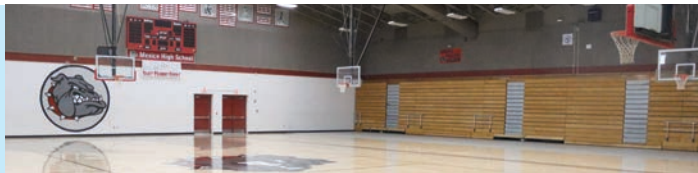


The Mexico Ledger

Wednesday, June 17, 2026  mexicoledger.com  @mexicoledger  /mexicoledger \$2.00 Volume 161, Issue 24

NEW COURT Mexico High School has new gym floor laid out, **B1**



CADETS TRAIN MMA hosts JROTC Leadership Challenge, **A3**



Miss Missouri 2025 Courtney Rowe crowns Miss Missouri 2026 Tabitha Crain with Miss Missouri's Teen Anna Hall. [Sky Kauffman]

Tabitha Crain claims Miss Missouri title

By **SKY KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer

Miss Missouri 2026 will barely have time to soak in her win before the real work starts. Tabitha Crain was crowned as Miss Missouri Saturday night in Mexico at the 56th Miss Missouri pageant, and she is already prepared to hit the ground running Monday morning — starting with promoting her community service initiative. “My CSI is entitled S.P.U.R., and I advocate

for survivors of domestic violence after my own experiences,” Crain said. “When I was a freshman in college, I was a victim of a very violent crime, but from that, I took a lot of growth and I brought that to the Miss America Organization to make a difference.” Crain said her past shaped the way she viewed the world. “In a way, it made me a little softer, and it made me view the world with a whole lot more empathy,” she said. “I spent years working in a do-

mestic violence shelter and hearing other people’s stories. It really brings you back down to earth and reminds you what your priorities are.” Crain, daughter of Tranna Shaughnessy and Terry Appleby, is a Stratford native who completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri. After taking a semester off to prepare for Miss America, Crain said she will continue her education in law school. “I’m attending law school with the hopes of continuing to advocate

for survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence through their child and family justice clinic,” she said. For the last two years, Crain has been a runner-up, but she never let that stop her from chasing her dream of becoming Miss Missouri. “Anybody in the top five would have been more than deserving to be Miss Missouri, and I am just so lucky,” she said. Her persistence paid See **CRAIN**, Page A2



Miss Missouri's Teen 2025 Greta Clark crowns Miss Missouri's Teen Anna Hall with Miss Missouri 2025 Courtney Rowe Friday night. [Sky Kauffman]

Anna Hall crowned Miss Missouri's Teen

By **SKY KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer

“Visibility is incredible, but impact is meaningful.” The last words Anna Hall spoke were said with intense conviction during her final on-stage question. On Friday night, she was crowned Miss Missouri's Teen 2026 in Mexico at the 56th Miss Missouri pageant. Hall, daughter of Scott and Melisa Hall, is a Branson native who competed this year as Miss Southwest's Teen. Competing for four years and being named runner-up last year made winning that much more special. “My reaction was basically just, ‘What just happened?’” When she heard her name called, Hall said her first thought was, “Thank you, Jesus.” “It was a big step to come back and know that maybe God wasn’t done with my story,” she said. “Tonight is proof of that. I am very excited for what I’m going to have this year.” Her community service initiative, Project Wallflower, focuses on helping young women and girls overcome social anxiety and build confidence through mentorship. “The way I plan on growing is by contacting global game changers and getting an in-person curriculum created,” Hall said. “I can only be in so many places at once as Miss Missouri's Teen, but local titleholders across the state and in the country can be in more classrooms. They can use that curriculum and use those tools and do incredible things that I’m not just capable of alone.” Hall used to struggle with anxiety — something the audience may not have been able to guess by the way she commanded the stage. “In middle school, I struggled with extreme social anxiety so bad I couldn’t even go to youth group,” she said. “I was left crying in the corner places because I just did not have any confidence.”

See **HALL**, Page A2

Best of Audrain contest opens June 19

Residents across Audrain County have the chance to spotlight their favorite local businesses, organizations and professionals as the first Best of Audrain contest gets underway June 19. The community-driven contest invites readers to nominate and vote for the top businesses across a wide range of categories, from dining and shopping to services and more. Nominations and vot-

ing for the 2026 Best of Audrain awards will open June 19 and allow participants to submit their favorite local businesses and individuals for consideration in each category. Participants can submit nominations and cast votes online daily through July 24 at mexicoledger.com/bestofaudrain. A print ballot will also be published in the June 24 and July 8 editions of The Mexico Ledger.

The contest is designed to celebrate the businesses and individuals who make Audrain County a great place to live, work and visit, while also encouraging residents to support local. Winners will be featured in a special section highlighting the best the community has to offer in the August 26 edition of The Mexico Ledger. Winning businesses will also receive a free window cling. There is no purchase necessary to vote or win. Want to be a category sponsor or need help promoting your business? Contact Tara Oberlag at ads@mexicoledger.com.



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CRAIN

from page A1

off — a message she shared with the women she represents.

“You never really know what’s on the other side of this,” Crain said. “These are the most talented, inspiring women I’ve ever met, but when you work hard and you truly allow yourself to be excellent, then that shows to everyone, and I’d encourage you to keep trying.”

As Miss Missouri, Crain said she will work to leave a legacy of improved domestic violence legislation that includes

a renewed partnership between the Miss America organization and the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network.

“Something I’m advocating for right now in Missouri is a similar bill that was just passed in Tennessee,” Crain said. “Now, convicted offenders of domestic violence have to register similarly to if they were sex offenders so people can be educated and informed when they’re entering new relationships.”

After turning over her title, Miss Missouri 2025 Courtney Rowe said she is leaving the sash and crown in good hands.

“Tabitha Crain is the

perfect example of everything this organization stands for,” she said. “She is a servant — that’s what she does day in and day out. She has a heart of service, and I know she’s going to do tremendous things.”

For more photos, see The Mexico Ledger’s on-line photo galleries.

To purchase photo reprints, call the Mexico Ledger office at 573-581-1111.

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The top five finalists of the 2026 Miss Missouri pageant (from left): Ava Powers, third runner-up; Colleen Finney, first runner-up; Miss Missouri Tabitha Crain; Georgia Barge, second runner-up; and Halie Hebron, fourth runner-up. [Sky Kauffman]

HALL

from page A1

Hall said she was able to overcome her anxiety thanks to her mentors, and she is passionate about her CSI because she doesn’t want anyone to feel like she did.

“Each person is created uniquely and they deserve to feel that way,” she said.

Overcoming anxiety led Hall down the path to Miss Missouri’s Teen and gave her the strength to sing for her talent in front of hundreds of people.

“This has been an incredible season of preparation for me.”

For her talent, Hall sang “Gimme Gimme” from Thoroughly Modern Mille, a song she had never performed before. But all her hard work paid off when Miss Missouri’s Teen 2025 Greta Clark placed the crown atop her

head.

Clark said crowning the next Miss Missouri’s Teen was a bittersweet moment.

“It really is sad to step away from something that I’ve been doing for such a long time, but to be able to cheer on the next girl is something that’s truly incredible,” Clark said. “I’ve been able to compete with Anna for years, and it’s just so amazing to see her get to this point.”

Hall said she would call every single girl on stage with her a friend.

“I could not have done this without you,” she said. “There’s no mean-girliness, there’s no bitterness — this was a year of sisterhood like I have never experienced before. I am proud of each and every one of them, and I am so proud to represent them this year.”



Miss Missouri’s Teen top five (from left) Chamberlain Webster, third runner-up; Celia Medeiros, first runner-up; Anna Hall, Miss Missouri’s Teen; Mariah Turner, second runner-up; and Brylee Welch, fourth runner-up.

[Sky Kauffman]

Mexico renews partnership with East Central Drug Task Force

Since its inception in 2001, the City of Mexico has been part of the East Central Drug Task Force.

At the June 8 Mexico City Council meeting, the city signed a memorandum of understanding to continue the partnership for the task force’s operation for the 2025-26 grant year.

“The purpose of the Task Force is to foster an efficient and cohesive unit capable of addressing drug and associated crime issues in the task force area,” Mexico Public Safety Department Chief Brice Mesko said in a letter submitted to the City of Mexico. “The East Central Drug Task Force enhances the effectiveness of federal, state and local law enforcement resources through a well-coordinated initiative seeking the most effective prosecutions for these crimes.”

The task force is a collaborative effort among seven sheriff’s offices in Audrain, Cooper, Howard, Montgomery, Monroe, Warren and Pike counties; eight police departments in Fayette, Glasgow, High Hill, Jonesburg, Mexico, New Florence, Palmyra and

Warrenton; and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Participating agencies fund the task force through grants and contributions, including the City of Mexico, which contributes \$11,500 annually.

At the meeting, Mesko said this year’s contribution will be the same. He also presented statistics regarding the task force’s efforts last year to council members.

According to Mesko, the East Central Drug Task Force conducted 134 investigations, served 25 search warrants, made 47 arrests and seized approximately \$1.7 million worth of drugs across participating jurisdictions in 2025.

He added that in early 2026, the Task Force Board of Directors was approached by additional municipalities that considered joining after seeing the results of the task force. The board is considering how to proceed with the requests and reevaluating each member’s contribution.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, task force cases are managed by a narcotics investigator from the

Missouri State Highway Patrol’s Division of Drug and Crime Control. Cases are assigned to investigative teams based on training, performance, experience and existing caseload. Vehicles and radio equipment for task force officers, with the exception of highway patrol officers, will be provided through task force funds.

City council members voted unanimously in favor of continuing the partnership.

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(PG, 102 mins.)
DAILY 2:00, 7:00

TOY STORY 5 (3D)
(PG, 102 mins.)
DAILY 4:30

DISCLOSURE DAY
(PG-13, 145 mins.)
DAILY 2:00, 4:00, 7:00

SCARY MOVIE 6
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All letters must be signed and include the author’s name, address and a daytime phone number for verification purposes. Phone numbers will not be published. Anonymous or unverifiable letters will not be printed.
Letters should be brief — no more than 400 words. Submissions should be typed if possible and not written in all capital letters. Clearly handwritten letters will also be accepted.
To be considered for publication in a specific edition, letters should be received in our office by Friday of the week prior to publication.
The Mexico Ledger reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length and style. We do not publish libelous statements or personal attacks. Letters are limited to one per writer per month. Political endorsement letters will be charged at the current political advertising rate. All letters are published at the discretion of the editor.



High school JROTC cadets from across Missouri gather at the rappel tower at Missouri Military Academy during the 2026 Missouri Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge. [Photo courtesy of MMA/Matt Jackson]

Nearly 500 attend 2026 Missouri JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge at MMA

Missouri Military Academy hosted the 2026 Missouri Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge from May 27-31, welcoming hundreds of Army JROTC cadets from across the state, including 12 MMA cadets, for a week of leadership development, teamwork and adventure-based training.

A total of 479 participants arrived on campus May 27. Of those, 392 were high school Army JROTC cadets representing schools throughout Missouri. The remaining participants included instructors and senior ROTC cadets from Missouri State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Central Missouri and

Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Selected by Missouri's U.S. Army JROTC program as the host venue, MMA provided the facilities, training areas and support for the brigade-level leadership event. Throughout the week, cadets rotated through a variety of hands-on training stations designed to develop leadership, confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills in demanding environments.

Training events included the cadet challenge (physical fitness test), rappelling operations, obstacle and leader reaction courses, waterborne operations, first aid and litter-carry pro-

cedures, land navigation, and one-rope bridge construction. Cadets also completed drownproofing, a water-survival exercise that taught participants to conserve energy, maintain composure and remain afloat in challenging conditions while building confidence and resilience in the water. Each event challenged cadets to work together, communicate effectively and apply leadership skills under pressure.

JCLC is one of the premier leadership development programs within Army JROTC, providing cadets with immersive experiences that reinforce character, discipline and teamwork while exposing them to new challenges outside

the classroom.

Founded in 1889, Missouri Military Academy has a long tradition of developing young men through academic excellence, character education and leadership training. Hosting JCLC reflects MMA's continued commitment to supporting leadership development opportunities for cadets throughout Missouri and advancing the mission of Army JROTC programs across the state.

The 2026 Missouri JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge concluded May 31 following five days of intensive training, collaboration and leadership development among the next generation of leaders.

City extends alcohol sale hours during FIFA World Cup

By SKY KAUFFMAN
Staff Writer

Cities across Missouri are extending the hours of alcohol sales during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, but not all will participate to the full extent allowed by law.

A new city ordinance that allows businesses to sell alcohol between 6 a.m. and 3 a.m. the following day during the World Cup was approved at the June 8 Mexico City Council meeting. The ordinance went into effect on June 11 and will end July 19. Mexico's ordinance also excludes July 2-5 from the extended hours.

House Bill 1041, signed into law by Gov. Mike Kehoe on July 10, 2025, modifies regulations for alcoholic beverages. The bill allows businesses that sell liquor by the drink for consumption

on their premises to remain open 24 hours a day and serve alcohol from 6 a.m. to 5 a.m. the following day. Missouri law allows municipalities to modify the extended hours by local ordinance.

"Kansas City, Columbia and so on have altered the hours because they felt like it was too long of a period," City Manager Bruce Slagle said at the meeting.

Mexico Public Safety Department Chief Brice Mesko told council members that he was aware some Mexico establishments had expressed interest in the extended hours.

"We suggested participation by matching the hours allowed in Kansas City and Columbia, excluding the Fourth of July weekend to allow public safety's resources

to focus on other celebrations and require notice of dates to prevent any miscommunication with law enforcement from the establishments."

Licensed establishments are required under the new ordinance to provide written notice to the city clerk at least 48 hours prior to any day that they plan to operate during the extended hours.

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Stolen truck found burning in field

The Mexico Public Safety Department is seeking information regarding a truck theft.

A white 2007 Chevrolet Silverado was reported stolen from a property in the 1400 block of Paris Road at approximately 2:37 a.m. Saturday, according to a news release issued by MPSD. At approximately 5:18 a.m., officials found the stolen truck burning in a field off Audrain County Road 353.

The Little Dixie Fire Protection District responded to extinguish the fire and there were no injuries reported.

Officials reported that the stolen vehicle had been left unlocked with the keys inside. Another vehicle on the property that had also been left unlocked had been rummaged through, with some items stolen, according to the release.

Investigators identified several locations in the north-central part of Mexico where the truck had been before it was found burning in the field.

Anyone with information about this or any other crime is asked to contact the Mexico Public Safety Department at 573-473-5800 or 573-581-2100. Information may also be provided to the Audrain County Sheriff's Office.

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OBITUARIES

Deborah Buss Laughlin

Deborah “Debbie” Buss Laughlin, 67, of Fulton, passed away on June 5, 2026, at University of Missouri Hospital. Debbie was born on October 5, 1958, in St. Louis, Missouri, to the late Theodor Buss and the late Jean (Russell) Buss. She was raised in St. Louis surrounded by the love of her parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, who helped shape the caring and generous person she would become.



Debbie moved to Fulton to attend William Woods University and often joked that she simply never left. Fulton became her home, and over the years she became an active member of the community she loved.

On March 17, 1995, she was united in marriage to Mike Laughlin, who survives her passing.

Debbie dedicated much of her life to education, serving as a special education teacher at Fulton Middle School. She had a special gift for encouraging and supporting her students and found great fulfillment in helping others succeed. Later in life, she chose to retire early so she could devote her time to caring for her beloved grandchildren, Riley and Lauren, who were among the greatest joys of her life.

A longtime member of the Fulton Rotary Club, Debbie served her community and was honored to serve as the club’s president on two occasions. She believed in giving back and was always willing to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed.

Debbie was a friend to many. She was known for her generous spirit, welcoming smile, and ability to make everyone feel valued. She loved spending time with family and friends and was always ready for a good time—whether it was a family gathering, a lunch date with friends, a winery trip, or one of the many outings with her beloved “Thirsty Thursday” girls. Her laughter, kindness, and enthusiasm for life left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

More than anything, Debbie treasured the time she spent with those she loved, especially her grandchildren. The memories she created with family and friends will continue to be cherished for years to come.

