

# Star Journal

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## Absentee voting begins Tuesday for April 8 election

By Star-Journal Staff

In-person absentee voting begins for the April 8 municipal election on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the Johnson County Courthouse.

Absentee voters can stop by the Johnson County Courthouse from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Absentee voting runs until Monday, April 7.

Those wishing can vote by mail can request absentee ballots by contacting the Johnson County Clerk's Office 660-747-6161.

The last day to register to vote for the April 8 General Municipal Election is March 12.

Voters should check their voter registration record on the Missouri Secretary of State's website to make sure changes don't need to be made to their information.

Voters should check their polling place and remember to bring their photo identification of a Missouri driver's license, a non-driver's license ID, passport, or military (active or retired) ID.

## Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church holds 39th Annual Black History Month Celebration

By Zach Bott  
zachb@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — The last Sunday in February holds a reserved slot every year at the Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church, as it celebrates Black History Month annually on the day.

Sunday, Feb. 23, was the latest edition at the church, as many locals, church members and members of the Morris L. Collins Legacy Committee gathered for the 39th annual celebration at the church at 400 W. Culton St. in Warrensburg.

Dr. Cynthia "Mama J" Johnson hosted the celebration, which featured a collection for the Timothy Rucker and Sharon White Scholarships, performances from local churches and time for reflection for those who honored the celebration's theme "African Americans in Labor."

"(When) we talk about labor, we think about our mammas, our aunts, our cousins, our uncles and how we grew up," Johnson said. "We're here to celebrate our history that took place not just in our nation, but we are going to look at (our area code) 64093 today. Right here; this is what it is all about."

Warrensburg Mayor Bruce Uhler, along with Mayor Pro-Tem Eddie Osborne and council member Suzy Latare, presented a proclamation to the event's planning committee members Crista Collins and Barbara Hill.

"The Warrensburg Area Black History Celebration Planning



Guest speaker Pastor Camille Bess of Mt. Zion Apostolic Temple speaks to those in attendance of the 39th Annual Black History Month Celebration about belief and labor on Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church in Warrensburg. PHOTO BY ZACH BOTT | STAR-JOURNAL

Committee provides a vital service to our community through its diligent work and thoughtful consideration to plan an annual celebration of Black History," Uhler said. "This marks the 39th annual celebration of Black History, highlighting and acknowledging the many contributions of black citizens, locally, statewide and as a nation, serving as a reminder of our shared humanity. The annual celebration fosters understanding and enriches the city of Warrensburg by offering an opportunity for insight, respect and relevance in a thriving community. In gratitude, we applaud the dedicated members of the planning committee throughout the past 39 years."

Sunday's keynote speaker was Pastor Camille Bess of Mt. Zion Apostolic Temple in Knob Noster. Bess challenged the audience to believe in the world of possibilities at their hands.

"Belief is the foundation of every great achievement," Bess

said. "It's what is found in the heart of a visionary, of trailblazers, pioneers of history, science, singers, songwriters, artists. First they have to believe in the impossible before turning their dreams and their aspirations into reality. In a world that is often defined by limitations, doubt and uncertainty, the act of truly believing has the power to transform lives."

See **CELEBRATION**, Page A6

## JoCo BBBS WAFB board receives \$1,000 in 2024, hopes for continued growth in 2025

By Zach Bott  
zachb@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County has a little-known partnership with Whiteman Air Force Base that it hopes to expand in the future.

Formed in 2020, the BBBS WAFB board was created as it is a required piece to BBBS being approved as a private organization at the base.

Since being formed, the group has provided approximately 60 hours of volunteer service, done fundraisers and helped with recruitment at the University of Central Missouri and Whiteman Air Base.

The board features six members in all, with three of the four board officers being Bigs with the BBBS program.

"It is hard to explain just how valuable it is for us to have an extension of our Board of Directors in the WAFB board," BBBS Executive Director Dana Phelps said. "Their connections, support and manpower are not something that could be easily replaced for us. It was a step forward in creating relationships with Whiteman. They help us recruit bigs. They help us with volunteering. They



From left to right: Johnson County Big Brothers Big Sisters Whiteman Air Force Base board vice president Zoe Dagostino and president Rachel McKinney accept a \$500 check from Gerald Seelinger and Steve DelVecchio of the Matthews-Crawford Post No. 131 American Legion. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANA PHELPS



BBBS WAFB board president Rachel McKinney, right, and vice president Zoe Dagostino, left, pose for a photo in front of holiday lights at Powell Gardens' Festival of Lights. McKinney and Dagostino volunteered during the lights event and received a \$500 check for the board.

help us fundraise."

2024 was the most successful year for the BBBS WAFB board, as it received \$1,000 in donations to help fundraise for board efforts.

The Matthews-Crawford Post No. 131 American Legion first presented a \$500 check to BBBS WAFB board president Rachel McKinney and vice president Zoe Dagostino in November. Then, in December, the board volunteered at Powell Gardens' Festival of Lights on behalf of BBBS and was presented with another \$500 check.

McKinney has been with the BBBS WAFB board since the summer of 2024 and helped coordinate and encourage airmen to join the board and its events.

See **GROWTH**, Page A6

## Florida man in custody of UCM PD after more than two-year search

By Star-Journal Staff

WARRENSBURG — Gregory H. Morton, 41, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was taken into custody in Warrensburg on Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the 300 block of Broad Street.

University of Central Missouri police took Morton into custody on a felony burglary with no bond warrant from Broward County, Florida., that stemmed from a 2022 charge.

Morton was originally charged with battery, burglary and petit theft in July 2022. The theft occurred on May 7, 2022, when law enforcement reported to a home in Fort Lauderdale for reports of an attempted theft.

Neighbors of the home reported that Morton cleared a 6-foot privacy fence and attempted to steal a bicycle valued at \$600. They attempted to stop Morton, who ultimately he ran off with the bike before law enforcement arrived.

Morton was eventually arrested on July 7, 2022 after an investigation.

According to court records, Morton was bonded out of custody but did not appear in court in October 2022. He crossed state lines and was not found again until Wednesday.

As Morton waived his consent to return to Florida, an extradition hearing is scheduled to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, at the Johnson County Justice Center with Judge Kaitlyn Roach assigned to the case.



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OBITUARIES

Billy Bob Bratton

Billy Bob Bratton, 95, of Higginsville, died February 13, 2025 at the St. Luke's Hospice House. He was born July 1, 1929 in Johnson County, to Roy and Mattie (Matthews) Bratton. He married Thelma Bailey. She precedes him in death. Billy Bob grew up in the area around Fayetteville and graduated from Farmer's School. He joined the Army in 1951. After his honorable discharge, he helped his dad on the farm. He worked for a while at Unitog in Warrensburg, and then started a long career in maintenance at UCM. He continued to keep cattle and enjoyed the farm life. He was a quiet, to-himself person and liked jigsaw puzzles and chocolate. He is also preceded in death by a brother, Dud-

ley Bratton; and a nephew, Keith Bratton. He is survived by: 3 Step-daughters Special Granddaughter (that he helped raise): Jenniffer Martinez and her 5 children Nephew: Bruce Bratton Niece: Barb Wonderly Great Nieces and Nephews Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, March 8th at 10:30 am at the Oak Grove Community Church south of Higginsville. Visitation will be one hour prior. He will be buried in the church Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to St. Luke's Hospice House or Children's Mercy Hospital. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.kaiserswiegers.com](http://www.kaiserswiegers.com)



Delbert Edward O'Rear

Delbert Edward O'Rear of Centerview, Missouri passed away Friday, February 21, 2025 at the Ridge Crest Nursing Center in Warrensburg. Funeral services are scheduled for



2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Williams Funeral Chapel in Warrensburg. Interment will follow at the Centerview Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service at the funeral home.

OBITUARY POLICY

For fee information regarding an obituary printed in the Star-Journal, please consult your funeral director or call 660-747-8123. Funeral homes may email obituaries to [obits@warrensburgstarjournal.com](mailto:obits@warrensburgstarjournal.com) Please include your contact information. The deadline to run in the Friday print edition is 4 p.m. Wednesday. The deadline for the Tuesday print edition is 9 a.m. Monday.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Catholic Charities to partner with Lions Club for eye screening clinic

Catholic Charities of Kansas — St. Joseph will host a free eye-glass and screening clinic from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at the Warrensburg Community Center. The event is in partnership with the Warrensburg Lions Club. “This clinic aims to provide essential health services to individuals in need within the Warrensburg Community,” a release from Catholic Charities said. “Families facing economic challenges will have the opportunity to receive comprehensive eye examination conducted by qualified doctors and obtain prescription eyeglasses at no cost. Attendees will have access to free eye exams, free glasses and free basic screenings such as hearing tests and blood sugar tests.” An appointment is necessary to be seen. Register online at [catholiccharities-kcsj.org/eyeclinic](http://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/eyeclinic).

Airmen from Whiteman Air Force Base sharpen warfighting skills at Red Flag Nellis 25-1

By Senior Airman Bryson Sherard  
393rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE — Airmen from the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings recently participated in Red Flag 25-1 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Red Flag is an annual exercise that gives warfighters an opportunity to train their capabilities in the most realistic environment possible. US Air Force troops also integrate with Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force units during the exercise, strengthening our ability to cooperate with key allies and enhancing our global deterrence mission. “Red Flag for us is an opportunity to take the skill sets that we hone back at home station and the things we train on every day and bring those competencies to the Joint Force in a dynamic environment,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Manglitz, 393 Expeditionary Bomb Squadron and 13th Bomber Squadron commander.

The B-2's capabilities make it a unique asset, and exercises like Red Flag provide air crews with simulated real-world conditions to enhance their operational effectiveness. “The B-2 is a striker platform that brings a unique capability to penetrate deep into enemy air defenses,” Manglitz said. “Operating in contested environments and holding high-value targets at risk in a way that other platforms simply cannot.” During Reg Flag, the B-2 operates out of an airfield away from its home station, giving air crews and maintainers the opportunity to practice operations using only a minimal footprint. “Exercises like Red Flag and Bamboo Eagle give our maintenance team the chance to operate outside of our comfort zone,” said Captain Gabrielle Franze, maintenance officer in charge 393rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron. “With fewer resources and less manpower. It challenges us to think critically, plan creatively, and become more independent, forcing our leaders and

maintainers to adapt and execute under pressure.” This mindset fosters both individual growth and team cohesion, allowing Airmen to perform with confidence in any future challenge, especially under high stress environments. “The high ops tempo here at Red Flag forces us to work harder with fewer resources, making every minute and every team member count,” Franze said. “The relentless pace and limited resources challenge teams to become more resourceful and efficient.” Exercises like Red Flag send a message to allies and adversaries alike that the Air Force and its allies are ready and capable to bring the fight anywhere in the world at a moment's notice, Manglitz said. “As our Airmen return from these exercises, they do so with enhanced skills, strengthened alliances, and a renewed understanding of their role in the greater strategic picture all while being prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow, today,” he said.

Barbara “Babs” King Brooks

11 a.m. Saturday, March 1 at Christ Episcopal Church in Warrensburg. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

Delbert Edward O’Rear

2 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at Williams Funeral Chapel in Warrensburg. Arrangements are under the direction of William Funeral Chapel.

Billy Bob Bratton

10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at Oak Grove Community Church south of Higginsville. Arrangements are under the direction of Kaiser-Wiegers Funeral Home.

