destroyed by fire.







The CCC also constructed a log dam, foot trails, a new bridge and many other buildings at the park.

The spring valley already had become a popular camping site in the late 1800s as an area where farmers waited their turns

at the mill. According to a Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) brochure, campers would fish, hunt or visit with local townspeople to pass the time.

By the turn of the century, recreation was gaining in importance at Brice. Ac-

cording to the DNR brochure, in 1900 the Missouri fish commissioner introduced 40,000 mountain trout into the spring, and a privately owned fish hatchery was built in 1923, the year before the state bought the spring and some of the surrounding area for a state park.

The Brice Post Office originally was built as a log building on the river bank and named after James Brice. In later years, it was located in a general store operated by William Sherman Bennett and his wife, Louie. The name of the post office was changed to Bennett Spring in 1939 and finally was discontinued in 1965. Arlie Bramwell was the last postmaster at Bennett Spring.

It was reported that in the early 1900s, William Sherman Bennett had a number of cans of young trout emptied into the spring. The trout thrived in the cold waters, attracting many fishermen.

Brice was the location where famed author Harold Bell Wright completed work on his classic novel, "The Shepherd of the Hills." Wright also wrote "The Calling of Dan Matthews" while he lived in Lebanon.



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PAGE 53



In that book, Wright's "Gordon's Mill" actually was Bennett's Mill.

Today, one of the oldest original buildings at Bennett Spring is the Bennett Spring Church of God, organized in 1917 through the influence of William Sherman and Louie Boles Bennett, who donated land for the church site. In the 1950s, stone veneer was applied over the wooden structure. It is the only original building that was in old Brice.

"Aunt Louie" Bennett was pastor of the church for many years. Today, Bennett Spring Church of God is a very active church and is visited by many fishermen staying at the park each trout season.

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Project Administration (WPA) were two new programs implemented by the U.S. government to put people to work during the Great Depression.

Much work was done at Bennett Spring starting in November of that year. The crews' first tasks were to build barracks for themselves.

They built a new dam, a bridge, a dining lodge, six cabins, a store and post office building, shelters, houses, roads and trails. They also renovated the old Atchley Mill.

The men also constructed a second set of gravel-bottomed hatchery rearing pools and in 1935 built a new section onto the hatchery building. After the men left in 1938, they dismantled all but one of their barracks.

Through the years most of the development at the park has taken place outside of the park's boundaries as private individuals built cabins, hotels, campgrounds and many other businesses. In 1969, Arlie Bramwell sold his wood and stone cabins to



the state. Ralph Usery's cabins were razed. Splan's Resort was once a very busy place there. Vogel's Resort was acquired by the state in 1980.

In 1969, the Nature Interpretive Center opened at the park with George Kastler as the first naturalist, and in 1982 the park dedicated a new office and store building close to the dining lodge on the site of the original Brice.

Later the park's Niangua entrance was

renamed the Bramwell Entrance in honor of Arlie Bramwell.

An additional 1,650 acres of land to the south of the current state boundary was purchased in November 1988 to provide watershed protection for Bennett Spring itself as well as the park area. Each year has brought more improvements.

Now, at 3,216 acres, the state park that arose around Peter Bennett's spring continues to delight all comers. ■



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# Meet The Chief

Chief Sam Schneider  
has been fighting fires  
for more than 30 years

**L**ebanon Fire Department Chief Sam Schneider has spent most of his professional life in the fire service. It is a career choice that has given him a lot of satisfaction.

"I very much enjoy the job. I am appreciative of the challenges that it provides and the brotherhood of the emergency services and the fire service."



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"Here in my own community, I hope to improve and build a department that responds to the needs of the community, citizens and visitors coming through here. It takes a lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of dedication, and I truly enjoy all that," Schneider said.

He spent years rising through the ranks of the fire service on his way to become the chief.

Following his 1988 graduation from Lebanon High School, he began his career in the fire service in October 1989 when he joined the Lebanon Rural Fire Department as a volunteer. His reasons were twofold.

"I was, in all honesty, in a word, bored," Schneider said. Schneider was working as a computer aided drafter after graduation and wanted something interesting to do on nights and weekends. Plus, he was looking for a way to give back to the community where he was raised.

By the time he left Lebanon Rural in 1995, he had risen to the rank of assistant chief, an unpaid position at that time.

He became a licensed EMT through a program at Breech Medical Center. He left his drafting job for an EMT job with Breech Paramedics and began training to become a paramedic, working briefly for Breech.

He left Lebanon in December of 1995 for a job in the Kansas City metropolitan area as a firefighter-paramedic for the Fort Osage Fire Protection District outside of Independence, Mo.

He also worked part-time for the Sni Valley Fire Protection District in Oak Grove.

At the same time, he was volunteering with the Lake Lotawana Fire Department and teaching for the University of Mis-

souri's Fire and Rescue Training Institute and another training program elsewhere.