Her memory will continue to be cherished by her husband Mike, daughter, Margaret “Molly” McTaggart Hanley (Josh), sisters, Jane Hilboldt (Denny), Dorothy Buss (Don), and grandchildren, Riley and Lauren Hanley; aunt, Margaret “Peggy” Russell, along with numerous nieces and nephews, and many, many close friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at The Fulton Country Club from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations suggested to Fulton Rotary Club, c/o Maupin Funeral Home, 301 Douglas Blvd, Fulton, MO 65251.

Condolences can be left for the family at www.maupinfuneralhome.com.

Robert Michael Bock

Robert Michael Bock, 70, of Macon, formerly of Mexico, died on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at his home. Funeral services were on Saturday, June 13, at Arnold Funeral Home with military honors that followed. Visitation was Saturday from 10 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at www.arnoldfh.com.

Eric L. Goss

Eric L. Goss, 39, of Columbia, died June 9, 2026. A celebration of life will be from 1-3 p.m. June 14, at Oliver Funeral Home in Centralia. Memorial contributions may be made to the family, payable to Oliver Funeral Home, P.O. Box 125, Centralia, MO 65240. Condolences may also be made to the family at www.oliverfuneralhome.net.

John Joseph Burns

John Joseph Burns, 71, of Centralia, died June 9, 2026. Visitation, a celebration of life and graveside services were held on Tuesday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chapel Grove 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.

Timothy Joseph Schwennesen

Timothy Joseph Schwennesen, 76, of Centralia, died June 9, 2026. A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. on June 17 at the Centralia United Methodist Church with a celebration of life to follow at noon. Interment with Military Honors will be at 2 p.m. on June 17 at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, Missouri.

Senior Center Menu

June 17: BBQ Pork Ribbette, Bun, Baked Sweet Potatoes, Bread & Tomatoes, Fruit, 2% Milk, Tapioca Pudding

June 18: Chicken Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Lima Beans, Homemade Bread, Fruit, 2% Milk, Dessert

June 19: CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH

June 22: Lasagna W/Beef Sauce, Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Corn, Garlic Bread, Fruit, 2% Milk, Peanut Butter Cake

June 23: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Carrots, Homemade Bread, Fruit, 2% Milk, Dessert



Presenting the book to Mexico-Audrain County Library System Director Christal Bruner, center, and Mexico-Audrain County Library Assistant Director Mare Prossio, left, is History Takes A Walk Program Lead Chris Newbrough, right. [Photo courtesy of Chris Newbrough]

ACHD donates inaugural History Walk commemorative book

Recently, the Audrain County Health Department donated a copy of their inaugural History Takes A Walk 2025 Commemorative book to the Mexico-Audrain County Library in Mexico. The book is a look back at the first season of the popular History Takes A Walk educational/exercise program. The books are available for purchase as well by the general public at the Audrain County Health Department, the Audrain County Historical Society’s Ross House and the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce. The proceeds from the \$40 purchase price will benefit the Audrain County Health Department’s Audrain County Medical Assistance Program (ACMAP).

chase as well by the general public at the Audrain County Health Department, the Audrain County Historical Society’s Ross House and the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce. The proceeds from the \$40 purchase price will benefit the Audrain County Health Department’s Audrain County Medical Assistance Program (ACMAP).

Robert Paben

Robert Paben, 54, of Mexico, died Feb. 8, 2026. A celebration of life will be at 3 p.m., June 20, at the Paben Residence. Memorial contributions may be made to the DLBCL - Research c/o Oliver Funeral Home, P.O. Box 125, Centralia, MO 65240. Condolences may also be made to the family at www.oliverfuneralhome.net.

Delbert Lee Avery

Delbert Lee Avery, age 94, of Columbia, Missouri, passed away June 8, 2026, in Columbia, surrounded by family throughout his final weeks. Delbert was born on February 8, 1932, in Thompson, Missouri, the only child of Chester Lee and Pearl Aline (Groves) Avery, and lived a life that reflected the strength and character of his generation.



Delbert graduated from Laddonia High School in 1950 and served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1953, including nine months in Korea with Company D, 2nd Infantry Division, during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant.

In May 1953, shortly before his Army discharge, Delbert married Margaret Fairburn in Laddonia, and they had three children: Robert, Janet, and Gary. Delbert’s second marriage was on Christmas Eve 1962 to Barbara Tindall, who brought with her three daughters: Deborah, Linda, and Elsa.

Delbert worked skidding brick for more than 20 years at Kaiser Refractories in Mexico, during which time he graduated from the Missouri School of Auctioneering in Kansas City. A self-taught and successful entrepreneur, he conducted auctions and estate sales before entering the furniture and carpet business in Laddonia and Paris, Missouri. In 1996, he and Barbara founded Avery’s Floor Mat Co., growing it from 2 to 27 employees. He exhibited at trade shows in Las Vegas and Chicago and was the original maker of the U-shaped rear mat for Chrysler minivans. They sold the company in 1996 and retired the following year.

After retiring, Delbert and Barbara built a large home in Mexico, Missouri, where family frequently gathered for holidays and created many fun memories. Following Barbara’s passing in 2014, he moved to Columbia, where he remained active and independent. Delbert loved country music and traveled with Barbara to Fan Fair in Nashville, Tennessee, for many years. He enjoyed playing pool and even created the “Cut Shot King” tool to help others improve their game. He found joy collecting antiques and woodworking—crafting clocks and other items for sale at craft shows. He will be remembered for his sharp wit, fun banter, strong opinions, unmistakable personality, and for always being well-dressed.

Delbert is survived by his children, Robert “Bob” Lee Avery [Elena], Janet Sue (Avery) Brower [George], Gary Wayne Avery [Rosie]; grandchildren Jackie Wayne Brower [Debbie], Jared Michael Brower [Ashley], Amanda Kathryn (Avery) Hayes [John], Rebecca Susan (Avery) Brajner [John]; great-grandchildren Jackson Day Brower, Jacer Avery Brower, Tyler Michael Brower, Jeanette “Nettie” Lee Brower, John Sydney Hayes IV, Emily Kathryn Hayes, Chase Everett Brajner, Grace Catherine Brajner; cousins Connie (Avery) Tapley and Kenny Avery; and other close family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara and his parents.

Visitation will be held on Monday, June 15, from 4-7 PM at Schlanker Funeral Home in Montgomery City, Missouri. The funeral service will be at 11 AM on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at the same location. Lunch will immediately follow the service at the United Methodist

Presbyterian Church in Montgomery City. Burial with military honors will follow at Laddonia Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest alongside his parents, Chester and Aline Avery. His grandsons and great-grandsons are honored to serve as pallbearers. Memorial contributions may be made to Mexico Veterans Home.



Reptile Day

Ethan Regan introduces a group of kids to a turtle. Regan, who is with the Missouri Department of Conservation, came from the Runge Center in Jefferson City to Mexico for reptile day, hosted June 4 at the Mexico-Audrain County Library.

[Photo courtesy of Kasi Welborn]

BOOK REVIEW

June 2026 Library Staff Book Review

Seeds of Rebellion and The Powder is Lit

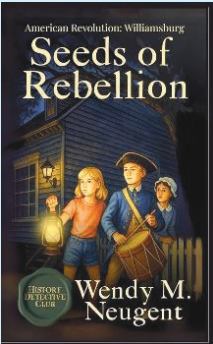
by Wendy M. Neugent (History Detective Club series)

Reviewed by
Brenda Gower
Farber Branch
Library Manager

What if you could go back into time and experience the beginnings of the Revolutionary War in North America? That is what happens in this series. A young girl, Rose, lives in current time Williamsburg and discovers a pearl necklace in the floorboard of her 1774 Williamsburg home. Putting the necklace on, she is transported to 1774.

There are four books in this series that take Rose and the reader through the American Revolution from 1774 to December 1776. You walk the streets and meet the people living during the American Revolution in Williamsburg. You find that not everyone supports this new movement in the same way.

These are good books to introduce a middle school reader to our country’s beginnings.



Such an appropriate time, our country’s 250th Birthday. I have read the first two books and enjoyed the content and felt that they provided a good feel for what it might have been like to be a young person during this time period in colonial North America.

June history takes A walk

Join the Audrain County Health Department each month, from April to October, for a History Takes a Walk Tour. On June 23, people can learn the history of Elmwood Cemetery from 6-7:30 p.m. at South Elmwood Drive in Mexico. The one-and-a-half-mile tour will take approximately an hour and a half. Learn history about the location, shared by a guide. A trail car will be available for those who need help. Call 573-581-1332 to reserve your spot today.

Miss Missouri’s Music Man

Bill Wolfe’s journey from high school music teacher to award-winning pageant producer

By **SKY KAUFFMAN**
Staff Writer

Everything you hear on stage at the Miss Missouri pageant is on a laptop controlled by Bill Wolfe.

Wolfe spends every show perched in the tech booth behind the bleachers in the Missouri Military Academy gymnasium, carefully selecting and queuing up tracks to turn every night into a magnificent production.

“It’s just an unbelievable process of what’s happened to me, and it all started in Mexico, Missouri,” Wolfe said.

A high school music teacher by trade, Wolfe holds a bachelor’s degree in vocal/instrumental music education with a minor in piano performance from the University of Nebraska. After years of teaching, he moved to Kansas City to further his education at the University of Missouri — a decision that would dramatically change his career trajectory.

Wolfe started playing piano in hotel lobbies while he was doing graduate work and said he was approached by someone who needed a track made for a pageant.

“I didn’t even know what a pageant was,” Wolfe said.

At the time, recorded tracks were still a new concept in the pageant world. Wolfe said many competitors sang with a live pianist or anyone they could get to perform their talent with. After his first track, Wolfe was hooked, and soon he was the director of the Miss Kansas City pageant.

“Larry Webber, who used to be the executive director here, was a judge for my pageant,” he said.

Immediately after the show, Webber asked him to come produce Miss Missouri for him in Mexico. Wolfe said he pretended to think about it, but producing Miss Missouri was something he really wanted, so he gave up his local title and began a new chapter of his life.

“I came here and produced for him for like five years, and those were the televised years when we were on 14 stations across Missouri,” Wolfe said. “I didn’t know anything about television, but I knew about production — I knew about music.”



Bill Wolfe prepares for the second night of Miss Missouri 2026 by checking his tracks and putting them in order.
[Sky Kauffman]

Wolfe produced the televised 1993 Miss Missouri pageant, which was the inspiration behind this year’s Vogue theme. That production won a Telly Award, which is still sitting on Wolfe’s piano at home.

“It was Larry Webber’s goal to play with the big boys, which in pageant land at the time was Texas and Mississippi,” Wolfe said. “Mammoth stages and beautiful sets, well here we are with what we have to deal with and, by God, it worked. Our little performers got the special Emmy award.”

While producing Miss Missouri, Wolfe said the demand for tracks came back around when state titleholders would prepare for Miss America.

“I started doing ar-

rangements for them, and it just erupted,” he said.

When he started, Wolfe said nobody was producing tracks. Now, he has a library of approximately 2,500 tracks that competitors from all over the country get from Wolfe on his website. Wolfe offers more than just background music for singers. His tracks back a variety of talents such as dance, Her Story and various instrumentals for musicians.

Wolfe doesn’t just make the tracks; he is also a vocal coach who said even performers who can only hit a couple of notes can be made to sound like they have talent. It’s a tricky process that starts with knowing a singer’s range.

“I had a Kansas City girl that absolutely could match two notes the first year,” Wolfe said. “Second year, she got up to

four notes; third year, six notes, and then she won the pageant.”

Wolfe is on the road at least eight times a year, traveling all over the country to coach the young delegates and work on tracks. Usually, he sets up in a gown shop so clients have an opportunity to work with Wolfe before shopping for their gowns.

“On a typical weekend, when I go to Atlanta, I work Friday, Saturday, Sunday,” Wolfe said. “I see 30 girls — 10 a day.”

One of Wolfe’s clients, Deya Williams, Miss Park City’s Teen, came all the way from Texas just one week out from her own state competition to perform on the Miss Missouri stage. Wolfe helped Williams pick her talent last year, which was her second year competing, and has continued to coach her. He personally asked

Williams to come to Missouri to be part of this year’s production.

“It’s been absolutely wonderful,” Williams said. “I am so glad I said yes.”

Williams is a self-proclaimed “theater kid” who said she has been singing her entire life, but singing on a pageant stage is completely different.

“It’s more fun,” she said. “It’s something bigger than myself, so I’m glad that I get to share that gift this way.”

Williams will be performing all weekend, and after seeing what the Miss Missouri’s Teen delegates have to offer, she said the judges will have a tough decision to make.

“I think they are all fantastic,” she said. “I think they are all so beautiful, they’re all so very kind, and they’re also very capable.”



Deya Williams, Miss Park City’s Teen of Texas, was invited by Bill Wolfe to perform at the 56th Miss Missouri in Mexico. [Sky Kauffman]

BENEFIT SHOW FOR THE RELAY FOR LIFE OF AUDRAIN COUNTY

FEATURING AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH
Jake Clayton

Girls Night Out Relay for Life Team is hosting a pork chop dinner, live auction and live music.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
9584 STATE HWY 15, MEXICO, MISSOURI

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 P.M. DINNER AT 6 P.M. BYOB.

Tickets are \$35 each and are available by calling
KWWR/KXEO at 573-581-5500 or
Nancy Early at 573-721-6247 or
Susan Paden at 573-473-8241.
NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.



American Cancer Society

RELAY FOR LIFE

Promotion funding made possible through the Mexico Tourism Fund.

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*Total savings may vary based on date of visit. \$14 savings calculated from \$1 off Pick Your Date Tickets on select days through July 31, 2026. Tickets must also be purchased at least a day in advance for full savings.



MACC Foundation establishes student emergency fund to support first-generation college students

The Moberly Area Community College Foundation announced the establishment of the MACC Student Emergency Fund, a new resource designed to help students overcome unexpected financial hardships that could otherwise interrupt their education.

The fund was launched through a \$10,000 gift from Doug and Rae Nickell, of Springfield, Missouri, dedicated specifically to supporting students identified as first-generation college students. The donors' investment also inspired the establishment of a \$25,000 endowed Student Emergency Fund, creating a foundation for ongoing support of MACC students facing emergency situations.

First-generation college students are often navigating higher education without the benefit of family members who have previously experienced college. While these students bring determination and resilience to their educational journeys, unexpected financial setbacks can create significant obstacles to their success.

The Student Emergency Fund will provide assistance to students facing unforeseen emergencies that threaten their ability to remain enrolled and continue their studies. Assistance may help address needs such as transportation challenges, emergency housing situations, utility expenses, childcare needs, medical emergencies, or other unexpected financial hardships.

"The generous gift from the Nickell family reflects a deeply held belief in both the value of a college education and the potential of students who are the first in their families to attend," said Dr. Patti Cole, Physical Science Faculty member

and R1SE First-Generation Coordinator. "When balancing a full academic course load with other family and/or work responsibilities, an unexpected financial hardship can quickly become a barrier to completion for many of our students. We all need a little help sometimes, and this new fund will provide us with the opportunity to help students facing an unexpected financial hardship persevere and continue working toward their academic goals."

The MACC Student Emergency Fund recognizes that student success is about more than academics. When students face an unexpected crisis, timely support can make the difference between staying enrolled and stepping away from college.

"First-generation students are often trailblazers for their families," MACC President Todd Martin said. "They are pursuing education not only to improve their own lives but to create opportunities for future generations. We are grateful for this thoughtful gift and the message it sends to our students: when challenges arise, they do not have to face them alone."

The Foundation anticipates that the fund will help remove barriers that can derail educational progress and provide students with the support they need to remain focused on completing their degrees and certificates. Community members who wish to support the Student Emergency Fund may make contributions through the MACC Foundation.

