



Star Journal



Cardenas spreads love one dish at a time

Mary Cardenas started Sweet Love by Mary in 2021. With the tagline, "Let all that you do be done in love," Cardenas said she's on a mission with her business to spread love and joy one delicious dish at a time. PHOTO BY HASINA SHAH | STAR-JOURNAL

By Hasina Shah
hasina.shah@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Mary Cardenas is a people person. Someone whose face lights up when meeting someone new. Cardenas is also a foodie. Someone whose face lights up when she tastes a delicious meal that's taken time to perfect.

Cardenas thinks she's always been this way—a fan of great people and great food.

Bridging these two passions is how Cardenas got the idea to start her culinary business, Sweet Love by Mary, in 2021.

Though Cardenas had only been seriously cooking and baking for others for about eight years at the time, she said she saw potential in selling the foods she'd grown up eating in her Mexican American household.

"I have a lot of traditional dishes," Cardenas said. "I've always been super rooted in my family, and me being Hispanic brought a lot to

it, but at the same time, it (allowed) other cultures to try it."

Sweet Love by Mary's menu runs the gamut from traditional Mexican dishes to trending baked goods. Cardenas sells her trademark churro cheesecake, multi-layered fruit cups, homemade chamoy recipes, Dubai chocolate sweets, elote and more. Each item she sells, Cardenas said, has her own unique flair added to it.

"If I try something, I want to do it (the best)," Cardenas said. "I like to play around and try to figure out the flavors of certain things. I try to do everything from scratch."

Since starting her business in 2021, Cardenas said Sweet Love by Mary has grown exponentially. From La Monte to Warrensburg, Cardenas said she's built a loyal following by hosting pop-up events, attending farmers markets, donating her goods to different charities and more.

"One of the longest pop-ups I've done was a Friday, Saturday and Sunday," Cardenas said. "I saw

some of the same clients show up for the first, second and third (event)."

This customer loyalty followed Cardenas when she stepped away from Sweet Love by Mary in 2023. After two years of trying to balance her small business with her full-time job while trying to raise four children, Cardenas needed a break.

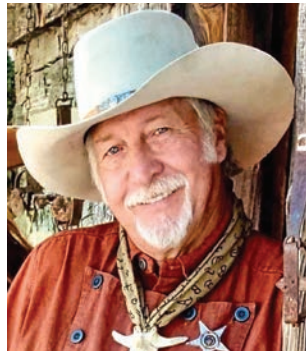
"I always told myself, 'If I can't be there 100%, I'm not going to do it,'" Cardenas said. "I was going through a very hard time in my life, so I had to put it on hold for a while until I figured myself out again."

Cardenas' clients, she said, waited patiently for her return. On occasion, different local businesses and community members would message Cardenas asking if she was ready for new orders. It wasn't until February of this year that Cardenas said she felt ready to stage her comeback for Valentine's Day. Her clients put in orders like she never left.

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2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Two candidates vying for Holden Mayoral position



Dave Chastain



Allen Mensch

Two candidates are competing to hold the Holden Mayoral position in the 2026 Municipal Election on April 7.

The person voted in as mayor will serve a four-year term. Candidates include Dave Chastain and Allen Mensch.

Each candidate was asked to fill out a questionnaire. Answers were limited to 150 words and are listed in alphabetical order by last name. The candidates' responses have only been edited for grammar, clarity and punctuation.

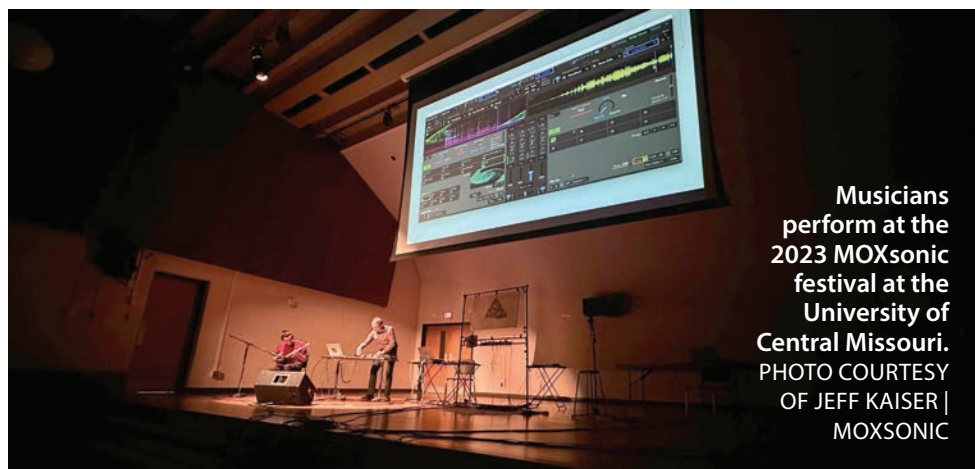
Why are you running for office?

Chastain: I am running for office because I believe the people of Holden deserve an honest, transparent government where every citizen has a real opportunity to be heard. Too often, public input is limited or rushed. I want to create an open meeting environment where residents can share their concerns and

ideas without feeling pressured by strict time limits. Local government works best when it listens first. My goal is to ensure decisions are made with the community, not just for the community. Holden is growing, and we need leadership that values communication, fairness and accountability. I'm running to make sure every voice matters and that our town's future is shaped by the people who call it home.

Mensch: I am running for mayor because I care deeply about Holden and believe our community has tremendous potential. Over the past four years serving on the city council, I've seen both the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. I want to continue working toward responsible budgeting, improved infrastructure and a stronger local economy. I believe leadership should be transparent, accessible and focused on serving the

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Musicians perform at the 2023 MOXsonic festival at the University of Central Missouri. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF KAISER | MOXSONIC

University of Central Missouri to host sixth annual Missouri Experimental Sonic Arts Festival

By Hasina Shah
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WARRENSBURG – The University of Central Missouri's department of Music Technology and Composition is hosting its sixth annual Missouri Experimental Sonic Arts— or MOXsonic— Festival Thursday, March 19, through Saturday, March 21.

Founded in 2018 by Associate Professor of Music Technology and Composition, Jeff Kaiser, Professor

and Chair of the Music Technology and Composition program, Eric Honour, and other professors in the Division of Music at UCM, MOXsonic is a free, volunteer-run festival dedicated to sharing and exploring experimental music of all styles and origins with the community.

"We bring in musicians that are doing new and experimental music with a focus on new or retro technologies," Kaiser said. "The focus is on experimental technologies beyond traditional instruments."

Over 100 musicians from all over the world, Kaiser said, will showcase their work at this year's MOXsonic festival. From research presentations and nightlife showcases to composers and performers working with digital instruments, the festival's perfor-

mances run the gamut. With musical exhibitions designed to push the listener's limits and challenge the sonic norms of popular music, Kaiser said the festival might surprise audiences.