He worked at the Fort Osage Fire Department for over two years before he began working for the city of Liberty for another two years before leaving for Belton to be a full-time training officer.

Schneider made one last career move in April of 2001 when he returned to Lebanon as Lebanon City Fire Department's chief.

As chief, Schneider is proud of the capabilities of his staff. They are trained in technical rescue, hazardous materials, fire suppression and emergency medical care.

"I can't say enough about the good they do and the work they put in. The dedication from the staff has been tremendous," Schneider said.

He appreciates the cooperation he received from the city councils and city administrators over the years in providing the resources needed to be well equipped with two ladder trucks, a heavy rescue vehicle and two engines that pump over twice the volume of the 1995 engine that was in service when he arrived in 2001.

He is appreciative of his staff as well.

"The nice thing about a career fire department that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week is that you do have that timely response to incidents. The staff, the firefighters we have, simply in my own estimation are incredible. We have a minimum staff that is on duty. If you look at other communities our size, sometimes we don't always have as many on duty as they do, but we still do the job," Schneider said.

While he still dons a turnout coat occasionally, Schneider's role as chief typically involves administration, management, planning and strategies.



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"My job is more one of command and management and administration than it is hands-on physically fighting the fire. I do get suited up once in a great while, not as often as I used to by any means," Schneider said.

Schneider makes certain that training is ongoing at the Lebanon Fire Department.

"We try to train everyday on something. Some days are more intense and take longer than others. Training is one area where we would like to see some improvements made, and we recognize that and we're trying to take steps to correct those things and provide more training," Schneider said.

Training is not limited to in-house activities. Five firefighters recently went to winter fire school at the University of Columbia at the Fire and Rescue Training Institute

Schneider said the fire department responds to calls for emergency medical services to get trained medical personnel on scene as quickly as possible to start patient care. Depending on the scene, ambulance personnel might need extra hands to move a patient from a ditch or down stairs.

It happens rarely, but when events warrant it, like the multiple wrecks on Super Bowl Sunday a year ago, when all ambulances were committed elsewhere, Chief Schneider's crew will transport a patient to the hospital.

Schneider has a few non-fire related hobbies.

For four years, he has coached Wicked Gold, a traveling girl's fast pitch softball team of which his daughter Katie, 15, is a member.

"My wife Lori enjoys it. My wife likes picking on me from the stands with text messages asking me why I'm doing something or why I'm not doing something. 'What were you thinking?' As a family we enjoy it, and our friends enjoy it as well," Schneider said.

Katie may be responsible for another of Schneider's hobbies down the road.

"I am sure my next hobby will be worry-



ing. My daughter is about to get her license in the next few months. I'm sure my hobby will be worrying about her when she's out driving around," Schneider said.

While he may spend some time in the future worrying about an event not likely to happen, he will spend more time preparing for what will.

"We hate responding to any type of a fire or any emergency, but the realization is we know it's going to happen and we want to be ready for it and to respond to it in a quick and efficient way," Schneider said.

Sometimes, Schneider gets surprised by what he finds at the scene of motor vehicle accidents.

"I have seen accident scenes where I knew everybody in the car was dead and nobody was hurt or just minor injuries, and I've seen others where it literally looked like they had slid off the side of the road or something and, unfortunately, they were deceased. You just never know what to expect in those situations,"

Schneider said.

As fire chief, he was on the scene of the Five Angels fire that took the lives of five Lebanon children in June of 2018.

"Anytime you respond to something of that nature, it certainly wears on you. That has probably been the most devastating and emotional incident that I've ever responded in my almost 30 years of doing this. The hardest part for me would just be seeing things of that nature at times. Fortunately, they are few and far between. It wouldn't bother me to never see them again," Schneider said.

What happens more often than a loss of life is the cheating of death. These incidents form the highlights of Schneider's job.

"The times when our crews have saved someone from a car wreck or a fire—we've had a number of saves like people who were in cardiac arrest and are still alive today—those are great moments to see," Schneider said. ■

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# State's top detective

One of Laclede County's finest gets top honor from state investigators

A Laclede County Sheriff's Office deputy was recently named Law Enforcement Investigator of the Year by the Missouri State Investigators Association.

In May 2019, Detective Casey Pitts was honored by the state organization for her efforts in Operation County Wide Sweep, a multi-county investigation that targeted property crime and drug issues. She was also instrumental in helping with a 2018 double-murder investigation in neighboring Dallas County.

"What really stands out is Casey's work ethic. She dedicates herself to this community and working with other law enforcement agencies to solve cases," said Laclede County Sheriff David Millsap.

Pitts rides with an impressive array of evidence-gathering gear in her role as an investigator for the Laclede County Sheriff's Department.

In the course of her job, she goes where the investigation takes her, not just within the con-fines of Laclede County, keeping Sheriff Millsap informed of her progress and her destination.



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"Whenever I do an investigation, as a Sheriff's Office investigator, I can go pretty much wherever I need to go to do interviews and talk to victims, witnesses and suspects. We work really well with the local officers and surrounding counties and municipalities," Pitts said.