For more information about the MACC Student Emergency Fund, contact the MACC Foundation at www.maccalumni.org/charitable-giving or 660-263-4100 x11550.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Audrain County Health Department

Food Establishment Report May 2026

Audrain County Health Department (ACHD)
1130 S. Elmwood Dr., P.O. Box 957
Mexico, Missouri 65265
(573) 581-1332

Establishment Name	Inspection Date	Score	Violations
Sonic	5/1/2026	99	Hand sink being used for other purposes than handwashing
Casey's (Monroe Street)	5/1/2026	92	Unlabeled spray bottles. Hand sink being used for other purposes than handwashing. No towels or dryer at hand sink. Misbranding: outdated over the counter medication on shelf. Food stored on floor or exposed to contamination/moisture. Dirty non-food contact surfaces. Trash cans that hold food or food debris need lids.
Missouri Military Academy	5/4/2026	98	Trash cans that hold food debris need lids. In-use utensils improperly stored.
St. Brendan's Catholic Schools	5/4/2026	100	
Street Steakz	5/5/2026	100	New food trailer
Eugene Field Elementary	5/6/2026	100	
Mexico Middle School	5/6/2026	100	
Hawthorne Elementary	5/7/2026	99	Food stored on the floor exposed to contamination/moisture - corrected on site.
McMillan Early Learning Center	5/7/2026	100	
Mexico High School	5/11/2026	100	
Casey's - East Liberty	5/11/2026	99	Trash cans that hold food or food debris need lids.
King's Daughters Home	5/13/2026	100	
The Oak Tree Club, LLC	5/13/2026	98	Can opener dirty. Non-food contact surface dirty.
Lola's Sweet Sips	5/20/2026	100	
Summer Days Shaved Ice	5/20/2026	100	
Dollar Tree	5/20/2026	100	
Fairground Aquatic Center	5/20/2026	100	

Note: Public Health provides informal safe food handling training during food establishment inspections. Many violations are corrected during the inspection process. For questions about food establishment inspections please contact Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) at 573.581.1332, or visit our website at www.audraincountyhealth.org and click on the 'Environmental' tab. Thank you.

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The Mexico Ledger

www.mexicoledger.com

AG LEADER SPOTLIGHT

SPONSORED BY  **THE Callaway Bank**
With You For The Moments That Matter

How did you get involved in FFA? I first heard about FFA when high school FFA members came to the middle school to give a presentation on FFA to the 8th graders. At that time I didn't know very much about it, but it sounded like something in which I'd be interested. Then, during my freshman year, when it was time to sign up for clubs and activities I decided to join, and I'm so glad that I did.



Lacie Reetz
North Callaway FFA

What's your favorite part about the program? My favorite part of FFA is probably participating in all of the tours. Sometimes when you think about tours or field trips you imagine standing through a lecture, but this year I have gotten to tour so many interesting places through FFA. For example we toured Walter Knoll Florist for SAE day last march and we got to see behind the scenes of selling and shipping flowers, and we also got to make boutonnières.

What are you involved with through FFA? I'm involved in chapter activities such as Food for America, Parking at Hatton Craft Day, and senior citizens prom. I also went to both state and national conventions this past year, and now I get to be a part of our school's officer team.

Outside of FFA, what activities are you in? Outside of FFA, I'm involved in a lot of music. I'm in a bluegrass band, I often lead worship at my church, I'm in choir at school, I teach ukulele lessons at my dad's music store, and of course I play just for fun in my free time. I'm also involved in theater at Presser Arts Center, as well as helping with other camps there in the summer.

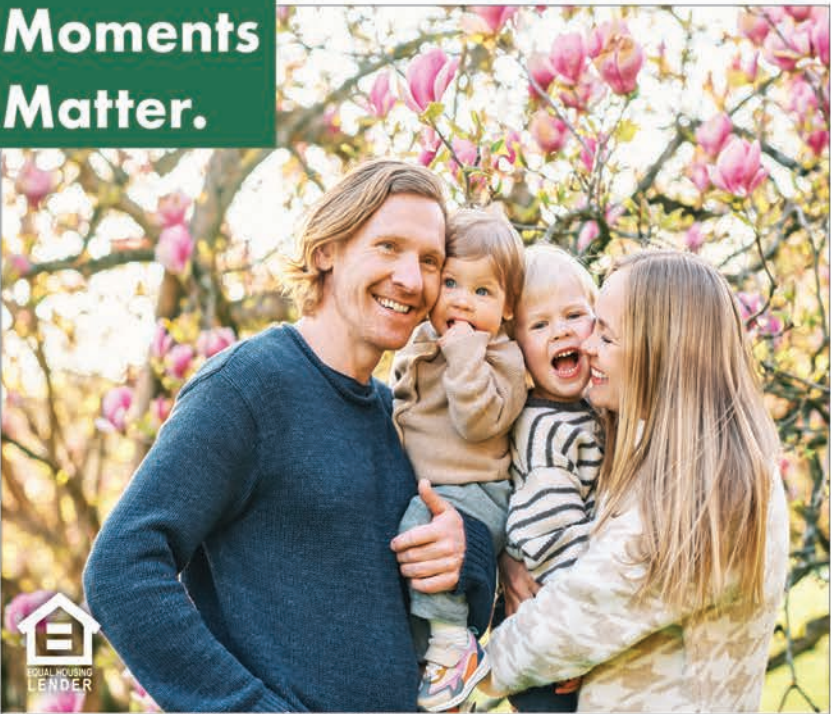
What are some reasons to be excited about the future of ag? Agriculture is always changing and improving with new technology and ideas. There are so many career opportunities in agriculture, and it's exciting to see how it will continue to help feed and support communities in the future.

Do you have an SAE (supervised agricultural experience) and if so, what is it? I'm currently still exploring different SAE opportunities, and figuring out what interests me most. I'm looking for something I can develop into a meaningful experience as I continue in FFA.

What are your future plans? As of right now my future plans consist of staying ahead in school, remaining active in FFA, and continuing to enjoy playing music. While I'm still exploring possible career paths, I'm focused on building skills and experiences that will help guide my decision in the future

What is your favorite FFA Activity? My favorite activity that our FFA chapter puts on is definitely Food For America. The elementary students are always really excited for it, and that energy makes the event a lot of fun to be a part of. It also stands out for me because, while some kids grow up around livestock, and farm equipment, I've lived in town my whole life. Food for America gave me a chance to experience traditional agriculture in a way I normally wouldn't have been able to.

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2026_V3

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Beetle Bailey

By Greg, Brian and Neal Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young and John Marshall



Baby Blues

By Jerry Scott and Rick Kirkman



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



POPEYE

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



SCRABLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Force
SUDERS

Grasp
RENAL

Increase
AIRES

Slew
ADMIYR

It's not the doctor bills that worry me, it's the thought of having three daughters.

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Mule, for one

5 Unruly group

8 Bygone fliers

12 Lawman Wyatt

13 Stop — dime

14 Ornamental jug

15 Heart charts

16 Business card no.

17 Calf-length

18 Stop

20 Son of Erik the Red

22 "War and Peace" author

26 Violin stroke

29 Cyclades island

30 British verb ending

31 Subject, usually

32 Fellow

33 Healthy

34 Internet address

35 Continent north of Afr.

36 Disinfectant brand

37 Oscar-winning actress in "The Fighter"

40 Arizona tribe

41 Prisoner

45 Conspiracy

47 Corn core

DOWN

7 Inflated party prop

8 Big rigs

9 Fans of pop icon Taylor

10 — Talks (online lecture series)

11 Lanka lead-in

19 Stitch

21 Golf's Ernie

23 Pageant crown

24 City on a fjord

25 Holler

26 "E Pluribus —"

4 Delta follower

5 Slogan

6 Count starter

32 "Suffs" or "Rent," e.g.

33 Cheyenne's state

35 Mentalist's gift

36 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"

38 Smidgens

39 Slander in print

42 Mine, in Marseille

43 Tart flavor

44 Alimony recipients

45 USMC rank

46 Privy

27 Skin opening

28 Megaphone's sash

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Weekly SUDOKU

	4					3	6
3			9	4			7
	2	7		5	6	4	1
	7			4	2	6	3
6		1					9
	8		6		3	1	
	6				8		4
4				6	7		2
2		5	4	3	9		8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?

2. ANATOMY: Which blood type is considered to be a universal donor?

3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be Earth signs?

4. ROYALS: What was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed?

5. GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has a mountain range called The Great Rift Valley?

6. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Russia?

7. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV sitcom features a dog named Comet?

8. MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?

9. GAMES: How many title deeds does the Monopoly game have?

10. SCIENCE: What is the main cause of ocean tides?

Answers

1. California.

2. Type O negative.

3. Capricorn, Taurus and Virgo.

4. Corgis.

5. Africa.

6. The ruble.

7. "Full House."

8. Four.

9. 28.

10. The gravitational pull of the Moon.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Box is larger. 2. Tie is longer. 3. Jacket sleeve is longer. 4. Hat is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals F

RE F QFQ BZBFRIX EBJA

AFYRIO F HRO XPRIY FHJKP

F PFXY, UJN RX RP QJIZ?

NRPUJKP EFPUZB FQJ.

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UNMARRIED

Today's Word

1. Duress; 2. Learn

3. Raise; 4. Myriad

solution

SCRABLERS

S	G	I	G		L	I	L	S	N	O	C
N	E	N			A	B	V		A		F
X	I	M	A		C	O	B		T	O	T
A	T	E			N	I		T	P	O	H
					O	S	T		S	I	L
L	O	S	A	T		E	U	R		T	L
T	T	E	W		N	A	W		N	O	N
E	S	I			S	O	I		W	O	B
T	O	I	S	T		O	T		O	E	T
					L	E	I		S	I	T
M	D	I			F	E	L		E	K	G
E	R				N	A			N	A	P
S	T				M	O	B		S		S

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

8	7	6	7	6	3	5	4	2	1
4	6	8	5	6	7	3	1	2	
7	6	9	5	4					
8	2	6	7	3	1	4	5		
9	3	4	1	2	5	7	8		
5	7	1	8	6	9				
8	2	7	3	5	6	4	9		
3	5	6	9	4	1	8	2	7	
1	4	6	7	8	2	5	3		

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

Answer

If a dad refrains from making a big stink about a task, how is it done?

Without father ado.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

June 18
Paul Baum presents: America 250
Discover the bravery, strategy and legacy of the Patriots who changed the course of history at the Audrain Historical Museum. Paul Baum will be giving a presentation entitled “King’s Mountain America’s Guerilla Warriors” at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

June 19
Lighted Liberty Bell Class
The Old Pharmacy Ceramic Shoppe will host a fun night of painting to create a patriotic lighted bell — just in time for the Fourth of the July. Laugh, paint and leave with a glowing masterpiece to show off all summer long. Spots are limited for the 6-9 p.m. event at 101 West Monroe Street in Mexico. Creating a bell is \$45, including the bow. Call 573-253-5946 or swing by the business to reserve a seat.

Jake Clayton Benefit for Relay for Life
The Girls Night Out Relay for Life team is hosting a pork chop dinner, live auction and live music from Jake Clayton at 6 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 9584 State Highway 15 in Mexico. It will be a benefit show for the Relay for Life of Audrain County. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage. Tickets are \$35 each and can be acquired by calling

KWWR/KXEO at 573-581-5500, Nancy Early at 573-721-6247 or Susan Paden at 573-473-824. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Kit Airplane Building Workshop at Zenith Factory
Zenith Aircraft Company is providing people with the opportunity to learn all about building a Zenith kit airplane at one of its factory workshops, where people can actually start building their own airplane, at 9 a.m. This workshop class runs in conjunction with the June “Fly-In to Summer” Zenith Open House/Fly-In on Saturday morning, June 20th. The workshops are coordinated by Zenith Aircraft staff and held right in the factory at 1880 Airport Road in Mexico. Register for this workshop in the link on the Facebook event.

June 20
Graf & Sons Car Show
It’s time for the eighth annual Graf & Sons Car Show at 1 p.m. at Elks Lodge 919 at 1705 Christopher Road in Mexico. Awards will be presented at 3 p.m. There is a \$30 registration and a free T-shirt comes with it. Barbecue and beverages will be served all day by the Elks, and there will be five acres of grass parking. All proceeds will go to Elks charities. For more information, call 573-721-6264.

Kit Airplane Building Workshop at Zenith Factory
Zenith Aircraft Company is providing people with the opportunity to learn all about building a Zenith kit airplane at one of its factory workshops, where people can actually start building their own airplane, at noon. This workshop class runs in conjunction with the June

“Fly-In to Summer” Zenith Open House/Fly-In on Saturday morning, June 20th. The workshops are coordinated by Zenith Aircraft staff and held right in the factory at 1880 Airport Road in Mexico. Register for this workshop in the link on the Facebook event.

Zenith “Fly-In To Summer” Open House 2026
Join us at our informal “Fly-In To Summer” Open House at the Zenith kit aircraft factory in central Missouri, as we welcome in the 2026 summer flying season. The Zenith Aircraft factory will be open from 8 a.m.-1 pm for self-guided factory tours, demonstrations, and more. We’ll also have coffee in the morning and hot BBQ lunch will be available at the airport. Check out the newly expanded Zenith factory at Mexico Memorial Airport, and see the Zenith demo planes. Owners of completed Zenith Aircraft are invited to fly-in to show off their completed project to fellow builders (we will provide tie-down space and help facilitate needed ground transportation if possible). Let us know of any special needs or requirements.

Josie’s Trail Ride
Join Rambling Hill for a trail ride at 8053 Audrain Road 355 in Mexico at 1 p.m.. Hang out, meet new people, and enjoy a change of scenery. All proceeds will support a student’s journey to Hollywood. Josie has a passion for both horses and acting, and her dream is to perform. She’s been working tirelessly — submitting audition tapes, training with her coach, and taking dance and acro classes. It is all to chase that dream. Now, she’s been given the exciting opportunity to travel to Hollywood and compete. It is \$15 per person and Negative Coggins are required. RSVP through the link in the Facebook event.



CHURCH *Directory*

YOUR WORSHIP GUIDE FOR MEXICO & SURROUNDING AREAS

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

By Pastor Neeley - Union Baptist Church

When the Rooster Crows

“Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, ‘Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.’ And he began to weep.” Mark 14:72 NASB

Peter is one of the most relatable disciples in Scripture. He loved Jesus deeply, followed Him faithfully, and boldly declared that he would never abandon Him. Yet within a matter of hours, Peter denied even knowing the Lord three times. His failure is difficult to read because it reminds us of ourselves. We know what it is like to fear people more than God, remain silent when we should speak, or compromise when faithfulness is costly. Peter’s story reminds us that spiritual failure rarely begins in a single moment; it often starts long before the fall becomes visible.

Before Peter denied Christ in the courtyard, he had already ignored Jesus’ warning, neglected prayer in Gethsemane, and followed Christ “at a distance.” Pride convinced him that he was stronger than he really was. He trusted his own devotion rather than depending on the grace of God. His downfall serves as a warning that self-confidence is dangerous in the Christian life. Whenever we begin to rely on our own strength, we place ourselves in a position of spiritual vulnerability.

Yet Peter’s story is not merely about failure; it is about grace. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered the words of Jesus and was broken over his sin. His tears revealed genuine repentance. More importantly, his denial was not the end of his story. After the resurrection, the angel specifically told the women, “Go, tell His disciples and Peter.” Jesus had not abandoned him. The Savior Peter denied was the very Savior who restored him.

Many believers carry the weight of past failures and wonder if they have drifted too far from Christ. Peter’s story reminds us that there is grace for repentant sinners. Our hope is not found in our consistency but in Christ’s faithfulness. The same Lord who restored Peter still restores broken disciples today. When the rooster crows in our conscience and exposes our sin, the answer is not to run from Christ but to run to Him. His mercy is greater than our failures, and His grace is sufficient for every repentant heart.

Are you following Christ closely, or have you begun following Him at a distance?