"It's experimental music, so it's a very special audience that we seek," Kaiser said. "If you're coming expecting country or western, you're not going to get that. It's going to be sonically experimental."

While experimental music is often seen as a niche, underground form of music, Kaiser said it's more widespread than people may think. From jazz to alternative rock, Kaiser said artists have always explored experimental concepts within each genre.

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Woods, James honored at annual Kirkpatrick Luncheon

By Hasina Shah
hasina.shah@warrensburgstarjournal.com

WARRENSBURG – The Johnson County Democrats hosted its annual Kirkpatrick Luncheon on Saturday, March 14, at the University of Central Missouri.

Community members, leaders and elected officials gathered in the Elliot Student Union's ballroom to honor KOKO's long-time radio host and this year's James C. Kirkpatrick Award recipient, Marion "Woody" Woods, and this year's Community Service Award recipient, Raymond James.

The luncheon featured a memorandum for JCD members and nationally-recognized democrats who passed on within the last year, speeches of appreciation for each award-recipient by Warrensburg Mayor Bruce Uhler and a keynote address by United States Congressman Emanuel Cleaver. This year's theme for the luncheon was coming together to push the community forward.

"It makes me so happy to be in a space with kindred spirits," invocation speaker Barb Curtis said. "My heart is filled with gratitude. In these contentious times, it is a joy to be in such good company."

With 2025 in the rearview and 2026 winding on, speakers at Saturday's luncheon shared Curtis' sentiment of gratitude for sharing space with folks who hold the same values.

"When I look out at the room and I see so many people that have so done so much ... I want to thank you," James said in his acceptance speech. "Whether you're feeding homeless people, or working in a food pantry ... it takes that community to make things work."



James C. Kirkpatrick Award recipient, Marion "Woody" Woods, addresses the crowd at this year's Kirkpatrick Luncheon on Saturday, March 14. PHOTO BY HASINA SHAH | STAR-JOURNAL

It's this community full of people going out of their way to create change, Woods said, that made receiving the award for his years of service entertaining and informing the people of Warrensburg so special.

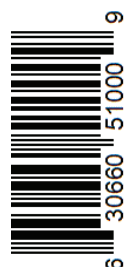
"(There) are so many other people in this room more worthy than I am for this (award)," Woods said. "I just want you all to know I appreciate it very much."

Cleaver said attending the luncheon felt like a welcomed reprieve from his work in congress.

Cleaver is the incumbent for District 5, which Johnson County is now a part of following redistricting. The district includes rural Missouri, after previously being Kansas City based.

Republican candidates in the primary feature Rick Brattin, Sean Smith, Taylor Burks, Brett Huefmeier and Brad Patty.

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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth "Ann" Marr

Elizabeth "Ann" Marr, 87 of Warrensburg, passed away peacefully at her home on March 12, 2026.



Ann was born May 5, 1938 in Warrensburg, the daughter of Wallace and Erna (Dallman) Barbee. She graduated from Warrensburg High School in 1956. Her first job was at Mugs Up. One day, a customer vying for her attention gave her a 10 cent tip, and on June 10, 1956 Ann married Robert "Bob" Marr, the big tipper.

Ann had a strong work ethic. She drove a school bus for 46 years, retiring at age 80. She also served as the bookkeeper for her husband's trucking company, but Ann's most cherished roles were as wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her sons, Gary Marr, Steve (Wendy) Marr, and honorary son Chris (Kelly) Sharp; her sister, Edna Hackett; her grandsons, Cory Marr and Brett (Megan) Marr; her granddaughters who carry on her legacy as her namesakes Teea Ann (TJ) Classen and Brittany Elizabeth (Cody) Miller; and her great-grandchildren, Teegan Classen, Staule Classen, Eleanor Marr, and Wesley Miller.

Known to many as Grandma Ann, she loved caring for and supporting her family. She could be found wherever her family was, whether that was at a sporting event, a dance recital, or church. At church, she was often known to carry bacon in her purse for her grandkids. She was an amazing cook who was quite famous for her fried chicken, Swedish tea rings, and

gigantic trays of Christmas candy.

Ann enjoyed sewing, watching Judge Judy, doing puzzles, and bowling. She was a three-time Missouri State Champion Bowler. In recent years, she especially loved watching photos of her great grandchildren scroll on her Skylight Frame and was always excited when new photos appeared.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 57 years Robert "Bob" Marr, her son Robert Marr, Jr., her sisters Martha Larkerbrink and Mary Greenway, and her brother Wallace Barbee.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 18 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will be at First Baptist Church of Warrensburg on Thursday, March 19 at 10:30 am. Internment will follow at Warrensburg Memorial Gardens.

In honor of Ann's numerous years as a school bus driver, memorial contributions may be made to the Warrensburg Schools Foundation in care of the funeral home.

The family would like to thank Dr. Hoke and his staff for taking such good care of Ann for many years. They would also like to thank Good Shepherd Hospice for the phenomenal care provided during Ann's last days. A special thank you goes to hospice aide Crystal and hospice nurses Chelsea, Jessica, and Ashley for their extraordinary compassion and incredible kindness. They provided a tremendous amount of comfort and peace for Ann and her family.

Joseph Edward Ewing

Joseph Edward Ewing, 98, passed away on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in Warrensburg, Missouri.



Joe was born August 21, 1927, on a 6250-acre livestock farm near Morrisville, Missouri in Polk County. He attended a K-12 school at Morrisville, MO.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the JC Cowboy Church in Warrensburg, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Saint Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT.

Please visit sweeney-phillipsholdren.com to view Joe's obituary in its entirety.

Betty Charlene Gudde

Betty Charlene Gudde, age 88, of Warrensburg, formerly of Kingsville, passed away Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Country Club Care Center in Warrensburg.



She was born March 27, 1937, in Holden, the daughter of Clarence and Kathryn (Platter) Shull.

On June 13, 1998, she and James Franklin Gudde were united in marriage in Kingsville.

Betty enjoyed gardening, bowling, watching her grandkids, nieces, and nephews, and watching sports, especially her grandkids and the Chiefs. She enjoyed traveling with Franklin, the love of her life, and showing everyone his picture so they could see how handsome he was.

