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The Mexico Ledger

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

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Local leaders get update on Highway 54 project, Vandalia clinic

By **DON MUNSCH**
 Editor

An update on Highway 54 plans and information on the Vandalia clinic project were among topics discussed at the Audrain Municipalities meeting Sept. 15 at the Benton City Community Building.

Officials from Audrain County as well as cities in the county meet a few times a year to discuss various issues of public interest. The group last gathered in June and will meet again in January in Mexico.

At the Sept. 15 meeting, Sarah Graff, director of special projects for U.S. Rep. Sam Graves (6th District), appeared at the meeting, as did Devyn Campbell, fiscal officer and a community planner from Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments. Katie Swaim, special projects manager for the Audrain County Health Department, also spoke at the meeting, informing attendees about the Vandalia clinic.

Graff has worked on a number of Audrain County projects over the years, Audrain Presiding Commissioner Alan Winders said. Highway 54 falls under special projects, Graff said, and her job requires her to work on appropriations and grants and “special topics that need extra attention and might not fit exactly in a certain budget.” She serves on Moberly’s city council.

She said Congress is “super busy” from now until the end of the year, and she said lawmakers have to get government



Sarah Graff, director of special projects with U.S. Rep. Sam Graves’ office, speaks at the Audrain Municipalities Meeting Sept. 15 at the Benton City Community Building. To her left are Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Alan Winders, center, and Audrain County Associate Commissioner Leslie Meyer. [Don Munsch]

funding finished before a government shutdown kicks in. She doesn’t think that will happen, but she said “it seems like every time I make a prediction the opposite happens. So we’ll keep our eye on that.” The deadline for funding the government is Sept. 30.

Graves serves as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and he is working on a surface transportation bill this fall and Graff hopes that bill will get to the full House at the end of the year.

“So, obviously MoDOT has a big (stake) in that,” he said.

Graff, who has announced a run for state Senate, said the National Defense Authorization Act needs to be reauthorized by the end of

the year. She also discussed how Graves was able to secure the nearly \$25 million grant for the Highway 54 project this year that will widen the road by making it a shared four-lane highway.

A Graves office news release in July stated the \$24.892 million BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant will widen an approximately 14-mile segment of U.S. Route 54 from a two-lane roadway to a shared four-lane configuration (alternating passing lane) between Farber and Curryville. The project also includes improvements at the intersection of U.S. Route 54 and MO 154 and utility relocations, the release stated.

Because of the complexity of the project’s

logistics, County Engineer Brian Haefner, who attended the meeting, said it would be several years before people see construction on the roadway because of the time required to complete the design and acquire right of way.

Winders said the reason the highway would be a shared four-lane rather than a four-lane was because of cost, as a four-lane would cost twice as much, and it would require the acquisition of a lot of property.

“We can do the shared four for the most part inside the footprint of Highway 54 now - for the most part,” he said. “There’ll be some places where some property is taken but nothing like an actual full, four lane.”

Swaim said the ACHD See **UPDATE**, Page A2

Mexico among communities experiencing effects of local hospital closures

By **Jonah Foster, Xander Lundbald and Seth Schwartzberg**
 Columbia Missourian

It’s been more than three years since the closure of Audrain Community Hospital, ending more than a century of continuous local care in the mid-Missouri community.

Once a cornerstone of rural health care in the region and the first community cancer center in the state, the hospital shuttered in March 2022 after a series of management failures under Noble Health and its successor, Platinum Health. For the thousands who relied on it, the closure didn’t just change where they went for care, it changed the very rhythm of their lives.

This same story has played out in rural counties throughout Missouri and the Midwest. Twenty-one hospitals have closed in Missouri in the past 10 years, many in rural areas. Residents now must drive long distances for care, or make the decision that it’s just not worth traveling — until the pain is too great or the symptoms too strong to ignore.

No one knows that better than Joseph Corrado. Corrado spent more than 40 years operating at Audrain. Now, he spends his time on the road, driving to Columbia three days a week and to Jefferson City another two. His 2016 Cadillac Escalade, once a means of local commuting, has traveled more than 6,000 miles this year alone.

“Well, I mean, as a surgeon, it’s very, very difficult to not have a hospital,” Corrado said. “I can’t, you know, do your operation in the garage.”

Corrado used to roll out of bed and get to the operating room in three minutes, often beating the

See **CLOSURES**, Page A2



Rural areas of the state have higher poverty rates and older demographics, and about one in four rural Missourians rely on Medicaid.

(Thomas Barwick/Getty Images)

Students explore opportunities at college fair

By **SKY STRAUSS**
 Staff Writer

For students, it’s never too early to start thinking about college.

Less than a month after students returned to the classroom, Mexico High School hosted its annual college fair in conjunction with Missouri Military Academy.

The college fair, held Sept. 17, featured representatives from nearly 70 colleges, universities and military branches.

Rebecca Moppin — college, career, workforce development community outreach, transition plans and scholarship coordinator at MHS — said MHS partners with MMA to give recruiters a worthwhile trip and get students in front of as many opportunities as possible.

“It is one of the larger fairs in the north-central part of the state, so we’re very fortunate that we’ve put in a lot of work and Mexico is large enough to attract that size,” Moppin said.

In addition to MHS and MMA seniors, parents as well as area schools including Hart Career Center, Mexico Education Center, Community R-6, Van-Far, Wellsville-Middletown R-1, Salisbury and Sturgeon were in attendance.

Recruiters began their day on the MHS Gary Filbert Court. Seniors were given a QR code for the recruiters



Mark Eggleston, right, student recruitment specialist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, discusses potential paths with Mexico High School senior Bailey Christianson (front right) and her mother, Cara. Christianson has a passion for theater and is looking for a college where she can pursue that. [Sky Strauss]

See **FAIR**, Page A2



There was a surprise reunion between old friends at the Mexico High School College fair. Recruiter Elizabeth Trower (right) reunites with Mexico High School senior Ella Connell who she used to dance with at Janet's Dance Studio. [Sky Strauss]

FAIR

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to scan.

Moppin explained that the program, StriveScan, allows her to upload students' information to streamline the college fair. It also gives her data about which schools or military branches interest students the most.

After their morning at MHS with all the area schools, recruiters then headed to MMA where they were served lunch before putting on their second college fair of the day.

The college fair isn't

just for those who haven't made up their minds about where to attend.

MHS senior Ella Connell already knows she wants to go to school to be an ultrasound technician and she has her eyes set on the University of Missouri. She said MU has a strong four-year program and it would also allow her to stay pretty close to home.

But she also wants a little bit of that college experience.

"I want community," Connell said. "I want a fun time as well as learning."

A college fair as large as Mexico's takes months

to organize.

Moppin said planning begins in March and the whole fair is sanctioned by the Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling.

Her goal is to give students the opportunity to live, work and play here in Mexico.

"For a community like Mexico where we are (in) higher poverty, a little bit higher need, what it really does is it opens the ideas for kids and allows them to realize that there are opportunities out there," Moppin said. "They can go out and they can forge their own path."

UPDATE

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does perform, among other services, satellite clinics and provides WIC services in Vandalia. She said with this opportunity to have a new building in Vandalia, it "will hopefully help us expand in the near future more services that we provide in the eastern area of the county."

In August, ACHD announced the signing of a new lease agreement with the Audrain County Commission and the city of Mexico to occupy the former Vandalia Medical Clinic located at 204 W. Washington St. ACHD currently uses the Lange building in Vandalia for its satellite clinics.

"The city has been wonderful to work with in letting us use that building, but being able to use our own will allow us to get in there

more, schedule our own time rather than having to make sure that building is available," Swaim said, noting ACHD representatives currently have to load and unload essential components when they visit there.

Swaim said the plan is for ACHD to be in the building by late fall or by the end of the year.

Also at the meeting, Associate County Commissioner Leslie Meyer gave an update on the Rural Leaders of Economic Mobility program, including the Supervised Agricultural Experience grants established for three school districts located in the county. Rural county leaders from across the country will attend a four-day peer exchange in Audrain County this week and tour various entities, such as schools and businesses, here as part of the RLEM program.



CALENDAR TIDBITS

September 26

Celebrate veterans and service members with the Bulldogs at the annual Military Appreciation Football game against Hannibal. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Class of '78 get together

The Mexico High School class of 1978 will host a "get together" from 6-9 p.m. at Lakeview Park.

CLOSURES

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ambulance there.

Before the closure, patients could see him in his Mexico office on Monday, and be on an operating table by Tuesday. Today, everything is more complicated and farther away.

But what was lost wasn't just convenience, it was trust, built across generations. Corrado said most of his patients didn't want to go elsewhere for care. They preferred seeing someone they knew, someone local.

After more than four decades in Mexico, he had developed a bond not just with individuals, but with entire families, treating grandparents, parents and their children. His medical charts, he noted, are "42 years thick."

That kind of relationship made health care personal, Corrado said. "I can't go to Walmart without my patients coming up to me in aisle five and telling me, 'Oh doctor, look at my incision.'"

'A five-minute appointment takes half a day'

Rural areas of the state have higher poverty rates and older demographics, and about one in four rural Missourians rely on Medicaid. With fewer patients using private insurance, it has become harder for rural hospitals to offset losses.

The unemployment rate has also grown in many rural areas with hospital closures, as these towns lose a major contributor to the local economy.

For Elizabeth Berry,

72, and Randy Dickson, 63, not having a hospital means more than not having a place to get the care they need. There is another layer of difficulty when it comes to actually getting to the closest hospital, which, for most in the Mexico area, is about 40 miles away in Columbia.

"You pretty much know, if you have an emergency, you are in serious trouble," Dickson said. "It's a bad situation. And when you do get down there, it's so crowded that you can't get in. You have people who are being treated in the waiting area."

These struggles impact everyone in the area and the impact is greatest on people who are older, can't drive or have health issues and are on their own.

"The only way I can get there is in an ambulance, and I can't afford it," Dickson said. "So if I have an emergency, I just have to hope I don't die before I get there."

Berry's husband died after years of battling kidney failure and heart issues. She is still struggling to pay off the debt that came with his medical bills, which were exacerbated by the lack of local care.

"He had to be airlifted a number of times or had to take an ambulance because of his issues, and I am still dealing with the bills that are coming in for transportation," Berry said.

Patients sometimes live with injuries and illnesses for long stretches of time before seeking medical attention. Due to the high cost of emergen-

cy medical transportation, some people, when injured, wait to heal instead of immediately seeing a doctor.

This has created a layer of caution for a lot of people in Mexico, knowing "they are only going to a hospital if it is 'life or death,'" Dickson said, adding "if we had an emergency room with some good doctors, that would be so much better."

Angela and Steve Teeter travel weekly to Cape Girardeau for Steve to receive radiation and chemotherapy. He was diagnosed in early January with Stage 3B lung cancer, the disease having spread to his lymph nodes. On May 13, a spot was found on his brain, indicating the cancer had spread and leading to a Stage 4 diagnosis. The Teeters will need to drive an additional 3 1/2 hours to St. Louis so he can receive radiation treatment.

Angela walked through what a typical appointment looks like for Steve.

"He's doing chemo now, and he goes weekly for the treatments every Friday, and they're usually anywhere from, I would say, on a short day, probably five hours, and then on a long day, probably like seven hours," Angela said.

"Once we go in, we do a blood draw, then we wait, and then we see the doctor, and then we wait, and then we start the infusion. In a month and a half, we will (go) back and forth about 30 times. It's three hours there and back. So, you know, a

See **HOSPITAL**, Page A3

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HOSPITAL

from page A2

five-minute appointment takes half a day.”

With no nearby hospital, his initial diagnosis was delayed. “There was a lot of sickness going around, you know, flu and stuff like that. And so he went to the doctor, and they gave him antibiotics and a steroid, and then it kept on,” she said.

“He kept coughing. And so he went back to the doctor a month or so later, and they did the same thing,” she said. But the coughing persisted, and she eventually brought him to urgent care to get an X-ray.

“And then they found the tumor,” she said, “and sent him to the emergency room.”

By the completion of Steve’s weekly chemotherapy in June, the Teeters will have traveled an estimated distance of 13,400 miles.

‘Padlocks on the doors’

In Audrain County, the hospital’s decline began quietly in early 2020, after Noble Health acquired it. Under their tenure, and later that of Platinum Health, chaos seeped into every corner of the operation. Vendors weren’t paid. Employee health insurance was dropped, without notice. Scores of lawsuits mounted.

“I’ll never forget the day they put the padlocks on the doors and said we’re closed,” Corrado, the surgeon, said. “What do you mean we’re closed?”

Now, emergency care in Mexico often starts with a race against time. Patients are stabilized by the local ambulance district and rushed to the nearest available emergency room, typically in Columbia. There they may face hours-long wait

times.

A potential path forward has emerged. In October 2024, Mexico city officials signed a letter of intent with Boone Health, entering exclusive talks to bring a critical access hospital back to town. The proposed three-year plan outlines a Medicare-certified facility with emergency services and outpatient care. But for now, it’s just that — a plan.

Meanwhile, health care advocates warn that the impact of a rural hospital closure goes far beyond emergency care. Heidi Lucas, executive director of the Missouri Rural Health Association, said the collapse of one service affects the entire system.

“In rural health, really in health care altogether, it’s very much a continuum of care,” Lucas said. “If you’re not addressing one section of it, it affects other portions. And you kind of have to look at all of them to move the needle in health care access.”

Lucas and others point to the fragile financial state of rural hospitals. COVID-era relief funds gave many a temporary cushion, but that money has long since dried up. One rural CEO told her he was “making about \$0.36 for every dollar I spend.”