Pastor Rich Neeley serves at Union Baptist Church in Mexico, located at 17620 Hwy JJ. Sunday morning services are at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday night Bible study is at 6 p.m. Weekly messages are streamed online through Facebook and YouTube. If you have questions or would like more information Union Baptist Church, you can contact Pastor Rich at revrichneeley@gmail.com

To place your church’s information on this page, contact our office at
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ads@mexicoledger.com



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More Inside

- Rigdon hired as Community R-6 boys basketball HC

■ Van-Far boys play summer games in New Bloomfield

■ Land Transfers and Marriage Licenses

■ Senior Success
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Mexico High School's new gym floor is almost ready as seen here on June 10. The design discussed is now reality with a few finishing touches left to go. Naturally, Gary Filbert's signature is back on the court named for him. [Jeremy Jacob]

Mexico lays out new floor

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

Fans will notice how different the Mexico High School gym floor is starting in the fall. Gary Filbert Court got a make-over over a two-and-a-half month period beginning in April, complete with the late coach's signature. There are only a few finishing touches before the floor is ready for activity, according to Mexico activities director Brandon Schafer. Schafer said the sleeves for the volleyball net still need to be dug out. The surface also has to cure, or ensure that the finish is completely dry, for three to four weeks before activity can be allowed on it. He said Mexico can wait a few more weeks following a process that dates back two years, when a bond was issued to cover school projects including, but not limited to, the softball field turf and new tennis courts. "Missouri Floor Company, they're the ones who did the floor, have been really great to work with," Schafer said. "We have our two security cameras (in here), and I was just watching the process. Once they started putting paint down, it was like, 'Oh, this is cool.'" The floor has Mexico's iconic red and gray color scheme, with gray filling in the 3-point territory around the lanes and along the baselines and with red lettering of "Mexico" and "Bulldogs" decorating the baselines; rubber track



There is also a rubber track on one side of the Mexico High School gym next to the newly installed Gary Filbert Court. Track and field athletes can use it when the weather doesn't allow outdoor practice. [Jeremy Jacob]

lines for indoor practice; and a big Bulldogs logo at center court. The basketball boundary and 3-point lines are also red while the main volleyball court lines are black and the two secondary volleyball court lines are gray. Everywhere else on the surface is tan for a much brighter look than the previous brown floor. Schafer the previous floor that was in place since 1995-96 was warped in the lane close to one of the baskets and had some discoloration, making it "a top priority" at the time of the bond issue. He

thanked Superintendent Dr. Troy Lentz and Assistant Superintendent Julie Lower for their help and coaches Darren Pappas, Makenzie Mudd and Tami Sells for their input on the floor. "The real work didn't really start until last September where I worked with (boys basketball) coach Pappas, (girls basketball) coach Mudd and (volleyball) coach Sells on what they wanted in the court," Schafer said. "We went red and gray, and then we did the red

See **COURT**, page B2

Kobush promoted to lead alma mater as Community R-6 baseball head coach

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

Community R-6 baseball will have its third head coach in three years, but its identity will not change. That's because Tyler Kobush, who was an assistant over the last four years, was promoted this summer to be the head coach. Kobush takes over the program he played for earlier in his life and that has finished with a winning season every year he's been on the coaching staff. This will be Kobush's first season as a head coach, but he feels ready to lead the Trojans into the future. He said he is familiar with a lot of these kids already and mostly wants to preserve Community's identity over the last several years established by Joel Krato and maintained by Chris Ellersieck last year. Kobush just wants to emphasize scoring early. "I'm looking to keep it pretty similar," Kobush



Tyler Kobush gathers with his family. Kobush has been an assistant baseball coach at Community R-6 for several years, but he is now the head coach of his alma mater. [Submitted]

said. "We're going to try to keep the same mindset and atmosphere. If we have to make changes going forward, we will. We're going to small ball, we're going to try to find ways to score, and we're going to run the bases and try to get you to mess up."

Kobush doesn't want to call this season "a total rebuild" because he expects to have five starters return, but Community will have a younger roster. He said the fall season that the Trojans have played the last four years will give them valuable experience against

"a brutal schedule" to put them in a position where they can be competitive in the spring. Judging from the last five years, Kobush is deeply involved in Community athletics with the baseball program and the basketball program at the middle and high school levels. His history with the Trojans go back much further as a 2011 graduate of the school and as a four-year player with the baseball program, starting as a freshman. Kobush said he had a love for baseball back then and has it as an adult, which is why he "jumped all over" the opportunity when Krato offered him a coaching job. "I just love baseball," Kobush said. "It's very situational. Your mind is racing all the time, but everybody's not on top of you so you're allowed to think a little bit better. Something new is going to happen every single game, and something

See **KOBUSH**, page B2

Mexico boys make Midwest Showcase debut

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

It has been a busy summer for Mexico boys basketball, but the stage was bigger in last weekend's shootout. The Bulldogs played in their first Midwest Showcase on Friday and Sunday at Columbia Sports Fieldhouse in an event that brought teams from Missouri and seven other states. Mexico faced reigning Class 5 district champion Lincoln College Prep and Shawnee Mission Northwest (Kansas) and Class 6 Parkway West and Seckman on Sunday. Head coach Darren Pappas said the Midwest Showcase has functioned as an opportunity for teams to see high-quality competition and to attract attention from college coaches. Many colleges came to Columbia to take a look at talent from across the Midwest. "It is a great event that (the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association) coaches clinic puts on to bring in a lot of college coaches," Pappas said. "It is one of the top shootouts in the Midwest with some of the top players not only from Missouri but around Missouri as well. We knew it was going to be really good competition, and that's why we're fortunate enough to be part of it here." Mexico has had several sign to play college basketball in the last few years, so Pappas said it is nice his upcoming upperclassmen had this chance to put themselves on a college's radar. On the first day, coaches and spectators saw Mexico come within four points of Lincoln College Prep, out of Kansas City, before Lincoln Prep pulled away to win 63-47. The Bulldogs then lost 52-47 to Shawnee Mission Northwest in a close battle throughout the game. "I thought we did a good job of getting out on them early," Pappas said. "In both games, we held our own for a young group with two seniors this year. We made some mistakes late. We didn't execute offensively like we should've down the stretch, but that's going to happen against really good competition when they're giving good ball pressure and speeding us up." Pappas said it was "a good day of basketball" because his younger roster will use this experience to improve. He said that's what Mexico has done all summer with its four shootouts prior to the Midwest Showcase, which was the team's third slate of games in a week. The Bulldogs have four more dates on their summer schedule, including today in Higbee. Before the summer ends, Pappas hopes Mexico becomes better defensively as individuals and as a unit. He also wants the Bulldogs to share the ball better and become more effective in transition. Transition is usually where Mexico has excelled, but Pappas said the half court deserves more attention. "We've been playing really good team-oriented basketball," Pappas said. "Defensively, we've been getting after people, generating turnovers and getting out in transition. When the competition is just as athletic as you, you've got to be able to execute in the half court — offensively and defensively."

More Midwest Showcase photos on B2 and a photo gallery is on the Mexico Ledger website.



Mexico senior Brady Thoenen grabs a rebound against Lincoln College Prep on Friday during the first day of the Midwest Showcase at Columbia Sports Fieldhouse. The Bulldogs played on Friday and Sunday of the three-day event, facing bigger schools and an out-of-state school in the multiple-state gathering of players and college coaches. [Jeremy Jacob]

Rigdon likes fit as Community R-6 boys basketball head coach

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

Jack Rigdon likes the small-school atmosphere, so Community R-6 seems like a good fit.

Rigdon was hired as the Community R-6 boys basketball head coach this summer and will be entering his seventh year coaching basketball. The Trojans begin playing scrimmages this week in summer shootouts, including some games today in Higbee, but have had some open gyms with their new coach.

Rigdon came from an assistant girls basketball coach job at St. Vincent, who finished as a state runner-up for the second straight season. It was two years ago, however, when Rigdon first encountered some of the Trojans when they played his Chamois Pirates with him as the head coach and athletic director.

“I felt like this was an opportunity that I wanted to be a part of,” Rigdon said. “I love being part of small schools, and I felt like this was a fit after going through the interview process with Mr. (Chad) Harter and Mr. (Bob) Davies and talking with Coach (Bob) Curtis over the phone. It is a really great family-type of atmosphere.”

Rigdon said the community has felt supportive and his players have been welcoming in the lim-

ited time they have had together. He feels more comfortable working closer to his fiance in the St. Louis area and added the four-day school week helps.

Along with being the boys coach and athletic director at Chamois, Rigdon was also a volleyball coach, business teacher and FBLA advisor. A year ago, he was the athletic director and teacher at St. Vincent when the school won eight district titles and six top four state finishes. At Community R-6, Rigdon will be a physical education teacher along with his coaching duties, so he said the weight room will be a priority.

“Typically, when you are at smaller schools, there are going to be multiple hats that are filled,” Rigdon said. “I enjoy having that experience and doing that.”

The Community boys have had several coaches over the past few years, but Rigdon is familiar with that as well. He recalls playing for three coaches in four years at Spokane in southwest Missouri, winning a combined 18 games in his first three years and then 17 games and a district title in his senior year.

“My biggest thing is building a team culture,” Rigdon said. “I’ve been on the positive side of having success but have also been on the other side of it as well. We’ve been doing a lot of different types

of drill work that I’ve learned from my time coaching college and high school.”

Rigdon has also coached at the college level as an assistant at Mission University and started his coaching career on AAU sidelines while he was a student at Northwest Missouri State University. He has worked with kids in different age ranges, but Rigdon said he wants every kid to be prepared for the future.

“The game of basketball comes to an end at some point,” Rigdon said. “My goal as an educator and as a coach for them is to help them instill character traits from the game of basketball that they can use in real life. You’ll hit adversity so how do you respond from those things? Also, learning how to win, how to act when you lose, and how to respect the officials and the other team.”

Rigdon said he told the parents during his meeting with them that he is going to “instill discipline and character into these kids and make them better men.”

The roster that Rigdon is inheriting brings much “ability and talent, he said. Not every school has several kids that are at least 6-foot-5 like the Trojans. It is now his job to help them achieve their goals of winning more games and picking up a district victory.

“We have some guys skilled on the post side,” Rigdon said. “We have some really good guards as well. The skill is there. It’s going to be a lot of learning. They are brand new to me, and I’m brand new to them. When you’re looking at raw talent, there’s a lot of ability there.”



Jack Rigdon



Van-Far senior Kaleb Baskett makes a pass on June 10 in a game at New Bloomfield. [Jeremy Jacob]

Van-Far boys learning varsity in summer

BY JEREMY JACOB
Sports Editor

There are some new faces in the Van-Far boys basketball ranks.

Brett Reading definitely isn’t new but is stepping into the head coaching role after assisting Pat Conaway for the last 17 years. He and the Indians have been busy this summer with shootouts, including June 10 at New Bloomfield.

The New Bloomfield shootout was Van-Far’s third slate of games in as many days and its fourth overall slate this summer. Reading said the Indians were more comfortable later in their first game June 10 against New Bloomfield, cutting a 17-point deficit to five points late with the running clock used throughout summer games.

“It’s the first time we’ve seen zone all summer really,” Reading said. “We were a little shell-shocked about what to do. We have a little bit of a size issue making passes — making the easy pass and the correct pass. The ball movement in the late part of the third and fourth quarter got a lot better.”

Reading said it is also a matter of Van-Far being comfortable with its new roster. He noted that Van-Far hasn’t always had its full roster either due to other commitments, so there have been plenty of freshmen and less experienced players who have played.

There have been four freshmen who have shown up consistently this summer to go along with returners who are new to varsity. Reading said Van-Far looks at it as “not losing” but “learning.”

“They do not know where they need to go, and we’re working through that,” Reading said. “That’s why we’re here. Summer is to get better and figure out these things and not figure them out in the middle of the season.”

The Indians should be “dogs,” meaning Reading wants to see some physicality and aggressiveness on defense before they close their summer schedule. An example would be sacrificing the body for a charge instead of having “a soft mentality.”

Reading said Van-Far isn’t as big going into this season after a sizable football senior class graduated. He said the roster is quicker, but he wants them to show some resistance inside.

“Right now, we want to move out of the way and we avoid contact,” Reading said. “We also want smart basketball plays defensively. It’s a knowledge problem, and it’s a physicality-mentality problem.”

Van-Far has a junior varsity shootout scheduled Monday at Montgomery County and a varsity one scheduled June 24 at Eugene.

Kobush

from page B1

new might happen every inning. There’s so much that can happen with baseball, and that’s my favorite part about it.”

Kobush said his father was “a big baseball guy” that helped him while growing up and “all the little things about baseball” keep him going.

The little things about baseball can be overlooked, but Kobush said he doesn’t ever want to overlook what makes Community so special to him. Family is an appropriate word when he describes the atmosphere.

“Everyone will back you up,” Kobush said. “That’s my favorite part about it. It’s such a small community. Everyone has your back, and when they have your back, they are all pushing for you. We always have a good crowd out here. The parents are really good. Everybody pitches in around here for everybody, and all the parents do.”

This family bond endures after graduation, Kobush said, because Trojans over the last several years have already offered to help him. The senior catcher from a year ago Lane Carter, and the catcher before him Eli Johnson are only a couple examples of alumni who have expressed a willingness to help however they can.

“It makes you feel really good,” Kobush said. “They’re all great kids. I’ve never had any issues with any of the kids. I’ve been really blessed with a lot of great groups.”

Bulldogs show off stuff in Columbia



Clockwise from above, Mexico senior James Matthews, sophomore Matai Holman and junior Quincy Bruce were some of the Bulldogs playing in the Midwest Showcase on Friday and Sunday at Columbia Sports Fieldhouse. Mexico has several shootouts left this summer, including several this week. [Jeremy Jacob]



Court

from page B1

lines to make some red pop. One of the biggest things the coaches noticed was, when they first gave us the layout, they had Mexico and Bulldogs on the end lines with just the red with no outline. When you put that black outline on it, it just pops.”

Schafer said these were difficult de-

cisions, so he’s glad he had input from those who would be using the court the most. The easiest call for everybody was to have Gary Filbert’s signature again on the surface that is named for him.

Pappas said he can’t wait to use the new court and is thankful to the community for making this happen.

“It’s a beautiful sight and great facility,” Pappas said. “We’re excited to get on it this fall and winter. I can’t thank the community enough for their support and getting that passed so we could get a

new court. I just can’t wait until the fans get full of fans, and we can compete on a high level on it.”

It was time for the old floor to go, but Schafer said he will miss the classic and “kind of orange” look of it. He said he liked the brightness of Orchard Farm’s court when the Mexico boys played the Eagles in sectionals two years ago.

Schafer said Mexico is looking at future changes in the gym such as updating the records displayed high on the walls of the gym or having video boards,

which he noted would take sponsorships from local businesses. The bottom line is that Mexico wants to have the best possible atmosphere for the community, giving them what “they deserve.”

“When other teams come here, it shows the community cares about our facilities and giving the kids who participate in these sports the best of the best,” Schafer said. “Dr. Lentz and past superintendents have done a good job of ensuring that our facilities are top-of-the-line and high-quality.”

— May land transfers —

The following are real estate transfers during the month of May 2026 in the office of the Audrain County Recorder of Deeds, Teresa L Allen;

Donald H Magnus & Carol L Magnus to Luck Joe Investment Holdings, LLC, Lt 4 Elliott Addition, Mexico.

Ashley Designs, LLC to Prolific Holdings, LLC, Pt SE ¼ NE ¼ Sec 26 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Kelly Ann Grote & Lawrence D Grote to Lindsay Deming, Pt NW ¼ NW ¼ Sec 2 Twp 52 Rng 6.

Mirna Castro to Caleb Salguero & Judith Salguero, Pt NE ¼ 4 Sec 26 Twp 51 Rng 9.

William E Hendrix to Kyle Michael Hightshoe, Pt NW ¼ Sec 7 Twp 50 Rng 9.

Andrew H Groves to William E Hendrix, Lt 23 Meadowlake Estates # 3, Mexico.

Cathy R Baker to Maranda Kemry & Robert Kemry III, Lt 5, 6 Blk 3 Woodlawn Place, Mexico.

Faith Campbell & Jacob Campbell to Mary Patricia Bess, Lt 39, 40 Gallaher and Kent Addition, Mexico.

Devin Camp & Kaitlyn Camp to Alexander Finck & Lorea Littrell Fink, Pt E ½ SW ¼ Sec 3 Twp 51 Rng 9, Pt SW ¼ SE ¼ Sec 3 Twp 1 Rng 9.

Shawn Michael Creed & Kaleigh Noel Creed to Jonathon Griffith & LaQuisha Griffith, Lt 74 Roy W Kent & Ron C Kent's Osage Park Subdivision Plat 10, Mexico.

Vicki Minor to Maggie Jaylene Kelly, Pt NE ¼ SE ¼ Sec 27 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Boyd M Bounds & Marie L Bounds to Frank Wallace, Lt1, 2 Blk 10 Original Town of Farber.

Bradie Simpson & Daniel Brestal to Sydney Havrum & David Havrum, Pt N ½ NW ¼ Sec 26 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Kahler L Mitchell & Jennifer M Mitchell to Nathan K Hill & Ashlee E Hill, Lt 2 Westenhaver Subdivision No 1, Mexico.