Betty is survived by two sons, Troy (Marty) Savage and Darby (Barbi) Savage; three sisters, Bonnie Tirk, Debbie Phelps, and Georgia Kennedy; a brother, George Shull; a stepson, James Gudde; a stepdaughter, Sherri Christian; two sons-in-law, Kelly Moore and Scott Adams; and nu-

merous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin Gudde; two daughters, Sondra Moore and Rebecca Savage-Adams; siblings, Donna Wirsig, Shirley Watterson, Jack Shull, Bob Shull and Billie Gudde; two sisters in-law, Brenda Kay and Jimmie Darlene; and a stepson, Brian Gudde.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Kingsville Baptist Church with John McRoy officiating. Interment will follow in Kingsville Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Chad Davis, Steve Meek, Scott Johnson, Greg Crooks, Dustin Westerhold.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until service time at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Kingsville Baptist Church or the Johnson County Cancer Foundation and left in care of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

POLICE REPORTS

Gareth E. Clifton, 21, was arrested Feb. 16 in the area of West Hale Lake Road and South Main Street for driving while intoxicated and entering a city park after hours after officers were dispatched to a vehicle check. Officers located a vehicle and conducted a traffic stop, where the driver was arrested for DWI. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Madilyn G. Collins, 33, was arrested Feb. 16 in the 300 block of East Cooper Boulevard for shoplifting after officers were dispatched in reference to theft. Asset protection informed officers that a known female passed all points of sale without rendering payment. After officers reviewed camera footage, the female was arrested. She was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Dakota L.A. Watts, 21, was arrested Feb. 16 in the 300 block of East Cooper Boulevard after officers were dispatched in reference to theft. Asset protection informed officers that a known male passed all points of sale without rendering payment. After officers reviewed camera footage, the male was arrested. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Douglas D. Sherwood, 33, was arrested Feb. 17 in the 200 block of North College Street for domestic assault after officers were dispatched to a domestic assault in progress. Officers made contact with a male and female who had been in an altercation. The male was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released. Officers then transported him to Western Missouri Medical Center for a mental health evaluation. Custody was transferred to WMMC.

Paul E. Averbek, 25, was arrested Feb. 18 in the area of Maguire Street and Railroad Road for failure to maintain financial responsibility, operating a motor vehicle without a proper license - motorcycle and driving while suspended after officers stopped a motorcycle for a suspected revoked driving status. Officers confirmed his license status, and he was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, where he was booked and released.

Sheila A. Hecke, 62, was arrested Feb. 19 in the 300 block of Cooper Boulevard for shoplifting and trespassing after officers were dispatched in reference for theft. Asset Protection reported a female passed all points of sale without paying for her items. Officers mailed two summonses to the female.

Alexa R. Haskew, 40, was arrested Feb. 19 in the 300 block of East Yong Street for trespassing after officers were dispatched for trespassing. Officers made contact with the female who had an active trespass notice. She was arrested, transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Stephon T. Smith, 36, was arrested Feb. 19 in the area of North Maguire Street and Russell Avenue for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance after officers were dispatched to the 200 block of East Young Street for a motor vehicle crash. A reporting party stated both vehicles fled. A suspected involved vehicle was located and stopped. Officers made contact with the driver. He was arrested, transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Hudson J. Lane, 18, was arrested Feb. 20 in the 200 block of West Market Street for possession of a fictitious license and minor visibly intoxicated after officers were dispatched to the 300 block of West Gay Street for a subject check. Officers located a male who was visually intoxicated. Officers discovered he was a minor in possession of a fictitious license. He was arrested, transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Tina N. Green, 44, was arrested Feb. 22 in the 200 block of West Gay Street for property damage after officers were dispatched in reference to a disturbance. A male reported that a known female threw a brick through his window. Officers later located the female, where she was arrested, transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Dustin L.A. Watts, 21, was arrested Feb 22 on the 100 block of South Holden Street for shoplifting after officers were dispatched to the 300 block of East Cooper Boulevard for a theft. Asset protection informed officers that a known male passed all points of sale without rendering payment. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department, booked and released.

Compiled by Joe Andrews.

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

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.

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FUNERALS

Kimberly "Kim" Jane (Murphy) Berry

2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home in Odessa. Arrangements are under the direction of Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home.

Betty Charlene Gudde

2 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Kingsville Baptist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

Elizabeth "Ann" Marr

10:30 am. Thursday, March 19, at First Baptist Church of Warrensburg. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweeney-Phillips & Holdren Funeral Home.

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Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce organizes Locally Yours vendor event

The Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce Locally Yours, a vendor event tailored to connect local home-based businesses to the community for unique finds. Locally Yours is a free event for the community.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 11 in the Warrensburg Community Center Gymnasium Center located at 445 E Gay St. This event is your one-stop shop for handcrafted gifts or even a treat for yourself.

Whether you're looking for custom tumblers, t-shirts, jewelry, freeze dried treats, baked goods, or travel information, this event is the perfect place to find thoughtful gifts for your loved ones and maybe even something special just for yourself! In addition to showcasing amazing local talent, the event provides a platform for home-based entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and connect with new customers. Visitors will have the chance to meet the faces behind the amazing products and learn more about the incredible activity within our community. Vendors will offer a wide range of products, so there's something for everyone.

For further information regarding Locally Yours contact Kailoni Jeffries at kjeffries@warrensburg.org or by phone, at 660-747-3168. To stay informed about future Chamber events, visit warrensburg.org or download the "Discover Warrensburg" App.

Release courtesy of the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce.

Plan to replace income tax with expanded sales tax clears Missouri House

By Rudi Keller
Missouri Independent

The proposed constitutional amendment asking Missourians if they want to replace the income tax by adding a sales tax to services and other transactions moved one step closer to the ballot Thursday when it passed the state House on an almost pure party-line vote.

If it passes the Senate and is approved by voters, the measure would give lawmakers three years to decide which currently untaxed goods and services would lose their exemption to generate the money needed to replace the revenue from income taxes. The top income tax rate would decline by 0.01 percentage points for every \$20 million in general revenue in excess of the \$13.43 billion collected in the year that ended June 30.

The bill passed the House on a 98-54 vote on the last day before lawmakers take a week-long Spring Break. Only one Democrat, state Rep. Marlene Terry of St. Louis, supported it, and only four Republicans — state Reps. Mazzie Christensen of Bethany, Brenda Shields of St. Joseph, Gregg Sharpe of Ewing and Rudy Viet of Wardsville — opposed it.

The proposal now moves to the Senate, where Republican leaders have proclaimed it a top priority and Democratic leaders said Thursday they have strong misgivings.

Gov. Mike Kehoe pledged during his 2024 to eliminate the income tax, and he entered the 2026 session with the amendment sitting atop his legislative agenda. If successful, the income tax would no longer be in place by the start of 2032.

During the House debate, Democrats warned that Republicans were putting state services, including public schools, in danger of cuts if revenue replacement taxes do not produce the expected revenue.

State Rep. Yolanda Young, a Kansas City Democrat, said haircuts, salon visits and plumber services are among the items likely to be taxed if the measure passes at the ballot box.

"If the income tax disappears, the burden will not disappear with it," Young said. "The burden shifts to you."

Democratic opposition is based on "lies," said state Rep. Bishop Davidson, the Republican from Republic sponsoring the proposed constitutional amendment.

"The only thing it does is utilize growth to reduce the income tax over time," Davidson said. "It gives the growth back to the people, and it also allows us to hasten that process."

Missouri has an almost flat income tax, with the top rate of 4.7% imposed on taxable incomes greater than \$9,436. There are two 0.1 percentage point reductions already in state law when revenue grows by \$200 million or more in a single fiscal year.