Community Health Specialist Jennifer Eldridge of the University of Missouri extension program said the grant programs that once propped up rural health initiatives are vanishing too.

“I’m sad about their future,” she said. “They do depend on a lot of the grants ... that I’m guessing may not exist anymore.”

Eldridge recently attended a public health conference where some scheduled presenters

never arrived. “They’d already lost their jobs,” she said.

For farming communities especially, preventive care is becoming harder and harder to access.

“You don’t really get a day off unless it rains,” Eldridge said. “And it’s hard to predict rain a month out.”

Some residents, she added, simply don’t want to go.

“I’ve been sitting with my extension council and they’ve told me they know people who would rather stay on their farm and die than drive to the

city for health care,” she said.

For Corrado, the distance is not just a commute, it’s a constant reminder of what his town lost.

“We had an excellent medical center,” he said. “We got all kinds of accolades and recognition and that’s all gone.”

As the community waits to see if Boone Health’s proposal will materialize, Corrado keeps driving. The miles pile up. The surgeries continue. And the absence of a hospital in Mexico remains a wound that hasn’t healed.

Mexico man charged with multiple sex crimes

A Mexico man was arrested Sept. 17 on charges of two counts of sexual abuse-first degree and one count of statutory sodomy-second degree.

John Hoyle, 47, is being held at Audrain County without bond.

The crimes that Hoyle has been charged with are alleged to have occurred between 2011 and 2013, according to court records. A woman contacted the Mexico Public Safety Department in November 2024 to report information alleging Hoyle made sexual contact with her several times during the period between 2011 and 2013 in Mexico. She was



John Hoyle

under 17 at the time of the alleged crimes, said Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney Jacob Shellabarger.

Shellabarger said Judge Jonathan Yelton from Warren County has been assigned to the case.

Job Fair planned Oct. 2 in Mexico

The Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Mexico and the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, will be hosting a Job Fair on Oct. 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mexico VFW. This event is being organized specifically to assist Home Depot employees who will be affected by the Mexico facilities closure at the end of October.

Arrest Reports Sept. 15 - 19

Stephanie Lynn Ferrell, 54— trespassing - first degree

Kiara Shantelle Williams, 35— operating a motor vehicle owned by another knowing that the owner of the vehicle has no insurance and operating a vehicle on a highway without a valid license - first offense

Jennifer Mae Peters, 43— failure to register a motor vehicle/trailer annually with the director of revenue, operating a motor vehicle with vision reducing material applied to windshield, owning/operating a motor vehicle without maintaining financial responsibility - first offense, possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia - amphetamine or methamphetamine

Polly Virginia Hoffman, 39— burglary - second degree, forgery, stealing (misdemeanor,) stealing - \$750 or more, stealing less than \$150 - no prior stealing offenses, tampering with a motor vehicle - first degree, trespassing - first degree and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia - amphetamine or methamphetamine

Crissa Renee Long, 39— violation of an order of protection for an adult - first offense

Stephanie Lynn Ferrell, 54— unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Brandon Lee Campbell, 31— trespassing - first degree

Joshua Gene Cuno, 31— parole/probation violation, violating a child protection order - first offense and violating an order of protection for adult - first offense

Jordan Matthew Stull, 34— possession of a controlled substance

John L. Hoyle, 47— two counts of sexual abuse - first degree and one count of statutory rape - second degree

Michael Alexander O’Connor, 41— burglary - second degree and stealing - \$750 or more

Stephanie June Albernst, 32— possession of a controlled substance, trafficking drugs

- second degree and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia

Kelsay Renee Hutcherson, 25— driving while revoked/suspended - felony, resisting or interfering with an arrest/detention/stop and resisting/interfering with an arrest for a felony

Jerrica Lynn Parker, 36— fugitive in state

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OBITUARIES

Carrol Lee Shepherd

Carrol Lee Shepherd, 96, of Wayzata, Minnesota, died on Saturday, September 6, 2025. She is preceded in death by her husband Walter Preston Shepherd; parents James and Leona Pewick; and grandparents Ora and Frank Dore. She is survived by daughter Nina Gwynn Shepherd of Deephaven, Minnesota and son James Alden Shepherd of Duluth, Minnesota.



Born in 1928, Carrol grew up St. Louis, Missouri; McAllen, Texas; and the small town of Ledonia, Missouri, where she lived with her grandparents in a little clapboard house filled with doting aunts and boisterous uncles. After graduating high school, Carrol moved to Mexico, Missouri, where she landed a job as a secretary at Mexico Refractories Company. She rented a room, walked every day to work in high heels, adopted a Chihuahua named Pepe, and fell in love with a hometown hero who had signed with the St. Louis Cardinals named Preston Shepherd.

Married in 1954, Carrol and Preston moved to Wausau, Wisconsin, then to Tulsa, Oklahoma; Houston, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri and back to Wausau, Wisconsin, as Preston worked his way up the corporate ladder in insurance. It was in Wausau, while being a full-time mom, that Carrol honed her interest in antiques by becoming president of the Wausau Antique Study Club.

After moving to the Minneapolis area in 1975, Carrol took a part-time job with the fabled Corner Door of Wayzata, where she learned the consignment business, conducted estate sales, and made lifelong friends. In 1983, she opened her own shop, Carrol Shepherd's Consignment Shop in Deephaven, which became known throughout the Twin Cities for high-end second-hand furnishings.

In business for more than 27 years, Carrol's reputation was one of honesty, fair pricing, and knowledge of early American and English furniture and French and Italian decorative items. Despite her success, it was the friendships she made over the years that she valued above all else. She had an enormous circle of friends and acquaintances—many of whom she met through her business—that lasted her lifetime.

Carrol adored her children, and like most loving moms, spoke with pride about them to anyone who would listen. She loved to laugh and was well known for her gregarious nature, her sparkling personality, and her legendary storytelling that often left people doubled over with laughter. To the very end, Carrol's eyes twinkled with anticipation, kindness, and gratitude. She is deeply loved and sorely missed.

David E. Brink

David E. Brink, 79 of Sturgeon, passed away Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 Visitation will be from noon until service time at 2 p.m. today at the Oliver Funeral Home in Sturgeon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mt. Horeb Cemetery Fund, c/o Oliver Funeral Home, P.O. Box 125, Centralia, MO 65240. Condolences may also be made to the family at www.oliverfuneralhome.net.

OBITUARIES CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT www.mexicoledger.com

Quilts of Valor Presentation by Friends and Family Veterans Support Group

Ceremonies honoring veterans were held Sept. 16 at the Friendship Baptist Church in Mexico, according to a news release.

The Friends and Family Veterans Support Group presented two Quilts of Valor to the following veterans: Raymond Fricke, who served in the Army from 1969 to 1970, and Don Uhey, who served in the Army from 1969 to 1970. Both recipients took a moment to speak and to thank the group for their quilt and express how much it meant to them.

Bob Yeager opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer was led by Evelyn Williams. Yeager gave an overview of the Friends and Family of Veterans Support Group and Quilts of Valor program. The group does this because they love making quilts and love who they give them to.

Friends and Family of Veterans Support Group sell flowers in the spring and fall to raise funds to make the quilts. They also have support from many quilting shops in the area. The Friends and Family of Veterans Support Group has helped with the Honor Flight and volunteered on Thursday at the Mis-

souri Veterans Home.

Presenting the Quilts of Valor were Donna Hoffman, Bob Yeager and Diana Koshinski. Each recipient was able to have a family member join them in wrapping them in their quilt as it was presented.

After the presentation, refreshments were served and Mr. Fricke and Mr. Uhey enjoyed visiting with their friends and family members who were present, as well as the friends and family of Veterans Support Group.

The Quilts of Valor program was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts. Her son, Nat, was deployed in Iraq and she had a dream of him wrapped in a quilt giving him hope and well-being. She then founded Quilts of Valor with the message of "Quilts = Healing."

Quilts of Valor has given out 421,941 quilts (and counting) to honor veterans for their service.

Quilts of Valor require standards of excellence. They must be made from quality material and quality made, and they must be awarded, not just passed out, and they are a thank you to the recipient for their service and sacrifice.



From left: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fricke and Mr. and Mrs. Don Uhey. The veterans stand with their wives and quilts.



Bob Yeager presents to Don Uhey.

Altrusa holds August meeting

Altrusa International of Mexico, Missouri, Inc. met Aug. 28 at The Oaks for its program meeting. The meeting was called to order by co-president Gina Raines, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 19 members in attendance along with two guests.

Committee reports were as follows: ASTRA participated in the Relay For Life Sept. 13. Members could donate snacks for their booth. Special Events is planning the annual wiener roast at Susan Paden's house. Literacy will contact schools for student numbers for



Membership Chair Teresa Kelly initiated Ra'Vae Moore who was sponsored by Susan Paden.

the dictionary program. Community Service is planning a tour of Mo-

bility Worldwide in Columbia for Make A Difference Day on Oct. 25. Judy Kelly gave a report on the Books & Bear program they are developing. Hospitality is in the process of planning the Christmas Party. Membership held an initiation for new member Ra'Vae Moore.

Members were reminded about the upcoming annual Salad Dinner & Auction.

Samira Korman with the Francis Woodlands of Mexico gave an informational program on its new Airbnb and wedding venue located just outside of town. This beautiful home is perfect for family or friend gatherings with the occupancy

of 12 people. The venue is able to host events with 50 people inside and outside. Samira and her husband Mark are working on a micro wedding venue, as well as an event center. They are excited about this venture and more to come in the future. Samira also works with the bride and groom to make their dream wedding a reality. Their website is www.franciswoodlands.com

Members gave Happy Moments and recited the benediction to close the meeting.

Anyone interested in attending a meeting, visit Altrusa International of Mexico's Facebook page or email Altrusa at mexicoaltrusa@gmail.com.



Samira Korman shares information about Francis Woodlands, a new Airbnb, micro wedding and event venue in Mexico.

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The Mexico Ledger

Mexico Public Schools Board of Education hears about parent's safety concerns

By DON MUNSZCH
Editor

Courtney Sample wants Mexico Public Schools to ensure safety on campuses.

She spoke to the Mexico Public Schools Board of Education Sept. 16 about her views during the public comment portion of the meeting.

School board members, who didn't respond to remarks made during public comment, discussed school safety issues later in the meeting.

Sample said she is a mother of three children, two of whom are students in the district. She also attended schools in the district and described herself as a concerned citizen.

"In light of the most recent school shooting at Evergreen High School in Colorado, I believe it's time to discuss how each of us are doing everything in our power to ensure the safety of our children," she said.

She said one of her children attends Hawthorne Elementary School, and she said she entered the school to have lunch with her son, a second-grader, on Sept. 15 and said she thought it was "too easy" to move about the school, as she carried a big book bag and was not questioned about the contents in the bag.

Sample said she was only asked why she was there and then given a visitor's badge and allowed to roam the building and with the expectation to go where she said she would go.

She said she didn't think she's ever had to show identification at other school functions or picking up her children. She said her intentions are not bad but said other people could do something, as she said it was easy to get access to the school and "nobody batted an eye at me." She knows some people at the campus might know her, though.

"I've read our district policies surrounding the safety and well-being of our students," she said. "I am not saying that our current policies are not good. I just know that we can do better."

She discussed the policy regarding safety at Hawthorne and how people can enter the building, and also said she is "very concerned" about the lack of security effort that she has witnessed in the district and said she has heard about incidents regarding safety.

"I believe that we need something that will in fact let us know that our kids, our staff, our parents and school visitors are not able to get any sort of weapon in," she said. "I do not believe that we can put a price on our children's life."

She said her intent was to advise people to be a team and "do everything we can to save our children."

Mexico Public Schools Superintendent Troy Lentz



Courtney Sample discusses issues regarding safety at the Mexico Public Schools Board of Education Sept. 16. [Don Munsch]

told the Ledger on Sept. 17 that he appreciated that Sample stuck around for the rest of the meeting after she spoke - some people leave meetings after they speak in public comment - as there was a discussion about the high school renovations in the construction update and the renovations are designed for safety and security.

"I feel like that kind of dovetailed into what she was addressing and it was an opportunity, I feel like, for board members to engage the topic and I think she was able to hear them," Lentz said. "I think there were some important conversations that took place during the construction update and I think they were enhanced by her comments earlier."

As far as Hawthorne's security, the school follows district safety protocols, Lentz said, and he said building secretaries do a good job of screening visitors and being a warm and welcoming presence.

"I think our staff takes safety seriously," Lentz said. "I think they do the best job they can with the tools that we have."

The district has a contract with the Mexico Public Safety Department for one and a half school resource officers, Lentz said. Officers are split between the secondary schools and the elementary campuses.

"That's what we pay for, but we get more than that," Lentz said, noting that one officer is a half-time police officer but is working there more than half time, so Lentz thinks the district is getting two full-timers. "And also I feel like if we needed somebody, we would have a good response from Mexico Public Safety. We have an excellent level of communication with Chief (Brice) Mesko."

Among other developments at the school board meeting, school board members learned that Mexico Middle School and Hawthorne Elementary have been randomly selected to participate in NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) testing this spring. A representative sample of 50 students from each of Hawthorne's 4th grade and MMS's 8th grade will be tested, according to the superintendents' report, and this assessment is similar to the MAP test, and provides data for the Nation's Report Card.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Lower-Welch told trustees the district will not receive any data from the testing in any form that it can use, as it is just something the district will participate in.



The 2025 Walk Back in Time will be held Friday through Sunday on the Audrain County Historical Society grounds. [File Photo]

Walk Back in Time returns to Mexico this weekend

By SKY STRAUSS
Staff Writer

History will come to life this weekend at the Audrain County Historical Society.