Pitts is in her second year as an investigator for the Laclede County Sheriff's Department. After attending the Sheriff's Training Academy in Waynesville, she began working part-time for the department in June of 2006 as a reserve deputy for Sheriff Richard Wrinkle, serving papers, then full-time as a deputy for Sheriff Wayne Merritt and now as an investigator for Sheriff David Millsap.

She was confident of her investigator potential.

"I just thought I'd be good at it. I have a good work ethic and take what we do seriously, and by nature, I am pretty inquisitive," Pitts said.

She said her experiences as a road deputy are typical of the job and included using force when necessary.

"Everybody has to do that if you stay in this job long enough," Pitts said.

She has drawn her weapon when entering a home on a search warrant and during other dangerous situations, but she has not had to discharge her weapon.

On her time off, Pitts likes to enjoy what she calls "regular time." Regular time includes spending time with her husband, Lebanon Rural Fire Department Chief Phillip Pitts. They met after he programmed the Sheriff's Department's portable radios as a volunteer for the Office of Emergency Management



under Jon Ayres. Pitts caught her attention thanks to a dirty radio.

"He swapped mine and another deputy's radio, so I messaged him because that radio was really dirty, and I wanted mine back," Pitts said. She messaged him via Facebook, saying whoever mixed up the radios was "in big trouble." He apologized and said he would make it up to her by taking to her a concert.

"That's been over five years ago now. We've been married for three," Pitts said.

Being an investigator in law enforcement

can be a tough job. The nature of the work has caused several people to leave law enforcement after their first negative experience on the job.

"It's not for everyone," Pitts said. Part of what makes her job doable is the people with whom she works.

"We have a really good team here now...I think the public recognizes that. We have really good training and people who are here for the right reasons. That helps a lot, too. I really like the people I work with. You can depend on them," Pitts said. ■

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# The face of the Lebanon Police

Det. Sgt. Springer is the LPD's first female sergeant, public information officer

Detective Sergeant Kacie Springer has a short list of tools that she uses to investigate cases for the Lebanon Police Department.

"My brain, a pen and a computer," Springer said.

Thanks to human biology and 12 years of experience and mandated training, her brain is her principal tool. However, its

primary tool is the computer.

"Ninety percent of the work I do is on a computer, not only with the basic investigations we do here at the Lebanon Police Department, but with my Internet Crimes Against Children investigations, 90 percent of it is computer-based," Springer said.





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Springer is the LPD's first female sergeant.

"The chief actually brought that to my attention. As soon as I was promoted, he said, 'You're the first female sergeant in the history of this department.' I was like 'Oh, that's great. Let's get back to work,'" Springer said.

When the law enforcement bug first bit Springer, she attended Mizzou's Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia.

After landing a job with the LPD in 2007 and confirming what her life's work would be, she went back to college and will complete three bachelor's degrees in criminal justice, psychology and sociology in December.

So far this year, Springer has completed some Internet Crimes Against Children training (ICAC) on undercover chatting.



She investigates cases for the LPD and for the Lake Area Cyber Crimes Task Force that covers five counties. Currently, she has five ICAC cases open thanks to Cyber-Tips information from the National Center for Missing

and Exploited Children.

She is also the LPD's public information officer, a member of the Lake Area Major Case Squad, and a task force officer with Homeland Security Investigations.

She gets the most job

satisfaction from obtaining charges against those who commit crimes against children.

"We know that that perpetrator is no longer going to be able to harm that child and hopefully any child in the near future," Springer said.

Even though Springer works some long hours, she seems to have found her niche.

"I love my job. It keeps me busy, and I am busy all the time. Knowing that I am helping, helping not only my coworkers and all the stuff they need help with and assistance with, but helping victims, being an advocate, following through and getting the job done. I love my job. It's satisfying all the way around. It's not considered a job if you enjoy coming to it, so this is just my place, my second home," Springer said. ■

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# LPD trains the heroes of tomorrow

For the past decade, the city has hosted a junior police academy

For the past 10 years, the Lebanon Police Department has hosted a Junior Police Academy for the youth of Laclede County.

Last year, 25 kids graduated from the free program that shows kids various sides of law enforcement.

For attendee Jo Funk, 14, of Phoenix, Ariz., the academy was an eye-opening event.

"My entire life I've been terrified of police...Being able to do this program, it showed me that it's really different from what I thought," Funk said.

Lebanon Police Officer Rodney Van Sickle has been a presenter at the Junior Police Academy since its inception. He said its scope is wide-ranging and touched on a few of its activities.

"What we do in one full week is try to teach everything we can that a police officer does in six months to a year in their normal academies. They do a lot of hands-on activities, so they get out here and they get to do the handcuffing, they get to drive the go-karts with DWI glasses to see what the effects are. We'll do simulations of a traffic stop, how they



approach a car, how far they're supposed to approach a car, what to ask, what to look for," Van Sickle said.