Growth was below that level in the most recent fiscal year and revenues are projected to decline in the current year. The next statutory reduction in income taxes is unlikely before Jan. 1, 2028.

The proposal would give lawmakers broad authority to decide which transactions currently untaxed would be covered by an expanded sales tax.

State Rep. Mark Matthiesen, a Republican from O'Fallon, said he was uncertain about the measure when the session began but now supports it. He warned that lawmakers will be under intense pressure if it passes as the General Assembly works on a sales tax bill.

"We are going to have special interests from all over the state knocking on our doors," Matthiesen said.

Missouri currently imposes a 3% sales tax for general revenue, plus 1.225% earmarked for particular programs. Local option sales taxes are added to the 4.225% total, and there are more than 50 locations in the state where the total sales tax is 11% or higher.

Each 1% of the general revenue sales tax generates about \$1.1 billion. To replace the money raised from the income tax could add 8% or more to the current rate.

To generate enough revenue to replace the income tax without increasing sales tax rates would require finding more than \$300 billion of transactions currently untaxed, Matthiesen said.

"If we send this to the voters, we are asking the voters to trust us," he said.

The measure allows lawmakers to tax any goods or services sold in the state and puts the money in the general revenue fund. It exempts any sales tax applied to gasoline from current constitutional provisions sending revenue from fuel taxes to the state Road Fund.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To have your event or meeting listed or changed, send details to 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, March 17

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.

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.

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

Griefshare meets from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the First Baptist Church located at 1302 South Maguire. To register visit GriefShare.org. For more information call the Church at 660-747-9186

or contact Marguerite Robinson at 816-309-5381.

The Trails Regional Library in Knob Noster will host a Move and Groove event at 10 a.m. for children between the ages of 0 and 5. The event will feature music and movement for kids to enjoy.

Wednesday, March 18

Rotary of Central Missouri will meet from noon to 1 p.m. at the Sandstone Country Club.

Trails Regional Library hosts a storytime at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at the Knob Noster Branch. Join the library for a lively storytime filled with engaging stories, music, dancing, crafts and plenty of bubbles.

Trails Regional Library in Warrensburg will host a Bingo event at 5 p.m. for community members of all ages.

The Trails Regional Library in Knob Noster will host a Teen Scene event at 2 p.m. for kids between the ages of 13 and 18 where participants will have the opportunity to eat snacks, try activities and connect with one another in a teen-centered space.

Thursday, March 19

Trails Regional Library will host a Music and More event 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.

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

Alanon Family Groups meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at First United Methodist Church, 141 E. Gay St. Call Mike at 816-255-6903 for more information.

The Trails Regional Library in Warrensburg will host a Neurographic Art event at 2 p.m. for those aged 19 and up. This event aims to share a drawing technique that transforms stress into calm through flowing lines, shapes, and colors.

The Trails Regional Library in Knob Noster will host a "Book Tasting" event at 5 p.m. for community members aged 19 and older. The event allows for participants to choose a new genre from their menu for each "course" to peruse while sampling light refreshments.

A public community forum on 7-OH and Kratom will be held at 5:30 p.m. March 19 in the Nahm Auditorium at the University of Central Missouri. The event will include a presentation by Hope Edwards, the Opioid Project and Collegiate Recovery Coordinator from Partners in Prevention at the University of Missouri. There will be Q&A time for the audience.

Saturday, March 21

The Martin Warren chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet at 10:30 a.m. at RISE Café, 607 N.

Ridgeview Drive in Warrensburg.

The Trails Regional Library's Warrensburg Branch will host an RED event at 10 a.m. for children aged 6 to 12.

The event will feature hands-on activities and technology to explore, build and create projects that blend science, engineering and art.

The Spring Mission Festival will take place during the weekend services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on March 21-22. The mission focus this year will be Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, and we're pleased to have Vernita McMurtrey, Director of Development at their year-old Kansas City location. LFCS supports children and families across Missouri through adoption, foster care, behavioral health counseling, pregnancy and parenting services statewide, serving communities including St. Louis, Kansas City and rural regions statewide.

Monday, March 23

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.

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5-600 lbs	\$415-\$527
6-700 lbs	\$369-\$440
7-800 lbs	\$335-\$406
8-900 lbs	\$305-\$357

Small Frame or Fleshy Steers & Bulls

4-700 lbs	\$286-\$478
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Heifers Med & Large Frame #1

3-400 lbs	\$440-\$585
4-500 lbs	\$410-\$525
5-600 lbs	\$375-\$462.50
6-700 lbs	\$325-\$414
7-800 lbs	\$303-\$375
8-900 lbs	\$291-\$334

Small Frame or Fleshy Heifers

4-700 lbs	\$238-\$340
Weigh Cows Bulk	\$144-\$158
High Dressing	\$167-\$179
Low Dressing	\$135 Back
Bulls Bulk	\$190-\$231

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WESTERN MISSOURI MEDICAL CENTER

Missouri House passes legislation on literacy, teacher training requirements

By Annelise Hanshaw
Missouri Independent

The Missouri House last week passed bills cutting extraneous teacher training requirements and adding supports for literacy in elementary schools. At the halfway point of the legislative session, the House has approved eight education bills.

The Senate has passed one bill related to education, which would allow students in urban school districts to miss school to accompany their parents to the polls and change the terms for Independence School Board members from six to three years.

Literacy

On Thursday, the House approved legislation aimed at improving literacy rates in elementary schools in a 131-10 vote.

The bill would create a test to screen students in grades K-3 for reading deficiencies. It pushes for intensive reading instruction and interventions for students falling behind. And those with a "substantial reading deficiency" at the end of third grade will be held back unless they qualify for an exemption.

Students with disabilities, English-language learners and those who have already been held back once are eligible for exemptions.

"The goal is not (third-grade) retention," the bill's sponsor, Republican state Rep. Cathy Joy Loy of Carthage, said Tuesday. "The goal is literacy, making sure that children learn to read early so that retention becomes unnecessary."

The prospect of holding students back one grade level made some lawmakers nervous, though they came

around to support the bill as a whole.

State Rep. Kem Smith, a Democrat from Florissant, said she was initially hesitant about the retention provision. But she talked to relatives in Mississippi, which has retained third-grade students for over a decade, and they commended the policy.

"The retention piece is important because it says to people around the state that we really understand the importance of literacy and the impact it has on our communities," Smith said.

She added a provision to the bill that compels parents to get involved, notifying them at the end of second grade if their child is deficient in reading.

The legislation also bolsters efforts to promote phonics instruction, restricting the use of the three-cueing method as a primary source of reading instruction.

Teacher training

The House also passed a bill to reduce teachers' workload by eliminating "redundant" training requirements.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. Ann Kelley, a Republican from Lamar and former teacher, said the legislation is intended to "give flexibility" to schools.

She described the excitement of the week leading up to the first day of school, recalling the frenzy of teachers decorating and organizing their classrooms.