Soon, the grounds will be crawling with volunteers and reenactors who will immerse visitors in historical lessons at the Walk Back in Time as we come up on the nation's 250th birthday.

"It's hard to calculate how many people are on the grounds," said Jennifer Prior, Audrain County Historical Society director. "I've heard it's anywhere from 5,000-10,000 over the weekend."

Prior explained that the free event is a huge deal to many of the committed reenactors who come from all over the state to participate.

"There (are) not a lot of them in the area to be honest," Prior said. "But this is a big deal for us."

Because it is such a big deal, the reenactors are organized by one of the few veteran volunteers this year, Paul Baum.

Baum has been walking the historical society's grounds, planning out where reenactors from each time period will set up camp.

His goal is to create a seamless, chronological journey through key time periods in our nation's history from Vikings and pirates to soldiers from the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Desert Storm.

Baum has also been instrumental in bringing back a full-scale replica of the keelboat that Lewis and Clark took on their Riverboat Expedition. The keelboat, which is kept at the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum in St. Charles, measures 55 feet in length.

Most recently, the keelboat made an appearance at the 2021 Walk Back in Time, and Prior explained that it will take a lot of work to guide the semi-truck hauling the keelboat up the hill to the historical society's grounds.

The city of Mexico will shut down part of Muldrow Street today to assist in the keelboat's delivery.

Another unique piece of history that will make an appearance at the Walk Back in Time will be a working stagecoach from West Plains, Missouri.

The Walk Back in Time will kick off Friday with education day, which Prior calls a huge undertaking.

Fifth-graders from Audrain County Schools get first dibs on a spot at education day before it is opened up to surrounding areas.

Prior estimates about 728 students will attend education day.

"They get to go through the camps (and) they'll have a lesson in our country school house," Prior said. "They'll get to go into our church and listen to music and things like that."

Education day is so popular, Prior has had to turn some students away.

Friday will come to a close with the Fish and Chicken Fry from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday is normally the busiest day with lessons, reenactments, tours and folk music all day long.

The grounds will open at 10 a.m. Saturday when the Missouri Military Academy color guard will hold its flag-raising ceremony.

The evening will end with the grand finale - Cowboys of the Open Range.

"At 9 o'clock, our cowboys will finish off with a gunfight," Prior said. "They love their gunfights."

Sunday is slated to include a service in the historic church followed by more lessons around the grounds, and it will end at 2:30 p.m. with a legendary hoe-down featuring Janet's Dancers.

Prior has been attending the Walk Back in Time for the last decade - long before she became the director of the Audrain County Historical Society.

This will be her first year facilitating the event, which happens every other year, and she is learning as she goes.

At least she has a group of dedicated volunteers and city officials behind her.

"It takes a lot on everyone's part to pull this off," Prior said. "It's been a big learning curve this year."

She is hopeful this year will be another success despite its competition with the University of Missouri homecoming, because the Walk Back in Time attracts crowds from all over the state.

And perhaps, Prior mused, if all goes well, the Walk Back in Time could return to an annual event.

Senior Center Menu

September 24: Country Style Beef Tips & Gravy, Bread, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Fruit/Milk, Birthday Cake

September 25: Lasagna/Meat Sauce, Garlic Breadstick, Parmesan Roasted Green Beans, Garden Salad, Fruit/Milk, Cake/Ice Cream

September 26: Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Cheesy Gravy, Fruit/Milk, Homemade Bread, Candy Bar Blast

September 29: Beef Meatloaf/Gravy, Bread, Mashed Potatoes, Sauteed Squash, Fruit/Milk, Pumpkin Crunch

September 30: Beef Stroganoff Noodles, Steamed Peas, Tossed Salad, Fruit/Milk, Cookies

Van-Far Homecoming King and Queen



Van-Far seniors Makayla McCurdy and Ty Evans were crowned as Homecoming Queen and King during halftime of Friday's game against Mark Twain in Vandalia. [Jeremy Jacob photos]

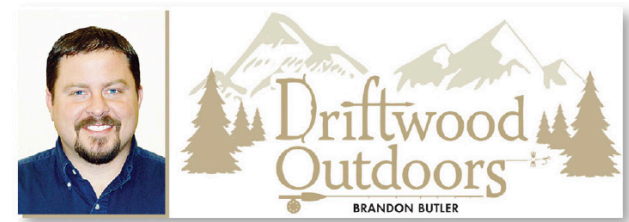


Van-Far senior Ty Evans is crowned Homecoming King by former King Carson Huff during halftime of Friday's game against Mark Twain.



Van-Far senior Makayla Douglas takes the flowers and crown from former Homecoming Queen Erin Childs during halftime of Friday's game against Mark Twain.

Dingell-Johnson Act: 75 years of sport fish restoration funding



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The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, was passed by Congress in 1950. We're celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and the more than \$12 billion the Act has generated for the conservation and restoration of sport fish species and their habitats.

Under the Dingell-Johnson Act, an excise tax is collected on sport fishing equipment including rods, reels, tackle, lures, lines, motorboat fuel and import duties on fishing equipment. The money is deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds are then distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies through a formula based on each state's land and water area and the number of licensed anglers.

"Nobody gets excited about paying taxes, but this one doesn't bother me a bit," said Nathan "Shags" McLeod, a radio personality from Columbia, Missouri. "When I

think about all the ways my tax dollars are spent, I guess it makes me happy to know at least a few of them are going to support fishing."

The program requires states to match federal funds with revenue from fishing licenses and other local sources. This structure ensures anglers and boaters, the people who most directly benefit from the resource, are also the primary investors in its management. Oversight provisions in the act strictly prohibit states from diverting the money to other purposes.

The impact of the funding is visible across the country. More than 9,000 public boating and fishing access sites have been built or improved with Dingell-Johnson money. Over 320 state fish hatcheries receive support, producing more than a billion fish annually for stocking in public waters. States use the funds to restore aquatic habitats, conduct biological research, and support law enforcement activities related to fisheries. Millions of Americans have participated in aquatic education programs financed through the act, learning the basics of fishing, boating safety, and aquatic ecology.

"We couldn't do our

job without Sport Fish Restoration dollars," said Michael Bednarski, Chief of Fisheries for Virginia DWR. "The amount we get is substantial—about \$3.5 million a year coming from the excise taxes on fishing tackle and boat fuel. I really believe in it."

Bednarski added one of the greatest, most lasting impacts of Sport Fish Restoration money in Virginia are the 37 public waters such as Lake Robertson that exist around the state. Those fishing waters were purchased via Sport Fish Restoration money.

The 1984 Wallop-Breaux Amendment was a major turning point for the program. By adding excise taxes on motorboat fuel and expanding the base of taxed equipment, the amendment significantly increased revenue. It also broadened the list of eligible projects, allowing states to invest in boating infrastructure and safety initiatives in addition to fisheries restoration.

For anglers, the results have been incredible. Improved fish populations, healthier waters, and more public access to lakes and rivers have resulted. In many rural areas, projects funded by Dingell-Johnson dollars have created economic opportunities by drawing visitors and tourism dollars. Providing both an economic return and intrinsic value.

As the 75th anniversary of Dingell-Johnson is celebrated in 2025, federal and state agencies, as

well as conservation organizations, have issued releases highlighting its legacy. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released figures showing the scope of the program: billions of dollars invested, thousands of facilities built, and millions of people educated. Leaders of the angling and boating community described the law as a cornerstone of modern conservation policy.

Representative Debbie Dingell, whose late father-in-law John Dingell Sr. co-authored the original legislation, noted the act has provided "critical resources for conservation, restoration, boating safety and education, and fishing access for generations of Americans." Congressional leaders introduced a bipartisan bill in 2025 to reauthorize the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund through 2030, ensuring its continuation into the future.

In Alabama alone, officials reported that Dingell-Johnson funds have supported three state fish hatcheries, over 100 public boat ramps, and 23 public fishing lakes. Similar reports have been filed by agencies across the country, pointing to the program's reach into both large and small communities.

A statement released by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation says, "These excise taxes, combined with fishing and hunting license revenues, constitute the American System of Conservation Funding, a model un-



Nathan "Shags" McLeod with a brown trout caught from a magical river in the Missouri Ozarks.

like anything else in the world. These funds are derived from those who hunt, fish, and boat and the industries they support for one purpose – to make sure we have access to healthy fish and wildlife resources."

The success of the Dingell-Johnson Act reflects a simple principle: when those who use natural resources contribute financially to their management, the results benefit everyone. Fish populations are sustained, habitats are restored, access is expanded, and the tradition of fishing is passed on to future generations.

"I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth. Public access is the only

reason I was able to become a fisherman. I'm proud to live in a country where we work together for conservation through legislation like the Dingell-Johnson Act, to make the world a little better for all of us," McLeod said.

Seventy-five years after its passage, the act remains one of the most important conservation achievements in American history. By tying together federal leadership, state responsibility, and user investment, the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act created a model of sustainable funding that continues to keep America's waters healthy and accessible.

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More Inside

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- American FFA Degree recipients announced B5
- Marriage minimum age changes in Missouri B7

Mexico stacks big plays in 42-13 victory at Marshall

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

Mexico made the big plays to win Friday's big game. The Bulldogs won 42-13 at North Central Missouri Conference foe Marshall (2-2, 0-1 NCMC) after allowing a touchdown on Marshall's first possession. Two of Mexico's touchdowns went for more than 40 yards, and quarterback Charlie Fisher had two rushing touchdowns and one passing touchdown.

Mexico had at least 200 yards of offense in each of its first three games of the season and finished with 346 total yards, including 293 rushing, on Friday. Head coach Steve Haag said Mexico had more than 200 yards of offense in the first half against Marshall. "Offensively, we just dominated," Haag said. "We ran the ball the way we ought to run the ball, and they didn't have much of an answer for it."

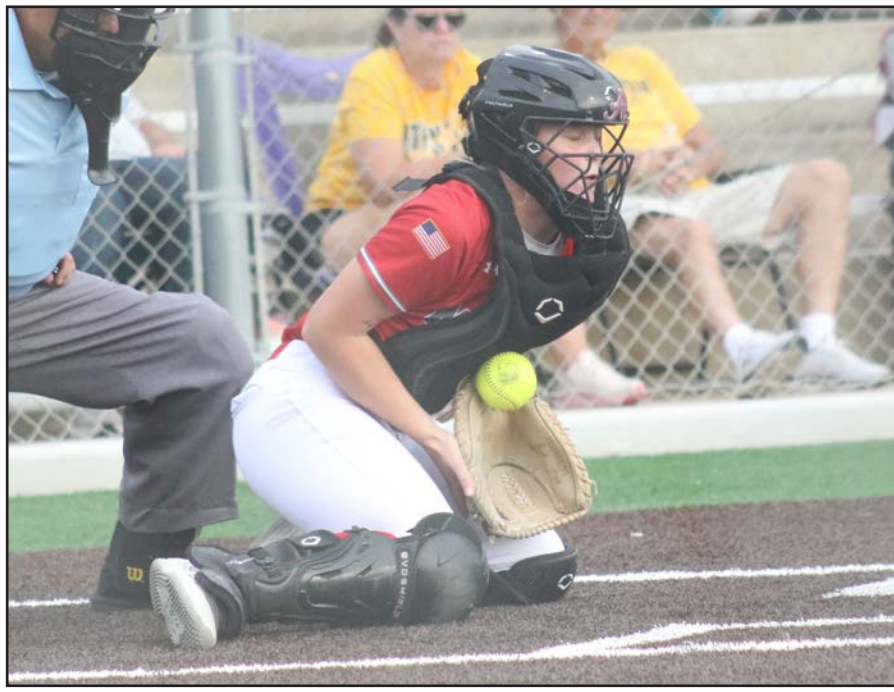
Mexico scored last year's season-high of 49 against Marshall after amassing 304 total yards. This year's Marshall victory was Mexico's sixth straight in the rivalry.

Haag said Marshall had good players up front, but Mexico's linemen were good as well while they blocked for three 20-yard plays and two 40-yard plays. Fisher ran 67 yards for a touchdown as part of his 109 yards on the ground and completed a 41-yard pass to Korbyn Dorsey. Drew DeMint broke loose for a 52-yard touchdown to finish with 89 yards on the ground.

"These guys are breaking off for big yards," Haag said. "It was 10 yards per carry. If you can do that, I think you can be successful."

On defense, Leighton Hilderman led with 12 tackles, Dorsey and Kael Smith each followed with 11 tackles, and Kaden Benne had 10 tackles. Dorsey had

See **BULLDOGS**, page B2



Mexico senior Hannah Loyd blocks a pitch against Fulton on Thursday at Gallop Field in Mexico. [Jeremy Jacob]

Mexico defeats NCMC champ Fulton 10-4, eyes title

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

For three years, Mexico has seen its rival Fulton win the North Central Missouri Conference title.

On Thursday, the Lady Bulldogs took another step in winning the champion-

ship in the final year of the NCMC with a 10-4 victory over Fulton at home. Mexico (9-7, 4-0 NCMC) finished with five extra-base hits to earn its second victory in nine meetings against the Lady Hornets (2-11, 1-4 NCMC).

See **LADY BULLDOGS**, page B3

Events on deck

Today

Softball
Mexico vs Elsberry 5 p.m.

Girls golf
Centralia, Paris at Salisbury Invitational

Thursday

Softball
Community R-6 vs Madison 5 p.m.

Van-Far at Bowling Green 5 p.m.

North Callaway at Montgomery County 5 p.m.

Paris vs Schuyler County 5 p.m.

Boys soccer
Mexico vs Christian Fellowship 5 p.m.