CRASH REPORTS

Five children from Knob Noster injured in Johnson County rollover

Five children from Knob Noster were hurt in a rollover accident at 3:22 p.m Saturday, Feb. 22, in a Johnson County Accident. According a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 17-year-old was driving a 2005 Ford Escape east on the 1000 block of Southwest Missouri 58 Highway when he entered an S-curve, started to slide and attempted to correct. He overcorrected and the vehicle went off the road, impacting the ditch and overturning. The driver had minor injuries while a 9-year-old male, a 11-year-old male, a 13-year old female and a 15-year old female suffered moderate injuries. Everyone was wearing a seat belt, and was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg by Johnson County Ambulance District.

Kansas man injured in Johnson County accident

An Overland Park man, 56, suffered moderate injuries at 4:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, in a Johnson County accident. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report he was driving a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee West on U.S. Highway 50 when he traveled off the right side of the road, struck a ditch and overturned. He was not wearing a seat belt, and was transported by Johnson County Ambulance District to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg.

Two hurt in Johnson County crash

A 30-year-old woman from Kingsville suffered minor injury and a 44-year-old man from Kansas City suffered minor injuries at 7:56 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, in a Johnson County accident. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, the woman was driving a 2017 GMC Acadia north on West Highway S when she crossed the center of the roadway and struck a southbound 2016 Subaru Outback driven by the Kansas City man. Both drivers were wearing seat belts, the injured woman was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg, the man refused treatment.

Compiled by Chris Howell.

POLICE REPORTS

Avery T. Dennis, 41, was arrested on Jan. 27 for driving while suspended after an officer conducted a traffic stop on his vehicle in the 500 block of Market Street. He was also cited for defective equipment, improper registration and no proof of insurance. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released to the Johnson County Jail in lieu of bond for a probation and parole violation warrant. Belinda A. Davis, 40, was arrested on Jan. 27 for a Texas warrant after officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Commercial Street in response to a domestic disturbance. Davis was arrested and placed on a 24-hour hold at the Johnson County Jail for being an out-of-state fugitive. Brandon I. Turner, 28, was arrested on Jan. 28 for driving while revoked. Officers conducted a traffic stop on his vehicle after seeing his driver-side tail light was out in the 1200 block of North Holden Street. He was arrested and transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Derrick W. Roar, 44, was arrested on Jan. 29 for domestic assault in the 400 block of East Gay Street. Officers responded to the area in response to a domestic disturbance and located a female subject with injuries. Roar was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Nicholas A. Willis, 26, was arrested on Jan. 29 for shoplifting from a business in the 300 block of East Cooper Boulevard. The business reported that he stole multiple items valued at \$1,980 on Jan. 26. Willis was later located and arrested. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Derrick W. Roar, 44, and Sheila L. Brown, 43, were arrested on Jan. 30 for trespassing in the 200 block of North College Street. Officers responded to the area in regards to an argument between the two subjects. Both were arrested and released on the scene with a signed summons. Michelle L. Young, 47, and Erin M. Posey, 47, were arrested on Jan. 30 after a public fight between the pair in the 600 block of Burkarth Road. Young was arrested for assault, while Posey was arrested for peace disturbance. Young was transported to the Western Missouri Medical Center, where she was processed and released to medical staff. Posey was processed and released on scene. Mark E. Buell, 64, was arrested on Jan. 31 for careless and impudent driving and driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle crash in the 200 block of East Culton Street. An officer contacted Buell after the crash, who said he did not know what happened. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Patrick E. Bell, 24, was arrested on Jan. 31 for drug paraphernalia and a warrant. Officers responded to a suspicious person hiding in the cellar of a residence in the 300 block of Grover Street. He was hiding, was found, and arrested for a Johnson County felony warrant. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and issued a summons. He was then placed in the Johnson County Jail for the warrant. Jonathan Whitehouse, 29, was arrested on Jan. 31 for trespassing on a business in the 300 block of East Young Street. The business reported that Whitehouse refused to leave when asked. He was arrested and transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Whitehouse was arrested again on Jan. 31 for trespassing on a business in the 300 block of East Young Street. He fled the scene before officers arrived, but was later located and arrested. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released. Jay’lan D. Powell, 23, was arrested on Feb. 1 for domestic assault and property damage in the 800 block of Foster Lane. Powell was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and issued a summons for the offenses and released. Scott A. Tucker, 38, was arrested on Feb. 1 for driving without a license in the 100 block of East North Street. An officer stopped Tucker’s vehicle for bearing no license plates. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, processed and released with three summons.

Compiled by Zach Bott.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event or meeting listed or changed, send details to [news@warrensburgstar-journal.com](mailto:news@warrensburgstar-journal.com) or call 660-747-8123.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings hosted five days a week at 300 W. Second St. For more information, call 660-624-4132 and leave a message.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings at 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 300 W. Second St. Call 1-800-561-2250 for more information.

### Tuesday, Feb. 25

Trails Regional Library hosts Storytime at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Warrensburg Branch. Join the library for a lively storytime filled with engaging stories, music, dancing, crafts and plenty of bubbles.

Offered by Journey Home, Refuge on Ming and various area churches, hot lunch is provided from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 206 N. College St. in Warrensburg. Medical services provided by Katy Trail Community Health's mobile unit are available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of The Food Center, 137 E. Culton St. in Warrensburg. For more information, call 877-733-5824.

The Warrensburg Rotary Club meets at noon every Tuesday at the Warrensburg Community Center.

Trails Regional Library will host Book Club at 5 p.m. at the Knob Noster Branch. Join the library for monthly book discussion. This event is for those ages 19 and up.

Griefshare meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the First Baptist Church located at 1302 South Maguire. To register visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org). For more information call the Church at 660-747-9186 or contact Marguerite Robinson at 816-309-5381.

### Wednesday, Feb. 26

Trails Regional Library will host Storytime at 10 a.m. at the Knob Noster Branch. Help your child develop a love of literacy with stories, music and bubbles. This event is for those ages 0-5.

Trails Regional Library will host Game On! At 2 p.m. at the Warrensburg Branch. Bring a friend or parent and

join the library for a fun-filled game day at the library. Enjoy oversized yard games, plus a variety of board and card games for all ages.

Trails Regional Library will host Literacy Antics at 5 p.m. Transform retired books into one-of-a-kind. This event is for those ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

### Thursday Feb. 27

Whiteman Area Piece-makers Quilt Guild will host open sew from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a meeting to begin at 1 p.m. at the Knob Noster United Methodist Church, Jubilation Center.

Trails Regional Library will host Music and More at 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Warrensburg Branch. Join the library for singing and dancing.

Overeaters Anonymous meets at 10 a.m. every Thursday in room 141 of the First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg, 141 E. Gay St. For more information, call 660-232-2115.

Alanon Family Groups meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at First United Methodist Church, 141 E. Gay St. Call 660-238-4688 for more information.

The Warrensburg Lions' Club meets the first four Thursdays of each month at noon inside the Warrensburg Community Center.

UCM Theatre and Dance will present Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Highlander Theater. Tickets are available online at <https://www.ucmo.edu/offices/theatre-and-dance-box-office-tickets/>.

### Friday, Feb. 28

UCM Theatre and Dance will present Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Highlander Theater. Tickets are available online at <https://www.ucmo.edu/offices/theatre-and-dance-box-office-tickets/>.

### Saturday, March 1

First Christian Church of Warrensburg will host a Community Breakfast

on the first Saturday of the month from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The breakfast is free for children 10 and under and \$6 entry for adults. The breakfast includes pancakes, biscuits & gravy, bacon, eggs, fruit, and a beverage. All are welcome.

UCM Theatre and Dance will present Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat at 2 p.m. at the Highlander Theater. Tickets are available online at <https://www.ucmo.edu/offices/theatre-and-dance-box-office-tickets/>.

### Sunday, March 2

The Johnson County Cancer Support Group will meet from noon to 2 p.m. at Northside Christian Church room 106, 500 N. Ridgeview Drive.

UCM Theatre and Dance will present Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat at 2 p.m. at the Highlander Theater. Tickets are available online at <https://www.ucmo.edu/offices/theatre-and-dance-box-office-tickets/>.

### Monday, March 3

Trails Regional Library will host Broken Canvas Craft at 10 a.m. at the Warrensburg Branch. Transform a torn canvas into a unique piece of art using creative technique and bold designs. This event is for those ages 19 and up. Registration is required.

A music get-together is hosted at 11 a.m. every Monday at the Warrensburg Senior Center, 445 E. Gay St. Everybody is welcome to join with singing, playing an instrument or just listening. For more information, call Daniel at 304-767-8575.

Seniors Jammin' meets at 1 p.m. every Monday at East Gate Restoration Branch, 401 N. Main St., Centerview. Bring your instrument, singing voice or listening ear for this free, informal, relaxed, weekly event.

Cancer Support Group meets monthly at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at First Baptist Church, 1302 South Maguire. For more information, contact Brenda at [moeder@ucmo.edu](mailto:moeder@ucmo.edu)



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# JCFPD announces promotion of Lipscomb to Lieutenant

The Johnson County Fire Protection District has announced the promotion of Firefighter Kelvin Lipscomb to the position of Lieutenant at Station 12 (Burtville).

Lipscomb has demonstrated unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving his community since joining the District in 2021. He has previously served from Station 3 (Chilhowee) and Station 12 and has earned certifications as a Vehicle Rescue Technician and in NIMS 100 and 700.

Fire Chief Larry Jennings praised Lt. Lipscomb's hard work and devotion to the department, stating, "Lt. Lipscomb has continually shown his passion for firefighting and dedication to the safety of our community. His leadership and strong work ethic make him a great fit for this role, and I have no doubt



Lt. Kelvin Lipscomb

that he will serve the District with excellence."

"We are a family that stands together, supports one another, and works tirelessly to protect the lives and property of those we serve," Chief Jennings added.

Lt. Lipscomb embodies these values, and we are excited to see him grow in this new leadership position."

Release courtesy of the Johnson County Fire Protection District.

# JCFPD responds to four structure fires amid frigid weather

As Johnson County and the surrounding areas experienced the recent extreme cold and winter weather conditions, the Johnson County Fire Protection District (JCFPD) responded to four residential structure fires. These fires, occurring during bitterly cold temperatures and snowy conditions,

highlight the challenges firefighters face in winter fire response and serve as a reminder of the importance of home heating safety.

The fires occurred on the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 11 at 9:12 AM – 600 block of NE 115 Road
- Feb. 18 at 12:32 PM – 900 block of NW 50 Highway
- Feb. 21 at 3:03 AM – 600 block of NW 400 Road
- Feb. 22 at 4:18 PM – 600 block of NE 110 Road

Three of the four fires were determined to be accidental. One was caused by a wood stove, while two resulted from attempts to heat frozen pipes. The cause of the fourth fire remains undetermined.

Responding to fires in frigid conditions presents significant challenges for firefighters, including navigating icy and snow-covered roads, frozen equipment, and the physical toll on personnel working in extreme temperatures. Cold weather can cause water supply issues, with pumps

and hoses freezing, making firefighting efforts more difficult. Additionally, firefighters face risks of frostbite and hypothermia while operating in below-freezing temperatures for extended periods.

JCFPD Captain Joe Jennings emphasized the added dangers of winter fire response: "Fighting fires in extreme cold is incredibly challenging. Frozen hoses, slippery surfaces, and the risk of frostbite all add to the dangers our firefighters face on scene. Even with these obstacles, our firefighters remained committed to their mission, adapting to the conditions to ensure the safety of the community."