"Then, on your first day, teachers are informed they have x days to complete all the computer trainings that are required," she said in a House debate Monday. "Which takes many, many, many hours. This is time that is taken away from teachers, time that could

be spent preparing for students."

Watching the same videos each year shouldn't be a requirement, she said, though her bill would allow schools to make that call for their staff. The legislation mandates training for three consecutive years. Beyond that, it is up to administrators to decide what is necessary for their staff.

"The current one size fits all approach would not adequately consider the unique needs of our diverse educational environments," she said Wednesday. "This legislation places decision-making back in the hands of local school boards and educators. They know their teachers and their specific needs better than anyone else."

The bill received support from both sides of the aisle. Retired teacher and state Rep. Connie Steinmetz, a Maryland Heights Democrat, applauded the flexibility the legislation gives to schools.

"It only makes sense that we would allow the school districts to be able to pick and choose which (training courses) that the teachers should do, especially after they've done it for three years," she said.

State Rep. Ed Lewis, a Republican from Moberly and retired educator, recalled the hassle of reviewing the same videos each year. Eliminating these requirements would make teachers' jobs "a little bit better."

"If there's any bill Missouri teachers want us to pass this year," he said, "This is it."

The bill passed with just two opposed: Republican state Reps. Mazzie Christensen of Bethany and Lisa Durnell of Willow Springs.

Judge rules gerrymandered Missouri congressional map is constitutional

By Rudi Keller
Missouri Independent

The gerrymandered congressional map pushed through the General Assembly by Republicans meets constitutional requirements for districts to be compact and contiguous, a Jackson County judge ruled Thursday.

The decision from Circuit Judge Adam Caine is the third Missouri court ruling to reject a constitutional challenge to the plan intended to shift the 5th Congressional District to the Republican Party. In earlier rulings, Cole County Circuit Judge Christopher Limbaugh has upheld Gov. Mike Kehoe's authority to convene the special session that passed the plan and the legislature's power to enact it without a new census report.

In Thursday's ruling, Caine did not address the question of whether lawmakers had authority to enact the map. That question, he noted, is in the hands of the Missouri Supreme Court, which heard the appeal on Tuesday.

Lawmakers approved the map in September under pressure from President Donald Trump to help maintain the slim Republican majority in the U.S. House. Along with the legal challenges to the map itself, opponents who hope to force a referendum submitted more than 300,000 signatures in December.

The referendum has become a major legal tangle of its own, with cases over which signatures should be checked and whether the map passed in September is in effect for this year's election.

Incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, meanwhile, has filed for re-election, with five Republicans already filed for the August primary.

Caine took evidence in the case filed by the Washington, D.C.-based Campaign Legal Center, the ACLU Voting Rights Project and the ACLU of Missouri over four days in February. The evidence, he wrote, was not enough to convince him to override the legislature.

While discussing historic district maps and the plan passed in 2022 that last year's enactment is intended to replace, Caine noted that Kansas City and Jackson County have been split into multiple districts for decades and other counties around the state have been whole and split at various times.

"The result of plaintiffs' position in these cases would be for the court to make value judgments about which communities should be divided in redistricting plans," Caine wrote.

In a statement Thursday afternoon, Attorney General Catherine Hanaway called the ruling "a complete victory for Missouri and for the people's elected representatives."

Caine's ruling will be appealed, the three organizations said in a joint statement.

The map violates the Missouri Constitution's requirements that districts be as compact as possible, the statement read.

"Drawn under direct pressure from the Trump administration, the map divides the Kansas City area across

multiple sprawling districts in clear violation of that constitutional mandate," the organizations said. "If allowed to stand, it would represent a significant setback for fair representation in Missouri."

At trial, Caine consolidated two cases with common claims. In one, the lawsuit argued that the map was unconstitutional because a precinct identifier was used twice in the law enacting the districts. There are two distinct geographic areas with the same designation — VTD 811 — in the Census Bureau files used for determining the population of any particular location.

The only confusion was that there are two, Caine wrote. Each, he wrote, "has a unique GEOID, a unique alphanumeric identifier, that allows mapping software to assign each separately to the appropriate district."

A large portion of the ruling is a discussion of particular measures of how compact the districts were.

"The 2025 plan is not an outlier and is within historical measures of compactness scores," Caine wrote.

The new map splits five of Missouri's 114 counties, with seven total portions from those five. The map approved in 2022 split nine counties, with 10 total portions. The number of municipalities in two or more districts was reduced from 30 to 13, Caine wrote.

Under the map approved by lawmakers in 2022, the 5th District is entirely contained within Jackson and Clay counties and includes most of Kansas City south and north of the Missouri River.

The map approved by lawmakers last year puts portions of Kansas City north of the river into the 6th District, and puts sections of the city into the 4th and 5th Districts and pairs those areas with places as far away as Columbia in the 5th District and Lebanon in the 4th District.

The organizations challenging the map argued that splitting Kansas City and Jackson County divided it as a community of interest and diminished its ability to influence the selection of representatives.

In his ruling, Caine wrote that Kansas City, and Jackson County, has a larger portion of the population in the 4th, 5th and 6th districts than any other community.

Each Missouri congressional district has 769,364 people counted in the 2020 census. Kansas City has 126,008 people in the 4th District, 174,515 in the 5th District and 207,567 people in the 6th District, Caine wrote. Sedalia, the largest city in the 4th District, has 21,275 people, he wrote, and Jefferson City, the largest city entirely within the 5th, has 43,228.

Jackson County has 330,299 people in the 4th District compared to 109,638 in Cass and 370,868 in the 5th District, compared to 77,278 in Cole County.

"This court," Caine wrote, "finds it is more helpful to engage in an objective review of the 2025 plan rather than be guided by subjective factors like policy preferences and views of current representation."



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ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

entire community. Holden deserves steady, practical leadership that plans for the future while protecting what makes our town special. I am running to help guide that progress in a thoughtful and responsible way.

What are your qualifications?

Chastain: I have proudly served the community for seven years on the Holden Parks and Recreation Board, including six years as chairman. During that time, I worked closely with city leadership, community members and local organizations to improve our parks and recreational programs. Serving in this role has given me firsthand experience in budgeting, planning projects, leading meetings and making decisions that benefit the public. It has also strengthened my understanding of how city government operates and the importance of responsible leadership. I am engaged, informed and committed to doing the work necessary to serve Holden effectively. My years of service demonstrate my dedication, leadership experience, and long-term investment in our community. (I started) working at 7 years old with my father at the beautiful Rose-hill Gardens. I joined the Navy at 17 years old during the Vietnam War with an honorary discharge after serving 12 years.

Mensch: I have served four years on the Holden City Council, where I have been directly involved in budgeting, infrastructure planning and city policy decisions. This experience has given me a clear understanding of how our city operates and how funds are allocated. I have worked on long-term planning efforts and supported improvements to our streets and essential services. My time on the council has required collaboration, careful financial oversight and open communication with citizens. I understand the importance of balancing community needs with available revenue and making decisions that are practical and sustainable.