Missouri Military Academy vs Sunnydale Adventist Academy 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball
Mexico at Bowling Green 6:30 p.m.

Centralia vs Linn 7 p.m.

North Callaway at Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia 6 p.m.

Girls tennis
Mexico at Boonville 4 p.m.

Girls golf
Centralia at Troy Buchanan Golf Invitational

Paris at Harrisburg Quad

Cross country
Missouri Military Academy at Belle Cross Country Meet

Fall baseball
Community R-6 at Madison 7 p.m.

Friday

Football
Mexico vs Hannibal 7 p.m.

Van-Far at Montgomery County 7 p.m.

Centralia vs Macon 7 p.m.

North Callaway vs Palmyra 7 p.m.

Missouri Military Academy vs Doniphan 7 p.m.

8-Man Football
Paris vs North Shelby with Marion County 7 p.m.

Softball
Mexico at California Turf War

Van-Far vs New Franklin 5 p.m.

Centralia at Jennies HS Softball Tournament in Warrensburg

Fall baseball
Community R-6 vs La Plata 5 p.m.

Saturday

Softball
Mexico at California Turf War

Community R-6, Paris at Paris Softball Tournament

Centralia at Jennies HS Softball Tournament in Warrensburg

North Callaway at Harrisburg 10 a.m.

North Callaway vs Moberly in Harrisburg 11:30 a.m.

Volleyball
Mexico at Megan Gross Invitational in Warrenton

Centralia at Hallsville Invitational

Cross country
Mexico, Centralia, North Callaway at Gans Creek Festival in Columbia 9 a.m.

Van-Far plays complete game in 40-0 win over Mark Twain, three-peats Farmers Cup

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

Even without a complete roster, Van-Far wants to play a complete game.

The Class 1 No. 7 Indians made the halftime score the final score on Friday with a 40-0 win over Eastern Missouri Conference foe Mark Twain (1-3, 0-2 EMO). Van-Far (3-1, 2-0 EMO) was able to play with a running clock the entire second half, per the mercy rule, to win on Homecoming and secure its third straight Farmers Cup.

Head coach Lucas Gibson said he was proud to three-peat Farmers Cup victories and have such a definitive win after winning by two points and 14 points the last two years.

"I just challenged the boys this week to play a complete game," Gibson said. "In the second half at Westran, I felt we played a good second half but were slow to start. Against Russellville, we were not good at parts of the game. Against Louisiana, we were good in the first half but not as good in the second half."

Van-Far hasn't had its full roster available in any game this season. The biggest losses have been to its backfield with Cayden Douglas and Ronnie Stanich both sitting out Friday's game.

Regardless, the Indians imposed their will on the ground as Evan Utterback ran for 43 yards and two touchdowns along with catching a 30-yard one from Kasen Christian, Gaven Gaston ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns on



Van-Far senior Gaven Gaston runs out of the clutches of a Mark Twain defender on Friday at home in Vandalia. Gaston ran for more than 100 yards in Van-Far's third straight Farmers Cup victory. [Jeremy Jacob]

nine carries and Christian ran for a touchdown. Ty Evans added 78 yards on the ground.

"Ty Evans has run the ball well as he is a tank to bring down," Gibson said. "Evan's a great blocker and runner. Last week, we had (a season-high) 385 yards."

Utterback was installed into the backfield when injuries affected the Van-Far backfield last year. When the Indians

needed an answer this year, they turned to their No. 1 wide receiver, Gaston.

Gaston broke a couple tackles and ran for a 40-yard touchdown for the first touchdown of the game and scored from 25 yards out later after shedding a defender. The senior returned to the backfield two weeks before competing for the Farmers Cup in his first appearance there since

junior high.

"We changed in freshman year when I got hurt and I just stuck out at wide receiver," Gaston said. "Coming into running back, it was a big difference with a different offense. My linemen have my back."

Gaston said Van-Far's "next man up" strategy works because

See **VAN-FAR**, page B2

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MEXICO HOSTS STATE-RANKED HANNIBAL AT 7 P.M. THIS FRIDAY FOR MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT



Brown reaches 500 career strikeouts in Centralia's 8-2 victory over Mexico

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

In her 11th game as a Centralia junior, Jaylynn Brown reached 500 career strikeouts.

The countless games and hours leading up to that moment on Sept. 16 at Gallop Field in Mexico were crucial for that milestone, according to her and head coach Liz Bostick. Brown was at the center of Centralia's 8-2 win over district foe Mexico (7-7), striking out 12 and only allowing three hits.

After the game, a glitter-covered sign emerged from the dugout that read, "Jay Brown 500 Ks." This was only the second time in program history a moment like this happened as three-time all-state pitcher Baylee Douglass was the only other Lady Panther to have at least 500 strikeouts. Douglass, who pitched in college for Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and Syracuse, accomplished the feat as a senior.

"That was a big milestone for me," Brown said. "I wasn't expecting it to be this soon. It feels nice."

Brown is no stranger to collecting strikeouts. In her prior two games for Centralia (9-2), she matched her school-record 18 strikeouts in a 6-1 victory over district foe Moberly and had 17 strikeouts in a 1-0 win over Clarence Cannon Conference rival and Class 2 state champion Highland.

Going into the Mexico game, Brown said she knew she was close because her father talked to her about it the night before. She carried a 0.58 ERA into the evening, which isn't far off from her 0.55 ERA as an all-state pitcher for the Class 3 runner-up Lady Panthers.

"It's the hard work I put into it," Brown said. "It's nothing without the hard work. At practice, I am definitely working on my spins and the things I need to. For the mechanics, I'm going to lessons and making sure that when they give me instructions, I fix them and continue to work on them."

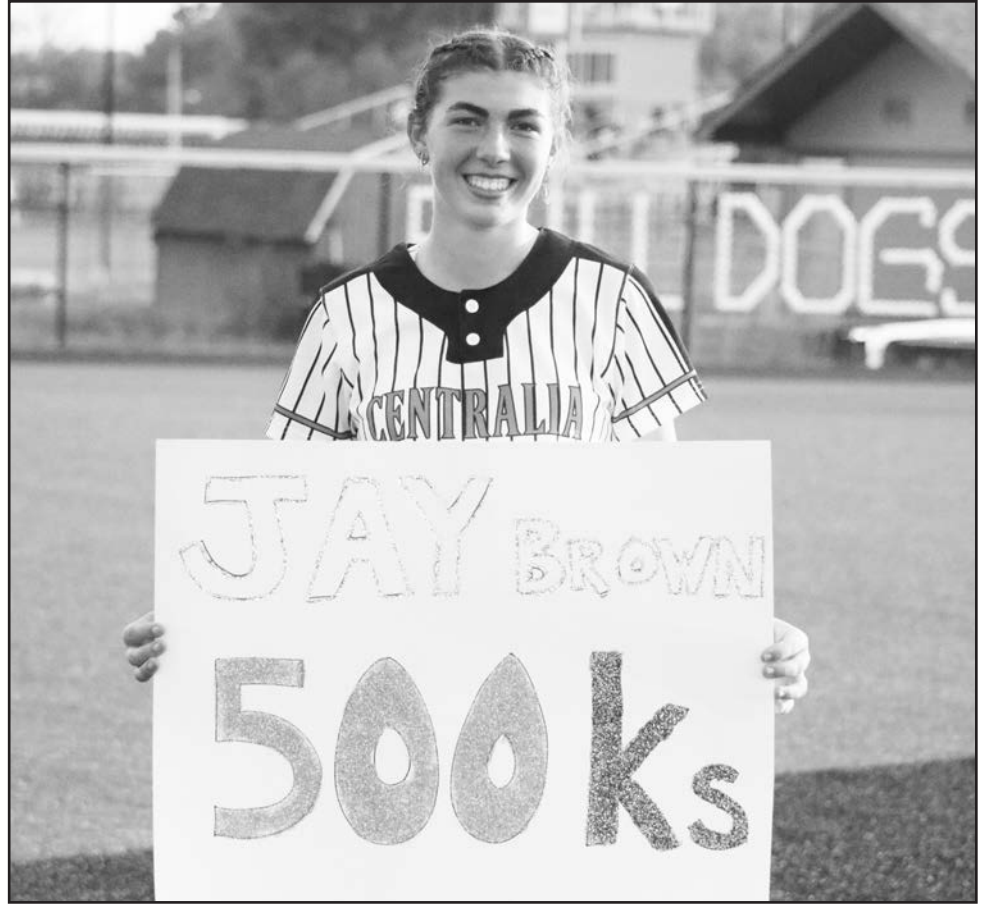
Bostick has coached Brown since she was 10 years old. She has witnessed Brown make a "tremendous" jump in the circle to the dominant presence she is today.

The younger Brown couldn't pitch in a pressure situation, Bostick said, but that eventually was not the case anymore. As a freshman, Bostick said she "threw her to the fire" against teams like Blair Oaks and Class 3 state champion Fatima, and Brown handled it well until she was "a whole different kid" as a sophomore.

"That kid doesn't just sit around and not work on her craft," Bostick said. "When she was 10 and I was coaching her, I was like, 'I'm not sure if mental focus and mental toughness is going to get her there.' You can see through the years the growth of this kid. I've been privileged to watch it."

Bostick said Brown, who had a 1.129 OPS going into Mexico, is a "skilled softball player" and further proved it by hitting a RBI double in the win against Mexico. Before that, Centralia hit three home runs to give her plenty of run support to work with and it happened at a good time with the hot and muggy conditions.

Brown's fellow all-staters, Madi Johnson and Cora King, each hit two-RBI home runs in the second inning after her batterymate Ealynne Bostick hit a solo home run in the first inning. Johnson went into the



Centralia junior Jaylynn Brown held a sign showing her recent accomplishment of 500 career strikeouts on Sept. 16 at Gallop Field in Mexico. Brown became the second Centralia pitcher and first since Baylee Douglass to reach the milestone.

[Jeremy Jacob]

Mexico game with an OPS of 1.352, King had a 1.266 and Bostick owned a 1.079. Senior Kassena Ridgel had a 1.019 OPS heading into the day and went 2-for-4 for her sixth multi-hit game.

"That's another kid that hasn't sat around while not doing anything," Bostick said. "The key for these kids is, to play softball at a high level, you've got to do it all the time. She's never satisfied with what's happening in the moment. She's always wanting more and pushing herself to get more."

Bostick said she asks that her players just

keep playing like themselves, meaning that they give maximum effort in every game. If the Lady Panthers do that, they can have another great season.

Brown said she can trust her teammates like she could after allowing one run in the first inning against Mexico. She settled down and allowed one hit in the final six innings, doing her job like everybody on this year's team.

"This team's great," Brown said. "We all work as one. It's very family-like. We are there for each other."

Centralia loses in crunch time moments 38-34 at Monroe City

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

The last three meetings between Centralia and Monroe City have been close.

Class 2 No. 4 Centralia beat its Clarence Cannon Conference rival by three points two years ago, lost by two points last year and fell by four 38-34 on Friday at Class 2 No. 10 Monroe City (3-1, 2-0 CCC).

Despite Centralia (3-1, 1-1 CCC) rushing for 286 yards, Monroe City

had a good night on the ground with 266 yards, coming close to the 18 yards of difference in last year's meeting. Head coach Tyler Forsee said certain plays decided Friday's outcome, namely failing three two-point conversions and "crunch-time moments."

"We gave up a touchdown right before half," Forsee said. "There were five seconds left in the half. We gave up a touchdown on a scramble play. He threw it in the midst of people and the kid made

a heck of a catch."

A two-point conversion made it 22-20 Monroe City at halftime after Wyatt DeGrave's touchdown to Da'Viere Holland. Forsee said Centralia should've prevented those points from going on the scoreboard, and then the team couldn't maintain a 34-22 lead after Rex Bryson ran for touchdowns of 33 yards and 49 yards.

Forsee was impressed by how Monroe City's quarterback De-Grave played, including when

he hit Quincy Mayfield for a 51-yard touchdown to make it 34-30 Centralia. The Panthers couldn't extend a drive, and Monroe City scored the winning touchdown with 39 seconds left in the game.

"We just have to be able to take a deep breath and execute," Forsee said. "We've got to get better push up front with our offensive line, we've got to see where the defense is and make the correct calls, and as a ball carrier, you've got to have that will to not let one

guy bring you down."

Bryson finished with 104 yards on seven carries, Peyson Bryson had 56 yards and one touchdown on 11 carries and Chase Kempker had a 64-yard touchdown run as part of his 76 yards on three carries.

On defense, Louis Suddarth led with 10 tackles, and Tilmon Sontheimer followed with seven tackles.

Centralia hosts conference foe Macon (2-2, 1-0 CCC) at 7 p.m. Friday.

North Callaway switches places with Bowling Green in 60-12 win

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

For five years, North Callaway hasn't kept up with Bowling Green.

The Thunderbirds were outscored 270-57 in five straight losses to their Eastern Missouri Conference foe but won 60-12 on Friday during Homecoming for Bowling Green (1-3, 0-2 EMO). North Callaway (4-0, 2-0 EMO) finished with 278 rushing yards for its first 200-yard day on the ground against Bowling Green since 2018.

North Callaway hadn't reached 100 rushing yards against the five consecutive undefeated conference champions since 2020. Jaiden Galbreath led with 102 yards and a touchdown on eight carries, Wyatt Haden

had 68 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries and Kellen Long had 51 yards on seven carries along 84 receiving yards and two touchdown catches. Collyn O'Neal threw for 159 yards and three touchdowns on 12-of-14 passing.

"It felt good to be on the other side of it," head coach Kevin O'Neal said. "Tonight, we did what we haven't done in the first three weeks and played from the get-go." O'Neal said he liked how North Callaway controlled the line of scrimmage. That task has been difficult by the strong Bowling Green offensive lines over recent seasons.