Van Sickle said some aspects of the Junior Police Academy, like marching and standing to attention, stress working as a team. For example, marching in place, the cadets worked at making their footfalls sound in unison.

Field trips were part of the curriculum. The cadets toured the Lebanon Police Department and the Laclede County Jail as well as visiting with Judge Steve Jackson in the Laclede County courthouse.

Van Sickle said the free academy educated interested kids aged 10 to 14 about law enforcement and about police officers as well.

"It's a great opportunity for any child to learn more about law enforcement. It gives back to our community. Police officers aren't just out there to arrest you and write tickets. We want to educate you and have any child feel that if something goes wrong, you can run to a police officer, not be fearful of them. We're here to help them. That's what it's for," Van Sickle said.

The Junior Police Academy piqued the interest for its cadets and changed Funk's previously negative impression about police officers.

"It's an amazing opportunity, and the officers that run it – Ambrose, Janko and Van Sickle – they're all amazing people," Funk said. ■



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The following year, the track became part of the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series and became a paved track. Everyone from Ken Essay to Billy Moyer raced on the track in those early days. Nationally known drivers like Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards used the track to help vault their careers.

For a short time in the early 2000s, the track went back to dirt, but it starting in the 2010 season, it went back to a NASCAR sanctioned asphalt track.

The current track isa. High banked 3/8-mile asphalt oval.

The I-44 Speedway season runs from April through September. Races are held each Saturday night with gates opening at 6 p.m. and the races starting at 7:30 p.m. For ticket prices, visit [www.i44speedway.net](http://www.i44speedway.net).

### Lebanon Midway Speedway

Lebanon Midway Speedway, located just outside of town at 22301 Route B, was opened in June 2004. It offers good old fashioned close dirt track racing on its 3/8ths semi-banked oval track. The track hosts races from B-mods, street stocks, Midwest mods, bombers, pure stocks and hornets.

Midway Speedway's season is split in two. From March 31 to Aug. 4, races are held Friday nights. From Sept. 9 to Nov. 4, races are held on Saturday nights. Gates open at 5 p.m. with races starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.lebanonmidwayspeedway.com](http://www.lebanonmidwayspeedway.com).



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One of the first known newspapers printed in Lebanon was 'The Clipper', a small, short-lived paper published in the 1860s. Several other newspapers sprang up in the early days of Lebanon. Most lasted only a short time.

To trace the roots of the Laclede County Record, you have to go back to 1866 when the Laclede County Republican was established by Major A.F. Lewis. As evident by its name, the newspaper had very strong Republican views.

The paper was sold and changed names several times.

OUR TOWN, YOUR TOWN 2019-2020

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J.E. MacKesson bought it in 1892, and he and his family operated the Republican for more than 30 years. Another early paper that is part of The Daily Record's heritage was the Lebanon Rustic, established in 1873. The Milton Fullers operated this paper the longest number of years of any of its owners. The Rustic and Laclede County Republican were combined in 1935 when a stock company, under the name of the Lebanon Publishing Co. Inc., purchased the Laclede County Republican, the Lebanon Rustic and the Lebanon Times. The Times had been published for a short time by Paul "Pete" Page. The papers combined under the name of the Rustic-Republican, with Fred May as editor and publisher of the company and Paul Page as manager.

Lebanon's first daily paper with paid circulation was The Lebanon Daily News, established in 1936 by Mr. and Mrs. Fred May. The first issue of The Lebanon Daily Record hit the streets Aug. 6, 1945.

In August 1946, Ozark Newspapers Inc. purchased the Rustic-Republican and Daily News from Col. and Mrs. Fred May.

The businesses were consolidated under the name of Lebanon Publishing Co. Inc., with the weekly paper continuing as the Lebanon Rustic-Republican and the daily as The Lebanon Daily Record.



**Beth Chism** is the publisher of the Laclede County Record.

In 1953 Lebanon Publishing Co. was purchased by the late O.R. Wright, father of current owner and president Dalton Wright. Dalton Wright purchased the newspaper in 1972.

He has been active in community activities for three decades as well as serving as president of the Missouri Press Association in 1986 and the National Newspaper Association in 1998. In 2000 he was inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame.

Dalton Wright's son, Matt Wright, was named publisher of the newspaper in 2017.

Wright has made a push in the newspaper for a renewed focus on local news with no national news reported in the newspaper.

The last issue of the Rustic-Republican was published Sept. 25, 1975. Since then, The Lebanon Daily Record has been the only "legal" newspaper — a newspaper qualified by law to publish legal notices — in Laclede County. The newspaper and its predecessors have been published at various locations on Commercial Street in Lebanon most years since 1866. In February 1973, the office was moved from 221 E. Commercial to 290 S. Madison.

By the end of 1996, Lebanon Publishing Co. reached another milestone when it announced the purchase of the historic Lingsweiler building at 100 E. Commercial. After a year of construction and renovation in an attempt to return the 1912 structure to as close to its original condition as possible, the company moved its news, advertising, composing and business departments in the spring of 1998. Other departments, including the pressroom, remain at 290 S. Madison.