Captain Jennings also offered important fire safety tips for residents during extreme cold:

Use Caution with Heating Equipment – Ensure wood stoves and space heaters are properly maintained and kept away from flammable materials.

Avoid Unsafe Methods to Heat Frozen Pipes – Never use open flames or space heaters in confined areas to thaw pipes. Instead, use safe alternatives like a monitored hair dryer or properly installed heat tape.

Check Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors – With increased use of heating appliances, ensure alarms are working properly.

Keep Exits Clear of Snow and Ice – In the event of a fire, clear pathways can be critical for safe evacuation.

Release courtesy of the Johnson County Fire Protection District.

## Don't Let Unwanted Guests Take Over This Winter!

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# How a kindergarten lesson fuels Yates’ environmental focus at Missouri S&T

Jane Yates, a junior in environmental engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology, may aspire to one day earn a Ph.D. in her field — but she credits a lesson from kindergarten as the driving force behind her determination.

“Something most people learn from a young age is how we should strive to leave the world a better place than we found it,” says Yates, of Knob Noster, Missouri. “That has always stuck with me.”

Up to her junior year of high school, Yates planned to become a medical doctor and make a difference through health care. Then, she took an Advanced Placement environmental science course, which changed everything.

“This class was really eye-opening for me,” she says. “I learned about so many issues related to the environment, and it inspired me to do my part and find solutions.”

This new passion led to Yates starting a new composting program for food waste at her high school. It also led to her attending a Missouri S&T summer camp for high

schoolers at the Ozark Research Field Station that taught science through art, which she says reinforced her decision to become a student at S&T and work to improve the environment.

In 2022, Yates graduated from Knob Noster High School and officially became an environmental engineering student at S&T. Fast-forward to today, and she is now in her third year at the university and has made her mark in multiple student organizations and locations far beyond S&T’s Rolla, Missouri, campus.

Last summer, she was in eastern Tennessee for a research internship to support the health of many of the state’s waterways. Over her most recent winter break, she traveled to Kenya with S&T’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders to conduct an assessment for a future water system for a school.

As the president of S&T’s chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, she regularly visits Rolla Middle School to conduct science and engineering programming for

the students and helps lead other outreach events.

She participates on S&T’s Concrete Canoe Design Team, and she leads tours and provides prospective students with information about S&T as one of the university’s student ambassadors.

In almost everything she does, she considers how her actions can affect issues like sustainability, environmental education and leaving the world better than she found it. She says this fits perfectly with this year’s National Engineers Week theme of “Design Your Future.”

“Environmental engineers can truly change lives with the work they do,” she says. “Whether it’s water treatment, water quality, air quality, climate change, bioremediation, public health or one of countless other areas, the work we do really matters.”

For more information about Missouri S&T’s environmental engineering programs, visit [care.mst.edu](http://care.mst.edu).

Release courtesy of Missouri S&T.



Jane Yates, a 2022 graduate at Knob Noster High School, is an environmental student at Missouri S&T.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI S&T

## Egg prices have soared, but federal controls keep milk prices steady

By John McCracken  
Investigate Midwest

America’s dairy industry is being ravaged by bird flu, leading to a significant decline in milk production in many states, including California, the nation’s largest dairy-producing state that hit a 20-year low in 2024.

But unlike eggs, which spiked in price due to the bird flu’s impact on poultry flocks, consumers aren’t likely to see a similar increase in milk prices because of federal price control laws.

However, while those price controls save grocery store shoppers money, dairy farmers say it’s pushing them out of business.

“I can’t see how any dairy farm is going to sustain this,” said Brenda Cochren, a Pennsylvania dairy farmer and agricultural reform advocate.

For decades, dairy farms

have shrunk under the pressure of corporate consolidation and price caps lobbied for by large milk processors.

Now, with bird flu spreading through dairy herds across the country and recent updates to how milk is priced taking effect this year, Cochren said small dairy farmers are facing a crisis.

Most of the nation’s dairy farmers are paid through the Federal Milk Marketing Order, FMMO, a nearly 90-year-old pricing formula that creates daily minimum prices a milk processor can pay a dairy farmer for their milk.

Fluid milk is a highly perishable and time-sensitive product that needs to be processed quickly before expiring, which processors could use to their advantage in buying milk, according to a 2017 report by the Congressional Research Service.

The FMMO was created in

1937 to prevent those unfair buying practices.

The FMMO also establishes standards for how much money is taken from a farmer’s pay to turn milk into products such as cheese, yogurt and butter, often referred to as a “make allowance.”

On Jan. 16, the USDA approved an increase to the “make allowances” for every dairy product, with the largest increase seen in powdered milk products. The changes go into effect on June 1.

The USDA said dairy farmers should see an average increase of 26 cents per 100 pounds of milk sold.

“There are lots of changes that will have an impact on the price of milk,” said Matt Herrick, executive vice president of the International Dairy Foods Association. “Some of those benefit farmers. Some of them benefit other individuals in the sup-

ply chain. But the goal is to ensure that the changes do in the end benefit farmers.”

However, dairy farmers have been critical of the changes, saying the small increases don’t account for their rising costs and industry consolidation.

Lynne McBride, executive director of California Dairy Campaign, a dairy advocacy organization, said farmers face a perfect storm of financial hardship as milk production declines and dairy processors can pay less for it.

“It’s going to get worse because of this increase in the make allowance — the amount that dairy farmers pay — and then our milk production is not going to align as well with market demand,” McBride said.

McBride said that the rise in “make allowances” mainly benefits dairy processors, not farmers.

“Historically, the cost of production for dairy farmers has not been included in our milk pricing formulas,” she said.

The cost of operating a dairy farm in the U.S. has nearly doubled in the last decade, while the price farmers receive for their milk has fallen 15% in the same time frame, according to an analysis of USDA data.

Zippy Duvall, president of

the American Farm Bureau Foundation, said he agreed with some components of the final order but believed the changes would largely undermine dairy farmers.

“The positive changes that will come as a result of these reforms will not be uniform for dairy farmers across the country and will be greatly offset by large, unjustified increases in ‘make allowances,’” he said in a statement.

**Price controls squeeze farmers**

While federal controls help keep retail milk prices low — milk prices increased just 2% last year — the poultry industry has increased prices to mitigate its own losses from bird flu.

When a chicken tests positive for the bird flu, its entire flock is killed. As of the beginning of the year, more than 134 million birds have been killed in the U.S., with the majority being commercial egg layers.

When an entire flock of egg-laying birds is killed, it can take months for a farm to become fully operational again, creating a shortage that contributed to a 65% increase in retail egg prices last year.

Some dairy cows have died from the virus, but many are quarantined, leaving the rest of the herd to

produce milk.

When a herd tests positive for the virus, it is quarantined for a minimum of 60 days. After that period, and provided there are no clinical signs — fever, drops in milk production, or respiratory problems — the quarantine is lifted.

California dairies, after being released from quarantine, are then placed on a surveillance list by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and flagged for weekly monitoring by their dairy plant as a part of routine operations.

The agency urges dairy operators to maintain high biosecurity and provide personal protective equipment, or PPE, to farmworkers who are in direct contact with raw milk during the milking process. Contact with raw milk is one of the most common ways for humans to become infected with bird flu.

Nearly every case of bird flu in humans in California is directly linked to dairy workers. The state’s dairy industry, as of January, comprises more than half of the country’s 68 human cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The state’s agriculture department is one of many in the U.S. that has left the handling of PPE distribution to local agencies, making access to PPE mixed across major dairy states.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an emergency proclamation in December 2024 that gives local and state agencies more flexibility around staffing, contracting and responding to the virus, from testing to PPE response.

“This proclamation is a targeted action to ensure government agencies have the resources and flexibility they need to respond quickly to this outbreak,” Newsom, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Anja Raudabaugh, CEO of Western United Dairies, a trade organization representing hundreds of California dairy producers, said California dairies have fallen short on production contracts with milk processing companies and have paid steep costs to replace cows killed by the virus.

Even when a milking cow comes through quarantine and is virus-free, long-term effects are still present in dairies.

“Dairies haven’t seen the production come back to where it was,” she said.

California has been a hotbed for bird flu outbreaks in dairy cattle herds since August 2024, with hundreds more cases than other states.

The state’s milk production declined 9% last year — the state’s largest dip in more than 20 years — with major drops occurring in the late summer, near the time reports of infected dairy cattle herds began, according to an analysis by Investigate Midwest.

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# Missouri lawmakers debate Bayer’s role in warning the public about glyphosate

By Jack Payne  
Special to the Star-Journal

Missouri lawmakers are considering legislation that will shield pesticide manufacturers from liability lawsuits if their products follow federal regulations, a move that has sparked debate among farmers, environmental groups and industry stakeholders.

The proposed bill, backed by agricultural giant Bayer, aims to protect pesticide companies from state-level legal challenges, particularly over claims that their products cause cancer or other health issues. The legislation comes in response to ongoing lawsuits targeting glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, which has faced scrutiny following high-profile court rulings linking it to non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. While Bayer maintains that its product is safe when used as directed, legal battles have resulted in billions of dollars in settlements and judgments.

Supporters of the bill argue that the measure is necessary to provide regulatory certainty for pesticide manufacturers, ensuring that companies following U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines are not subject to inconsistent state court rulings. They contend that allowing such lawsuits could lead to unnecessary fear among farmers, who rely on glyphosate and similar products to support crop yields and control weeds efficiently.

“You take away these products and my next question is, how many in this body would like to go back to work in the fields and pulling weeds,” said Representative Kent Haden, a Republican from Mexico.

Opponents, including environmental advocacy groups and consumer safety organizations, warn that the bill undermines the ability of individuals to seek legal recourse if harmed by these chemicals. They argue that even if a product meets federal approval, new scientific research may later reveal risks not initially shown. They also express concerns that such legislation could

set a precedent limiting consumer protections in other industries.

The Missouri Farm Bureau has voiced support for the proposal, emphasizing the economic importance of glyphosate and other herbicides to the state’s agriculture sector. According to industry estimates, Missouri farmers use glyphosate on millions of acres annually, citing its effectiveness in reducing labor and production costs. Without the legal protection offered by the bill, supporters fear that increased litigation could lead to higher costs and reduced availability of essential herbicides.

Environmental groups counter that long-term exposure to glyphosate poses health risks and argue that the proposed legislation disregards concern over pesticide safety. They point to studies suggesting potential links between glyphosate and adverse health effects, as well as environmental damage such as reduced biodiversity and contamination of water sources.

“I can’t sit by and let a bottle of a poisonous chemical just show up on the shelf where people can go, ‘Okay, actually, you know what? The EPA label is on there. We’re good,’” said Representative Mark Matthiesen, a Republican from O’Fallon.

Missouri’s legislative debate mirrors similar discussions in other states where lawmakers have introduced bills seeking to preempt state-level lawsuits against pesticide manufacturers. Some states have enacted similar protections, while others have rejected such measures, citing concerns over corporate accountability and public health.

As the debate continues, stakeholders on both sides emphasize the potential long-term consequences of the legislation. Farmers and industry leaders stress the need for a predictable regulatory environment, while consumer safety advocates call for stronger oversight and accountability measures. The outcome of the legislative process could have significant implications not only for Missouri but for broader national discussions on the regulation of agricultural chemicals and corporate liability

# Plant now for seeds of success



Get a head start on the gardening season by planting vegetable and flower seeds indoors. PHOTO BY DONNA AUFDENBERG | UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Get a jump on the gardening season by starting vegetable and flower seeds indoors now, says University of Missouri Extension field horticulturist Donna Aufdenberg.