"A lot of it has to do with our offseason lifting," O'Neal said while explaining how North Callaway's linemen can control the line of scrimmage. "They were dedicated to that, the grit that they have and the blocking to the whistle. It's all the things we worked on this week."

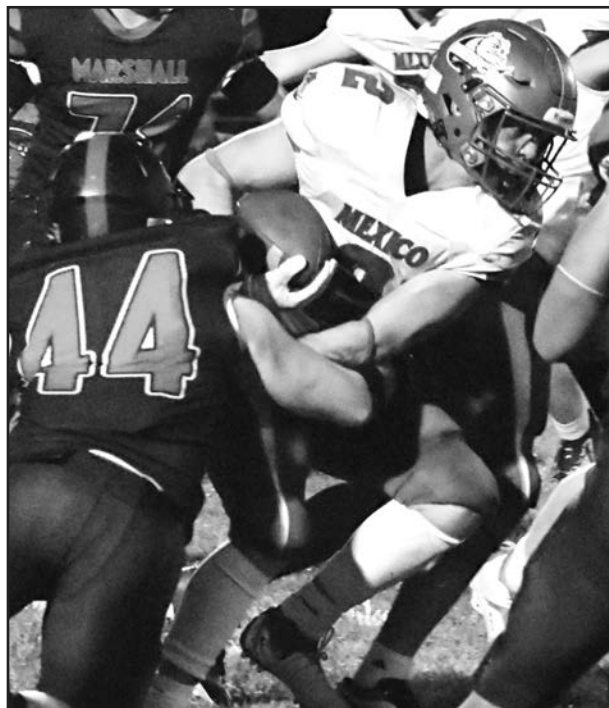
O'Neal said left tackle Donovan Seiling, left guard

Zac Craghead, center Hunter Long, right guard Ben Haubner and right tackle Gunnar Wenneker all have performed well as a unit this season. He said newcomer tight end and basketball star Jamarion Glover has been "a very good addition" to the team blocking on the edge.

Haubner and Kellen Long led the defense with eight tackles and two tackles for loss each.

North Callaway hosts Palmyra (3-1) at 7 p.m. Friday. O'Neal said that it will be a tough team, but there are tough teams like Blair Oaks, Warsaw and Centralia in North Callaway's district.

"Our theme has been we have to get better each week," O'Neal said. "We want to be able to compete in a championship in that district. To do so in a tough district, we can't be satisfied with where we're at."



Mexico senior Drew DeMint forces his way forward on Friday at Marshall.

[Hobby King/Marshall Democrat-News]

Bulldogs

from page B1

an interception, and Fisher picked off his second pass in as many games.

Mexico had already defeated state-ranked Odessa for a win within the district. Winning against Marshall gave Mexico a conference win but yet another important district victory.

Haag said his players have done well being ready to play for these meaningful games early in the season. Mexico has another at 7 p.m. Friday when it hosts conference foe and Class 4 No. 5 Hannibal (3-1).

"You've got to really value the wins because it is tough to win," Haag said. "No matter if it's Marshall, Odessa or Southern Boone, you've got to value those wins."

Van-Far

from page B1

the players stay focused in practice and are aware of everybody's role.

Gibson said Gaston can be a big threat behind the line of scrimmage like he is on the line as a receiver

"He's a good athlete, super fast and shifty, too," Gibson said. "He can turn it on. It's unbelievable. When I see it, it's crazy to watch."

Gaston impressed Gibson on the drive that Van-Far took a 40-0 lead seconds before halftime. Christian completed a 30-yard touchdown pass to Utterback. Before that, Van-Far needed 30 yards for the first down, and Gaston gave them 31 yards.

"It felt great because I hate being on those long distances," Gaston said. "Linemen blocked their butts off. You name it. They're all dogs that work their butts off in practice, and I know I can rely on them to do whatever I ask them to do."

Mark Twain struggled to finish a play ahead of the line of scrimmage, let alone beyond the chains for a first down. The Tigers were limited to two first downs and were tackled behind the line often.

Utterback, Bryce Reading, Jackson Fischer and others swarmed the ball carrier immediately. Fischer and Utterback each led with 5.5 tackles, and Easton Sharp had four tackles, a blocked punt and an interception. Van-Far finished with its first shutout of the season and first one posted



Van-Far senior Jackson Fischer makes a tackle against Mark Twain on Friday at home in Vandalia during Van-Far's 40-0 Farmers Cup victory.

[Jeremy Jacob]

against Mark Twain.

"We made some more changes on defense," Gibson said. "Hopefully, we're getting it figured out as it's an experiment every week. We moved Easton Sharp to nose tackle, and Jackson and Evan to tackle. Bryce Reading is playing defensive end on the other side of (brother) Pacey (Reading)."

Van-Far plays at conference foe Montgomery County (2-2) at

7 p.m. Friday but enjoyed winning a big rivalry game. Gibson said the coaches and players appreciated the support from the community as it was one of largest crowds and best atmospheres that he remembers.

"We came in to practice this week and knew this was what we wanted," Gaston said. "Keep the Farmers Cup. All of these rivalries, we just want to win."

Centralia's Spickert wins; Mexico, North Callaway medal in Fulton Invitational

Nolan Spickert leads the Centralia record books after setting the school record a week ago at Gans Creek and led the field Saturday in Fulton.

Spickert won the varsity boys 5K of Fulton Invitational with a time of 16:56, and teammate Wesley Robertson finished behind him with a time of 17:23. The first-place Panthers had three more runners finish in the top 25 to medal, including Jensen Decker in sixth with a time of 17:47, Lane Chancellor in 12th with a 18:08 and Zane Decker in 25th with a 18:50. Centralia won with 38 points ahead of Kirksville's 92 points.

Seth Stevenson had the top finish for the Mexico boys with an 11th-place time of 18:04. Carter Nading and Brady McCoy also medaled with respective times of a 14th-place 18:20 and 15th-place 18:28.

Maggie Ramsey medaled for Mexico in the varsity girls 5K with an eighth-place time of 21:53. Katie Asbury was a medalist for Centralia with an 11th-place time of 22:07, and Grace Rasmussen earned the honors for North Callaway with a 22nd-place time of 23:11.

In the junior varsity races, Mexico's Vinton Lehnen and Joshua Stanford were 17th and 18th, respectively, in the boys 5K with times of 22:53 and 22:56.

In the junior high 3.2K races, Centralia's Brooklyn Crites was the runner-up in the girls race with a time of 13:04. For the boys, North Callaway's Paxton Shipley was fourth with a time of 11:29 and Centralia's Wyatt Smith was 17th with a time of 12:39.

Jeremy Jacob Photos



Centralia sophomore Nolan Spickert



North Callaway senior Grace Rasmussen



Mexico freshman Seth Stevenson



Mexico senior Maggie Ramsey

Paris shines on defense in 53-2 win at Northland Christian

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

The Paris defense traveled all the way to the Kansas City area like it has everywhere else this season.

The Coyotes defeated Northland Christian (1-3) 53-2, allowing 99 total yards and a safety after making a goal line stand. They tallied eight turnovers, finishing with four recovered fumbles and four interceptions.

Going into Week 4, Paris (4-0) ranked second in the state among 8-man foot-

ball teams with 116 yards allowed per game. Concordia ranks first with 103 yards allowed per game.

"Our defense was on fire tonight," head coach Cody Carney said. "We had a lot of short fields so we only had 236 yards of offense."

Chase Kendrick caught a touchdown pass but mainly starred on defense with three interceptions. Kendrick returned two of those for touchdowns and was 10 yards shy of a third pick-six. Still, Kendrick has returned three interceptions for touchdowns in two weeks after having

one against Braymer last week.

"He plays one of our outside linebacker spots," Carney said. "Our defensive coordinator Eric Bordeleau gets a good game plan together for the kids, getting them to watch film to learn tendencies and know certain formations to be ready for this or this. (Kendrick) did a good job of getting where he needed to be when he dropped in coverage."

Luke Ensor threw for 101 yards and four touchdowns. He went into Week 4 as the co-leader in state 8-man with

14 touchdowns, matching Pattonsburg's Gage Fortner. Brad Skinner ran for two touchdowns and caught a touchdown and had 75 total yards.

Paris plays a rematch of last year's district championship game against North Shelby (4-0), who went into Week 4 second in rushing yards per game at 385.3 yards.

"By far," Carney said when asked whether North Shelby will be the team's biggest test so far. "It will be who has more positive plays than the other team."

North Callaway softball repeats as Cairo tournament champion, CR-6 beats Moberly

North Callaway dominated in its defense of the Cairo softball tournament championship.

The Ladybirds scored 25 runs on 26 hits and only allowed two runs and one error in three games to win the Cairo championship for the second straight year. They defeated Palmyra and Community R-6 10-0 in five innings and then beat Cairo 5-2. Community (5-12) defeated Class 3 Moberly 5-4 to end a four-game losing streak before losing to North Callaway (12-5) and 8-3 to Marcelline (11-4).

Megan Schmidt pitched four innings with seven strikeouts, two walks and one hit against Palmyra (5-7) while Kymorie Myers finished 2-for-3 at the plate with six RBIs. Myers hit a grand slam in a six-run fourth inning.

Liv Knoepflein pitched five innings with four walks and three hits allowed and five strikeouts against Community. She was 2-for-3 with two runs and a double at the plate, Kendra Pennell went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and one double, and Sophie Olsson was 2-for-2 with two RBIs and one double.

Myers hit a two-RBI home run in the fifth inning against Cairo (11-3), and Schmidt was 2-for-3. Schmidt struck out 11 in seven innings along with two earned runs allowed on four hits and two walks.

Community had its prior three games decided by two runs or less before winning its first one-run game of the season against Moberly (8-7). Jocelyn Curtis finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs and



The North Callaway Ladybirds hoist their second straight Cairo tournament championship on Saturday. [Submitted]

two doubles, and Peyton Schafer, Myla Carroll and Kaytlynn Arens each had one RBI. Carroll pitched all seven innings with 13 hits and no walks for the Lady Trojans.

Maci Poindexter went 2-for-3 with two doubles and one RBI against Marcelline, and Curtis had one RBI. Curtis struck out three in 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ shutout and hitless innings.

NC volleyball wins first ever tournament title

History has been over the last several years for North Callaway volleyball.

For the first time, the Ladybirds won a tournament by taking first in the Calvary Lutheran Tournament on Saturday in Jefferson City. North Callaway (9-6-2) defeated Prairie Home (25-11, 25-14), Calvary Lutheran (25-12, 25-16) and Windsor (25-16, 25-12).

"The players' work ethic over the last five years has been incredible," head coach Andrew Klein said. "Whether it be starting at the middle school program or consistent efforts at the high school level, the girls have earned the right to be champions, and we don't intend to stop now."

Alex Craighead led with eight kills, and Peyton Boulware led with 10 digs against Prairie Home (1-6-1). Against Calvary Lutheran (7-2), Rylee Horstman led with nine kills, Boulware led with 14 digs and Lydia Smithee followed with 10 digs, Makayla Rothermich led with three service aces, and Anna Shryock led with two blocks. Craighead had a team-high nine kills in the championship match against Windsor (5-4), Horstman and Boulware each led with 16 digs, and Lauren Pezold led with 10 assists.

North Callaway plays at Sunnysdale Adventist Academy (0-1) at 6 p.m. Thursday in Centralia.



Mexico senior Maddy Feger makes a throw from the outfield against Fulton on Thursday at Gallop Field in Mexico.

[Jeremy Jacob]

Lady Bulldogs

from page B1

Head coach Hanna Jones said the games against Fulton always draw a lot of focus from the girls and it showed with their effort. Mexico kept applying pressure at the plate and players were diving in the field.

"The girls came in really confident," Jones said. "They did a good job of putting the pedal to the floor as soon as we got started. With games like this, it's easy to get in your head, and they didn't."

Mexico picked up its fourth conference win in four tries and is confident it can win a conference championship this season. There are still plenty of games to go, obviously, but the Lady Bulldogs have beaten Fulton, Hannibal, Kirksville and Marshall.

"The girls have a different demeanor to them this year," Jones said. "You can just tell their mentality is a lot better when we face these teams. They take better approaches at the plate, they're swinging at better pitches, they're making better plays, you can tell they're hustling after every play and we've got girls diving after the ball. The girls definitely want it."

Hannah Loyd has been a menace

to Fulton pitching ever since she debuted as a freshman on varsity. She is a threat to baserunners as the catcher but has also done damage at the plate.

On Thursday, Loyd hit a solo home run for her third homer of the season, and Fulton was finished pitching to her. She was intentionally walked her final two times up for three walks on the day.

"I'm not sure if I have been intentionally walked twice in a game," Loyd said. "If I have, it's been a long time. They did intentionally walk me last year."

Loyd said she wasn't sure if she hit the ball far enough for a home run but was happy when it cleared the left-field. Her teammates hit the ball hard as well, including Landri Teel, who went 2-for-4 with a two-RBI double, and Payton Shaw, who was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two doubles. Mexico scored at least 10 runs for the seventh time this season and for the fifth time in seven games.

"Everybody just has confidence in themselves and is figuring it out," Loyd said. "Everybody has a different technique when they go into the box. It all starts with confidence. You've got to believe in yourself."

Jones said Mexico was doing well timing slower pitches and hitting balls down in the zone. The

Lady Bulldogs could've had more extra-base hits but had some balls find gloves, including two lasers by Aleigha Henderson.