In 2018, the newspaper became the Laclede County Record. It now publishes on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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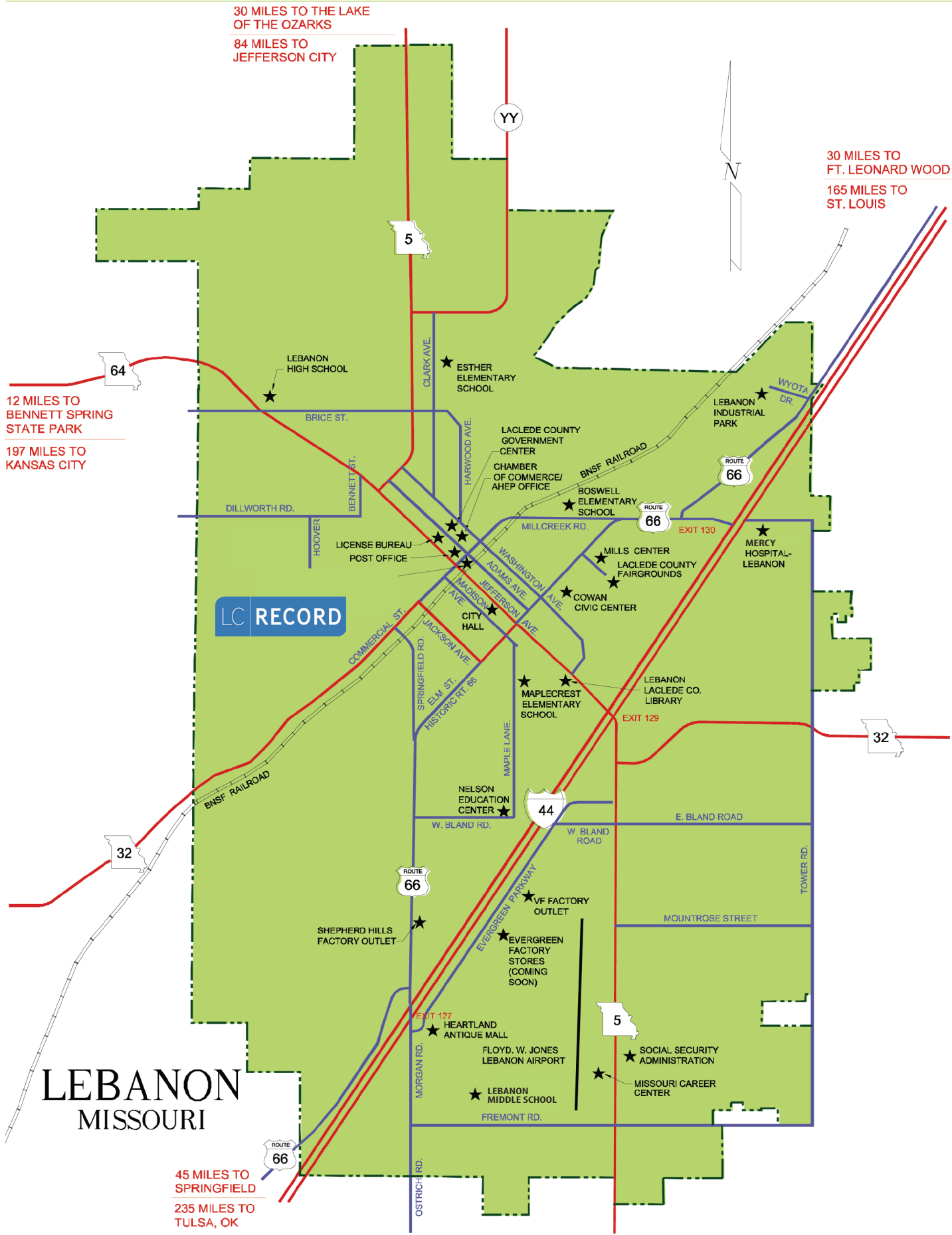
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Butler Supply (417) 533-3131	EmergencMe, LLC (417) 533-2026	Helton's Home Furnishings (417) 532-7888	LAKE PRINTING (573) 346-0600
C & C Farm and Home (417) 532-7158	EMERSON CLIMATE TECHNOLOGIES, INC (417) 588-8600	Hemp Hemp Hooray (417) 718-4530	Lake Regional Health System (417) 991-3103
C&G Sanitation (417) 286-3333	Express Stop Stores (417) 532-8112	HERITAGE BANK OF THE OZARKS (417) 532-2265	Law Offices of Meagan Howe (417) 595-7071
CACKLE HATCHERY (417) 532-4581	Factory Connection (417) 532-2454	Heritage Tractor Co. (417) 839-0661	Layla's Jewelry Repair (417) 991-3566
CAMBARLOC ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING (417) 532-4601	Fairway Independent Mortgage (573) 271-2884	Hicks Construction Co. Inc. (417) 473-6242	LEBANON AREA FOUNDATION (417) 532-8868
CARMECO, INC. (417) 532-6133	FALCON FLOOR COVERING (417) 532-3118	Hidden Valley Outfitters (417) 533-5628	Lebanon Board of Realtors (417) 588-9777
Carr & Associates, Inc. (417) 532-8487	Family Business Services 1-800-275-6008	HOGAN LAND TITLE CO. OF LACLEDE COUNTY (417) 532-5333	Lebanon Cleaning Crew (417) 650-0301
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE #1083 (417) 588-3994	FAMILY EYECARE ASSOCIATES (417) 532-2562	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (417) 532-1111	LEBANON CONCERT ASSOCIATION (417) 588-3574
CASTLEWOOD STUDIOS (417) 532-2329	Farmers Insurance Agency-Joella Bowman (417) 532-5193	HOLMAN-HOWE FUNERAL HOME (417) 532-4061	Lebanon Education Foundation (417) 531-0274
CENTURY 21 LACLEDE REALTY (417) 588-1200	Farmers Insurance Douglas Smith Agency (417) 531-3383	HOMETOWN PHARMACY (417) 532-9110	LEBANON FAMILY CHURCH (417) 533-3655
Chen's Chinese Super Buffet & Hibachi (417) 991-3777	Faron Adamson CPA (417) 533-5277	HOSPICE COMPASSUS (417) 532-0372	LEBANON FAMILY DENTISTRY, LLC (417) 588-1690
Choices in Health & Life (417) 532-3360	FCS Financial (417) 588-5828	Hughes SR Center (417) 532-3040	LEBANON FAMILY YMCA (417) 588-1177
CITY OF LEBANON (417) 532-2156		IMPACT DIRECTORIES (314) 336-3090	
CLAIM (417) 533-5017			