“Starting seeds indoors doesn’t have to be difficult,” she says. “Knowing the basics is the best way to start.”

Sow most garden seeds 6-8 weeks before transplanting, says Aufdenberg. Set a goal date to plant outdoors and then count back on the calendar the number of weeks (or days) it will take for the plants to be ready to transplant, she says. Add the appropriate number of days for seed germination. This information is usually found on the seed packet.

Use new containers or reuse containers soaked for 10 minutes in 10% bleach water. Choose containers that are at least 2 inches deep and have drainage holes. Paper pots, plastic pots, cell packs or open flats can also be used. If you use open flats, plant in rows rather than broadcasting.

Select a high-quality medium such as potting mix or seed starting mix that contains peat and/or vermiculite. Do not use mixes that include fertilizer, and avoid potting and garden soils. “Buying inexpensive, poor-quality soils only causes problems,” says

Aufdenberg.

Check seed packets for variety and information such as planting depth and light requirements.

After sowing seeds, keep the medium moist but not wet. Don’t let the soil dry completely. If you cover the seeds with a plastic dome, remove it when seedlings start to emerge to prevent disease.

Use heating mats under trays to speed germination of warm-season crops. Cool-season crops do not need heating mats.

Good lighting encourages quicker germination and keeps seedlings from becoming long and lanky, says Aufdenberg. Fluorescent shop lights are a good choice for seed starting. Place lights directly over seedlings, no more than 1-2 inches away from leaf tops. Do not allow bulbs to touch the foliage because burning can occur.

Check seedlings daily, or twice a day if they dry quickly. Water from the bottom and do not let the seedling sit in standing water. If you water from the top, water gently.

Keep seedlings in a well-ventilated, cool area (under 70 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night). Good air circulation makes sturdier stems and stronger plants. Pay close attention to light levels and watering practices

if seedlings get tall and lanky and have weak stems. Too little light and too much heat and water cause lankiness.

To transplant seedlings to a larger container, watch for the sprouting of the first “true leaves,” which look like adult leaves. Use a pencil or narrow tool to lift seedlings from the container. Plant each seedling in its own small pot filled with growing medium. Apply a diluted fertilizer solution after true leaves appear.

Plants grown indoors must “harden off” before being transplanted into the garden. If not gradually acclimated to outdoor conditions, plants can suffer wind or sun burn or chill. Place them in a cool, protected location outdoors for about 3-5 days to acclimate. Then move them into filtered sun/shade for another couple of days before planting outdoors. Plant on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon to avoid the strong sun and transplant shock. Water after planting.

For more information, see the MU Extension publication “Starting Plants Indoors From Seeds” at <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6570> or Aufdenberg’s IPM Town Hall video on seed starting at <https://youtu.be/99MV01cPjNk>.

Release courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension.



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Bethel Baptist Church — 416 Nw State Route 13 Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-2173  
Central Missouri Baptist Church — 105 Se 421st Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-6511  
First Baptist Church 1302 S Maguire St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-9186.  
First Missionary Baptist Church — 307 S Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-9275.  
Grover Park Baptist Church — 409 N Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-7196.  
Liberty Baptist Church — 85 NW 795th Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6085.  
Mt Zion Baptist Church, 313 NE Hwy V, Warrensburg, MO. 816-405-9275.  
Northern Hills Baptist Church — 4 Ne 175th Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-3288.  
Pleasant Bethel Baptist Church — 406 SE 521st Rd Warrensburg MO. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am.  
Shiloh Baptist Church — 212 N Main St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-5608.  
**CATHOLIC**  
Catholic Student Newman Center — 106 Broad St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6997.  
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Christ's Church Fellowship — 708 N College Ave Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-7700.  
Christian Campus House Office — 221 Broad St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-8723.  
Church Of Jesus Christ Warrensburg — 104 Nw 361st Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-5463.  
Community Of Christ — 700 S Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-3835.  
Enlightened Word Ministries — 910 Coventry Ct Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-5418.  
Harvest Church — 372 S. Division Road Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-8164.  
JC Cowboy Church — 124 NW 251 Rd Warrensburg MO. 660-909-1936.

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CELEBRATION

Continued from Page A1

Bess said the belief comes with many challenges and ripple effects. But, it also comes with more belief from others.

“When one person dares to believe, it catches fire and it causes other people to do the same thing,” Bess said. “It ripples without boundaries, transcends cultures, and it ignites the imagination of others who have vision.”

To build a stable and thriving community, Bess believes, belief is needed. Belief is needed for intellectual dialog. Belief is needed for mentorship. Belief is needed for dealing with conflicts.

“We take our community members and we mentor the next generation, regardless of their skin color,” Bess said. “We do this by educating and sharing the treasury of knowledge pertaining to our history because it fosters pride, it teaches resilience, and it establishes our



Attendees of the 39th Annual Warrensburg Black History Month Celebration stand and clap along with during a song on Sunday, Feb. 23, at Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church in Warrensburg. PHOTO BY ZACH BOTT | STAR-JOURNAL

identity. Let it be known that true liberty and harmony come from self-sufficiency, from Unity, from commitment to justice.” Bess ended her speech with a

poem titled “Dare to Believe.” “Dare to believe in the strength of your soul, a power unshaken, filled with resilience and hold born from the struggle, yet ever rising in grace, a biblical, enduring legacy written on history’s face,” Bess said. “Dare to believe in the dreams that we chase and the echoes of the footsteps of our ancestors who light up your space, the voices of a million angels still whisper in the wind anyway, thickening us onward. Be bold. Be brave.” “Dare to believe in the greatness that lies within not just where you’re going, but also where you’ve been. Your footsteps are ordered through sorrow and song. You are living proof that you still fight on/ Dare to believe that your future is bright, that justice and joy are both worth the fight.” Zach Bott can be reached at 660-747-8123.

GROWTH

Continued from Page A1

For instance, the BBBS WAFB board helped get manpower at various clothing drives, BBBS’ annual scavenger hunt and Big Auction in 2024.

“Having the BBBS WAFB council connects the BBBS community with the WAFB community which allows us to reach military members and their families with shared resources and opportunities,” McKinney stated. “Looking to 2025 we plan to increase recruitment and fundraising as we support the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission. We see firsthand the difference we are making in this community.”

The BBBS WAFB plans to help with BBBS of Johnson County’s upcoming Bowl for Kids’ Sake on Tuesday, March 4. The board hopes to raise \$600 for other efforts and BBBS.

Zach Bott can be reached at 660-747-8123.



Whiteman Air Force Base volunteers pose for a photo next to three Johnson County Big Brothers Big Sisters clothes bins. Along with clothes drives, the board helped JoCo BBBS at the organization's annual scavenger hunt and Big Auction in November 2024



Whiteman Air Force Base airmen pose for a photo during a clothing drive. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANA PHELPS

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66  
40

Mild with sunshine

WEDNESDAY

59  
34

A passing a.m. shower, then breezy

THURSDAY

59  
28

Sunny and mild; breezy in the p.m.

FRIDAY

70  
35

Sunny, breezy and warmer

SATURDAY

58  
28

Partly sunny and cooler

SUNDAY

48  
29

Cooler with sun and some clouds

MONDAY

63  
39

Cloudy, a shower in the afternoon

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Branson	72/43/s	62/36/pc	60/35/s	71/43/s	64/35/pc	53/28/pc	67/47/c
Cape Girardeau	64/42/s	62/37/sh	57/30/s	64/39/s	61/30/pc	55/31/c	60/42/c
Carthage	71/44/s	56/34/pc	57/32/s	66/38/s	60/35/pc	52/32/s	66/45/c
Columbia	64/41/s	57/35/c	58/31/s	66/37/s	55/31/pc	56/34/c	62/44/r
El Dorado Spgs	69/42/s	59/34/c	58/30/s	69/37/s	58/31/pc	49/31/s	64/41/c
Excelsior Springs	66/40/s	58/33/s	60/30/s	68/34/s	53/27/c	49/29/c	62/37/c
Falls City	64/36/s	57/30/s	61/30/s	66/34/s	55/25/c	50/32/c	59/36/c
Fayetteville	75/46/s	66/34/pc	59/33/s	69/41/s	67/38/s	65/40/pc	69/44/c
Florissant	65/41/s	60/36/sh	56/31/s	66/37/s	55/31/s	42/29/c	61/43/c
Fulton	65/41/s	56/34/sh	57/29/s	65/36/s	52/28/pc	40/27/s	58/38/r
Grandview	66/43/s	61/35/s	61/32/s	70/38/s	57/31/pc	60/36/pc	63/40/t
Jefferson City	66/41/s	57/37/c	60/28/s	68/38/s	58/29/pc	58/33/pc	64/41/r
Joplin	69/45/s	57/33/pc	58/36/s	66/40/s	60/37/pc	60/41/pc	66/46/c
Kansas City, KS	66/42/s	60/34/s	60/32/s	69/37/s	57/32/pc	50/34/c	63/41/t
Kansas City, MO	66/41/s	58/32/s	59/33/s	67/36/s	55/30/pc	58/37/pc	62/40/t
Kennett	66/46/s	66/40/pc	60/34/s	62/44/s	65/40/pc	52/33/pc	62/50/pc
Kirksville	62/39/s	54/32/sh	54/27/s	64/32/c	51/25/s	51/29/s	56/35/sh
Lawrence	68/39/s	61/32/s	62/26/s	71/32/s	57/26/pc	59/32/s	61/39/c
Marshall	60/40/s	58/34/s	57/30/s	65/34/s	55/29/c	45/28/c	63/36/r
Moberly	63/40/s	58/31/sh	56/27/s	64/34/c	53/27/s	43/27/c	59/36/r
Mountain Home	71/46/s	65/36/pc	58/33/s	72/40/s	64/36/pc	51/32/pc	64/47/sh
Paducah	63/42/s	67/38/sh	54/31/s	62/41/s	61/34/s	57/35/s	62/50/c
Poplar Bluff	68/43/s	62/38/sh	58/33/s	65/42/s	63/34/pc	56/35/c	60/47/c
Rolla	67/44/s	56/34/c	57/32/s	67/37/s	58/31/pc	46/29/c	61/43/r
St. Joseph	66/37/s	58/30/s	58/29/s	66/32/pc	55/25/c	61/32/pc	62/36/c
St. Louis	65/45/s	61/39/sh	57/32/s	66/39/s	56/34/s	55/36/s	62/45/c
Sedalia	66/43/s	59/36/pc	58/30/s	68/37/s	57/30/pc	59/33/pc	62/40/sh
Springfield, IL	56/38/s	56/35/sh	51/28/pc	55/33/pc	49/26/s	48/29/s	55/42/c
Springfield, MO	69/45/s	57/34/pc	58/32/s	67/37/s	59/36/pc	58/40/pc	63/46/c
Tipton	67/43/s	58/34/pc	57/32/s	67/37/s	56/28/pc	45/27/c	62/38/r
Topeka	68/40/s	62/33/pc	61/31/s	71/34/s	59/29/pc	64/36/s	65/41/c
Tulsa	70/44/s	60/38/s	65/38/s	72/42/s	68/40/s	65/44/pc	69/46/c
Versailles	68/43/s	58/37/c	58/32/s	68/37/s	57/30/pc	48/30/c	63/37/r
Warrensburg	66/40/s	59/34/pc	59/28/s	70/35/s	58/28/pc	48/29/pc	63/39/c

	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Sunrise	6:53 a.m.	6:51 a.m.	6:50 a.m.	6:49 a.m.	6:47 a.m.	6:46 a.m.	6:44 a.m.
Sunset	6:04 p.m.	6:05 p.m.	6:06 p.m.	6:07 p.m.	6:08 p.m.	6:09 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Moonrise	5:43 a.m.	6:18 a.m.	6:48 a.m.	7:16 a.m.	7:41 a.m.	8:08 a.m.	8:36 a.m.
Moonset	3:27 p.m.	4:42 p.m.	5:58 p.m.	7:12 p.m.	8:27 p.m.	9:43 p.m.	11:00 p.m.