Jerry Maxwell to RW Holdings LLC, Pt NE ¼ Sec 27 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Janie L Day Maxwell to RW Holdings LLC, Pt NE ¼ Sec 27 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Vincent Louis Fisher & Mehrak Kiankarimi to Freddy Lee Donaldson, Pt Sec 30 Twp 51 Rng 8.

Kenneth Walker & Nataliya Walker to Audrain

County, Lt 1 through 8 Blk 19 Original Town of Mexico.

Rachel Eldridge to Ashton Robertson, Lt 5 JW Bakers N East Subdivision #1, Mexico, Lt 6 JW Bakers N East Subdivision #1, Mexico, Pt SW ¼ SW ¼ Sec 24 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Francis J Haupt & Violet A Haupt to Charles F Jungermann & Joann M Jungermann, Pt E ½ NW ¼ Sec 28 Tpw 51 Rng 9, Pt SE ¼ SW ¼ Sec 21 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Francis J Haupt & Violet A Haupt to LMDK LLC, Pt S ½ NW ¼ Sec 28 Tpw 51 Rng 9, Pt NW ¼ Sec 28 Twp 51 Rng 9.

CnS Management LLC to George Martin, Pt NW ¼ SE ¼ Sec 26 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Francisca Ferreira Dos Santos to George Martin, Pt NE ¼ SE ¼ Sec 26 Twp 51 Rng 9.

Jason A Dickerman & Ramsey Dickerman to Kambrie Burton & Justin Burton, Lt 6, 7 Ted Mot-taz Subdivision #1, Vandalia.

Thomas Eghoff & Jen-

nifer Egloff to HRP Property Limited Company, LLC, Lt BHLk 11 Original Town of Mexico.

Jessica Huddleston to Cali Crile, Lt 16 Blk 3 Jefferson Terrace Subdivision # 2, Mexico.

Ralph V Mika to Nicholas Goeke & Harley Goeke, Lt 3 Fuemmeler Subdivision, Pt NW ¼ NE ¼ Sec 2 Twp 50 Rng 9.

JST Rentals LLC to Bruce Harrison, Lt 1 Blk 7 Lakenan and Barnes' Highland Addition, Mexico.

John Hayhurst to Gary G Grosse, Anne E Grosse, Freddie M Grosse, Suzanne Grosse, Pt Sec 13 Twp 51 Rng 7, Pt N ½ NW ¼ Sec 24 Twp 51 Rng 7.

Donald H Magnus & Carol L Magnus to Robert James Dunn & Kenneth L Dunn, Lt 32 Lawrence M Barnes Northeast Subdivision No 3, Mexico.

Michael Reuben Qualls & Michelle Lynn Qualls to Jay R Whalen & Lisa A Whalen, Lt 39, 40 Gallaher-Smith Orchard Heights Subdivision

Barbara J Butts to Ja-

son Oderio, Lt 4,3 Blk 1 Broadwater's Addition, Mexico.

Joshua L Klingaman & Merrilee I Klingaman to Kyle Prewitt, Lt 17A Park Creek Subdivision Plat 1-A, Mexico.

Eric Parsons & Sharon M Parson to Liam Weber, Pt SE ¼ SE ¼ Sec 32 Twp 52 Rng 11.

David L Bell to Scott W Fischer & Rebecca A Fischer, Lt 4 Seventeen Hills Subdivision, Mexico.

H Duane Taylor & Colleen F Taylor to Mark Korman LLC, Pt NE/4 Sec 23 Twp 50 Rng 9.

Dein D Adams & Courtney Wieberg to Emma-ly Houghton & Hunter Houghton, Pt E ½ SW ¼ Sec 33 Tpw 50 Rng 7.

Karrie L Millard & Joseph L Millard to ACE Acquisitions, LLC, Lt 1, 2 Blk 17 Original Town of Mexico.

Derek R Cossey & Victoria R Cossey to Rowena Lenzini & Lori Wright, Pt NE ¼ SE ¼ Sec 32 Twp 52 Rng 11.

John A Stringer & Linda H Stringer to Drake Hopke, David Hopke & Vicki Hopke, Lt 1, Blk 2 Bland Park Addition, Vandalia.

Maria Kallis to Stephanie Meek, Lt 8 Blk 2 Woodlawn Place, Mexico.

Maria Kallis to Stephanie Meek, Lt 8 Blk 2 Woodlawn Place, Mexico.

Melinda Hudson & Tommy E Hudson to Kristen Layman, Lt 5 Blk 5 Fairground Addition, Mexico.

Ana K Garcia to Nation Enterprise, LLC, Lt 3, 4 Blk 8 Original Town of Mexico.

Rebecca Lynn McCord Garrett & Lindell Garrett

to Tyler J Prince & Reghan J Smith

Lt 1 Park Creek Subdivision Phase 2 Plat 1, Mexico.

William D Griffith Jr. & Rhonda J Griffith to Alexander Zarifis, Lt 1 Blk 11 Blank's Second Addition, Vandalia.

Tyler Hogan Wieman & Jayme Wieman to Harley McAfee & Kourtney McAfee, Lt 29 Gallaher-Kent Parkview Subdivision, Mexico.

Adair Hathaway to Alexandra Elizabeth Dockins & Hunter Louis Engle,

Lt 212 Saddlebrooke Estates Plat 2.

Thelma C Gualberto & Crisanto Gualberto to Paul C Ray, Lt 2 Blk 41 Original Town of Vandalia.

Lyle Clough to Steven A Barker, Lt 2 Kirtlinks Subdivision, Mexico.

Ronald G McCoy & Kathy D McCoy to Patricia Oney, Lt A Onie Place Subdivision, Mexico.

Donald G Harness & Georgia A Harness to Eric Parsons & Sharon Parsons, Pt N ½ S ½ Sec 12 Twp 50 Rng 9.

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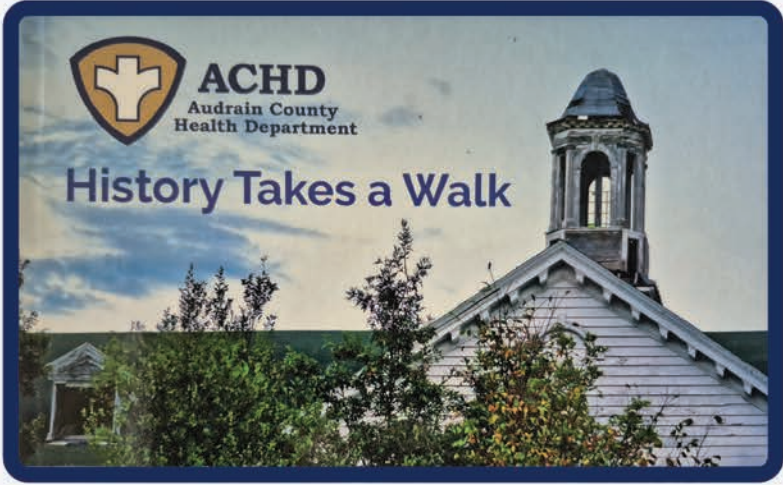
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FOR YOUR HEALTH

By Dr. Graham A. Colditz - Siteman Cancer Center

Health and wellness tips for cancer survivors

Most of us have been touched by cancer in some way. Maybe we have friends or family who've been diagnosed, or maybe you're one of the 18 million people in the U.S. living as a cancer survivor.

Given cancer's seriousness, its extent can certainly feel concerning, especially as the number of cancer survivors is expected to grow to over 22 million within the next 10 years.

But there is actually some good news to go along with these large numbers.

"Yes, part of this growth we're seeing in the number of survivors is because we have an aging population and more people are being diagnosed," said Dr. Lindsay Peterson, director of the survivorship program and the START Strong Survivorship Clinic at Siteman Cancer Center, based at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and WashU Medicine. "But part is also because people are living longer after a cancer diagnosis."

And for this growing number of survivors, there are steps that can help improve health and well-being over the years. It's almost never too early in the cancer journey to get started with them.

"Talking with patients about healthy behaviors — like nutrition and physical activity and weight management — at the very beginning of

a cancer diagnosis not only can help them get through their treatments easier, improving their quality of life and minimizing side effects, it can also instill those healthy habits and behaviors from the very beginning," Peterson said. "And some of those behaviors have been shown to actually improve cancer prognosis and outcomes down the road."

Many of these steps can also lower the risk of other conditions that remain important in people's lives beyond cancer, including stroke, diabetes, heart disease and reduced mobility.

Healthy approaches for cancer survivors:

- Don't Smoke. Quit if You Do. This has huge benefits for many diseases. And it's never too late to quit. Studies show that even people with advanced cancer benefit from quitting. Visit smokefree.gov for help.
- Be Physically Active and Eat a Healthy Diet. Focus on fruits, vegetables and whole grains — and limit red meat, processed meat and alcohol. Also, try to get some physical activity every day — even if it's a small amount. When ready, try to build up to around 30 minutes a day.
- Maintain a Healthy Weight. Weight can be a complex issue for survivors, for many reasons. Staying at a healthy weight, though, can have

important benefits. Your doctor or clinic can help with resources.

• Get Screening Tests and Go to Regular Check-ups. It's important to keep up with post-treatment care with your primary care doctor and oncology team. These visits are not only key to your health as a survivor but also great places to check in about your overall health.

Looking after mental well-being is also key. Almost every survivor has some type of emotional concern, Peterson added. It could be anxiety, fears of cancer returning or questions about how cancer may impact relationships. Financial issues, like bills, and practical issues, like transportation, can add to this. "I try to understand what a patient's specific concerns are and get the person connected with resources that can help, whether that's a counselor or social worker or support group."

Cancer can also be isolating for many survivors. So, it can be valuable for both survivors and their family and friends to make efforts to stay connected.

"Once someone finishes treatment, everyone may now think they're fine. So, all of the support they were getting — emotional or otherwise — goes away," Peterson said. "And the reality is, once people are done with their cancer treatment, that's actually when I think they need the most emotional support."

So, friends and family can help uplift survivors by staying engaged and

asking them what types of help they may need. Survivors, for their part, can help by more actively letting people know the types of help and support they may be looking for.

Programs for survivors that support healthy behaviors and other key parts of follow-up care can be central to helping survivors live longer, healthier lives. And all survivors should be given the focus they deserve.

"It's important that we start to recognize survivorship as an integral part of cancer care — not just something we'll try to offer, but something we need to offer," Peterson said.

"That's when it will get the attention it needs, and we'll be able to move the field — and the benefits it offers — forward."

Resources for cancer survivors:

- Siteman Survivorship Program, siteman.washu.edu/survivors
- 8IGHT WAYS® to Stay Healthy Beyond Cancer, 8ways.washu.edu
- Cancer Support Community, cancersupportcommunity.org
- American Cancer Society, cancer.org/survivors

Dr. Graham A. Colditz leads prevention research at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and WashU Medicine in St. Louis. Much of his work focuses on translating research findings into tools and tips that help people lower their risk of disease and improve their health — including the 8IGHT WAYS® to Prevent Cancer series.

Deadline approaching for Audrain County Senior Tax Credit applications

Audrain County officials are reminding eligible residents that the application deadline for the Senior Tax Credit Program is quickly approaching. Applications must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. on June 30.

The Senior Tax Credit is designed to help offset property tax increases for residents 62 years or older on their primary residence.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the Audrain County Senior Tax Credit program, applicants must generally meet the following criteria:

Age Requirement: Must be at least 62 years of age by January 1 of the application year

Homeownership: Must own and occupy the property as their primary residence

Residency: The home must be located within Audrain County

Property Status: Property taxes must be current and not delinquent

Certain additional conditions and documentation requirements may apply. Residents are encouraged to review the full application details to ensure eligibility.

How to Apply

Applications are available through the Audrain County Collector's office and must be completed and received by 5 p.m. on June 30, or postmarked no later than June 30. Late applications may not be accepted.

For more information, application forms, or assistance completing the process, residents may contact Amy LeCount, Audrain County collector of revenue by calling 573-473-5824 or emailing seniortaxcredit@audraincounty.org.

An ESSENTIAL part of your DAILY ROUTINE



The Mexico Ledger



Happy Anniversary

Judith and Richard Twells, of Mexico, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Friday. The Twells first met in college at the University of Findlay in Ohio. They moved to Mexico in 1982 when Richard accepted a teaching position at Missouri Military Academy. In 1996, after teaching in the Mexico Public School district, Judith also accepted a teaching job at MMA. Judith said being married for 60 years takes a lot of patience and compromise. Their tips for a long and happy marriage include never going to bed angry, being willing to admit when you are wrong, and always saying "I love you," before walking out the door separately. "Hang in there," Richard advised newlyweds. "It will all work out in the end."

[Photo courtesy of Judith Twells]

Pin Oaks Living Center

We are here to provide the skilled needs of our community which include:

Short Term Rehab • Respite and Long Term Care

Services include some of the following:

Physical Therapy • Occupational Therapy • Speech Therapy
24/7 Nursing Care • Nutritional Meals • Activities



We accept Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Replacement Plan and Commercial Insurances

1525 West Monroe Mexico, MO 65265
573-581-7261

We provide a wide range of rewarding careers.



Celebrating lives at The Arbors:
A daughter's story.

Before, I was so focused on making sure Mom was safe and getting the care she needed that our relationship got lost along the way. Now we have the support we need to be a family again — with an entire community of people who understand. We felt welcome from the moment we walked in the door. To me, The Arbors is more than just memory care — it's a bridge for moms and daughters to find their way back to each other.

-Janel, daughter of resident at The Arbors



1700 Asbury Circle West
in Mexico, MO
573.581.8777
LakeviewBendByAmedicare.com

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TAYLOR MEDICAL SERVICES

Taylor Medical Services has served the Mexico area since 1977. We see patients for a variety of conditions including: hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and osteoporosis. We screen patients for risk factors which could pre-dispose to heart attack or stroke. We also discuss age-appropriate screening for cancer. For the senior citizen, we evaluate for the risk of falling, the need for physical therapy and/or the need for in-home nursing or respite care.

If you need a medical home with a caring, experienced staff, Taylor Medical Services would be a good choice. Dr. Taylor is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice.

Taylor Medical Services



Friendly, Courteous, Convenient Care in Downtown Mexico. Serving the community for over 35 years.

321 N. Washington, Mexico, MO • 573.581.1129
Open Monday from 8am to 5pm and Tuesday to Thursday from 8am to 4 pm. Closed Fridays.

How to place a Classified ad

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An additional charge
of **\$.20** per word over the
initial 25 words.

Classified ads can be placed by calling
573-581-1111 or emailing
circulation@mexicoledger.com.

The Mexico Ledger

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE - 1026 Latney Street, Friday, Sat. Sun,
8am - ? Lots of Miscellaneous

SELL YOUR VEHICLE WITH

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1967 El Camino, 327cid, auto-
matic. \$18,500, OBO. 636-456-



John Deere tractor, 1968 3020
Diesel, wide front, dual hydraul-
ics, good condition with brush
hog. \$8,500, 314-495-2531.

(First Published June 17, 2026)

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. Timothy R. Murphy; Mary
K. Murphy; 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. 26AU-CC00022, 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 occupants 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: 23-8-34-0-000-004
(Parcel No. MO-AU-TG-102.00)

The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, the
Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, and the
East Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest
Quarter Section 34, Township 50 North, Range 10
West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in the County of
Audrain and State of Missouri, excepting therefrom the
tract of land as shown by survey recorded as Document
No. 2012DR002847 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 Carrie D. Savage, GM Law
PC, 1201 Walnut St., Ste. 2000, Kansas City, MO 64106;
Tel: (816) 471-7700.

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that on
July 24, 2026 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: 6/17, 6/25, 7/1/2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of that certain
note secured by Deed of Trust executed by John Stross, a
single man, and Ralph W. Stross, a single man, dated April
14, 2023 and recorded on April 14, 2023 as Document
No. 2023DT000186, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Audrain
County, Missouri. The Successor Trustee will on July 2, 2026,
between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 5:00 P.M. more
particularly at 10:30AM, at the Audrain County Courthouse,
101 N. Jefferson, East Front door, Mexico, MO 65265, sell at
public venue to the highest bidder for cash, the following
real estate:

**LOT SIX (6) OF FORSEE’S SOUTHWEST ADDITION TO THE
CITY OF MEXICO, IN THE COUNTRY OF AUDRAIN AND
STATE OF MISSOURI, AS PER RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.**

**The above legal description taken verbatim from
Deed of Trust contains an inherent scrivener’s error.
The correct legal is as follows:**

**LOT SIX (6) OF FORSEE’S SOUTHWEST ADDITION TO THE
CITY OF MEXICO, IN THE COUNTY OF AUDRAIN AND
STATE OF MISSOURI, AS PER RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.**

For the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the
costs of executing this trust.