# 2019 Membership Listing Continued...

Lebanon Gospel Music Get-Together (417) 236-9090	MOFWB Missions (417) 532-6537	Rhodes Exterminating (417) 532-5259	THE MEBRUER LAW FIRM (417) 532-3177
LEBANON HOST LION'S CLUB (417) 532-6502	Morgan Music (417) 588-1970	Richardson Construction (417) 531-5369	THE PARLOR SALON (417) 588-4217
Lebanon Humane Society (417) 532-9671	Munger Moss Motel (417) 532-3111	Ringside Championship Wrestling (417) 650-6118	The Salvation Army (417) 532-5135
Lebanon I-44 Speedway (417) 532-2728	Murrell Farm Supply (417) 588-3276	RIVERFRONT CAMPGROUND & CANOE RENTALS (417) 588-3386	The Smiling Goat (417) 531-2798
LEBANON PHONE CENTER & ALARM INC (417) 532-9819	My Daily Choice/Hempworx (618) 402-6132	ROBERT S. SHOTTS, INC. (417) 588-7877	The Timbers Apartments-Bryan Properties (417) 864-6303
LEBANON PROPERTIES I, II AND III (417) 588-4005	My Networks LLC (417) 501-9138	Robert W. Plaster Foundation (417) 533-3007	The UPS Store (417) 532-7355
LEBANON PUBLISHING COMPANY (417) 532-9131	National TV Sales and Rental (417) 588-2236	ROGERS AUTO WRECKING SALVAGES, INC (417) 532-3731	The Vintage Cowgirl (417) 532-3201
Lebanon Pump Service (417) 589-2023	Nature's Pantry (417) 533-3608	Russell Stover Chocolates (417) 588-1411	Thrivent Financial (417) 531-4712
LEBANON R-III SCHOOLS (417) 657-6001	Neighborhoods Inc. (417) 533-5080	S.C.A.N. Supporters of Children with Additional Needs, INC (417) 991-2029	Tiger Express Car Wash (573) 999-2897
Lebanon Ready Mix (417) 532-6179	New Life Project (417) 718-2900	S.C.O.R.E. (573) 346-5441	TIMBER CREEK ESTATES (417) 533-1129
Lebanon REDI (417) 533-5627	Niangua River Oasis (417) 532-6333	Sakelaris Buick GMC Cadillac (417) 532-3121	Titan Propane (417) 532-2121
LEBANON RITZ 8 THEATRE (417) 588-9724	NORTHBRIDGE PLACE (417) 532-9793	SAND SPRING RESORT (417) 532-5857	Total Highspeed Internet Services (417) 851-1107
Lebanon Rotary Club (417) 532-8868	O'Quinn Marketing (417) 531-0483	Sawyer Tire Inc (417) 991-3590	Tower Village Villas (636) 527-2003
LEBANON SENIOR APARTMENTS (417) 883-7887	OATS, Inc. 1-800-269-6287	School of Performing Arts (573) 528-6358	Transworld Business Advisors (417) 322-6460
Lebanon Soccer Association (417) 718-8191	On Point Design (417) 588-7254	SHADEL'S COLONIAL CHAPEL (417) 532-6161	TreeTops Advertising (660) 221-7745
LEBANON SUNDANCE APARTMENTS (417) 533-7604	OSAGIAN CANOE (417) 532-7288	SHELTER INSURANCE AGENCY - KIMBERLY BREENEN (417) 532-4329	TRI-COUNTY CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (573) 368-5933
LEBANON-LACLEDE COUNTY LIBRARY (417) 532-2148	OTC Lebanon Center (417) 532-5044	SHELTER INSURANCE AGENCY - RALPH PITTS (417) 532-6106	Tribe Salon (417) 718-6257
LHS Publications Group (417) 718-3412	Owen Sandblasting (417) 588-1338	SHEPHERD HILLS FACTORY OUTLET (417) 532-7000	TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH (417) 532-3433
Liberty Family Realty LLC (417) 818-6136	Ozark Farm & Machine (417) 322-0161	Shoe Sensation #618 (417) 532-1131	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (417) 532-2717
LIFEPOINT CHURCH (417) 991-2911	Ozark Harley Davidson (417) 532-2900	Show Me Clean Carwash and Dogwash (417) 718-1482	Triumph Engraving Shoppe (417) 533-7661
LINDSAY CHEVROLET (417) 532-3114	OZARK MEDIA (573) 336-7620	Sing Rental & Uhaul (417) 532-2353	TRUE CONSTRUCTION (417) 588-3235