MOON PHASES

NEW

Feb 27

FIRST

Mar 6

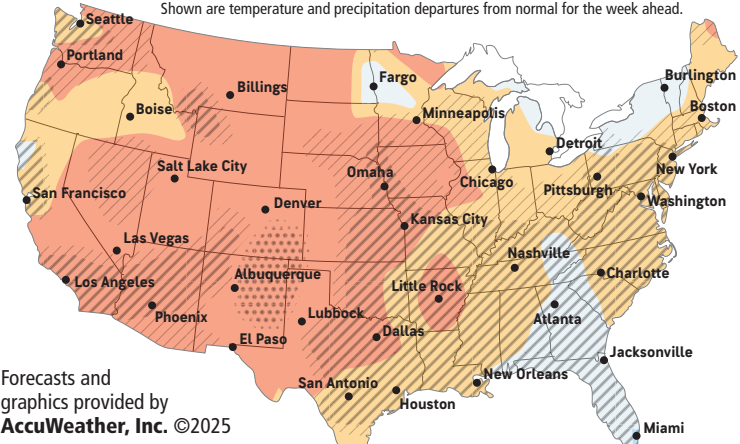
FULL

Mar 14

LAST

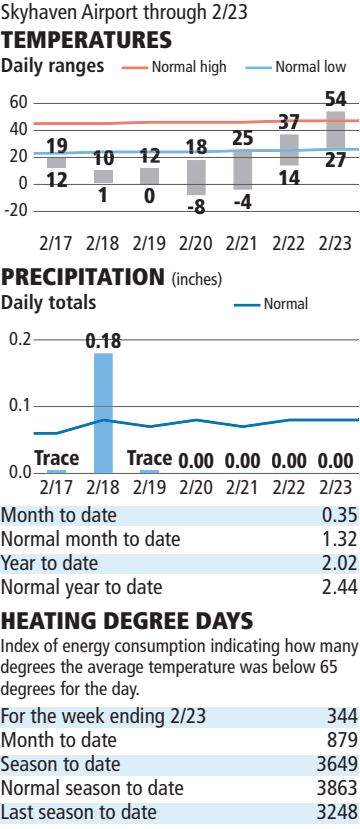
Mar 22

NATIONAL WEATHER THIS WEEK



	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	72/44/s	66/32/s	62/36/s	67/44/s	72/40/pc	65/42/pc	61/37/pc
Atlanta	73/46/s	74/49/s	64/42/sh	60/42/s	69/44/s	66/41/s	66/50/pc
Billings	46/33/pc	49/34/pc	54/37/c	54/30/pc	54/33/s	55/32/c	47/28/sn
Boise	53/32/pc	56/32/s	61/32/c	61/34/s	63/40/s	55/34/c	52/33/pc
Charlotte	71/41/s	71/46/s	70/39/t	58/37/s	67/42/s	61/35/s	63/41/s
Chicago	53/37/pc	51/34/r	46/30/c	50/34/pc	41/26/c	40/28/pc	48/36/c
Dallas	75/52/s	70/47/pc	68/43/pc	72/50/s	74/53/c	69/55/pc	75/59/c
Denver	69/28/s	49/28/s	64/37/s	66/32/s	63/33/s	65/38/c	52/33/r
Detroit	49/32/pc	42/35/r	42/28/c	38/28/c	40/19/c	36/17/s	41/27/pc
El Paso	82/48/s	79/45/pc	68/42/s	73/50/s	81/52/pc	76/51/s	74/51/s
Houston	75/54/pc	77/56/pc	71/45/pc	72/50/s	74/56/s	73/58/pc	77/64/c
Jacksonville	73/44/sh	77/49/s	78/48/pc	67/41/s	75/45/pc	77/45/s	73/50/pc
Las Vegas	80/52/s	76/48/s	75/50/s	78/56/pc	74/54/pc	69/51/pc	60/45/pc
Little Rock	74/48/s	70/47/pc	65/39/s	70/47/s	71/46/s	66/43/pc	67/56/c
Los Angeles	77/56/s	84/60/s	84/54/pc	73/52/pc	65/54/pc	67/53/s	66/52/s
Miami	80/64/sh	79/65/s	80/65/sh	78/60/s	78/60/pc	79/63/pc	80/65/s
Minneapolis	45/34/s	46/31/r	43/31/c	47/27/s	37/21/pc	46/26/s	47/30/r
Nashville	71/38/s	70/45/s	56/36/pc	57/44/s	66/39/s	57/33/s	64/48/s
New Orleans	71/49/s	74/58/s	68/48/pc	67/50/s	75/53/s	70/52/pc	74/63/c
Omaha	60/34/c	53/30/s	55/31/s	65/32/pc	52/26/c	60/33/pc	55/36/c
Phoenix	87/58/s	90/59/s	89/61/s	88/59/pc	76/55/pc	78/58/pc	72/52/pc
Pittsburgh	48/33/r	54/40/pc	47/30/c	36/33/sf	47/25/sh	34/19/pc	42/29/pc
Portland, OR	57/39/sh	64/41/c	62/39/s	65/45/c	62/47/r	57/44/pc	58/42/c
Salt Lake City	52/29/s	51/28/s	56/32/s	58/36/c	60/39/c	54/40/c	48/35/r
San Francisco	65/48/s	72/50/s	68/52/pc	68/51/s	62/52/c	59/48/c	62/49/c
Seattle	52/39/sh	63/45/pc	58/42/pc	59/44/c	56/46/sh	52/41/pc	54/41/c
Washington, DC	64/39/pc	61/47/pc	60/40/sh	50/33/pc	59/38/c	50/27/pc	47/33/pc

WEEKLY ALMANAC



WEATHER HISTORY

On Feb. 25, 1934, a storm centered in the Carolinas brought killer tornadoes to Georgia and Alabama while dumping up to 9 inches of snow from Richmond, Va., to Philadelphia, Pa.

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A: It is the coldest place on Earth. Average annual temperature is -72 (F)

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## Zebrowski's path to repeat as Harlon Hill winner included obstacle

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — Though Zach Zebrowski made it look easy, his road to back-to-back Harlon Hill Award trophies featured adversity.

In Central Missouri football's 2024 season opener against Northeastern State on Sept. 7, Zebrowski broke his left hand.

"That wasn't going to stop Zach," Central Missouri head coach Josh Lamberson said during the Harlon Hill celebration Friday, Feb. 21. "Zach just put a little brace on it and went to work."

Four weeks later, Zebrowski tore his right labrum against Fort Hays State on Oct. 5. The labrum, of course, had the biggest impact as a right-handed quarterback.

"That's a little more serious," Lamberson said. "That particular injury, especially for throwing, sidelines most normal humans for several months after surgery. Not Zach Zebrowski. Zach did not practice one time in the last 10 weeks of the season ... He didn't throw one ball, he didn't take one live practice. He

would throw his last pass on Saturday during gameday. His next live reps would be the following Saturday in warmups."

Zebrowski did not miss one start following his labrum injury and helped the program win five of their regular season games, along with the Heritage Bowl.

"It was tough," Zebrowski said. "You kind of get the hope up throughout the week like 'alright it's gonna be alright, it's not going to hurt.' Then you get out there on Saturday, you're like 'oooo it's not really healed.' I think it sucked. It really did. I don't know if everyone could have played through it. But it also made me focus more. I don't have 100%, but I just have to let it rip out there. I got to be smart, I really got to concentrate. I think in a weird way, it kind of made me more focused."

In the first game following injury against Missouri Western on Oct. 12, Zebrowski completed 29-of-47 passes for 259 yards and three touchdowns.

It was one of four games where he threw for under 300 yards throughout his two-year career. The Mules won the other



Zach Zebrowski takes possession of the 2024 Harlon Hill Trophy on Friday, Feb. 21, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

three contests, including a game where he had a career-low 223 yards in a soaked 42-21 win over Missouri Southern on Oct. 28, 2023.

During the Harlon Hill ceremony, Lamberson joked that performance was the inspiration for the 2024 contest where Zebrowski completed 44-of-47 passes for 614 yards and four touchdowns while running for another 26 yards and three touchdowns in

a 62-47 win Nov. 16.

That stat line came six weeks after tearing his labrum.

"The physical and mental toughness that he displayed throughout the entire year, that is not something the normal human can go through and be able to sustain," Lamberson said. "He just didn't get through it. He wasn't surviving. He was thriving, which was absolutely incredible for those of us that

knew what was going on behind the scenes for him to perform the way that he did. It was one of the most amazing things I will ever see or have seen in my life."

Twenty-one days later, Zebrowski helped the Mules rally to a 39-37 double-overtime win over UTPB in the Heritage Bowl.

See **ZEBROWSKI**, Page A11

## Zebrowski's impact highlighted during award celebration



Zach Zebrowski signs a poster for a young fan following the celebration of his 2024 Harlon Hill Trophy on Friday, Feb. 21, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — Two months after his college football career reached an end, Zach Zebrowski's accomplishments still have a ring to it.

The University of Central Missouri and the Little Rock Touchdown Club honored Zebrowski's second-consecutive Harlon Hill Trophy with a ceremony Friday, Feb. 21, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

While his accolades were highlighted many times during the ceremony, signature moments of the event surrounded what Zebrowski meant, and still means, to coaches, teammates and administrators alike.

"If you had the chance to see Zach in competition on the football field, you would realize very quickly he is one fiery competitor," University of Central Missouri President Roger Best said. "He very much demands excellence from his teammates, himself, and even his competitors. See him call them out. If you had the pleasure of getting to know Zach outside of the football field and competition, you would realize he is incredibly humble and a hard worker. In other words, he is just like every other UCM student."

Along with naming off the countless stature and awards, Central Missouri head coach Josh Lamberson opted to define Zebrowski in the words of Mules teammates.

"I wanted to kind of pull the cur-

tain back, and have those quotes from his teammates," Lamberson said. "That really shows everyone that was here tonight about how special Zach is from a relationship perspective. Yes, he was a talented football player and he put up some fantastic statistics, but the relationships, friendship and bonds he had with his teammates, I think are one of the more special things that way able to be accomplished here."

A common theme developed as Lamberson read off the list of accounts word for word.

"Zach is a great person who cares about every single one of his teammates, and is the most competitive person I've ever met, not only at football, but everything he does," wide receiver Jack Pospisil said.

"He's the most competitive dude I have ever met," defensive lineman Weston King said. He has a will to win unlike any other person I have seen in the game. He's not only a great player, but a great teammate and demands the most out of the guys. There's not another football player in the country like Zach Zebrowski."

"Competitive, leader, football savvy," wide receiver Zach Patterson said. "Great, skilled leader."

"Zach is a great teammate," quarterback Donovan Omolo said. "He's the most competitive person that I've ever been around, but also a great leader. It was amazing to get to learn from one of the best to ever do it."