Henderson, Maddy Feger and Scottie Smith had the ball go into their gloves several times in the outfield. They each made a running or diving catch to keep runs off the scoreboard. Smith laid out for a catch after making an error earlier in the game.

"It's important mentally to flush failures, especially when errors happen in the field," Jones said. "Physical errors are going to happen, but you have control over your mentality and your attitude. They're really locked in right now. I know our pitchers have a lot of confidence in them because it's basically a 'no fly zone' with those girls out there."

As a senior, Loyd has been involved with many tough battles with Fulton that ended in losses so she said Thursday's win "feels amazing." She feels like Mexico doesn't need to stop there in the conference.

"I absolutely think we can do it, without a doubt," Loyd said about winning the conference. "I like the grit. We all have the same goals this year. We started the season with what we wanted to get done this year, and a lot of us seniors want to go out with a big bang. This team is really special."



COMMUNITY R-6 STUDENT OF THE MONTH

SPONSORED BY: THE MEXICO LEDGER

Student Name: **Jocelyn Curtis**
Year in School: **Senior**
Parents Names: **Bob and Deanna Curtis**

High School Activities:
Softball, Basketball, FTA, FCA, Art Club,
National Honor Society, Student Council

Q & A with Jocelyn Curtis

Favorite Food: Mexican

Favorite Music: Country

Favorite restaurant: Dos Arcos

Favorite Movie: 10 Things I Hate About You

What is your favorite school memory? I don't have a favorite memory. There are so many great memories.

What are your career goals? My career goals are still undecided, but I am thinking about going into education.

When I'm on the internet, I go to ...? I go to Instagram or TikTok and watch videos.

What is a motto you follow? "Do the right thing, even when no one is watching."



What will you miss about high school? All the fun memories with my fellow classmates. The small school and the great community. The love and support from everyone around.

If you were a principal for a day, what would you change? I would have more creative electives and have better cafeteria options.

Who has the greatest influence on your life and why? My parents because of the way they lead by example, not just words. They always support, believe and encourage me to be the best version of myself.

Hobbies: Playing sports, being outdoors, watching movies, hanging out with friends and family



COMMUNITY R-6 ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

SPONSORED BY: LACROSSE LUMBER CO.

Student Name: **Kyler Kobush**
Year in School: **Sophomore**
Parents Names: **Tyler Kobush and Krista Painter**

High School Activities:
Cross country, Basketball, Track, FFA

Q & A with Kyler Kobush

Favorite Food: Chinese

Favorite Music: Country, Pop

Favorite Pro Sports Team: Chicago Bears

Favorite College Sports Team: N/A

What is your favorite sports memory? Playing with all of my friends

Who is your favorite athlete? LeBron James

What is your pregame ritual? Don't have one

What is your favorite part of sports? Enjoying them

When I'm on the Internet, I go to...? Youtube



What is a motto you follow? "Do your best no matter what."

What will you miss most about high school? Seeing all of my friends

If you were principal for a day, what would you change? The school lunch

Hobbies: Playing sports, gaming, spending time with family friends



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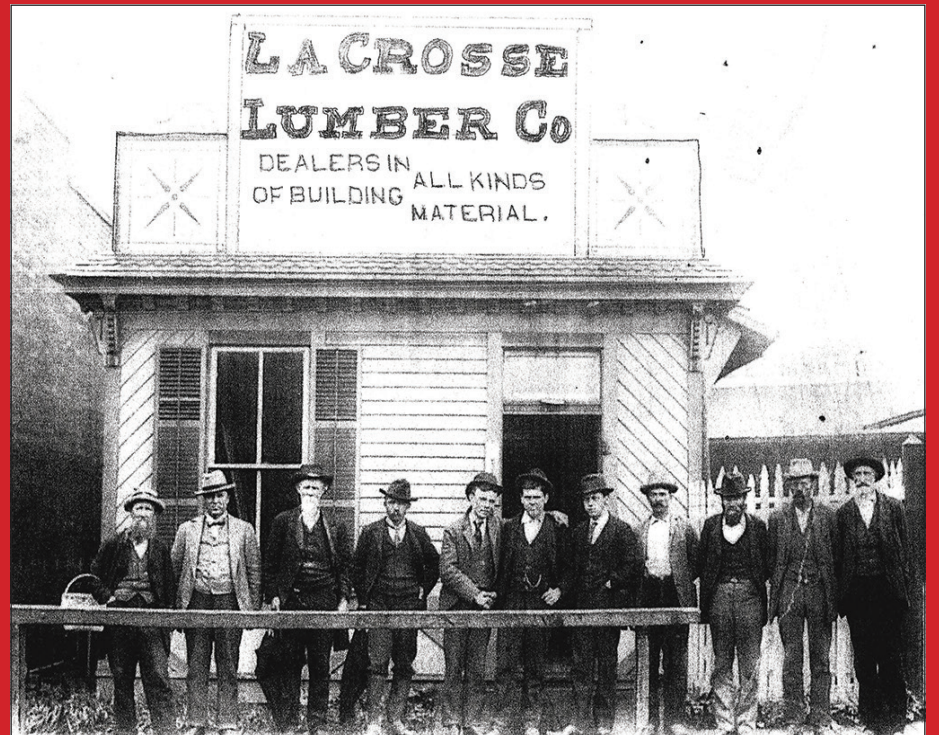
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Centralia FFA Degrees



Community R-6 FFA Degrees

Area students receive American FFA Degree

By SKY STRAUSS
Staff Writer

The American FFA Degree is the highest honor FFA members can receive in their career.

Community R-6 FFA adviser Stacy French explained that the degree recognizes years of dedication spent through the supervised agricultural experiences, leadership development and community service.

"This accomplishment reflects a long-term commitment, as members must set the goal early in their FFA careers and work diligently to meet the national requirements," French said in an email.

Students are eligible to apply for their American FFA Degree so long as they meet the numerous requirements set forth by the National FFA Constitution Article IV.

To be considered, the FFA member must:

- Have already received a State FFA degree indicating he or she is an active member who has satisfied both chapter and state participation requirements
- Complete agricultural instruction through at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school, 360 hours of systematic secondary school and one full year of postsecondary education or by completing the program offered in the secondary school they last attended
- Graduate high school at least 12 months before the national convention where he or she is to be recognized
- Maintain records of their SAEs that exhibit comprehensive planning and managerial and financial

expertise

- Earn at least \$10,000 and productively invest \$7,500 or earn and productively invest earn and productively invest \$2,000 and work 2,250 hours outside of the classroom
- Maintain a "C" average in school while having a record of outstanding leadership and community involvement
- Have at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different activities

Students applied for their American FFA Degrees in January. Their applications go through a state screening process and a national screening process before they make their way to the national board of directors that meets in July.

Nineteen area students will be recognized at the 98th National FFA Convention and Expo Oct. 29 – Nov. 1 in Indianapolis.

Mexico

Jack Norfleet, who is attending State Technical College pursuing a degree in ag business.

Nick Haines, who is attending the University of Missouri pursuing a degree in ag business and a member of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Nick Van Schyndel, who is attending the University of Missouri pursuing a degree in general agriculture.

Community R-6

Aaron Carter, who is attending Missouri S&T majoring in engineering.

Dylan Hoyt, who is attending University of Missouri majoring in plant science.

Brant Cope, who has completed a welding program at Iron Eagle Welding Academy and is currently working.

Olivia Schafer, who is attending the University of Missouri majoring in the pre-pharmacy program.

Zachary Love, who is attending State Technical College of Missouri majoring in electrical systems.

Mason Rohan, who is attending State Fair Community College majoring in wildlife management.

See FFA, Page B7

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NOTICE FOR BIDS ON SNOW REMOVAL

The Village of Vandiver is now accepting sealed bids on snow removal for the 2026-2027 season. The majority of the Village streets are curbed and guttered. Bid to include all concrete streets within Village, and office sidewalks and parking lot. All bids will be based on per time, per depth basis. Please include proof of liability and work compensation insurance. The contract term shall be for a period of one year. The Village of Vandiver shall have the right, at its sole option, to renew the contract for four additional one-year periods.

For more information or to submit a bid, contact the Village Office at 581-8412 or write to Village of Vandiver, P. O. Box 461, Mexico, Mo. 65265, please write "Snow Removal Bid" on the outside of envelope. The Board of Trustees will take bids until 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 13th.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Road & Bridge Clerk

Audrain County Commission office is accepting applications for the Road & Bridge Clerk position.

The Job will entail:

- Process invoices for payment
- Assist with Time & Attendance for road and bridge
- Assist commission with administrative responsibilities
- Works with county clerk's office for expenditures
- Creates and record data in spreadsheets
- Responsible for tickets with the phone systems and computers
- Assist in bidding process for materials, equipment, and projects
- Provides customer service as needed (answers phones, writes letters and other duties as assigned)
- Manages door system and contacts door company with problems

Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED required
- Microsoft Office experience preferred
- Microsoft Excel experience required
- Customer Service experience required

Applications are available in the Audrain County Human Resources Office, Audrain County Courthouse, 101 N Jefferson, Mexico, MO 65265 or online at www.audraincounty.org

Application Deadline: Open until position is filled

Benefits: Medical/Dental/Vision/Life/Retirement/EAP

Audrain County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Mexico's Annual Fall Cleanup will be held the first two Saturdays of October.

If your regular trash pickup day is:
Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday, your cleanup day will be Saturday, October 4

Monday or Thursday, your cleanup day will be Saturday, October 11

Cleanup dates also include appliance pickups (2 per household) - appliance pickup regulations apply.

All items must be bagged, boxed, taped or bundled and shall not exceed 5' in length, 20 inches in diameter and not exceed 50 pounds, with a maximum of 4 bundles. Items must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the assigned days.

A complete list of rules can be found on our website at mexicomissouri.net or contact the City of Mexico at 581-2100.

BID NOTICE

Mexico School District #59 (hereafter referred to as "District") is accepting bids for classroom furniture at Mexico Middle School. For details and specifications related to this project, please contact Kaity Baker at kbaker@mexico.k12.mo.us. Only bids meeting the specifications will be considered.

Sealed bids must be received by 1:00 PM October 14, 2025 to the address below. Bids will be publicly read aloud at this time.

Mexico School District #59
Attn: Kaity Baker
"MMS Classroom Furniture"
2101 Lakeview Road
Mexico, MO 65265

The district will give preference to Missouri businesses, or businesses that maintain Missouri offices, when the quality of performance promised is equal to and the price quoted is the same as other providers.

The District has the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to accept the bid which is in the best interest of the school district. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for the opening of bids. All bids received become part of the District's files.

IN THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF
JAMES BRYAN TALLEY,
Deceased Case No: 25AU-PR00085

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Independent Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JAMES BRYAN TALLEY, Decedent:

On September 3, 2025, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JAMES BRYAN TALLEY, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of AUDRAIN COUNTY, Missouri.

The personal representative's name and address is:
RODNEY TALLEY, 22408 AUDRAIN ROAD 326,
MEXICO, MO 65265.

The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number are: JONATHAN L. WITTE, 215 E. JACKSON, MEXICO, MO 65265, (573) 581-5190.

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

Date of the decedent's death: 30-JULY-2025
Date of first publication: SEPT. 10, 2025

/s/ Kristina Knipfel
Clerk

Publish 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 8/1/2025

MARQUETTE AUCTION SERVICES
Aren Hancock
Online Specialist
Phone: 573-544-3673

ONLINE Estate Auction

1888 Quail Hill Rd, Mexico, MO
bid.marquetteauctionservices.com

Auction Opens 9/21/25 @ 6 p.m.
Auction Viewing 9/23/25 @ 4-6 p.m.
Personal Property Starts Closing 9/25/25 @ 6 p.m.
Real Estate Starts Closing 10/7/25 @ 12 p.m.
Seller: Carroll & Jane Curry

THRASHER FOUNDATION REPAIR

50 years of trust.

50% off labor for you.

855-460-1476

PUBLIC AUCTION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 12:30 p.m.
328 Teal Lake Road, Mexico, MO

Having moved out of state, Judy Mika will be selling at public auction the following antiques and household items.

ANTIQUES:

Beautiful Walnut Dresser w/mirror and handkerchief drawers; Round Oak Dining Table-claw feet & extra leaf with 4 Pressback Chairs; 2 Dry Sinks; Unique Wood Cabinet w/12 drawers w/porcelain knobs and sorting sections on top; Drop Front Secretary w/4 drawers; Early Amer. China Cabinet; 2 Corner China Cabinets; Oak Display Cabinet w/glass shelves; Tabletop Display Cabinet; Unusual Corner Table; Hope Chest; Flat Top Trunk, Camelback Trunk; Buffet; Several Floor Lamps w/marble bases; Collection of China Covered Casserole Dishes-Jewel Tea, Meakin, Flow Blue, etc.; Antique Case (?) Tractor-1 fender missing; Oil Lamps; Model Sailing Ships; Wall Pictures in nice ornate frames; Granite Colander; Set of Meito China w/sev. Serving Pcs.; Collection of Aluminum Coffee Pots, many other misc. items.

ANTIQUES:

Kenmore Refrigerator w/bottom freezer & ice maker; Kenmore Dishwasher (built-in); GE Microwave (wall mount); Whirlpool Elec. Range; Kelvinator Upright Deep Freeze; Older model Kenmore Washer & Dryer set; Flat Screen TV; Maple Breakfast Set w/5 chairs; 2 Barrel Back Swivel LR Chairs; Lg. Wood Computer Desk; Office Chair; 2 Drawer Oak File Cabinet; 2 drawer File Cabinet; QS Bed w/King Headboard; Small Entertainment Cabinet; Floor Fan; Fire Fyter Floor Safe w/comb.; "Cardinals" 5x7 Rug; Blue pattern 9x12 Rug; Several Rugs & Runners; Miscellaneous Dishes, Pots & Pans, Kitchenware; New Pillsbury Doughboy Canister Set; Misc. Linen; Singer Portable Sewing Machine; New Home Sewing Machine in cabinet; Lot of Material and Sewing Supplies; Quilts & Quilt Tops-some old; Dehumidifier; 4 Card Tables; Office Supplies; Misc. Shelving; Wood & Metal Cabinets-some old; Very large lot of Furnace Filters-all sizes.