LINDSAY FORD (417) 532-3146	Ozark Visions/Ozark Haunted House (417) 532-1002	Slim Chickens (417) 991-2552	Truelove Quartet (417) 664-2161
Link Family Music (417) 718-3606	OZARKS COCA-COLA/DR. PEPPER (417) 532-7131	Smart Asset Opportunities (417) 664-0880	Ultimate Challenge Production (870) 224-5774
LOWE Boats (417) 532-9101	Ozarks Farm & Neighbor, Inc (866) 532-1960	SONIC (417) 532-6330	UNITED INSURORS (417) 588-4121
Lowe's Home Improvement (417) 588-6970	PAGE OFFICE SUPPLY (417) 532-4012	SoundLife Hearing Technologies (417) 753-2971	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION CENTER (417) 532-7126
LSK LEBANON (417) 588-3550	PAGE PRINTING (417) 532-6232	Spectacular Productions (417) 288-8548	US BANK (417) 588-4111
Lt. Governor MIKE PARSON (573) 751-8793	Paterno Realty (417) 533-7653	Spice It Up Salon (417) 322-8408	US CELLULAR (417) 588-2822
Madison Street Grill (417) 532-0120	PAUL DAVIS RESTORATION (417) 588-5880	Spring Valley Ranch (417) 533-2153	USO of Missouri, Inc. Fort Leonard Wood USO (573) 329-2039
Manpower Inc. (417) 532-1212	Pauseable Moments Photo Booth Rentals (417) 288-2875	Stan O'Daniel/NWTF (417) 217-0560	Velvet Cake Shop (417) 650-6993
Marine Electrical Products (MEP) (417) 588-3128	PENMAC PERSONEL SERVICES (417) 588-8990	Starlite Lanes, LLC (417) 532-4262	Vendor Center (417) 718-7606
Martin's Discount Cigarettes, LLC (417) 531-0999	Phoenix Home Care (417) 344-8001	STATE FARM INSURANCE - FRED HYNES (417) 588-2777	Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4107 (417) 532-2627
Mary Kay Beauty Consultant, Sam Stoner (417) 588-2390	Pierced (417) 532-4446	STATE FARM INSURANCE - SCOTT CHASE (417) 588-1555	VF OUTLET (417) 588-4142
Mary Kay Cosmetics (573) 433-5193	Pillar Insurance, LLC. (417) 532-6050	State Representative Jeff Knight (573) 751-1167	Vic or Sybil Slaughter (417) 588-0526
Master Donuts (417) 991-3435	Pit Lane Super Lube (417) 532-1949	STATE SENATOR SANDY CRAWFORD (417) 345-2958	VIDIE'S CATERING (417) 588-5452
MATTAX, NEU, PRATER EYE CENTER (417) 588-2400	POLK CITY DIRECTORY (417) 882-3948	STEVE JACKSON (417) 532-2471	Village of Phillipsburg (417) 589-2400
McDonald's Lebanon II (417) 532-3653	Powerhouse (417) 533-0658	STOWE, LYNN (417) 588-9274	Vintage Flower Market (417) 664-2524
McDonalds of Lebanon (417) 532-6144	Precision Cutter & Tool (417) 532-7729	STUDIO C PRODUCTIONS (417) 741-2218	W.T. Vernon Housing Corp. (417) 532-9733
Meek's Building Center (417) 588-3223	Premier Auto Rebuilders & Truck Salvage (417) 532-5555	STURDEVANT ACRES BED & BREAKFAST (417) 588-3112	WAL-MART STORE #14 (417) 588-2268
Memorial Chapel and Crematory (573) 774-6111	Premier Property Group (417) 991-2289	SUMMIT NATURAL GAS (800) 927-0787	Wall Construction (417) 532-3679
MERCY CLINIC - EYE SPECIALIST (417) 533-6540	PRICE CUTTER (417) 532-7724	Summit Taekwondo Center (417) 718-9543	WALTERS, STAEDTLER & ALLEN CPA'S (417) 532-5941
MERCY FAMILY PHARMACY (417) 533-6770	Project 360 Youth Services (417) 991-3606	Sun Loan Company & Tax Service (417) 588-3100	Waterman & Associates, LLC (417) 532-7135
MERCY HOSPITAL LEBANON (417) 533-6100	PURE People United Reaching Everyone (417) 718-1422	SUPER 8 MOTEL (417) 588-2574	WCA WASTE CORPORATION OF MISSOURI INC. (417) 426-5004
Metal Plus Construction, LLC (573) 247-2629	QUALITY HEATING & AIR (417) 532-6239	Suzie Pollock (417) 527-4144	WEAVER AUTO SALES (417) 532-3550