S&W Foreclosure Corporation
Successor Trustee

Pub Commences **May 27, 2026**

LLG File No. **25-040454**

By: LOGS Legal Group LLP

www.LOGS.com

Servicelink

Purported address: **937 Hazel Place, Mexico, MO 65265**

Publish 05/27/26, 06/03/26, 06/10/26, 06/17/26, 06/24/26, 07/01/26

NOTICE OF BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION HEARINGS

The Audrain County Board of Equalization will open
on Wednesday, July 23rd, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Hearings
will be held in the County Commission Room, Audrain
County Courthouse, 101 N. Jefferson St., Mexico, MO
65265.

Appointments for the board are made by calling the
County Clerk’s Office at (573) 473-5820. The deadline
to make appointments is Monday, July 13th, 2026.

The Housing Authority of the City of Mexico, Missouri
(MHA), is requesting proposals from qualified pest
management companies to provide integrated pest
management services. Copies of the request for proposal
may be obtained in person at the Mexico Housing
Authority office, located at 828 Garfield Avenue, Mexico,
Missouri 65265, or online at www.mexicoha.com.
A required pre-proposal conference will be held on
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CST at the following
address:

Mexico Housing Authority
828 Garfield Avenue
PO Box 484
Mexico, Missouri 65265

MHA will accept proposals for integrated pest manage-
ment services at the address listed above until 8:00 a.m. on
June 29, 2026. Proposals received after that date and time
will not be considered.

MHA is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Section 3/Employer.

Publish 6/10 & 6/17/2026

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a Primary Election will be held in
each precinct of Audrain County, on Tuesday, the 4th day of
August, 2026, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
for the purpose of nominating candidates for State, District
and County office, to be voted for at the General Election held
on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026. The nomination,
together with a designation of the office for which they are a
candidate and the party or principle they represent.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

For State Auditor

Scott Fitzpatrick, 118 Skyline Drive, Cassville, MO 65625
Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand Jr., 809 S Harding St, Oak Grove,
MO 64075

For U.S. Representative - District 3

John G Fraser, 2615 Hillshire Dr, Columbia, MO 65203
Bob Onder, 4015 S Highway 94, Augusta, MO 63332

For State Senator - District 18

Dusty Blue, 22928 Audrain Road 814, Mexico, MO 65265
Ed Lewis, 1721 Lakewood Dr, Moberly, MO 65270
Greg Sharpe, 22364 State Hwy 156, Ewing, MO 63440

For State Representative - District 43

Brendan Webber 7 Melody Lane, Mexico, MO 65265

For Associate Circuit Judge

Melissa Buckman Young

For Presiding Commissioner of the County Commission

Alan Winders, 8073 Audrain Road 545, Laddonia, MO 63352

For County Clerk

Stacey Higbee, 1330 Paris Rd, Mexico MO 65265
Brandie Gay, 208 East Shotwell, Farber, MO 63345
Heather Lierheimer, 1011 N Washington St, Mexico MO 65265

For Recorder of Deeds

Teresa L. Allen, 12247 Audrain Rd 957, Thompson MO 65285

For Collector of Revenue

Amy LeCount, 1315 E Jackson St, Mexico MO 65265

For County Treasurer

Tiffnay Burts, 16632 Audrain Rd 827, Mexico MO 65265
Lisa Smith, 15280 Hwy JJ, Mexico MO 65265

For Circuit Clerk

Meagan Miller, 101 N. Jefferson, Room 204, Mexico MO 65265

For Prosecuting Attorney

Jacob W. Shellabarger, 2991 Highway MM, Mexico MO 65265

For Salt River Rural Township Committeeman

Dusty Blue, 22928 Audrain Rd 814, Mexico 65265
Ryan Nowlin, 2622 Audrain Rd 353, Mexico 65265

For Salt River Township, Mexico 1 Precinct
Committeewoman

Meagan Miller, 1329 Morningside Dr, Mexico 65265
Jennifer Gore, 1322 Lexington St, Mexico 65265

For South Fork Township, Mexico 4 Precinct Committeeman

Chris Williams, 1111 East Jackson, Mexico 65265
John Cauthorn, 3 Melody Lane, Mexico MO 65265

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES WILL BE FILLED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Committeeman, Vandalia I, Warren Winders, 502 S Clark St, Vandalia 63382
Committeewoman, Vandalia III, Denise Chamberlain, 411 W Hwy 54, Vandalia 63382
Committeeman, Vandalia III, Johnny Weiser, 501 W Missouri, Vandalia 63382
Committeewoman, East Cuivre, Alexandra Schuckenbrock, 8073 Audrain Rd 545, Laddonia 63352
Committeeman, East Cuivre, Tanner Schuckenbrock, 8073 Audrain Rd 545, Laddonia 63352
Committeewoman, Loutre, Kristina Knipfel, 411 Rollins, Benton City 65232
Committeeman, Loutre, Ryan Knipfel, 411 Rollins, Benton City 65232
Committeewoman, South Fork, Lisa Smith, 15280 Hwy JJ, Mexico 65265
Committeewoman, Prairie Twp., Natalie J. Maxwell, 31031 Audrain Rd 9446, Laddonia 63352
Committeeman, Prairie Twp., Travis Maxwell, 31031 Audrain Rd 9446, Laddonia 63352
Committeewoman, Linn Twp., Leslie A. Meyer, 29140 Audrain Rd 408, Benton City 65232
Committeeman, Linn Twp., Scott Meyer, 29140 Audrain Rd 408 Benton City 65232
Committeewoman, Salt River, Barbara Burson, 19963 Highway FF, Mexico 65265
Committeeman, Wilson Twp, Matt Oller, 1952 Audrain Rd 395, Thompson 65285
Committeeman, Mexico 1, Lewis E. Melahn, 1453 Briarwood Pl, Mexico 65265
Committeeman, Mexico 3, Chris Newbrough, 1115 E. Promenade, Mexico 65265
Committeewoman, Mexico 4, Brenda Cauthorn, 3 Melody Lane, Mexico 65265
Committeewoman, Saling Twp., Margo Benoit, 6500 Audrain Rd 124, Centralia 65240
Committeeman, Saling Twp., Robert (Bob) Benoit, 6500 Audrain Rd 124, Centralia 65240

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

For State Auditor

Quentin Wilson, 1503 Greening Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122
Gregory Upchurch, 529 Caulks Hill Rd, St. Charles, MO 6304

For U.S. Representative - District 3

Bethany E Mann, 223 Butternut Stage Dr, Saint Peters, MO 63376
Paul T. Wilson, 721 Antler Ridge Dr, St. Charles, MO 63301
Tommy Holstein, 2018 W Adams St., St. Charles, MO 63301

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES WILL BE FILLED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Committeeman, Cuivre Twp Dwayne A. McDonald, 401 Trabue Dr Apt 12, Farber 63345
Committeewoman, South River Twp., Anita Riley, 8626 Hwy NN, Mexico 65265
Committeewoman, Salt River Twp., Glenn Riley, 8626 Hwy NN, Mexico 65265
Committeeman, Mexico 1, Keith Oser, 1503 Kent Rd, Mexico 65265
Committeewoman, Mexico 3, Ann Barnes, 1418 N. Western, Mexico 65265
Committeeman, Mexico 3, John Walker, 716 E Promenade St, Mexico MO 65265
Committeeman, Mexico 6, Walter G. Staley III, 214 Teal Lake Rd, Mexico MO 65265
Committeeman, Wilson, Nicholas Miller, 9805 Audrain Rd 9904, Centralia MO 65240

LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES

For State Auditor

Dustin Coffell, 80 Fountain View Ter Apt 12,
Lake St Louis, MO 63367

For U.S. Representative - District 3

Jim Higgins, 11944 Craig View Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146

I, Lisa Smith, County Clerk within and for the county of Audrain do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
correct list as certified to me by Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State, State of Missouri, of the offices for which candidates are
entitled to be voted for at the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held August 4, 2026 and I further certify that the candidates to be
nominated for county offices are as filed in this office and that the above names of committeemen and committeewomen to be
ELECTED at the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held August 4, 2026 are as filed in this office.

(SEAL)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand and affixed my SEAL. Done at my
office this 3rd day of June, 2026.

s/Lisa Smith
Audrain County Clerk

Community R-6 School District second semester honor roll

HIGH SCHOOL
Seniors
Principal’s Honor Roll — Jocelyn Curtis, Matthew Utterback
A Honor Roll — Lane Carter, Adriana Woodson, Peyton Beamer, Kyler Swaim, Cameron Delozier, Peyton Schafer, Chloe Johnson
B Honor Roll — Katherine Meyer, Kaiden Erdel, Cooper Rohan

Juniors
Principal’s Honor Roll — Haley Stone
A Honor Roll — Samantha Rickerson, Lydia Hoyt, Grace McCoskey, Braysen Glasgow, Kayleigh Rosol
B Honor Roll — Andrew Poindexter, Grace Welch, Karagen Matich, Clayton Eikel, Floyd Niswonger, Everett (Rett) Curtis

Sophomores
Principal’s Honor Roll — Sophia Fennwald
A Honor Roll — Katherine Levings, Zevea Steffen, Gabriella Knipfel, Layton Wright
B Honor Roll — Myla Carroll, Jason De-

Douglas twins named to Graceland University Spring 2026 Honors List

The honor roll lists for Graceland University’s 2026 spring term have been announced. Students with a GPA between 3.65 and 3.99 are named to the Honors List. Malik and Tyson Douglas, of Vandalia, were named to the Honors List.

Brooklynn Glasgow named to Graceland University Spring 2026 Dean’s List

The honor roll lists for Graceland University’s 2026 spring term have been announced, and Brooklynn Glasgow, of Laddonia, has been named to the Dean’s List. Graceland University students with a GPA between 3.25 and 3.64 are named to the Dean’s List.

merest, Rosalina Contreras-Mendez, KaTavyn Wheeler, Layne Rohan

Freshmen
Principal’s Honor Roll — Kaytlynn Arens, Jude Curtis
A Honor Roll — Anastasia (Ana) McLeod, Bailey Miller, Hailey Schmidt, Maci Poindexter, Macy Woodside, Natali Sommer, Alex Poindexter, Sophia Javier, Wyatt Meyer, Madelyn Wohlbold

B Honor Roll — McKayla Love, Grayson Knipfel, Aubrey Rickerson, Emma Morgan, Roseanne (Rosey) Winn, Carly Boyd, Carter Schafer, Chason Sachs, Megan Zastrow, Haydon Swaim, Coltin Cope
B Honor Roll — Domanic Woodson, Annie Vomund, Trinity Brown, Aila (Faye) Fennwald, Nadia Sommer



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

In the Estate of
ANTHONY WAYNE REIFSTECK,
Deceased

Case Number:
26AU-PR00044

Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted
(Independent Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of ANTHONY WAYNE REIFSTECK, Decedent:

On May 18, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of ANTHONY WAYNE REIFSTECK, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of AUDRAIN COUNTY, Missouri.

The personal representative’s name and address is:
Laura Reifsteck, 17917 HWY M, 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 Witte, 215 East 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: 11-DEC-2025
Date of first publication: May 27, 2026

/s/ Kristina Knipfel
Clerk

Publish 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17/2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Project No. 2024-EM-01-DM

Sealed bids will be received for the Hardin Gym Demolition Project until 10:00 a.m. local time on the 7th day of July, 2026, at City Hall, 300 N Coal St., Mexico, Missouri, 65265, at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids shall be submitted and addressed to Drew Williford, Public Works Director.

The work to be performed includes demolition of a commercial structure located at 920 S Jefferson St, Mexico, MO, 65265. See bidding documents for more details.

All equipment, materials and workmanship must be in accordance with the drawings and specifications on file with the Public Works Department, 300 N Coal St, City of Mexico, Missouri 65265. Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained by contacting the Public Works at 573-581-2100 x3. For a bid to be considered valid, bidder must be listed as a Plan Holder by the Department and have attended the Mandatory Pre-bid Meeting.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the commercial structure at 920 S Jefferson St, Mexico, MO 65265.

The owner, or the City of Mexico, reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid guarantee equivalent to 5% of the bid amount. This can be secured by a bid bond or certified check and must be included with the bid. Other bonding requirements may be required from the contractor after bid is awarded. The bid also must include the bidder’s OSHA 10-hour safety certification and documentation of compliance with E-Verify.

Missouri Department of Labor Standards regarding payment of Prevailing Wage Rates shall be followed for all projects. Wages shall meet the Prevailing Wage Rates set forth by the annual wage order included in the bidding documents. Rates shall also be compliant with Section 3-DBE, Segregated Facility, Section 109, E.O. 11246. MBE, WBE and Section 3-DBE bidders are encouraged to bid.

No bidder may withdraw their bid within 90 days after the actual date of bid opening.

The City of Mexico is an Equal Opportunity Employer and invites the submission of bids from minority and women-owned firms. For more information, contact Drew Williford, Public Works Director, at 300 N. Coal St., Mexico, Missouri 65265, 573-581-2100 (ext. 3), or awilliford@mexicomissouri.org.

Publish: 6/10, 6/17/2026

Hull, Kasen Fairchild, Ryder Atkinson, Cole Scott, Adam Knipfel

Sixth Grade
Principal’s Honor Roll — Emmie Gastler, Paxton Giesecker
A Honor Roll — Alexandria McLeod, Clayton Fennwald, Laynah Hogan, EllaBelle Schutte, Caleb Stone, Andrew Miller. Quinley Woodson, Easton Kuda

B Honor Roll — Dalton Crum, Jaxson Shamblyn, Skyler Weldon, Jake Brooks, Beau Scott, Braylynn Kelsay

CITY OF LADDONIA, MO
Notice to Bidders

The city of Laddonia is seeking bids for GIS Mapping software.

We will be accepting sealed bids until July 13th, 2026 and bid opening will be held July 16th, 2026 at the monthly Board Meeting

Please submit all sealed bids to:
City of Laddonia,
P.O. Box 70
Laddonia, MO 63352

If any questions please contact City Hall at 573-373-9228

Your #1 News Source

The Mexico Ledger

INVITATION TO BIDS

Sealed bids for the Audrain County (hereinafter “Owner”) Bridge No. 4540006 Replacement, Project No. BRO-R004(001) (hereinafter “Project”) will be received by the County Clerk, 101 N. Jefferson Street, Mexico, MO 65265 until 10:00 a.m. local time, on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Scope of Work includes replacement of existing Bridge No. 4540006 with a new single span (58’-6”) prestressed concrete girder bridge and associated approach roadway work and provides for bridge removal, bridge construction, traffic control and other incidental items and work described in the Project Manual, or reasonably inferable therefrom. Audrain County anticipates issuing notice to proceed in the Fall of 2026. To ensure that you receive all addenda, request the bid documents by email from Becky Toney at btoney@cochraneng.com. Bid packages will be distributed electronically at no cost to the bidder. When requesting the documents, you will be required to provide your company name, a contact person and phone number, a complete company address and an e-mail address to be added to the Plan Holders List and for receiving official bidding communications and addenda. If you are not on the Plan Holders List, you will not receive any addenda issued. Hard copies will not be available for purchase. Bidders may make printed copies of the bid documents (plans, project manual, and a bid packet) at their own expense. Project and bidding questions shall be conducted exclusively via e-mail. Any questions regarding this project must be submitted to: ttodd@cochraneng.com, by 4:00 pm local time on July 2, 2026. No written questions after this date or any verbal questions will be recognized. A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid amount must accompany each bid, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. For a contractor to be awarded this project the contractor must have a fully responsive contractor questionnaire on file with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission at least 7 days prior to the bid opening date. All bidders must be on MoDOT’s Qualified Contractor List per Section 102.2 of the current Missouri Standard Specifications for Highway Construction. The wage rates applicable to this project have been predetermined as required by law and are set forth in this specification. When Federal wage rates are applicable and included, this contract is subject to the “Work Hours Act of 1962” (P.L. 87-581: 76 Stat. 357) and implementing regulations. When state and federal wage rates are both required the higher of the two for each job classification shall be used. Effective January 1, 2009 and pursuant to RSMo 285.530 (1), No business entity or employer shall knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien to perform work within the state of Missouri. The successful bidder must submit a sworn affidavit and documentation affirming the business entity’s enrollment and participation in the federal work authorization program and that all of its employees working for the contracted services are not illegal immigrants. Upon signing the contract, the successful contractor and any subcontractor performing the work shall provide a ten-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) construction safety program for their on-site employees within sixty (60) days of beginning work on the construction project. Audrain County, Missouri hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, ancestry, or national origin in consideration for an award. The DBE Contract Goal for this project is 0%, and DBE firms must be certified by MoDOT to attain credit towards this contract goal. There is no On the Job Trainee goal. The owner intends to award the contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities in the best interest of the owner with MoDOT’s consent.