STORAGE BUILDING, LAWN & GARDEN & MISC.:

12'x8 1/2' Wood Outdoor Storage Shed on runners; Craftsman 22" Hi-wheel Weed Cutter; Elec. Bench Grinder; Wishing Well Planter and other flower pots, etc.; Galvanized Raised Garden Tubs; 5' Step Ladder; Step Stools; 2 Concrete Bird Baths; Several Bird Feeders; Live Trap; Shovels, Rakes, etc.; Lots of Misc. Small Tools; Garden Supplies

There will be a lot of miscellaneous items to be sold not listed as they were packed at the time of listing.

Announcements sale day take precedence over printed matter. Not responsible for accidents or lost/misplaced items.

Judy and The Late Ralph Mika,
Owner

Go to henke-auction.com for a full listing and photos

Henke
Auction Service

Richard and Doug Henke,
Auctioneers
573-473-5515
www.henke-auction.com

AUDRAIN COUNTY Real Estate Auction

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 AT 10 AM
AUCTION LOCATION: RUSH HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
143 CHURCH ST., RUSH HILL, MO 65280

PROPERTY LOCATION: At the northwest edge of Rush Hill, MO in Township 51N, Range 7W, Section 7 of Audrain County, MO.
Directions: From the east edge of Mexico, Missouri, at the airport, go east on Highway 54 for 5 miles to Highway B (Rush Hill exit), turn left and go north 3.5 miles to the north edge of Rush Hill, turn left on 6th Street and go west 1/4 mile to North Center Street (ACR 463), turn right and go just a short distance to the Davidson Property on both sides of the road.

PRE-AUCTION PROPERTY VIEWING Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 2 PM to 4 PM

51+/- BEAUTIFUL ACRES OF HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND TO BE OFFERED IN TWO TRACTS RANGING FROM 13+/- ACRES TO 38+/- ACRES INTOWNSHIP 51N, RANGE 7W, SECTION 7 OF AUDRAIN COUNTY, MO

SELLERS: JAMES A. & PEGGY A. DAVIDSON AND KENNETH M. & SUSAN E. DAVIDSON

Wheeler AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE
23101 HWY. 24, PARIS, MO 65275 | 660-327-5890
WWW.WHEELERAUCTIONS.COM

CHARLIE NORDWALD | 636-795-4552
WHEELER AUCTIONS | 660-327-5890
WWW.WHEELERAUCTIONS.COM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 AT 10 AM

AUCTION & PROPERTY LOCATION:
230 FAIRVIEW ROAD, NEW FLORENCE, MO 63363

Directions: From High Hill, Missouri exit on I-70, turn and go north 2 miles on Hwy. F to Fairview Road (MCR #235) turn left and go west 1 1/4 miles to the Van Beek Property on the left.

167.33 TOTAL SURVEYED ACRES OFFERED IN THREE TRACTS RANGING FROM 3.15 ACRES WITH THE VAN BEEK HOMESTEAD TO 149.77 ACRES OF FARMLAND. THE VAN BEEK PROPERTY LIES IN TOWNSHIP 48N, RANGE 4W, SECTIONS 29 AND 30 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MO

PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDES
TRACTORS & FARM MACHINERY, SHOP TOOL & MISC.,
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES, 500 GALLON LPG TANK

Visit wheelerauctions.com for more information!
SELLER: VAN BEEK FAMILY TRUST

Wheeler AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE
23101 HWY. 24, PARIS, MO 65275 | 660-327-5890
WWW.WHEELERAUCTIONS.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CHARLIE NORDWALD | 636-795-4552
WWW.WHEELERAUCTIONS.COM

Keep an Eye on What's Happening Locally!
The Mexico Ledger

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
REACH OUT TO 988

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE MISSOURI



FFA

from page B5

Van-Far

Carmen Wilburn, who is attending the University of Missouri as an agricultural education major.

Kristian Shaw, who is attending Columbia College for nursing.

Katelyn McCurdy, who is attending the University of Missouri pursuing a nursing degree.

Centralia

Shelby Lewis, who is attending the University of Missouri to pursue a degree in nursing.

Michael Marcellus, who is attending Missouri State University majoring in ag education.

Blair Schnarre, who is attending Kansas State University majoring in animal science.

Kaelyn Walters, who is attending Western Illinois University studying secondary mathematics



Jack Norfleet



Nick Haines



Nick Van Schyndel



Katie Bernicky



Lauren Rieke

education.

North Callaway

Katie Bernicky, who is attending the University of Missouri majoring in Plant Science-Crop Management and Landscape Design. She is also working on her precision agricultural certificate and honors certificate.

Tyler Huddleston, who is attending the University of Missouri majoring in plant science with minors in agricultural system technology and agribusiness. He is also working on the precision agricultural certificate.



Tyler Huddleston

Lauren Riecke, who is attending MACC and pursuing a degree in nursing.



Carmen Wilburn



Katelyn McCurdy



Kristian Shaw

Marriage minimum age law changes in Missouri

The state of Missouri recently enacted legislation that significantly changes the age requirements for marriage within the state, said Teresa L. Allen, recorder of deeds for Audrain County, in a news release.

Last session, Sen. Tracy McCreery sponsored House Bill 737/Senate Bill 43, which banned child marriage in the state. Gov. Mike Kehoe recently signed the bill into law.

These legislative changes went into effect on Aug. 28 and raise the mini-

mum age for marriage in Missouri to 18 years old, prohibiting the issuance of marriage licenses to anyone under that age. There are no exceptions, Allen said in the release.

Advocates for the legislation argue that minors who are married become more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, including human trafficking, the release stated. It has also been stated that minors in marriages lack the legal rights of adults, which makes initiating a divorce or access to support services for victims

of abuse more difficult. Plus, the previous law did not align with international human rights standards with a minimum marriage age of 18, the release stated.

The Recorders Association of Missouri has stated that county recorders of deeds will update their office policies to comply with the new law, and applicants will continue to be required to provide proof of age through certified copy of birth certificate, passport or other government-issued identification.

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mexicoledger.com

(First Published September 24, 2025)

NOTICE UPON ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI

Grain Belt Express LLC v. Lauren B. Benoit; Robert A. Benoit; Mitchell W. Benoit; Robert P. Benoit; Any unknown corporations, partnerships, persons, and other legal entities that may derive or claim any unrecorded title or interest in the property, their successors, assigns, heirs, trustees, legal representatives, and all other persons, including any unknown spouses, corporations, partnerships, legal entities, beneficiaries, or successors claiming by, through or under them or claiming under a person, firm, corporation, or trust named in this Petition, in Audrain County, Missouri; and Any known and unknown tenants, if any, residing or having an interest in the property described in this Petition in Audrain County, Missouri

Case No. 25AU-CC00017, Eminent Domain Action,
Pursuant to R.S.Mo. § 523.010, et seq.

NOTICE OF SUIT AND HEARING

To the above-named Defendants, any and all unknown heirs, beneficiaries, lessees, successors, assigns, and other persons, corporations, partnerships, associations and legal entities who may claim an interest in the affected properties (as identified below), along with any other unknown or known occupations or persons in actual possession of any or all of the properties, the identities, whereabouts and names of whom are also unknown, and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition in Eminent Domain (the "Petition") has been filed in the Circuit Court of Audrain, County, Missouri by Grain Belt Express LLC ("Grain Belt"), the object and general nature of which is to condemn certain property rights, pursuant to and in accordance with Chapter 523 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, which affects certain real property located in Audrain County, Missouri, with the following legal descriptions:

Parcel No. Tax ID: No. 20-4-18-0-000-003.000
(Parcel No. MO-AU-TG-052.000)

THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF AUDRAIN, STATE OF MISSOURI:

THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER AND THAT PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER LYING SOUTH OF THE WABASH RAILROAD, ALL IN SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 51 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE COUNTY OF AUDRAIN AND STATE OF MISSOURI, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART CONVEYED TO AUDRAIN COUNTY BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 298, AT PAGE 939 OF THE DEED RECORDS OF AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

The names of all known parties to said condemnation action are listed above and the name and address of the attorney for Grain Belt is Hannah Dalbey, GM Law PC, 1201 Walnut St., Ste. 2000, Kansas City, MO 64106; Tel: (816) 471-7700.

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that on October 17, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Cause may be heard, at the Audrain County Court Building, 101 N. Jefferson St., Mexico, MO 65265, before the Honorable Richard L. Scheibe, Grain Belt's Petition in Eminent Domain in said action shall be heard. The October 17, 2025 hearing will determine how and to whom proceeds of the condemnation shall be distributed.

It is ordered that a copy hereof shall be published, in accordance with the law, once each week, for three consecutive weeks, on the same day of each week, in the Mexico Ledger, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Audrain, Missouri.

Publish dates: 9/24, 10/1, 10/8/2025

City of Mexico Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Wastewater Sewer User Rate Increase

On October 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting of the City of Mexico, the City Council will be holding a Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers located at 300 North Coal Street, Mexico, Missouri to discuss the proposed Wastewater Sewer User rate increase. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the rate adjustment and to gather input regarding the Wastewater User Rate Ordinance from the rate payers.

The proposal would revise the City's wastewater rates to meet operational and capital requirements of the wastewater system. The basis on which the proposed wastewater rates have been calculated is available in a report filed with the City Clerk. The report includes a five-year financial projection of wastewater rates and takes into consideration cost increases resulting from significant capital improvements to meet DNR and EPA treatment facility requirements, daily operating costs, equipment repair and replacement, and fund balance reserve requirements.

	User Charge Portion	Capital Charge Portion	Base Rate / Month
Current:			
Per 1,000 Gallons	\$1.50	\$6.46	\$10.21
Proposed:			
Per 1,000 Gallons	\$1.53	\$6.59	\$10.41

Example Monthly Sewer Fee Based on 5,000 gallons per month:

Current:	\$50.01
Proposed:	\$51.01

Also, users of the utility collection system that are located and/or deliver sewer flow from outside the City's corporate limits shall be billed at a rate of two hundred (200) percent of rates established for the user types based on a monthly metered water flow received from those flow contributors with the City's corporate limits.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Administrative Services Department, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 300 North Coal Street or by phone (573) 581-2100.

By Order of the Council
Nikole Chism, City Clerk
Mexico, Missouri

(First Published September 24, 2025)

NOTICE UPON ORDER OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI

Grain Belt Express LLC v. James B. Bruns Revocable Trust Agreement dated June 15, 2011; James B. Bruns, as Trustee of the James B. Bruns Revocable Trust Agreement dated June 15, 2011; Any unknown corporations, partnerships, persons, and other legal entities that may derive or claim any unrecorded title or interest in the property, their successors, assigns, heirs, trustees, legal representatives, and all other persons, including any unknown spouses, corporations, partnerships, legal entities, beneficiaries, or successors claiming by, through or under them or claiming under a person, firm, corporation, or trust named in this Petition, in Audrain County, Missouri; and Any known and unknown tenants, if any, residing or having an interest in the property described in this Petition in Audrain County, Missouri

Case No. 25AU-CC00047, Eminent Domain Action,
Pursuant to R.S.Mo. § 523.010, et seq.

NOTICE OF SUIT AND HEARING

To the above-named Defendants, any and all unknown heirs, beneficiaries, lessees, successors, assigns, and other persons, corporations, partnerships, associations and legal entities who may claim an interest in the affected properties (as identified below), along with any other unknown or known occupations or persons in actual possession of any or all of the properties, the identities, whereabouts and names of whom are also unknown, and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition in Eminent Domain (the "Petition") has been filed in the Circuit Court of Audrain, County, Missouri by Grain Belt Express LLC ("Grain Belt"), the object and general nature of which is to condemn certain property rights, pursuant to and in accordance with Chapter 523 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, which affects certain real property located in Audrain County, Missouri, with the following legal description(s):

Parcel No. Tax ID: 23-8-33-0-000-005
(Parcel No. MO-AU-TG-097.000)

THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF AUDRAIN, STATE OF MISSOURI:

THE SOUTHEAST FOURTH OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 50 NORTH, OF RANGE 10 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., EXCEPTING 11 1/4 ACRES DEEDED TO SAMUEL TAYLOR, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING, START 671 FEET SOUTH AND 35 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 50 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST OF THE 5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI AND RUN THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF HIGHWAY "M", A DISTANCE OF 1,300 FEET, THENCE WEST A DISTANCE OF 450 FEET, THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 1,300 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT DUE WEST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE EAST 340 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 11 1/4 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

The names of all known parties to said condemnation action are listed above and the name and address of the attorney for Grain Belt is Hannah Dalbey, GM Law PC, 1201 Walnut St., Ste. 2000, Kansas City, MO 64106; Tel: (816) 471-7700.

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that on October 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the Cause may be heard, at the Audrain County Court Building, 101 N. Jefferson St., Mexico, MO 65265, before the Honorable Richard L. Scheibe, Grain Belt's Petition in Eminent Domain in said action shall be heard.

It is ordered that a copy hereof shall be published, in accordance with the law, once each week, for three consecutive weeks, on the same day of each week, in the Mexico Ledger, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Audrain, Missouri.