METALTECH PRODUCTS, INC (417) 426-5577	R.P. Lumber (417) 532-7155	T H Rogers Lumber Company (417) 532-9181	Webster University - Ft. Leonard Wood Campus (417) 329-6777
MID-MISSOURI BANK (417) 588-1000	Randall Sutter, Atty. At Law (417) 532-6123	T'S REDNECK STEAKHOUSE (417) 532-3519	Wehr RV's (417) 720-1130
Mid-Missouri Insurance (417) 532-5800	Randall's Plumbing (417) 755-2116	Terra Veterinary Service (417) 532-9147	Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (573) 336-1277
Mid-Missouri Responsible Breeders (417) 718-4182	Re/Max Next Generation, LLC (417) 991-3333	The Byron House, Inc. (573) 280-0490	Westrock Orthodontics (417) 532-9532
Midwest Basement Tech (573) 693-9448	REAL LIVING A HELPER REAL ESTATE (417) 533-3571	The Doggie Salon (417) 532-9977	WHIRLWIND RANCH (417) 533-5280
Mighty Oak Lodge (417) 288-9258	REALTY EXECUTIVES OF LEBANON (417) 588-5706	THE DURHAM COMPANY (417) 532-7121	Whitty Chiropractic (417) 532-5462
MIKE LIGHT INSURANCE AGENCY (417) 588-5123	Red Carpet Cleaning, Inc. (417) 322-6338	The Flirty Frog, LLC (417) 650-6278	WILL BRADLEY (417) 532-9559
MISSOURI CAREER CENTER (417) 532-6146	Regal Beloit (417) 657-0304	The Governor's Quarters (417) 718-0295	WILLARD ASPHALT PAVING, INC. (417) 532-7107
Missouri Eagle (417) 532-6157	REGIONAL HOSPICE (417) 532-5139	The Lodge at White Buffalo Ranch (417) 532-2927	Willard Quarries (417) 532-7107
MISSOURI ENTERPRISE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE (573) 364-8570	Renee Hoagenson (573) 489-6545	The Mail (417) 532-2643	WORLD FINANCE CORP (417) 532-9660
MISSOURI OZARKS COMMUNITY ACTION (573) 765-3263	Republic Services of Lebanon (417) 532-1600	The Manor House Inn (417) 718-7280	
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Target Bankers Day at the Capitol - First State Community Bank-Lebanon Michelle Arnold, Mark Campbell, Senator Crawford, Annette Howell & Judy Taylor



First State Community Bank February 22 - Thank you for those FSCB customers, community leaders and dignitaries for attending our Cyber Security Breakfast, which was hosted by our Lebanon and Conway branches. Just another way FSCB provides the resources needed to achieve and protect financial... See More



## LC GIVING BACK

### Bank donates to Shop With a Cop



First State Community Bank employees in Lebanon and Conway donated \$1,000 to "Shop With a Cop" on Nov. 16. FSCB Employees in the Lebanon and Conway branches pay \$2 to wear jeans on Fridays. That money is then donated back to Laclede County charities and organizations quarterly as voted on by employees.

### Jordan Valley

### Mid-Missouri gives to Community Cares

# Committed to You.

First State Community Bank aims to help every customer reach their specific financial goals. Whether you're starting your child's first savings account or are expanding your business, we're here to help with all the products and services you need. Plus, we are local people who care about our community and its future. That's why we have a genuine passion for Laclede County.

Welcome to Lebanon! Remember, that when it comes to your finances, success starts here.

Success Starts Here.



First State Community Bank

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**North Lebanon:**  
950 Lynn Street  
**South Lebanon:**  
1419 South Jefferson Avenue

**Inside Wal-Mart:**  
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**Conway, Missouri:**  
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