Publish: 6/10, 6/17, 6/24/2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

A default has accrued on a certain note secured by a deed of trust executed by, **SCOTT A. MILLER; KATHY J. MILLER** dated **5/29/2008** and recorded on **5/30/2008** in **BOOK 174 PAGE 620**, in the Recorder’s office for **Audrain County, Missouri**. The successor trustee will on **July 2, 2026** between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, more particularly at **10:30 AM**, at the **East Front Door of the Audrain County Courthouse, 101 North Jefferson, Mexico, Missouri** sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only), the following real estate:

for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

CSM Foreclosure Trustee Corp.
Successor Trustee
(800) 652-4080
4x 06/10/2026, 06/17/2026, 06/24/2026, 07/01/2026
CSM File 26-26-00897
NOTE: This office is a debt collector.

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

In the Estate of
JOHN EDWARD HARLOW,
Deceased

Case Number:
26AU-PR00046

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted
(Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JOHN EDWARD HARLOW, Decedent:

On May 29, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JOHN EDWARD HARLOW, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Audrain County, Missouri.

The personal representative’s name and address is:
RHONDA K. YUND, 7798 COUNTY ROAD 407, FULTON, MO 65251.

The personal representative’s attorney’s name, business address and phone number are: THOMAS K. RILEY, 13 EAST FIFTH STREET, FULTON, MO 65251, (573) 642-7661.

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, RS Mo, 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: 1 0-MAR-2026
Date of first publication: JUNE 10, 2026

/s/ Kristina Knipfel
Clerk

Publish 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1/2026



VIVEK MALEK
MISSOURI STATE TREASURER

ShowMeMoney.com



UNCLAIMED PROPERTY
MISSOURI'S LARGEST LOST & FOUND

Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Abandoned Property

State Treasurer **Vivek Malek** is trying to locate the owners of unclaimed assets listed in this notice. The Missouri State Treasurer's Office currently holds over \$1.5 billion of unclaimed assets in over 10 million accounts. One in ten Missourians has unclaimed property, and the average return is nearly \$300. These unclaimed assets may consist of cash, checks, stocks, dividends, or safe deposit boxes. These listings do not pertain to real estate.

To submit a claim, visit ShowMeMoney.com or write to: Unclaimed Property, PO Box 1004, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Information concerning the amount, description, and holder of the property may be obtained by the property owner. Tangible property may be sold according to section 447.558 RSMo. and proceeds retained in the name of the original owner.



SCAN ME

State law (447.541 RSMo.) requires the publication of this information in newspapers each year.

Name	Address	City
AARONS AUTO CARE	1204 W WASHINGTON ST	VANDALIA
ABBOTT GEORGE	BOX 5 HIGHWAY A	BENTON CITY
ADAIR AMY	19848 AUDRAIN ROAD 314	MEXICO
ALBRECHT SAMANTHA	11375 COUNTY ROAD 1054	MARTINSBURG
ALBRECHT TOM	11375 COUNTY ROAD 1054	MARTINSBURG
ALLEN GLENWOOD T	1712 W BOULEVARD ST	MEXICO
ALLEN LORRAINE	1515 POLLOCK RD	MEXICO
ALLEN ROBERT C	402 W WALSH BLVD	VANDALIA
ALLISON TORI L	311 W HOME ST	VANDALIA
APONTE MICHAEL	1124 ADAMS ST	MEXICO
APPLEBEE MAKAYLA L	603 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
APPLEBEE MICHELLE L	19842 AUDRAIN ROAD 9308	MEXICO
ARENS RONNIE	16887 ACR 751	MARTINSBURG
ARMENDAREZ JANET	214 W HICKORY ST	FARBER
ARNOLD FUNERAL HOME	824 N WASHINGTON ST	MEXICO
ARTIS LIONEL	200 GASLIGHT RD APT 7	VANDALIA
ATKINSON MICHAEL	1020 N CLARK ST	MEXICO
AUDRAIN AUDRAIN HEALTH CARE	PATIENT ACCOUNTS	MEXICO
AUDRAIN RENTALS LLC	304 E LIBERTY	MEXICO
AUWARTER AMY	2390 SOUTHERN HILLS	MEXICO
AVCO ELECTRICAL LLC	10201 COUNTY RD 1044	MARTINSBURG
AVERY BARBARA	725 LAKEVIEW RD	MEXICO
BAGLEY CHARLENE M	3015 HWY W	VANDALIA
BAKER EDEL R	1219 PROMENADE	MEXICO
BARNUN BRENDA	2733 B CLARK	MEXICO
BARSE KRISTIANA D	213 E HOME ST	VANDALIA
BEALMEAR DAVID	704 E US HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
BECK DYLAN K	410 W MONROE ST APT H	MEXICO
BELCHER LAWRAN	1315 MOCKINGBIRD DR	MEXICO
BELL DONNA M	528 E SEMINARY ST	MEXICO
BENNETT ASHLEY	29 7 199022164 AUDRAIN RD 931	MEXICO
BENSKIN DUSTIN	915 CONCORDIA ST	MEXICO
BENT EDWARD L	213 E HESS ST	FARBER
BERKBUUEGLER JOHN W	421 WOODLAWN ST	MEXICO
BLAKLEY PATRICK	19872 AUDRAIN RD 93 #5	MEXICO
BLEDISOE MICHAEL T	909 S OLIVE	MEXICO
BOOSKA ROBERT	403 S MISSOURI ST	MEXICO
BOWEN NAKIA M	206 E SUMMIT ST	MEXICO
BOWMAN MILDRED MARIE	824 N WASHINGTON ST	MEXICO
BOYDSTUN CHARLES	1328 CEDAR RIDGE CV	MEXICO
BRANDENBURG KAREN S	1324 CHICKADEE DR	MEXICO
BRANDIS PATTY S	100 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
BRANDOW JAMI	1817 SALEM AVE	MEXICO
BRANDT CRAIG	16339 AUDRAIN ROAD 751	MARTINSBURG
BRICK CITY BUFFET	641 W JACKSON ST	MEXICO
BROWN DCSD DOROTHY	911 RUTH CT	MEXICO
BROWN DOROTHY J	911 RUTH CT	MEXICO
BROWN DOUGLAS	211 W ARTHUR ST	FARBER
BROWN KEVIN	1308 W BRECKENRIDGE DR APT 2	MEXICO
BROWNING KAILA N	16617 ACR 308	THOMPSON
BRUNDEGE KENNETH	1204 RINGO STREET	MEXICO
BRUSH KAYLEE D	809 W US HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
BUCK HALEY	2089 DOSS RD	MEXICO
BURNETT ALVIN H	201 E MAPLE	FARBER
BURSON KATHLEEN	708 E LOVE ST	MEXICO
CAGLE STEPHANIE	503 S PINE ST	LADDONIA
CAILOTTO BRITT	19824 AUDRAIN ROAD 388	MEXICO
CALDWELL FLETTA J	1109 OLD FARM ROAD W	MEXICO
CALHOUN JOSHUA L	2832 RANDY ST	MEXICO
CAMPBELL JACOB	4419 FRIENDSHIP DRIVE	MEXICO
CANINE DEB	420 W BOULEVARD	MEXICO
CAROL MATTHEW A	14360 HWY CC	MEXICO
CARSON CURTIS JR	120E BOLIVAR ST	MEXICO
CARSON CURTIS S	120 E BOLIVAR ST	MEXICO
CARSON DEBBIE M	1218 SANNEBECK DR	MEXICO
CARSON JEREMIAH M	1409 SANNEBECK DR	MEXICO
CARTER ANN	303 W US HWY 54	VANDALIA
CASH AUSTIN	1014 LATNEY STREET	MEXICO
CATLETT MELISSA	214 W HARRISON ST	FARBER
CEDAR GROVE	621 N CALHOUN BLDG 4	MEXICO
CHACON-ZAPOT NAYDELYN	10577 AUDRAIN RD 9377 APT 45	MEXICO
CHARLTON ANTHONY	1004 S MAIN ST	VANDALIA
CHILDS ROBERT	507 E BOKVAR ST	MEXICO
CHRISMAN MATTHEW P	221 MARS ST	MEXICO
CHRISTOPHER WINN	2323 CARDINAL ST	MEXICO
CINKAY SUSAN		MEXICO
CLAMPITT CALEB	17553 AUDRAIN RD 939	MEXICO
CLARK JERIMIAH	818 WEST STREET	MEXICO
CLARK NIKOLAS B	425 N MISSOURI ST APT B	MEXICO
CLARK ROBERT A	10 ELM TREE DR	MEXICO
CLAYTON JOHN P	16079 AUDRAIN ROAD 815	MEXICO
CLAYTON ORION	1001 S MAPLE ST 9B	VANDALIA
COCKRELL ISIAH J	715 E BRECKENRIDGE	MEXICO
COLLINS DESIREE N	1701 LAWRENCE PL	MEXICO
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY LLC	MFA CL 1808 E LIBERTY ST	MEXICO
COOK STEPHANIE	700 ELM STREET	LADDONIA
COOPER KATHY S	314 S HIGHLAND ST	VANDALIA
CORDRY DANIEL	612 E UNION	VANDALIA
CORDRY DAVID	612 E UNION	VANDALIA
CORDRY MARCIA J	612 E UNION	VANDALIA
CORY ABIGAIL L	804 S WESTERN ST	MEXICO
CREED BRITTANY R	318 N CRAIG ST	MEXICO
CRENSHAW BILLIE	608 YALE ST	MEXICO
CRUZ HERNANDEZ OTHON	221 MARS ST	MEXICO
CUL FELIC GOODPASTUR	47004 HIGHWAY K	VANDALIA
CULVER ALEX	709 N LINDELL ST	VANDALIA
CULVER JAMES	513 US 54	VANDALIA
CULWELL CANDIE	1415 N OLIVE ST	MEXICO
CUNNINGHAM JOHN S	1767 QUAIL HILL RD	MEXICO
CUNNINGHAM PAULA M	1767 QUAIL HILL RD	MEXICO
CUNO ISAAC	704 ROBINWOOD RD	MEXICO
CUNO ISAAC	903 EAST JACKSON	MEXICO
CUPP AMBER	108 JOSEPHINE STREET	MEXICO
CURTISS JUSTIN	PO BOX 700	MEXICO
DAILY TOMMIE	520 E HOPE ST #3	MEXICO
DANNY E. JENNINGS	APT 4 309 E LIBERTY	MEXICO
DARBY MICHELLE N	1025 HAZEL PL	MEXICO
DAVANPORT ELLA		MEXICO
DAVIDSON CLIFFORD	1225 E JACKSON ST	MEXICO
DAVIS AARON J	822 S CLARK ST	MEXICO
DAVIS ALBERT L		MARTINSBURG
DAVIS JEFFREY R	822 S CLARK ST	MEXICO
DAVIS KIMBERLY	PO BOX 31	VANDALIA
DAVIS MARK L	1010 E LIBERTY ST RM 153	MEXICO
DAVOLT MICAH I	1803 LAKEVIEW RD	MEXICO
DAWN FOOD PRODUCTS	1400 VANCE RD	MEXICO
DAY EMILY	1114 S JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
DEIHL ABBYGAIL	1515 BENNINGTON ST	MEXICO
DEIMEKE SHERRI	13977 HIGHWAY 19	MARTINSBURG
DIAZ ROGEL HECTOR L	1302 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
DIBLASI LESLIE	808 N WASHINGTON ST	MEXICO
DIESEL AYSE	34486 HIGHWAY U	MARTINSBURG
DNU SSM HC CORP	AUDRAIN HH 605 E PROMENADE ST	MEXICO
DOMINGO PEDRO	805 FAIRGROUND ST	MEXICO
DORMAN CHERYL	623 W LIBERTY ST	MEXICO
DOSTOGLU DALTON LANCE	16544 AUDRAIN RD 308	THOMPSON
DOWN THE ROAD MOTORS LLC	918 E JACKSON ST	MEXICO
DUBBERT CHRISTOPHER	24602 AUDRAIN ROAD 806	MEXICO
DUNCAN JANE F	PO BOX 234	MEXICO
DUNCAN RIKKI	1101 E HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
DUPRE COETTA	2010 E LIBERTY ST	MEXICO
DUVALL BRITTANY	WOMENS EASTERN RECEPTION DIA	VANDALIA
DWYER THOMAS	115 E WALSH	VANDALIA
EASTERN MISSOURI PROPERTIES	610 W HWY 54	VANDALIA
EDWARDS CONNIE		MEXICO
EKLUND EDWARD P	305 E JEFFERSON ST	MARTINSBURG
ELLES JOHN J	4602 FRANKLIN RD	MEXICO
EMMANUELLE FAMILY LIMITED PA	PO BOX 650	MEXICO
EMT LLC	7291 AUDRAIN RD 395	THOMPSON
EPPELSHEIMER MERRILL	505 W MISSOURI AVE	VANDALIA
ERDEL DAN	103 W. MONROE	MEXICO
ESQUIVEL YOLANDA	10534 AUDRAIN ROAD 9377 LOT 35	MEXICO
EVANS EGENE	929 SOUTH WALNUT	MEXICO
FARM JOURNAL MEDIA	222 S JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
FARRELL BRIDGET H	715 S SINGLETON ST	MEXICO
FARRELL CLEVE R	715 S SINGLETON ST	MEXICO
FEGER JACOB E II	1800 N OLIVE ST	MEXICO
FERRO MARIA	922 W CURTIS ST	MEXICO
FISCHER MARIAH	405 6TH ST	LADDONIA
FISHBURN SHERRY	PO BOX 1	BENTON CITY
FOLEY REBECCA D	1305 POLLOCK RD	MEXICO
FOLLIS TERRY	9752 HIGHWAY NN	MEXICO
FOREMAN SCOTT	600 N WADE G	MEXICO
FORREST DERRICK	2089 DOSS RD	MEXICO
FOUNTAIN DEBIL		MEXICO
FOWLER DOROTHY	703 N 6TH ST	VANDALIA
FOX MICHAEL	2916 RANDY	MEXICO
FRIEDRICH BRIAN	1521 ASHLEY CT	MEXICO