See **AWARD**, Page A11

## Warrensburg's Civil claims district title, Tigers qualify six for state

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Warrensburg boys wrestling junior Jaylen Civil claimed the Class 3 District 3 126-pound championship Saturday, Feb. 22, at Bolivar High School.

Civil (35-3) defeated Helias Catholic sophomore Alex Wieberg (31-17) by technical to claim the first-place finish.

Civil is one of six state qualifiers for the Tigers. Underneath first-year head coach Pat Giangrosso, this is the most Warrensburg has sent to state since 2013.

The Tigers had one qualifier in 2024, two qualifiers in 2023 and one qualifier in 2022.

Junior Dayton Dunn (24-13) also wrestled for a district title, losing to Carl Junction senior Carter Goglesong (38-6) by technical fall to finish second in the 120-pound bracket.

Junior Henry Wheeler (21-16) finished third in the 132-pound bracket, defeating Carl Junction freshman Jaxson Yaple (22-23) by fall in the third-place match.

Junior Tate Cook (28-

13) finished fourth in the 138-pound bracket, losing to Washington junior Noah Dooley (37-13) by a 7-1 decision in the third-place match.

Junior Justus Griffith (29-12) finished fourth in the 144-pound bracket, losing to Marshfield junior Takoda Gritts (40-9) by a 9-3 decision in the third-place match.

Junior Cruz Villegas (27-7) finished fourth in the 165-pound bracket, losing to Capital City senior Levi Casey (19-10) by a 8-4 decision in the third-place match.

Warrensburg finished sixth out of 16 teams in the district with 109.5 points. Helias Catholic won with 177.5 points.

The Tigers move on to compete in the MSHSAA Class 3 Championships on Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1 at Mizzou Arena.

### Holden's Christian wins district title, Eagles qualify four to state

Holden boys wrestling senior Aiden Christian claimed the Class 1 District 2 285-pound championship

Saturday at Butler High School.

He is one of four Eagles to advance on to state.

Christian (40-1) defeated Lone Jack senior Jax Cromwell (23-9) by fall in the first-place match.

Senior Grayson Theieman (30-15) also appeared in a district title match, falling to Lone Jack freshman Ty White (29-4) by a 10-1 major decision to finish second.

Senior Trent Stout (34-9) finished third in the 157-pound bracket, defeating Warsaw freshman Bostyn Wilson (24-10) by technical fall in the third-place match.

Sophomore Payton Tye (18-26) finished fourth in the 126-pound bracket, losing to Sherwood junior Weekley (37-7) by fall.

Holden finished sixth out of 16 teams in the district with 94 points. Lone Jack won the district title with 204.5 points.

The MSHSAA Class 1 Championships will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26, and Thursday, Feb. 27, at Mizzou Arena.

See **WRESTLING**, Page A11



Warrensburg junior Cruz Villegas, junior Dayton Dunn, junior Jaylen Civil, head coach Pat Giangrosso, junior Tate Cook, junior Justus Griffith, and junior Henry Wheeler pose for a photo on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Bolivar High School. All six athletes will compete at state Feb. 28 and March 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF EMANUEL VILLEGAS

# Central Missouri women run past Central Oklahoma

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — Central Missouri women's basketball finished its final home game of the season with a positive note.

The Jennies found their stride in the second half, pulling away to a 80-58 win over Central Oklahoma on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

“You never know how senior nights are going to go,” Central Missouri head coach Dave Slifer said. “The first half was tough offensively for us, but we hung in there. The second half was a lot of fun. We got fastbreak points, we got threes knocked down. We got our post game started up again. That’s how we can be successful.”

Central Missouri (16-12, 8-9 MIAA) entered the second half knotted up with the Bronchos 33-33.

UCO (7-19, 6-11 MIAA) briefly took a one-point lead after senior Jordyn Turner sank 1-of-2 free-throws after a foul by junior Reese

Schaaf. The Jennies proceeded to take the ball down court and score on a 3-point shot from redshirt senior Lauren Frost off an assist from sophomore Rylee Vierthaler.

Frost’s triple was the only one UCM sank in the third quarter. The Jennies proceeded to find ways to get the ball inside.

Through Frost’s 3-pointer, a tip-in from Schaaf, a layup from Schaaf and a layup from junior Cierra Smith, UCM found itself up 42-37 with 5:25 remaining in the third.

UCO cut it down to a three-point game before the Jennies went on a 10-3 run to close out the first third quarter with a 54-42 lead. The Jennies’ lead reached as many as 23 points in the fourth.

“In the first half, we were not going as hard,” Frost said. “It feels like the second half we came out and we actually just had fun as a team and it was really fun to play.”

After UCO made 13-of-24 shots in the first half, the Bronchos were 8-for-30 in the second.



Central Missouri redshirt senior Lauren Frost drives the ball against Central Oklahoma on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.  
PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

That number compared to UCM’s 17-for-35 in the second half and 10-for-30 in the first.

“We wanted to start off man, and we did some really good things man wise,” Slifer said. “Then we went back

to the zone. I think that’s one thing this team can kind of hang its hat on right now, we’re starting to figure out what we need to do zone wise to get teams stopped and to get the defensive rebounds going the other way. It’s been

highs and lows. That’s just basketball. And you know what? If you can feel great at the end of the season, you can forget about some of the lows and say ‘alright guys, we’ve got two games left. Let’s play as hard as we can then go to the conference tournament.’”

Freshman Taylor Weishaar paced UCM with 20 points while Schaaf had 15 points, senior Allie Clevenger had 13 points, Frost had 13 points and Smith had 13 points. Vierthaler, senior Callie Ziebell and junior Akaysha Muggeridge each added two.

Schaaf had 11 rebounds while Weishaar and Frost had nine.

Senior Korie Allensworth led the Bronchos with 27 points. Turner had 13 points and 17 rebounds.

“I know five of us were in double digits,” Frost said. “That’s what we need with our team — for everyone to score because we have many different threats. That’s when we’re playing at our best, we’re hard to play against.” Frost was one of five Jen-

nies athletes honored before the game including Clevenger, redshirt senior Nicole Davis, junior Shannon Karlin and Ziebell. Student manager Tiyah Gibson was also spotlighted.

The Jennies move on to close out the regular season at Missouri Southern on Thursday, Feb. 27, and Pittsburg State on Saturday, March 1.

UCM is likely a lock-in for a spot in the MIAA Tournament. Prior to their 66-57 win against Rogers State on Thursday, Feb. 20, and victory over Central Oklahoma on Saturday, they were seventh in the MIAA KPI.

The latest listings came out after production deadline Monday, Feb. 24.

“It’s not too late,” Slifer said. “We have had so many highs and lows this year. I think last weekend [at Arkansas Fort Smith] was kind of a low and we battled through it and found to beat Rogers. The second half today, you kind of saw what type of team we can have if everything’s clicking.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### TUESDAY, FEB. 25 Girls Basketball

Warrensburg at Clinton, 5:30 p.m.

### District Girls Basketball

Holden vs Sherwood (at Lone Jack), 5:30 p.m.  
Chilhowee vs La Monte (at Green Ridge), 6:30 p.m.  
Leeton at Green Ridge, 8 p.m.

### Boys Basketball

Warrensburg at Clinton, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26 State Boys Wrestling

Holden at Mizzou Arena, 8 a.m.  
Knob Noster at Mizzou Arena, 5:45 p.m.

### State Girls Wrestling

Holden, Knob Noster at Mizzou Arena, 1 p.m.

### College Baseball

Central Missouri vs Maryville, 3 p.m.

### District Boys Basketball

Crest Ridge vs Archie/Midway winner, 5:30 p.m.  
Leeton/Green Ridge winner vs Sacred Heart (at Green Ridge), 5:30 p.m.  
Kingsville/Chilhowee winner

vs Otteville/La Monte winner, 7 p.m.  
Holden/Windsor winner vs Sherwood/Cole Camp winner (at Windsor), 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 27 State Boys Wrestling

Holden at Mizzou Arena, 8 a.m.  
Knob Noster at Mizzou Arena, 12:15 p.m.

### State Girls Wrestling

Holden, Knob Noster at Mizzou Arena, 10:15 a.m.

### Girls Basketball

Warrensburg vs Center, 5:30 p.m.

### District Girls Basketball

Holden/Sherwood winner at Lone Jack, 5:30 p.m.  
Crest Ridge vs St. Paul/Sweet Springs winner, 7 p.m.  
Chilhowee/La Monte winner vs Leeton/Green Ridge winner (at Green Ridge), 7 p.m.

### College Women's Basketball

Central Missouri at Missouri Southern, 5:30 p.m.

### Boys Basketball

Warrensburg vs Center, 7 p.m.

### College Men's Basketball

Central Missouri at Missouri Southern, 7:30 p.m.

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG — Central Missouri men's basketball found itself on the wrong side of a one-possession game, losing to Central Oklahoma 64-62 on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.

The Mules trailed by seven points with two minutes left but used a pair of free-throws from freshman Kyran Tilley, an and-one from junior Josh Nwankwo and a 3-point shot from senior DeAirius Barker to take a 62-61 lead with 21 seconds left.

UCM (13-13, 8-9 MIAA) gave up a layup and an and-one 10 seconds later. Tilley turned the ball over with four seconds left. UCM also lost to Rogers State by a possession Thursday, Feb. 20.

“We just didn’t quite have the gas to finish,” Central Missouri head coach Adam Bohac said. “I don’t know, maybe I played those guys too long of stretches in the first half and the second half in both of those games this week. We just didn’t defensively have any bites and haven’t been able to get any stops at all. I think our offense has been much better, but defensively, boy, they were 60%



Central Missouri senior DeAirius Barker drives the ball against Central Oklahoma Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center.  
PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

in the second half. We just didn’t stop them very much.”

The Mules opened the game strong, taking an 18-3 lead after a layup from senior Yafet Haile, a 3-point shot from Tilley, a layup from Haile, a layup from Barker, a layup from graduate student Elijah Farr, a 3-point sink from Barker and a layup from Farr.

Haile’s initial four points were all he had in the game, only playing the first three minutes as part of senior night. Along with making 2-of-3 attempts from the field, he also had a pair of rebounds.

“It was kind of a unique game,” Bohac said. “There was so much going on. We got

off to a good start. Yafet was a big reason why. Then they came all the way back, which is what they are going to do. I mean, that group is talented.”

Haile and redshirt senior Jack Chapman, who are the lone two athletes remaining from the Doug Karleskint era, were both honored before the game alongside fellow seniors in Barker, Lee and Farr.

All were in the starting lineup with the exception of Chapman. It was the first start of the season for Haile, who first arrived at UCM from Zurich, Switzerland, during the final months of 2021-22.

In 2023-24 he started 17 games as the Mules combatted depth-related issues. Though he has only played for 71 minutes across 10 games this season, Bohac said his impact is felt each day in practice.

“What all the fans got to see today is in that game is what I get to see every day in practice,” Bohac said. “A young man who just continues to do the next right thing and be there for his teammates. What a compliment

that is to him.”

Central Missouri’s 18-3 advantage after five and a half minutes slowly began to dwindle as UCO went on a 17-3 run.

That helped bring Central Oklahoma (15-11, 9-8 MIAA) within 30-27 at halftime.

The Mules and Bronchos had six ties and nine lead changes in the second half.

The final tie took place with the score tied 50-50 with 7:37 left. The Bronchos went on to post an 11-4 run, taking a 61-54 lead with two minutes left.