Publish dates: 9/24, 10/1, 10/8/2025

MEXICO & SURROUNDING AREAS CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister's Message

By Naftal Naftal
Mexico United Methodist Church

A prayer for every heart

In Luke 11:1-4, the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." They had been with Him for some time, yet they still felt uncertain about prayer. Their honesty is a reminder that it's okay not to have all the answers—we can ask Jesus to teach us too.

Jesus responded with what we know as the Lord's Prayer (also found in Matthew 6:10-13). It is not just a set of words to memorize, but a pattern for how to approach God.

We begin with "Our Father," a reminder that prayer is about relationships. We come as God's children, loved and cared for.

"Hallowed be your name" lifts our focus from ourselves to God's holiness. Prayer starts with worship.

"Your kingdom come" invites God's rule into our world and our hearts. It is a prayer of surrender, asking Him to meet us where we are.

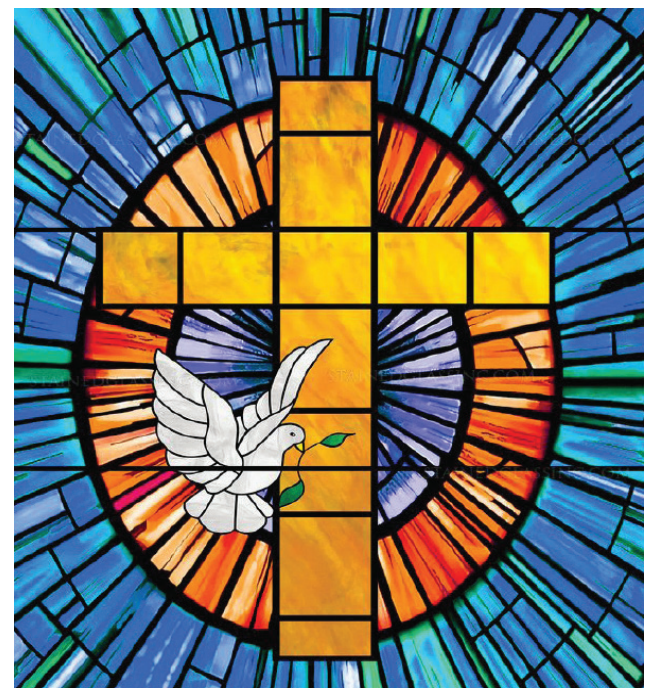
"Give us each day our daily bread" acknowledges our dependence. Just as God provided manna for Israel in the wilderness, He provides for our needs today.

"Forgive us our sins" calls us to seek mercy while also extending forgiveness to others. A forgiven heart is a forgiving heart.

Finally, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" asks for God's protection. Life is full of trials, and we need His strength to resist the traps of the enemy.

If you have ever struggled to find words in prayer, take comfort, the disciples did too. Jesus gave us this prayer as both a guide and a gift. When we don't know what to say, we can begin simply: "Our Father..."

May this prayer draw you closer to the One who hears every word and knows your heart.



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH LADDONIA, MO

This Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services. The church listings below are provided at **NO CHARGE** to our area churches.

Randy's Auto Body
4570 Friendship Dr. Mexico, MO
573-581-7697

Happy Home Care
Reasonable rates. Vetted responsible staff... Flexible care programs...In home care... we can help!
JUST ONE CALL AWAY... 573-567-6878

Rice Family Dentistry
Est. 1982
Your hometown dentist since 1982!
Dr. Marvin Elliott Rice
703 Medical Park • Mexico, MO 65265
573-581-7660

DONALDSON EXCAVATING
25498 Audrain Road 808 Mexico, MO
573-581-2414
Darren Donaldson • Scott Brooks

WOODS AUTO REPAIR LARRY WOODS
573-581-4447
PERSONAL SERVICE PLUS QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
111 South Olive - Mexico, MO

First Presbyterian Church of Mexico
400 Lakeview Road • Mexico, MO. 65265
573-581-5689
www.mexicofpc.com
Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 10:15 am
Worship service is streamed each week on Facebook
COME AS YOU ARE, ALL ARE WELCOME!

Graf & Sons Reloading Supercenter
4132 South Clark Mexico, MO
573-581-9777
Guns ~ New & Used ~ Archery ~ Ammo Optics and Reloading Components

Moser's
1101 W. Monroe
(573) 581-3100
OPEN 6 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Locally Owned and Operated

Prayer on the Square
12:10 p.m. - Last Wednesday of each month
OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE MEXICO, MO
Sponsored by the Mexico, MO Ministerial Alliance
Sign up for email reminders: ministerialalliancemexico@gmail.com
Sign up for text reminders: text@mexicomint to the number 81010

TRANE GeoComfort LENNOX
Geothermal Systems Live comfortably.™
MOMMENS HEATING & COOLING, LLC
1320 Paris Road Mexico, MO 65265 www.mommenshvac.com
573-581-7970 FAX 573-581-7338

Angell's
Western Wear & More
Downtown Centralia, MO
107 N. Allen St. • 573-682-2555
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm • Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm • Closed Sunday

RIDING HIGH COWBOY CHURCH
Mexico, Missouri
Meeting every Monday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Expo Building of the Midwest Exchange Regional Stockyards.
2700 E. Liberty St. - Mexico
Pastor Dale E. Larison 573-808-6595

Warm weather is back, we're back to roofing!

• Roofing
• Siding
• Windows
• Pole Barns
• Full Line Building Packages

MILLER BROTHERS LUMBER
5345 Audrain Road 225 • Centralia, MO 65240
573-682-4501

- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
- **First Assembly of God**
601 East 54, Vandalia
573-594-3300
 - **First Assembly of God Church**
1920 Lakeview, Mexico
573-581-1526

- BAPTIST**
- **Antioch Baptist Church of Centralia, MO**
1249 E. Hwy 22, Centralia
Pastor: Bro Eric Hill
 - **Bethlehem Baptist Church**
13013 Highway J, Centralia
Pastor: Scotty Watson
573-469-1893
 - **Centennial Baptist Church**
816 W. Breckenridge, Mexico
573-581-5173
 - **Farber Baptist Church**
105 E. Hickory, Farber
 - **1st Baptist Church**
509 Salling St., Perry, MO 63462
Pastor: Bob Knight
 - **First Baptist Church**
600 E. Promenade, Mexico
573-581-4190
 - **First Baptist Church**
214 N. Lindell St., Vandalia
573-594-6535
 - **First Baptist Church**
Maple St., Laddonia
 - **Friendship Baptist Church**
4500 E. Liberty St., Mexico
573-581-4038
 - **Grand Prairie Baptist Church**
104 N. Main St., Auxvasse
573-386-5224
 - **Hopewell Baptist Church**
10749 ACR 945, Thompson
 - **Iglesia Bautista Rios De Agua Viva**
310 N. Wade, Mexico
 - **Littleby Baptist Church**
9 miles N. of Mexico, Rt. J
 - **Lockwood Baptist Church**
1005 West Love, Mexico
Pastor Randy Jones
 - **New Hope Baptist Church**
11535 Audrain Road 973, Centralia
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Bro. Wesley Pulis, Church Pastor
 - **Riding High Cowboy Church**
2700 E. Liberty St., Mexico
573-808-6595
Pastor: Dale Larison
 - **Second Baptist Church**
1501 US 54, Vandalia
573-594-2146
 - **Second Missionary Baptist Church**
418 E. Breckenridge, Mexico
573-581-2066
 - **Soul's Harbor Baptist Church**
(Independent)
1845 W. Boulevard, Mexico
573-581-2175
 - **Union Baptist Church**
17620 Hwy JJ, Mexico
573-567-0025
 - **Watchman Baptist Church**
14813 Audrain Rd. 823 Mexico, MO 65265
Pastor: Kenny Wyss
573-253-5697
 - **West Cuivre Baptist Church**
38533 ACR 620, Laddonia
573-473-2952

- CHRISTIAN**
- **Benton City Christian Church**
121 Morris, Benton City
 - **Berean Christian Fellowship Church of Mexico**
Sunday Service: 10am-12pm
Wednesday Service: 7-8pm
Pastor: Linda Edwards
 - **Farber Christian Church**
303 N. Main, Farber
573-249-3627
 - **Kentucky Road Christian Church**
716 Kentucky Road, Mexico
573-581-1782
 - **Laddonia Christian Church**
4th & Chestnut, Laddonia
573-373-5560
 - **Salt River Christian Church**
14426 ACR 965, Thompson
 - **Santa Fe Christian Church**
35546 Rt. D, Santa Fe
573-582-2459
 - **Second Christian Church**
1071 Brooker St., Vandalia
573-594-3262
 - **Southside Christian Church**
2100 Lakeview, Mexico
573-581-3837
 - **Sunrise Christian Church**
6209 ACR 355, Mexico
573-581-6888

- CHRISTIAN (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
- **Auxvasse Christian Church**
201 E. Walnut St., Auxvasse
573-386-2361
 - **First Christian Church**
307 W. Jackson, Mexico
573-581-4628
 - **Liberty Christian Church**
Highway E, Thompson
 - **Midway Christian Church**
ACR 380, Mexico
660-327-5258
 - **New Testament Christian Church**
404 S. Main St., Auxvasse

- CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**
- **St. Paul CME Church**
614 E. Park Drive, Mexico
573-581-3020

- CHRISTIAN**
- **Benton City Christian Church**
121 Morris, Benton City
 - **Berean Christian Fellowship Church of Mexico**
Sunday Service: 10am-12pm
Wednesday Service: 7-8pm
Pastor: Linda Edwards
 - **Farber Christian Church**
303 N. Main, Farber
573-249-3627
 - **Kentucky Road Christian Church**
716 Kentucky Road, Mexico
573-581-1782
 - **Laddonia Christian Church**
4th & Chestnut, Laddonia
573-373-5560
 - **Salt River Christian Church**
14426 ACR 965, Thompson
 - **Santa Fe Christian Church**
35546 Rt. D, Santa Fe
573-582-2459
 - **Second Christian Church**
1071 Brooker St., Vandalia
573-594-3262
 - **Southside Christian Church**
2100 Lakeview, Mexico
573-581-3837
 - **Sunrise Christian Church**
6209 ACR 355, Mexico
573-581-6888

- CHRISTIAN (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
- **Auxvasse Christian Church**
201 E. Walnut St., Auxvasse
573-386-2361
 - **First Christian Church**
307 W. Jackson, Mexico
573-581-4628
 - **Liberty Christian Church**
Highway E, Thompson
 - **Midway Christian Church**
ACR 380, Mexico
660-327-5258
 - **New Testament Christian Church**
404 S. Main St., Auxvasse

- CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**
- **St. Paul CME Church**
614 E. Park Drive, Mexico
573-581-3020

- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- **Mexico Church of Christ**
2031 W. Monroe St., Mexico
605-220-3193

- CHURCH OF GOD**
- **Church of God (Holiness)**
1215 W. Boulevard, Mexico

- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**
- **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**
635 Ringo, Mexico

- METHODIST**
- **Mexico United Methodist Church**
122 E. Promenade, Mexico
573-581-4791
 - **St. Luke United Methodist Church**
604 Johnson, Mexico
573-581-6140
 - **United Methodist Church**
201 N. Jefferson St., Vandalia
573-594-3124
 - **Ward Chapel AMC Church**
Corner of Holt & Johnson, Mexico
573-582-7197

- PENTECOSTAL**
- **Apostolic Pentecostal Church**
908 East 54, Vandalia
573-594-3671
 - **Living Hope of Mexico**
1427 W. Monroe, Mexico
573-581-2575

- PRESBYTERIAN**
- **Auxvasse City Presbyterian Church**
104 E Chestnut St., Auxvasse
573-386-2636
 - **Bethel Presbyterian Church**
1313 Neptune, Mexico
573-581-4941
 - **Curryville Presbyterian Church**
201 E. Main St., Curryville
573-324-3490
Pastor Shonda
 - **Farber Presbyterian Church**
101 S. Oak, Farber
573-249-5711
 - **First Presbyterian Church**
400 Lakeview Road, Mexico
573-581-5689
 - **First Presbyterian Church**
214 N. Jefferson St., Vandalia
573-594-2049
 - **Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church**
Rural Route 1, Vandalia
573-594-3002
 - **Presbyterian Church**
105 Front St., Benton City
573-581-8864
 - **Old Auxvasse Nine Mile Presbyterian Church**
Pastor Bill Jessop - 9:30 a.m
1st & 3rd Sundays- 10672 Co Rd Williamsburg
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays -2982 Co Rd 156
Kingdom City
573-254-3398

- SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**
- **Seventh Day Adventist**
410 N. Agricultural, Mexico
573-582-0937

- WESLEYAN**
- **Faith Wesleyan**
1125 W. Boulevard, Mexico
573-581-5110

- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
- **Abundant Life Church**
Jefferson Building
222 S. Jefferson St., Mexico
 - **Faith Tabernacle**
907 West Home, Vandalia
573-594-6541
 - **First Christian Church**
205 W. Park St., Vandalia
573-594-2703
 - **Genesis**
Mexico YMCA
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Jeff: 256-361-8673
 - **Just As I Am Cowboy Church**
23410 Monroe Rd. 840, Paris
660-327-1308
 - **Martinsburg Community Church**
201 E. Jefferson St., Martinsburg
573-492-6466
 - **New Testament Assembly**
1125 W. Boulevard, Mexico
 - **Rush Hill Community Church**
143 Church St., Rush Hill
 - **Victory Christian Fellowship**
3550 S. Clark, Mexico
573-581-6317

To place your church's information on this page, contact our office at
573-581-1111 • circulation@mexicoledger.com

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