What would be your top priorities in office?

Chastain: My top priorities will focus on improving infrastructure and strengthening essential city services. First, I want to develop and implement a clear plan to address the condition of our streets and drainage systems. Proper infrastructure planning protects property, supports growth, and improves daily life for residents. Second, I want to ensure our police department has the support and resources it needs to serve the community effectively and safely. Public safety is a core responsibility of local government. By prioritizing infrastructure and public safety, we can build a stronger foundation for Holden's future while maintaining the quality of life our citizens expect and deserve.

Mensch: My top priorities would be responsible budgeting, continued investment in streets and infrastructure and downtown revitalization. We must operate efficiently and ensure taxpayer dollars are used wisely while protecting essential services. Improving our roads requires steady, long-term planning and I will continue prioritizing those efforts. I also want to focus on strengthening our

downtown by supporting property improvements and attracting new businesses. A vibrant downtown benefits the entire community. Transparency and accessibility will also remain a priority so citizens stay informed and involved in city decisions.

What goals do you have for office if you are elected?

Chastain: If elected, my first goal is to promote transparency by ensuring public meetings are open and not restricted by unnecessary time limits. I also believe ordinances and major proposals should have first and second readings at separate meetings, giving citizens time to review and consider important decisions before they are finalized. I will work to improve our city parks, including downtown areas and the ballpark, so families can continue to enjoy safe and welcoming spaces. Additionally, I will work to ensure the Holden Water Department ownership is properly structured and purchased to meet the long-term needs of our citizens. My goal is thoughtful decision-making, transparency and steady improvement for our community.

Mensch: If elected, my goals are to maintain financial stability, make measurable progress on infrastructure improvements and create an environment that encourages economic growth. I want to see continued upgrades to our streets and city facilities while ensuring we plan responsibly for future needs. I also hope to foster stronger communication between city leadership and residents. Long-term, I would like to see a thriving downtown with active businesses that draw people into our community. My goal is steady progress that strengthens Holden for both current residents and future generations.

Why should people vote for you?

Chastain: People should vote for me because I am engaged, informed, and deeply committed to Holden. I have already demonstrated my dedication through seven years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board, including six years as chairman. Many residents have worked with me directly and know that I listen, follow through and take my responsibilities seriously. I believe in transparency, accountability and putting citizens first. I am not running for personal gain—I am running to serve. My experience, leadership and commitment to open government make me ready to step into this role and work hard for the people of Holden.

Mensch: Voters should support me because I bring experience, dedication and a commitment to transparency. I have already served our community on the city council and understand the responsibilities and challenges of city leadership. I believe in listening to citizens, communicating openly and making decisions that reflect the best interests of the entire town. My approach is practical and focused on steady improvement rather than short-term promises. I am committed to responsible budgeting, infrastructure investment and economic growth that benefits everyone. I will work hard, stay accessible and always put Holden first.

Compiled by Hasina Shah.

CARDENAS

Continued from Page 1

"I posted (on Facebook) and I wasn't expecting a great response," Cardenas said. "I had a lot of likes, I had a lot of comments, I was getting blown up. It brought me back home, because I love people. I love getting to know people."

Since then, Cardenas said business has continued to blossom. Along with her signature dishes, she's been working on adding culturally significant recipes from around the world to bring more diverse menu options to the community.

"I'm trying to bring more variety to (Sweet Love by Mary)—more culture into it," Cardenas said. "I'm going to try. Obviously, I've never done it before, so (I'm looking) into everybody's videos, making sure I get all the ingredients right, because everybody

does it their own way. My mom always told me, 'The less the better. Keep it traditional.'"

Taking the time to keep her recipes simple and traditional, Cardenas said, is the key to Sweet Love by Mary's success.

Having the patience to pore over multiple how-to videos, to try different recipes to perfect one single dish, to ensure each treat that's sold is made with love—these principles, Cardenas said, were modeled for her by her own parents.

"The love you put into your food— it just makes it taste better," Cardenas said. "That's something I learned from my dad. He'll fry his chicken and it takes a while, but it's the best chicken, and all he (uses) is salt ... he takes his time and and I'm like, 'I need to do that, too.'"

This love that Cardenas pours into every dish is where Sweet Love by Mary's tagline, "Let all that you do be done in love," came from. It's where Cardenas pulls her inspiration from. It's what keeps her going when things get hard. Sharing her love for food with others, Cardenas said, is the heart and soul of her business.

"To me, food is very sacred. If I'm going to put something out there for somebody, I go for quality," Cardenas said. "It comes back to the love. I'm big on it. The love of the people and just seeing their smiles—it's just heartwarming for me."

For more information on Sweet Love by Mary's ordering process and pop-up schedule, visit the Facebook page here: <https://bit.ly/4Ineecy>.

Hasina Shah can be reached at 660-747-8123.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

"There's experimental practices in hip-hop, EDM, you know, there's experimental practices in all these different musics," Kaiser said. "It's just a (form of) music where we want to bring out and focus on the experimental practices."

The festival's performances and presentations will be hosted at multiple venues on UCM's campus, from the Hart Recital Hall and Gallery of Art and Design to various university classrooms. Each year, students from the MTC department who work and attend the festival have the chance to gain hands-on experience and networking opportunities that Kaiser said make this annual gathering invaluable to his pupils and the greater experimental-music community.

"We want to keep pushing creativity. Having a festival like this, we get like-minded people from around the world to hang out with us for three, four days— some of them are coming early to speak to my graduate seminar," Kaiser said. "So, I mean, that's part of the importance— keeping that connection with that community. We bring

them here, we introduce students and colleagues to this community (and) that connects them to the outer world."

Though Kaiser said MOXsonic's music might not be for everyone, he said the festival is open to anyone. Its main goal, Kaiser said, is to bring the community together in shared listening experiences where artists have the opportunity to celebrate their work with people who truly appreciate it.

"You're going to be surprised by what you hear. Some people get joy when they're surprised by new sounds and music, and some people get annoyed when they hear new sounds and new music. I would recommend a cessation of expectations," Kaiser said. "Just come and expect to experience new sounds worlds. If that sounds interesting, then by all means ... the festival is open and accessible to all. Just come with proper expectations."

For information on this year's Missouri Experimental Sonic Arts Festival's schedule of events, performers and more, visit <https://moxsonic.org/>.

Hasina Shah can be reached at 660-747-8123.

LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1

"I don't have words to explain how good I feel being around people I actually like," Cleaver said, drawing a laugh from the crowd. "I appreciate what you're doing. It's a tough time for all thinking people, and that's what we are as democrats."

Born and raised in Waxahachie, Texas, Cleaver served on Kansas City's city council for twelve years before being elected as the city's first African American mayor in 1991. He was elected as Missouri's 5th congressional district representative in 2005 where he has served 11 consecutive terms.