“I continue to see the strides that we have made, and how much more we can squeeze out of these guys in the next couple of weeks,” Bohac said. “I think there is more there. We can take it one more notch. We just got to bust through a few more barriers.”

Barker and Nwankwo both led UCM with 16 points while Tilley had 12, Farr had 11, Haile had four and Lee had three.

The Mules move on to close out the regular season at Missouri Southern on Thursday, Feb. 27, and Pittsburg State on Saturday, March 1.

Where they stand in the MIAA KPI rankings were released after production deadline Monday, Feb. 24.

“I told the guys in the locker room, that was a different end of the game,” Bohac said. “We came back at the end and kind of had our foot on the pedal. They made the last one. I think that’s two times this year in our building where teams have done that right at the buzzer or near the buzzer. Those are hard to swallow.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

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# Crest Ridge girls notch 20th win in regular season finale

By Joe Andrews  
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CENTERVIEW — Crest Ridge girls basketball picked up its 20th win of 2024-25 with a 51-46 victory over St. Paul Lutheran to conclude the regular season Thursday, Feb. 20, at Crest Ridge High School.

The win avenges a previous loss to the Saints during the I-70 Tournament semifinals in December. Crest Ridge last reached 20 wins in 2020, which is also the last time the program had a record above .500.

“It’s big to get that win,” Crest Ridge head coach Katie Woolsey said. “It’s number 20. That’s the first time we’ve had 20 wins in about five years. It was a really big night. We were able to start off strong. We had a really big first quarter. We kind of missed some shots in the second quarter, but they got back in the game.”

Crest Ridge (20-5, 5-2 I-70) initially trailed 2-0, but proceeded to go on a 19-2 run that included two baskets each from junior Laney Wilhite, freshman Brilynn Fleming and senior Gracyn VanWey.

A layup from junior Lylah Smith off a steal and assist from Fleming capped the run with 1:51 left in the frame.

Crest Ridge only scored five more points in the first half, allowing St. Paul (12-12, 3-5 I-70) to use a run to come within 29-24 at halftime.

“We knew we had to come out with a good start and set the tone because there’s a good probability we’ll see them in the district



Crest Ridge senior Brooklynn Fleming drives the ball against St. Paul Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 20, at Crest Ridge High School. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

semifinals next week,” Woolsey said. “We didn’t play the greatest in December when they beat us and we knew we could do better. We started really well. We still got shots in the second quarter, they just didn’t fall ... Overall the girls never got rattled by it, handled the press well, got a lot of good shots and then took care of the ball like we wanted to and made free-throws down the stretch to win.

Crest Ridge began expanding its lead up in the third quarter through a layup from senior Kayley Marten.

Her and Wilhite combined for 13 points in the third quarter. The frame ended with a 42-34 Cougars lead.

Crest Ridge only made one shot from the field in the final eight minutes, but went 7-of-10 at the free-throw line to close its win.

St. Paul did not come within 10

points of the Cougars until the final 10 seconds.

Crest Ridge finished 13-for-19 at the free-throw line while St. Paul was 13-for-23.

“At times, we fouled them too much and they scored a lot of their points at the free-throw line,” Woolsey said. “But, when we needed to get a stop at the end we got a stop, got the rebound, didn’t get panicked to the bone in the last three minutes and

took care of it. Brook, Bri and G, as a guard unit, they’re a pretty strong unit that can handle the ball and pass. All three of them can knock down free-throws. I was proud of the way they kept their composure at the end.

The Cougars were led by Wilhite’s 11 points, Brilynn Fleming’s 10 points, Marten’s 10 points, and VanWey’s nine points,

Senior Brooklynn Fleming had six points, Smith had three points and senior Savanna Camp had two points.

Crest Ridge now heads into the Class 2 District 14 Tournament, which features just six teams, as the No. 2 seed.

The seeding in a six-team district means Crest Ridge will receive a bye alongside No. 1 Archie.

Crest Ridge will play the winner of the St. Paul Lutheran vs Sweet Springs quarterfinal at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Crest Ridge High School.

Sweet Springs and St. Paul face off at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, in Centerview.

“We’re super excited about the chance to host,” Woolsey said. “We had a great regular season with 20 wins. We have another chance at St. Paul or Sweet Springs, and we beat both of them this week, so we feel like we are in a good place in the semifinals. If we come out and play well, we’ll possibly have the chance to get a rematch with Archie or Concordia in the district championship game. That’s our goal.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

## Crest Ridge falls to St. Paul Lutheran in showdown for I-70 title

By Joe Andrews  
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CENTERVIEW — Either way, one team was going to leave Crest Ridge High School as the regular season I-70 Conference champion on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Though Crest Ridge had the scoreboard on its side through the bulk of the game, St. Paul Lutheran took just its second lead of the game with approximately four seconds left to win the game and I-70 bragging rights 52-50.

The go-ahead basket came as senior Kaiden Gallup converted a Cougars turnover into a layup. Freshman Jace Trobough was attempting to pass the ball to freshman Landon Evans when Gallup intervened.

“We knew it was going to come down to [the final moments],” Crest Ridge head coach Cole Schmidli said. “Especially with the style that both of us play. That’s where youth, we’re learning. We had two freshmen there. We weren’t able to execute, but the good thing is hopefully by next Friday, we get that correct.”

It took 35 seconds for St. Paul Lutheran (18-5, 7-0 I-70) to gain a lead against Crest Ridge.

That lead lasted for approximately two minutes. Crest Ridge (20-6, 6-1 I-70) took command following a 3-3 tie, leading 14-8 by the end of the first quarter.

Its advantage peaked at 24-11 with two minutes left in the first half. St. Paul Lutheran cut it to a 31-22 game at halftime.

“We played a phenomenal first 14 minutes,” Schmidli said. “We couldn’t finish the half and they gained some momentum. They came down and knocked down some shots and it was a dogfight from there ... We had two turnovers that turned into five points. Stuff like that is what really, really drives you crazy. They got the momentum to half.”

Crest Ridge’s first half featured 13 points from junior Wesley Taylor and 10 points from senior Gavin Wyatt.

“We got the ball into the paint, we kept them off the boards, we didn’t turn the ball over,” Schmidli said. “When you do that, you play better.”

Wyatt had seven of the Cougars’ 11 points in the third quarter. The other four belonged to senior Wyatt Ducos.

Crest Ridge hit two 3-pointers in the game, while St. Paul Lutheran hit 10. St. Paul sank six in the second half, including four in the third quarter.

“We wanted some of their secondary guys to get some shots, and they did,” Schmidli said. “Props to them for knocking down those shots. But, we missed a lot of layups in the third quarter. We have to execute.”

St. Paul Lutheran had the game tied 40-40 late in the third quarter. Wyatt put in a layup just before the frame ended to make it 42-40.



Crest Ridge junior Wesley Taylor goes up for a shot against St. Paul Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 20, at Crest Ridge High School. PHOTOS BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL



Crest Ridge senior Gavin Wyatt navigates the ball against St. Paul Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 20, at Crest Ridge High School.

Taylor put in a layup less than five seconds into the fourth quarter to make it 44-40.

Crest Ridge made it 50-45 following a layup from Ducos with 3:42 left.

St. Paul Lutheran went scoreless on its next possession. Schmidli called a timeout with 3:04 remaining.

Ducos missed a layup attempt in double-coverage to end that possession, though St. Paul Lutheran junior Easton Sheets made contact that put the ball out of bounds, allowing the Cougars another chance with 2:38 left.

Another try was attempted by Ducos, though Saints contact did not allow that ball to rise. Junior Samuel Roepe saved the ball by setting up a sequence that ended with a layup from Sheets with 2:10 left to make it a 3-point game.

Taylor missed a 3-point shot after, transitioning into a triple from St. Paul senior Ty McGinnis with 1:10 remaining.

St. Paul called a timeout. That led into a Cougars possession that lasted nearly one minute of gameclock, and included two timeouts.

Crest Ridge was coming moments off an inbound out of a timeout when Gallup interrupted the pass from Trobough to Evans.

“In the second half, the pace picked up,” Schmidli said. “We didn’t

really stay in our style. They executed on the offensive end and we didn’t.”

Taylor and Wyatt both had 17 points while Ducos had 12, Evans had two and senior Marshall Stockton had two.

The top-seeded Cougars move on to play either Archie or Midway in the Class 2 District 14 semifinal round at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Crest Ridge High School.

Archie played Midway at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, in the quarterfinals at Crest Ridge.

Crest Ridge and St. Paul could potentially play in a rematch during the district championship Friday, Feb. 28.

The Saints will have to beat DeLaSalle KC, and the winner of the Concordia vs Frontier School of Excellence quarterfinal to get there.

“Losing a conference sucks, but when the clock strikes midnight we are 0-0, they’re 0-0,” Schmidli said. “We got to show up next Wednesday, whoever we got. Be ready to go out and protect our home floor. We got to protect our home floor. [If we do that], we’ll have a showdown next Friday night. We want to be on the other side of it. That’s a positive outlook, you know.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

## Area roundup: Nimmo posts 42 as Warrensburg boys rally against Marshall

By Star-Journal Staff  
*Coaches, please send results to joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com.*

Warrensburg boys basketball erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter, finding its way to a 73-67 win Friday, Feb. 21, at Warrensburg High School.

Junior Nick Nimmo had a career-high 42 points.

Warrensburg led 14-9 at the end of the first quarter, 30-29 at halftime and 50-50 at the end of the third quarter.

The Tigers (4-19) trailed 63-53, though Nimmo proceeded to score on a layup and and and-one.

Nimmo then came up with a steal and converted it into a layup to make it a five-point deficit.

He added a layup not too long later to make it 63-60.

The Tigers tied it 65-65 with a free-throw from Nimmo with 1:08 remaining.

Marshall went up 67-65 from the foul line, though a triple from Nimmo fell after putting the Tigers ahead 68-67.

Warrensburg finished off the win at the free-throw line, including three makes from sophomore Jalen Ruble and two from junior Anton Wiederhoeft.

Along with Nimmo’s 42, senior Kobe Westphal had 10, sophomore Gus Hoppe had seven, Ruble had five, sophomore Trey Murphy had three, Wiederhoeft had two, sophomore Colton Pummill had two and sophomore Kingston Castenedo had two.

### Fleeman sparks Warrensburg’s comeback against Marshall

Warrensburg girls basketball rallied to beat Marshall 54-47 on Friday, Feb. 21, at Warrensburg High School.

The Tigers began the fourth quarter down 34-31, but proceeded to go on a 8-0 run that included four layups from sophomore Delaney Fleeman,

The Tigers did not luck back from there, seeing their lead peak at 10.

Warrensburg and Marshall were tied 13-13 at the end of the first quarter, The Tigers trailed 34-31 at halftime.

Junior Gabi Reasbeck paced Warrensburg with 19 points while senior Avrie Fox had nine, senior Gabby Fatka had eight, Fleeman had eight, junior Makaylla Buck had four, senior Are’ana Grant had two, senior Janey Van Dyke had two and ju-

nior Audrey Lightfoot had two.

**Knob Noster girls beat Lexington**

Knob Noster girls basketball beat Lexington 53-39 on Friday, Feb. 21, at Knob Noster High School.

Sophomore Ella Goodrich had 19 points, senior Jenna Buzzanga had 14, senior Danika Yates had 10, freshman Tinlee Jones had eight and junior Aubrie Goodwin had two.

The Panthers lost to Carrollton 46-43 on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Carrollton High School.

Goorich had 24 points while Yates had nine, Goodwin had five, Buzzanga had three and junior Jaidan Meyer had two.