FURLONG JEANITA	1414 S COAL ST	MEXICO
GALLEGO BILLIE J	703 E PROMENADE ST	MEXICO
GARDEN GATE FLORIST LLC	528 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
GARNETT REBECCA	403 WALNUT ST	LADDONIA
GARRETT BRUCE W	626 E SUMMIT ST APT C	MEXICO
GATES KATHY A	916 MICHIGAN ST	MEXICO
GEORGE MARY P	16 LAKESIDE PL	MEXICO
GILMAN JAMES R	22529 AUDRAIN CO RD 834	MEXICO
GIOVANNY JAIRO	1111 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
GLENN BORCHERDING NATHANIEL	X 215 E LOVE ST	MEXICO
GODDARD WAYNE	PO BOX 758	MEXICO
GOLD CREST DISTRIBUTING	PO BOX 355	MEXICO
GOLDEN LARISSA LYNNE	1101 E HWY 54	VANDALIA
GOWAN JEAN	45 FAIRSITE DR	MEXICO
GRACIA JESUS	204 N GRAND ST	MEXICO
GREEN JOSH	1026 HAZEL PL	MEXICO
GREEN WESLEY	1889 HUNTINGTON CT	MEXICO
GREENE TYRELL	1013 S JEFFERSON ST	VANDALIA
GRIFFIN PATRICIA	1109 W OLD FARM RD APT 105	MEXICO
GRIFFITH SARAH E	523 N WADE ST	MEXICO
GRIGGBY DENNIS J	300 HOWELL MANOR CT	MEXICO
GROVE ANGELA L	1415 E US HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
GROVES WARREN D	18950 HIGHWAY FF	MEXICO
GUSTAFSON LADONNA J	302 EAST LOVE STREET	MEXICO
HAAG STEVEN	337 JEFFERSON RD	MEXICO
HAEFFNER SHELLEY		MEXICO
HAFFNER EMILY	200 GASLIGHT RD	VANDALIA
HALEY MARCUS T	523 N WADE ST	MEXICO
HALL JOHN R MD	321 W PROMENADE ST	MEXICO
HALL KENNETH	825 WEBSTER ST	MEXICO
HALL SEAN	400 E MARY ST	MEXICO
HAMBY CHAD C	813 W LIMIT ST	VANDALIA
HAMMERS TRAVIS	926 S OLIVE ST	MEXICO
HAMMETT LESLIE A	6149 AUDRAIN RD 539	FARBER
HARGUS AARON M	815 E JACKSON ST	MEXICO
HARRIS CHAD	203 W PROMENADE ST	MEXICO
HARRIS CRYSTAL D	PO BOX 6	MEXICO
HARRIS KALEB	32784 HWY KK	LADDONIA
HARRIS RICKY D	6500 AUDRAIN ROAD 337	MEXICO
HARRISON TONY R	1414 S COAL ST	MEXICO
HAYES DOROTHY J	1213 E HOLT ST	MEXICO
HAZEL ANNA	502 W HOME ST	VANDALIA
HEASTON ASHLEE E	719 S SINGLETON	MEXICO
HEASTON BILLIE	1189 E US HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
HENDRIX LELA M	1103 WEST	MEXICO
HERNANDEZ LEOCADIO	10651 AUDRAIN ROAD 9377	MEXICO
HERRERA DAVID	10622 AUDRIAN RD	MEXICO
HESSE EDWARD H	1120 CONCORDIA ST	MEXICO
HESSE KAREN J	1120 CONCORDIA ST	MEXICO
HIBBARD MARGIE L	517 YALE ST	MEXICO
HIGHTSHOE PATRICIA	1308 N CLARK ST	MEXICO
HILDERMAN JAMES	301 WALNUT ST	LADDONIA
HILDERMAN JERI L	22192 AUDRAIN ROAD 320	MEXICO
HILDERMAN KARLA	301 WALNUT ST	LADDONIA
HILL EMMA	605 E LAFAYETTE	MEXICO
HITT LISA	1216 E PROMENADE ST	MEXICO
HOLCUMBRINK CODY	709 WEST BLAND STREET	VANDALIA
HOLDTODAL E	POBOX 558	MEXICO
HOOD SHANE A	218 W MONROE ST APT C	MEXICO
HOPKE STEVEN	2274 DOSS RD	MEXICO
HORN BETTY J	1609 SPRINGDALE CT	MEXICO
HOUSE MADISON R	627 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
HOWDESHILL AMBER D	310 N TAYLOR ST	VANDALIA
HOYLE MANDI K	303 WOODLAWN ST	MEXICO
HUGHIE EMILEY	2174 JUBEL DR	MEXICO
HUME MEREDITH	23031 AUDRAIN RD 814	MEXICO
HURD CARRIE	606 E WASHINGTON	VANDALIA
HUTTSEL HELEN	115 E WHITLEY ST	MEXICO
ISGRIG DENNIS	18291 AUDRAIN ROAD 917	MEXICO
ISGRIG MELBURN H	103 W. MONROE	MEXICO
JACKSON MATT T	802 N CLARK ST	MEXICO
JAHN BRADLEY	25195 AUDRAIN RD 820	MEXICO
JAMES VIRGINIA ELLEN	1722 HUNTINGFIELD DR A4	MEXICO
JARQUIN GARCIA JOCELYN M	10526 AUDRIAN RD 9377	MEXICO
JENNINGS COURTNEY	209 MAIN ST	LADDONIA
JENNINGS DANNY E	APT 4 309 E LIBERTY	MEXICO
JENNINGS ROY	29458 MONROE ROAD 700	MEXICO
JESSE SHANON	603 MACFARLANE	MEXICO
JOHNSON DIANE E	26379 AUDRAIN RD 836	MEXICO
JOHNSON ROBERT	1 ROCK SPRINGS DR	MEXICO
JOHNSON WILLIAM MICHAEL	1315 ROSEBUD ST	MEXICO
JONES CAMERON	1018 S MONROE ST	VANDALIA
JONES ELIZABETH A	114 W UNION ST	VANDALIA
JONES GAVIN	1932 CHERRY ST	MEXICO
JONES KENNETH C	114 W UNION ST	VANDALIA
JONES MARKEISHA	320 HOWELL MANOR CT	MEXICO
JOSLIN KIMBERLY	WOMENS EASTERN RECEPTION DIA	VANDALIA
KANSAS CITY FAMILY ALLERGY LLC	PO BOX 478	MEXICO
KEETER KEN E	15529 ACR 936 MO0	THOMPSON
KELLEY ROBERT	400 N MAIN ST	VANDALIA
KEMP KAURI	21891 AUDRAIN RD 322	MEXICO
KEMP SHANE M	21891 AUDRAIN RD 322	MEXICO
KEN E KEETER	15529 ACR 936	THOMPSON
KENNARD COURTNEY	719 S SINGLETON	MEXICO
KERR R E	3006 AUDRAIN RD #335	MEXICO
KERR ROBERT E	3006 AUDRAIN RD #335	MEXICO
KESLER ROBBY D	1810 WEST ST	MEXICO
KESSLER DONNA	18313 AUDRAIN ROAD 845	MEXICO
KIBBLE GAVIN T	1709 MEADOWLARK LN	MEXICO
KINCAID MEDICAL ASSOCIATES	PC PO BOX 478	MEXICO
KINDER NATHANIEL R	311 W HOME ST	VANDALIA
KINDER TORI L	311 W HOME ST	VANDALIA
KIRCHNER DAVID	11312 AUDRAIN CO RD 6	VANDALIA
KIRKLIN JASON	4535 FRIENDSHIP DRIVE	MEXICO
KLINGAMAN MARJORIE A	1706 SPRINGDALE CT APT B	MEXICO
KNIGHT BRENT	527 W PEARSON ST	MEXICO
KNIPP DARIN	1210 DORCAS ST	MEXICO
KREYLING DOUG	25332 HWY 5	MEXICO
KUYOC CHAN HILDA C	221 MARS ST	MEXICO
LAIRD DONNA L	2733 B CLARK	MEXICO
LAVENDER STEFANIE	153890 ACR 9906 LOT 300	MEXICO
LAYMAN EDDIE D	818 KENT ROAD	MEXICO
LEWIS KALI D	918 E JACKSON ST	MEXICO
LEWIS KYLE	1114 KENT RD	MEXICO
LEWIS THEODORE	1100 LITTLEBY DR	MEXICO
LICATA PAUL ZEBULON	3 COUNTY ROAD 1069	MEXICO
LIN WEI QIANG	2805 FAIRGROUND ST	MEXICO
LINHARDT MARY C	8578 HIGHWAY 15	MEXICO
LITTLER HUBERTA	400 S PINE ST	LADDONIA
LITRELL BETTY J	1868 POLLOCK RD	MEXICO
LOGERMAN JAMES E	19095 AUDRAIN ROAD 930	MEXICO
LOMELINO LUCILLE	PO BOX 44	LADDONIA
LONG TAYLOR C	221 MARS ST	MEXICO
LOWE PEGGY	9854 HIGHWAY NN	MEXICO
LYNN MISTY	108 OAK ST	FARBER
MACKEY THREE RANCH LLC	217 AUDRAIN RD	MEXICO
MANLEY STEVEN	1111 N OLIVE ST	MEXICO
MANNS NAKHYA	2 ELM TREE DR	MEXICO
MANNIS SCOTT	204 SOUTH ST	MEXICO
MARCH RODNEY	1010 MACFARLANE ST	MEXICO
MARSHALL BAYLEE	1220 KENT RD	MEXICO
MARTIN BREANNA	17441 AUDRAIN ROAD 929	MEXICO
MARTIN CAITLYNNE E	1513 N WASHINGTON ST	MEXICO
MARTINSBURG FARMERS ELEV	PO BOX 130	MARTINSBURG
MATTSUN ERIC	2398 SOUTHERN HLS	MEXICO
MATTSUN KATHY	2398 SOUTHERN HLS	MEXICO
MAUPIN GLENDOE E	18 MARINE DR	MEXICO
MAXJEEPS	9101 AUD RD 355	MEXICO
MAY CHRISTIAN	22374 AUDRAIN ROAD 9832 LOT 42	MEXICO
MAYLEE DYLAN L	917 TYRONN LUE BLVD	MEXICO
MBT FINANCIAL SVCS LLC	PO BOX 856	MEXICO
MCCOWN TROY	15292 AUDRAIN ROAD 841	MEXICO
MCDANIEL KATHERINE E	323 WOODLAWN ST	MEXICO
MCINTOSH DALE R	11 MORNINGSIDE DR	MEXICO
MCINNIN NICOLE	1412 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
MCPIKE HARLI A	511 W. UNION ST	VANDALIA
MEARS ED E	325 N MISSOURI ST	MEXICO
MEXICO EYE CENTER LLC	2753 S CLARK ST	MEXICO
MEXICO FINNS & FEATHERS LLC	530 N JEFFERSON ST	MEXICO
MEXICO HEATING CO	21450 STATE HWY FF	MEXICO
MFA AGRI SERVICE	2816 E LIBERTY ST	MEXICO
MFA FEED MILL	PO BOX 493	MEXICO
MIDDLETON EDITH J	1117 S WASHINGTON ST	MEXICO
MIDDLETON ROBERT L	RR 3	MEXICO
MILLER JOYCE	2231 FAIRGROUND ST	MEXICO
MILLER ROBERT M	ELMWOOD TRAIL PARK #6	MEXICO
MILLS MELISSA K	1508 SPRINGDALE CT	MEXICO
MIRTS LEIGH A	10323 AUDRAIN RD 379	MEXICO
MISHLER EVA	814 N OLIVE ST	MEXICO
MONGE DANA	12959 AUDRAIN ROAD 957	THOMPSON
MONTERO GABRIEL R	600 N WADE ST APT D	MEXICO
MOODY LINDA M	10248 AUDRAIN ROAD 421	MEXICO
MOODY PHILLIP AUGUST	10242 AUDRAIN RD 421	RUSH HILL
MOORE JUSTIN	1030 HIGHWAY 15	THOMPSON
MORGAN KEITH	204 N GRAND ST	MEXICO
MOSLEY TINA	409 E WASHINGTON ST	VANDALIA
MUELLER BRUCE	16500 AUDRAIN ROAD 815	MEXICO
MURRAY LACY	1008 N CLARK ST	MEXICO
NAIL MARIAH	620 W PEARSON ST	MEXICO
NASH MELANIE D	PO BOX 894	MEXICO
NEAL JAMES MICHAEL	1407 SATURN ST	MEXICO
NEALE ADAM C	24814 AUDRAIN ROAD 442	MEXICO
NEALE COLLEEN M	24814 AUDRAIN ROAD 442	MEXICO
NEW LIFE TABERNACLE	908 US HIGHWAY 54	VANDALIA
NEWTON JASON E	2448 COUNTRYSIDE	MEXICO
NICHOLS JEFF	1330 NEPTUNE	MEXICO
NICOLAS MARTIN E	10647 AUDRAIN ROAD 9377 LOT 7	MEXICO
NISSEN BEVERLEY J	724 N WESTERN	MEXICO
NOWLIN BAYLEE N	1220 KENT RD	MEXICO
NOWLIN JORDAN R	1220 KENT RD	MEXICO
NOYES KRISTEN	WOMENS EASTERN RECEPTION DIA	VANDALIA
OBRIE DALLAS E ESTATE	PO BOX 262	VANDALIA
OBRIEN DALLAS E	P O BOX 262	VANDALIA
OCONNOR DOMINIC	315 N CLARK ST	MEXICO
ODGEN GUY F	2900 GREENRIDGE	MEXICO
OHLSFORD SUZANNE H	1871 HUNTINGTON CT	MEXICO
OKENFUSS STACY	1619 AUDRAIN ROAD 489	LADDONIA
ORTIZ EUGENE	1520 S SINGLETON	MEXICO
ORTIZ MEDEL FRANCISCO J	221 MARS ST	MEXICO
OWENS JAMES	603 E BRECKENRIDGE	MEXICO
PARKSONS LLC	3602 S CLARK ST	MEXICO
PARRISH BRENDA	17369 HIGHWAY JJ	MEXICO

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

In the Adoption of
M.W.M., K.R.M., and E.K.M.,
minors

Case Number:
26AU-JU00009

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO DALE WAYNE MATHEWS
FATHER OF **Madieleine Whitleigh Mathews, Karlee Rena Mathews,** and **Emersyn Kate Mathews:**

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Audrain County, Missouri, Juvenile Division, the object and general nature of which is to obtain a Judgment and Decree of Adoption of **Madieleine Whitleigh Mathews, Karlee Rena Mathews,** and **Emersyn Kate Mathews** by **Scotland Lee DeTienne,** and **Taylor Michelle DeTienne,** Applicants.

The name of the court in which this action is pending and the names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioners is: Christa J. Broughton, Erdel, Owings, Tanzey & Newton, P.C., 1 00 North Jefferson, Mexico, Missouri 65265.

You are further notified that, unless you file an Answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Application within forty-five days after the 3rd day of June, 2026, a Judgment and Decree of Adoption will be rendered in favor of the Applicants.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in **The Mexico Ledger**, a newspaper of general circulation published iin the County of Audrain, State of Missouri, the 27th day of May, 2026.

Meagan Miller
Audrain County Circuit Clerk

Publish 6/3, 6/10/ 6/17, 6/24/2026

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

In the Estate of
DARRILL KIRTLEY LYNN,
Deceased

Case Number:
26AU-PR00047

Notice to Creditors
(Small Estate)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
DARRILL KIRLTEY LYNN, Decedent:

On May 29, 2026 a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under- Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of AUDRAIN COUNTY Missouri.

All creditors of Decedent, who died on 02-JAN-2026, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of Decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration.

Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of AUDRAIN COUNTY Missouri.

Date of first publication is June 17, 2026.

ATTORNEY
Andrew Garnett
222 South Street
Suite 106
Mexico, MO 65265

/s/ Kristina Knipfel
Clerk

Publish 6/17, 6/24/2026

IN THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI

In the Estate of:
GENE ALLEN ENGLAND,
Deceased

Case No.
26AU-PR00042

Notice of Letters Testamentary Granted
(Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
GENE ALLEN ENGLAND, Decedent:

On May 6th, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of GENE ALLEN ENGLAND, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of AUDRAIN COUNTY, Missouri.

The name and address of the personal representative is: CAROL ANN ENGLAND, 930 E. ST. EUNICE ROAD , FULTON, MO 65251

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number are:
NONE

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: 17-APR-2026
Date of first publication: May 27, 2026

/s/ Kristina Knipfel
Circuit Clerk

Publish 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17/2026

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Audrain County
REAL ESTATE AUCTION
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 AT 10 AM

AUCTION & PROPERTY LOCATION:

2898 HIGHWAY Z, MEXICO, MO 65265

DIRECTIONS:

From the traffic light at the junction of Highway 22 and Highway 15 in Mexico, MO, turn and go north 9 miles on Highway 15 to the junction of Highway 15 and Highway Z, the Steuber Property is at that location

78 +/- ACRES IN TOWNSHIP 52N, RANGE 9W, SECTION 16 IN AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI

PRE-AUCTION PROPERTY VIEWING
Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 4 PM to 6 PM

SELLERS: Margaret L. Steuber - Linda Walker, Trustee

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

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

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Boone County
REAL ESTATE AUCTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026 | 10 A.M.

PROPERTY & AUCTION LOCATION:

157 HIGHWAY 124 NORTH, HALLSVILLE, MO 65255

DIRECTIONS: From the stop light in Hallsville, MO go north approx. a half mile to the Cuppy property on the left.

9+/- ACRES WITH A HOME
LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 50N, RANGE 12W,
SECTION 13 OF BOONE COUNTY.



SELLER: CUPPY FAMILY TRUST
DARRELL & DEBBIE CUPPY

Wheeler
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