Cleaver encouraged the audience to keep up their fight in pursuing the democracy the country was founded on. Cleaver reminded the audience that darkness is nothing but the absence of light.

"We are in a troublesome spot, but we have had dark days before," Cleaver said. "The way that you defeat darkness is with light. You are the lamplighters for America—democrats are the lamplighters for America. Darkness has never won a battle in the history of the planet. Darkness always loses. We are the light— we have always been."

Hasina Shah can be reached at 660-747-8123.



Community Service Award recipient, Raymond James, addresses the crowd at this year's Kirkpatrick Luncheon on Saturday, March 14. PHOTOS BY HASINA SHAH | STAR-JOURNAL



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver gives the keynote address at this year's Kirkpatrick Luncheon on Saturday, March 14.

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WEEKLY PRECIPITATION

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March 111.64 inches
March 120.00 inches
March 13Missing

March 14Missing
March 15Missing
March 16Missing

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CLOUDY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY
43	69	77	81	83	71	48
38	48	47	53	52	41	39

THIS WEEK IN WEATHER HISTORY

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Rural public transit advocates in push back on Missouri governor's proposed cuts

By Ryan Brandt
Columbia Missourian

Gov. Mike Kehoe has proposed decreasing state spending for Missouri's transportation industry.

According to a chart from Citizens for Modern Transit and the Missouri Public Transit Association, Missouri counties were provided \$6.7 million for transportation for this fiscal year.

The governor is proposing that the state cut spending to \$1.7 million.

For the past three fiscal years, the state has pumped in funds from general revenue to supplement federal transit funding. Kehoe's proposal returns funding to 2024 levels without additional state revenue. State budget officials project some very tight budget years ahead for Missouri.

Missouri already spends a substantially lower amount on transportation relative to surrounding states, according to research by the Citizens for Modern Transit organization.

Kimberly Cella, CEO of Citizens for Modern Transit and executive director of the Missouri Public Transit Association, wrote a letter to Kehoe expressing concern for the cuts.

"Public transit providers deliver nearly 40 million rides each year across rural and urban Missouri, while also stimulating \$4 billion in economic activity statewide," Cella wrote. "This proposed cut will carry very real and tangible repercussions."

The governor's office did not respond to a request for comment on the reasons for the proposed cuts.

Cella notes that these budgetary restraints will adversely

affect employees across Missouri. According to her organization's research, over half of the state transit drivers work commutes dedicated to getting Missouri residents to their designated place of employment.

OATS Transit reports that employment is its leading trip purpose, and the demand is growing.

According to Citizens for Modern Transit, the state's reported \$265 million surplus discovered through a bookkeeping error earlier this year should be directed toward improving transit services throughout Missouri.

Cella said that under Kehoe's proposition, 30 transit providers would need to share \$1.7 million in funding. Big cuts to the budget would have an impact on how many routes companies can provide to Missourians.

"We're looking at providers, some of them enroll in rural Missouri who will probably go under if not have to cut significant service," she said.

"This is going to have a significant impact on Missouri transit providers because the other thing is, it's not just the state funding that's impacted. That state funding serves as a local match for many of these providers for federal funding," she said.

Federal funding is available to Missouri providers, but it requires a match of 80% federal funds to 20% local funds.

"Many of our providers use the state investment as a match, so it's literally a double whammy," Cella said. "They're losing state investment, but they're also losing the necessary matching funds to draw down additional federal funds for their budgets."

CHURCH NEWS

Bethlehem Church to host Spring Mission Festival

The Spring Mission Festival will take place during the weekend services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on March 21-22.

The mission focus this year will be Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, and we're pleased to have Veranita McMurtrey, Director of Development

at their year-old Kansas City location. LFCSS supports children and families across Missouri through adoption, foster care, behavioral health counseling, pregnancy and parenting services statewide, serving communities including St. Louis, Kansas City and rural regions statewide.

Ring in St. Patrick's Day with Bells of Ireland

St. Patrick's Day is a time to celebrate Irish culture and all things green, including leprechauns and shamrocks. While shamrock is a well-known symbol of good luck, Bells of Ireland (*Moluccella laevis*) is another interesting plant associated with good fortune, said University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

Bells of Ireland is an annual plant in the Lamiaceae (mint) plant family that blooms from July to September. Each fragrant, tiny white flower is surrounded by a bell-shaped, green calyx, with many of these "bells" tightly arranged along the floral stem. Leaves are also interspersed between the calyces, with pairs of small thorns on the square-shaped stem.

The flowers are not showy, but the green calyces remain attractive for an extended period. "Bells of Ireland are interesting as cut flowers and can be mixed with other colorful blossoms in fresh or dried arrangements," Trinklein

said. For drying, cut the stems when the "bells" become rigid, and hang the stalks in a dry location with good air circulation.

As luck would have it, the time to start Bells of Ireland seeds indoors is on St. Patrick's Day, which is about two months before the last frost in Missouri. Place the seeds in a shallow container filled with a potting medium. Barely cover the seeds with potting medium, as they require light for germination.

Next, water the medium lightly, seal the container, and place it in a refrigerator for two weeks. Chilling the seed will enhance germination and shorten the time to seedling emergence, which will happen when the container is subsequently placed in a well-lit location at 65 to 68 F after refrigeration. You can transplant seedlings outdoors when nighttime temperatures are consistently above 40 F. Alternatively, place seeds on top of the soil outdoors in spring when the soil temperature is 50 to 60 F.

Bells of Ireland plants do best in part shade to early morning sun in a well-drained soil. Needing only moderate watering during dry periods, they make attractive border plants when spaced 10 to 12 inches apart. They are excellent choices for English cottage gardens, Trinklein said. Plants grow 2 to 3 feet tall and might require staking in windy locations. When Bells of Ireland flower stalks are left on the plant, they often self-seed.

The triangular seeds can be left to scatter on the soil, or you can collect them to save for planting next year.

Insect pests seldom cause problems on Bells of Ireland, and rabbits and deer do not favor them as a food source.

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day this year, Trinklein offers this slightly modified proverb: "Each flower on Bells of Ireland brings a wish your way: good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day."

Release courtesy of the University of Missouri Extension.