**Kingsville boys tally 20th win**

Kingsville boys picked up its 20th win of the season, defeating Chilhowee 72-36 in its regular season finale Friday, Feb. 21, at Kingsville High School.

The Tigers (20-5) led 19-7 at the end of the first quarter, 41-19 at halftime and 62-30 at the end of the third quarter.

Junior John Fleeman led Kingsville with 27 points while senior Brady Stout had eight, senior Brayden Barnett had eight, junior Chase Stout had eight, freshman Blake Utterback had seven, senior Isaac Hawthorne had seven, sophomore Gavin Mullins had three, freshman Jack Ewing had two and freshman Tanner Ratajczyk had two.

Junior Ethan Pemberton led Chilhowee (4-21) with 11 points while freshman Anstine had eight, senior Hunter Wharton had six, sophomore Holden Dean had five, freshman Hudson Jennings had three and freshman Aaron Wirsig had three.

The Tigers and Indians will meet again in the first round of the Class 1 District 7 Tournament Monday, Feb. 24, at Green Ridge High School.

### OTHER RESULTS

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

Leeton girls 46, Prairie Home 32

Chilhowee girls 49, Sherwood 36

Prairie Home boys 75, Leeton 45

Sherwood boys 55, Leeton 26

Lafayette County boys 73, Holden 25

**Friday Feb. 21**

Lexington boys 83, Knob Noster 53



# ZEBROWSKI

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Zach Zebrowski smiles as fans and supporters give him a round of applause during the Harlon Hill Trophy ceremony Friday, Feb. 21, at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

He was named the MVP after helping UCM to a pair of touchdowns in the final seven minutes of regulation. In OT, he had the game-winning touchdown and connected with Derrick Rose on the required 2-point conversion to win.

Central Missouri finished 2024 with a 9-3 record.

“You see your teammates on the sideline, you’re like ‘I’m not going to let them down,’” Zebrowski said. “I think in the bowl game, some people were like ‘are you going to play?’ Seeing them, and knowing those are my guys, it gives you the extra juice to be like ‘screw it, whatever happens, happens. I’m going to rock out with my guys.’”

On the season, Zebrowski completed 372-of-553 (67.3%) of his passes for 4,724 yards and 40 touchdowns. He also ran for 599 yards and 10 touchdowns on 132 carries. Zebrowski’s 4,724 passing yards, 443.6 yards per game of total offense and 393.7 passing yards per game are the most out of any division (FBS, FCS, II, III) in college football. Zebrowski also led Division II with his 40 passing touchdowns and 302 points responsible for. He was second in DII in completions per game with 31.

Along with the Harlon Hill Award, Zebrowski’s national accolades included the D2CCA Ron Lenz Offensive Player of the Year along with AFCA, AP and D2CCA First Team All-American honors.

His feats also included D2CCA Super Region III and MIAA Offensive Player of the Year, First Team All-MIAA and First Team D2CCA All-Super Region III. Zebrowski received MIAA Offensive Player of the Week accolades five times, and was the Nov. 19 D2Football.com National Offensive Player of the Week.

All of this came after an also notable 2023 that featured his first Harlon Hill Trophy. The combination of the two put Zebrowski second all-time in UCM’s record books for touchdown passes (101), passing yards (9,881), total offense (11,013) and pass completions (789).

He is the second UCM athlete to receive Harlon Hill recognition, joined by quarterback Eric Czerniewski in 2010. He is the fifth repeat winner, the first from the MIAA.

“Gratitude and appreciation is what I am going to have for him,” Lamberson said. “What I will remember about him is he is the most fierce elite competitor that I have ever been around. It doesn’t matter, these are some of the words the other guys said, it doesn’t matter if it was ping-pong, shadowboxing, golf, basketball or playing football in practice or games. He always wanted to win. He just didn’t want to win. He wanted to dominate. That’s really the driving force behind why he was so successful in his athletic career.”

Since finishing his UCM career, Ze-

browski has been preparing to pursue a professional football career.

He noted a part of the process has included continuing to improve from the injury.

“I’m getting healed up and being able to throw again and start throwing at 100%,” Zebrowski said. “It’s kind of helped my mental a little bit like ‘alright, it’s going to be OK, you’re gonna get healed, and just working out and kind of starting to try to get that lifestyle that professional football is. It’s been really cool and trying to take it one step at a time.”

Zebrowski said he is in regular contact with his agent.

The NFL Draft is scheduled for April 24 through April 26. The draft prep process begins to pick up in the coming weeks, with select athletes participating in the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis Feb. 27 through March 2.

Individual pro days are also scheduled at various universities throughout the country.

“Just talking to my agent and hearing him say what some of the teams are saying,” Zebrowski said. “You look at ESPN the next day and you see that team on there, you’re like ‘man, that could be me or that could be that could happen. I think that’s the little things. You start hearing, and you start to piece it together. You’re like man, this is a real opportunity.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123

# AWARD

Continued from Page A7

“Zach is one of the most dependable, genuine guys that I have ever met,” senior defensive back Reylon Williams said. “We grew up in different worlds. He was still able to make me feel like we had known each other for our entire life. From arguing out on the practice field about absolutely nothing, to him not knowing how to cook, to me cooking everything. I’ve got to know the best and slightly worse of my best friend. I’m proud to call Zach my brother and my own friend.”

“At the end of the Davenport game Zach said, ‘Give me the ball, every play, I am,’” wide receiver Jake Lippe said. “And he was. One of the best competitors I ever played with. I love him to death, and I would go to war with him every day.”

“Zach is a player,” wide receiver Arkell Smith said. “He is a full-blooded killer. Zach is a teammate, someone who can give you everything he has for success and the team. Zach is a person, someone who has a big heart, who’s kind and is a extremely hard worker.”

“Since that guy came to the ‘Burg, he was a straight dog,” wide receiver Derek Rose said. “But also an amazing human being. He didn’t choose who he liked. He was one with everybody”

“Footabll with Zach was so

much fun,” offensive lineman Wyatt Tate said. “You didn’t always know what was going to happen, you just knew it was going to be special.”

“Zach was a very competitive person,” defensive lineman Joshua Bean said. “Like, at everything. In golf, ping-pong, shadow boxing when we would play in the locker room. He never would lose.”

“Biggest competitor I’ve ever met,” wide receiver Hogan Wasson said. “Willing to do whatever it takes to be great. The ultimate team player that does everything in his power not to slide.”

“When people talk about the best players at anything, they always talk about their ability to elevate others,” offensive lineman Reed Kaburick said. “Zach does that. He makes everyone around him better. He’s someone you want to fight for. You know that he’s doing everything humanly possible to win.”

“Zach is one of the most talented and hardworking people that I’ve ever been around,” running back Christian Davis said. “His dedication to the game was evident every time he stepped on the field ... As a teammate, he pushed all of us to be at the highest level and brought out different levels of competition to the team.”

“Zach Zebrowski is one of

those guys who brings the team together,” quarterback Mac Harper said. “Someone who loves to hang out with his teammates and have a good time, but he also know when it’s time to lock in and get the job well in the most competitive way I’ve seen.”

“As a player, Zach is the most clutch quarterback I have ever heard of,” tight end Bo Reaves said. “There was never any uncertainty with him taking the snaps. He was the same player every game, and the offense flies with that consistency.”

“He’s the guy that you want to lead your team because nobody is watching,” defensive back Wryyor Noils said. “And when everyone is watching, he knows how to rally the troops verbally and by example. I can’t say enough good things about Zach, but I’ll conclude with this. I’ve watched Zach sit in the pocket with a linebacker, charging full speed. He takes the hit, gets up and talks so much smack to the linebacker on the way to the end zone. Notice I didn’t mention what game that was, because it happened so many times. That’s who Zach Zebrowski is.”

“Zach is the most competitive person that I’ve ever met,” wide receiver Payton Stanfield said. “He transferred to UCM

not knowing if he would be our starting quarterback. Two years later, his name will be forever in the recordbooks and he’ll be the two-time Harlon Hill winner. That speaks to his commitment.”

“Zach is a furious competitor,” offensive lineman Gabe Clark said. “He is the biggest [smack] talker I’ve ever played with. One time he told an opposing player, ‘you’re such a nobody, you weren’t even on our scouting report.’ Zach gave it all his every day. He also says no one would beat him on the basketball court.”

“Zach is one of the most elite competitors I have ever met,” defensive lineman Mike Harris said. “Whether it’s football, basketball, or something as big as who the goat in basketball is between LeBron and MJ, he always wants to win. That’s a big part of why he won this award again. I’m proud to call him a friend, and proud of all of his accomplishments. There are many more to come.”

Lamberson also offered a quote from now-Mules defensive coordinator Rich Wright, who had to scheme against Zebrowski in 2023 and 2024 as the head coach and defensive playcaller at Northwest Missouri State.

“You want a word to describe Zach,” Wright said.

“Relentless. I bet you never heard that word to describe a quarterback but I have competed against him, and it personifies who he is as a player. It doesn’t matter how many times we hit him. It didn’t matter how much pressure we could throw in his direction. He continued to battle.”

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Matt Howdeshell offered a story on the impact Zebrowski had on the community.

Howdeshell’s wife, Hiliary takes communion to a local nursing home. Recently, she met a fan of both UCM and Zebrowski.

“Penny is 99 years old and my wife introduced herself,” Howdeshell said. “She said my name is Hiliary Howdeshell. Penny’s response was ‘Howdeshell?’ ... When she found out Hiliary and I were married, she told Hiliary how she is the biggest Mules football fan in all of Warrensburg ... And, she’s the biggest Zach Zebrowski fan. How can you not be? Penny quickly wasted no time and cut straight to the chase, ‘what are we going to do without Zach next year,’ she asked. “Well, Penny, that’s a great question. I know Coach Lamberson has that all figured out.”

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

# WRESTLING

Continued from Page A7

## Two Kingsville wrestlers advance to state

Through its co-op with Lone Jack, Kingsville will be represented by a pair of wrestlers

Both wrestled for first during the Class 1 District 2 meet Saturday in Butler.

Senior Dilan Grimes (20-3) finished runner-up in the 190-pound bracket, losing to Sherwood junior Eli Ferrell (41-3) by fall in the championship match.

Senior Aaron McClellan (31-9) finished runner-up in the 215-pound bracket, losing to Diamond senior Brayden Clement (48-2) by fall in the championship match.

The pair is a part of a group of 10 Lone Jack wrestlers to advance to state.

## Knob Noster sending four to state

Knob Noster boys wrestling had a pair of third-place showings in the Class 2 District 4 Championship on Saturday. The Panthers advance four to state in total.

Senior Mason Grosz (29-7) defeated Odessa sophomore Liam Shippy (31-18) by fall, finishing third in the 120-pound bracket.

Junior Aiden Cruz (32-9) defeated Maryville sophomore Kedrick Watkins (37-15) by a 8-3 decision, finishing third in the 175-pound bracket.

Junior John Jones (30-7) finished third in the 285-pound bracket, beating Cameron senior Marcas Eaton (46-9) by fall in the third-place match.

Junior Eli Avery (41-4) finished fourth in the 150-pound bracket, losing to Savannah junior Dae-gen Pasley (45-7) by a 10-0 major decision in the third-place match.

Knob Noster finished eighth out of 16 teams in the district, compiling 85.5 points. Defending state champion Odessa claimed the district title with 196.5 points.

The MSHSAA Class 2 Championships will be held Wednesday and Thursday in Columbia.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

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