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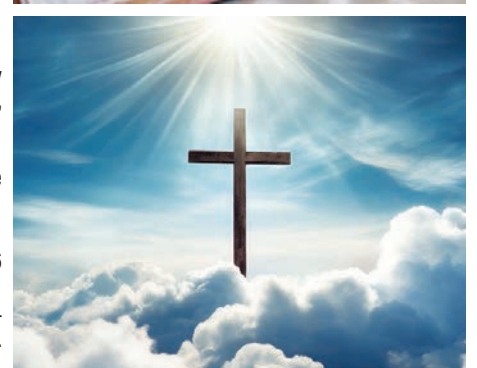
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First Missionary Baptist Church — 307 S Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-9275.
Grover Park Baptist Church — 409 N Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-7196.
Liberty Baptist Church — 85 NW 795th Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6085.
Mt Zion Baptist 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.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church — 300 S Ridgeview Dr Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6154.
Sacred Heart Parish — 300 S Ridgeview Dr Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6154.
CHRISTIAN
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1515 SE State Hwy DD, Warrensburg, Mo. Sunday Services, 9 & 10:30am, Youth Night Wednesday, 7pm.
First Christian Church — 101 E Gay St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6815.
Life Church of the Nazarene — 603 E. Hale Lake Rd, Warrensburg MO
Warrensburg Church of the Brethren — 802 E Hale Lake Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6216.
Warrensburg Church of Christ — 722 S. Maguire St 660-747-5519
Washington Street Church of Christ — 214 N. Washington St Warrensburg MO. 660-951-0550
EPISCOPAL
Christ Episcopal Church — 136 E Gay St Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-1133.
LUTHERAN
Bethlehem Lutheran Church — 607 N Maguire St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6742
Lutheran Campus Ministry — 215 S Holden St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-7603.
METHODIST
First United Methodist Church of Warrensburg — 141 E Gay St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-8158.
Free Methodist Church — 605 E Gay St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-5617.
Holbert Chapel Cme Church — 506 N Main St Warrensburg MO. (660) 422-4250
Warren Street United Methodist Church — 203 S Warren St Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-2598
Zion Hill — 85 SW 600th Rd Warrensburg MO.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Northside Christian Church — 500 N Ridgeview Dr Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-8632.
Bread Of Life Faith Fellowship — 251 Se State Route 13 Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-2510.
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) 747-8335.
Eagle Creek Church — Johnson Co. Fairgrounds, 386 NW 145th Rd, Centerview, MO. Service Times: 09:15am and 10:45am. 816-246-5005
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.
Knob Noster Restoration Branch of Church of Jesus Christ — 305 E. Bridge St, Knob Noster, MO.
Kingdom Believers Christian Church — 123 E. Gay Street Warrensburg MO. (404) 290-6598.
Oak Grove Community Church — 129 NE 1150 Higginsville MO 660-909-5390
Outreach Center — 137 E Culton St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-2304.
Restoration Campus Ministries — 134 W Pine St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-0780.
River Of Life Family Worship Center — 800 S Mitchell St Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-1541.
Spirit And Life Church — 120 W Pine St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-3131.
United Campus Ministry — 210 N College Ave Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-6221.
Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry — 305 S Holden St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-2597.
PENTECOSTAL
Jesus Saves Pentecostal Church — 400 W Culton St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-5369.
Victory Tabernacle — 505 W Gay St Warrensburg MO. (816) 304-2914.
PRESBYTERIAN
Cumberland Presbyterian Church — 201 Grover St Warrensburg MO. (660) 747-3021.
First Presbyterian Church — 210 College St Warrensburg, MO. (660) 747-5731.
Jacobus Chapel Presbyterian Church — 521 NW 500 Road Warrensburg MO.
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Crossroads-Warrensburg Seventh-day Adventist Church — 101 NW 501st Rd, Centerview, MO.
Pastoral Team: Jeffrey and Misty Fender, Church Service 11:00am, Sabbath School, 9:45am.
SPIRIT-FILLED
Mount Calvary Apostolic Church — 606 N Ridgeview Dr Warrensburg MO.
New Life United Pentecostal Church — 354 E Division Rd Warrensburg MO. (660) 429-2256.



Kingsville boys basketball finishes historic season fourth in Class 1



Kingsville seniors Christian Stevenson, Chase Stout and John Fleeman grab onto the Tigers' Class 1 Show-Me-Showdown Fourth Place Plaque on Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena. PHOTOS BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

By Joe Andrews

joe.andrews@warrensburgstarjournal.com

COLUMBIA — Kingsville boys basketball's season did not end the way it envisioned heading into the MSHSAA Class 1 Show-Me Showdown.

The Tigers finished fourth following a 64-37 loss to Faith Christian Academy in the third-place game on Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena. The 2025-26 Kingsville roster is the first-ever to earn a top-four finish in program history.

"It was a great experience to be here," Kingsville head coach Bill Adams said. "But, everyone wants to be not fourth place. It takes nothing away from the fact that I am really proud of these seniors and what they've done the last four years. The leadership they've given the younger players, the effort they've given, the time they've put in. I'm extremely proud of them. I'm happy for them that they got to be here to experience this. We were just talking, approximately 45 kids, ballpark, in the state in Class 1 are here out of over 1,000 kids. I'm very happy for all of our kids."

Kingsville senior John Fleeman accepted the fourth-place trophy from MSHSAA officials before meeting up with fellow seniors Christian Stevenson and Chase Stout.

The three helped the program to an 81-34 record over their careers, 48-13 in the last two seasons and 25-7 this year. In addition to being in the Show-Me Showdown, they finished their career as back-to-back district champions.

"At our last home game, the PA announcer [Dustin Stout] said this is the best four-year run in school history," Adams said. "They're a huge part of this. They've - I mean, we're looking



Kingsville boys basketball finished fourth in the Class 1 Show-Me Showdown on Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena. This marks the best finish in school history.

at over 3,000 points sitting here, we're looking at probably 1,800 rebounds, we're probably looking at 450 assists. That's a lot that's leaving the program. But also how hard they play, and how smart they are on the floor. I love how they've been able to develop a knowledge for the game. And a lot of that's on their own. When you're watching basketball and playing basketball, that's how you learn those things. It's not through reading in a book. It's experiencing the game."

Stout said he and Stevenson have played together since they were in elementary school. In their freshman year, Fleeman joined them.

Fleeman, who is 7 feet tall, ended his career with over 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds to his name.

"I'm glad to play alongside these two

guys in particular (Stout and Fleeman), and all of the teams that we have had," Stout said. "It's been an awesome journey. I've been with Christian since second grade, first grade. When John got here, and being able to learn the game so much more with his knowledge, it's been truly a blessing. Knowing he helped us and he was the main reason we got here. Without him, it wouldn't be possible."

Fleeman, who Adams said asked if he would start on the JV team when he first enrolled at Kingsville, credited his teammates for helping him be the best version of himself possible.

Fleeman signed his letter of intent to play NCAA Division I basketball at Chattanooga last fall.

See **KINGSVILLE**, Page 12



Central Missouri senior Reese Schaaf moves the ball against Washburn on Sunday, March 8, at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

Central Missouri women's basketball's year ends in Central Region semifinal

By Joe Andrews

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No. 4-seeded Central Missouri women's basketball's season reached an end with an 81-48 loss to No. 8 Minnesota Duluth in the NCAA Division II Central Region semifinals Saturday, March 14, at Bresnan Arena in Mankato, Minnesota.

The Jennies made 29.5% (18-of-61) of their shots and turned the ball over 22 times. Their turnovers were converted into 26 points for Duluth.

The loss was UCM's second in the last three games after previously winning 13 consecutive contests. The 2025-26 regular season MIAA champions end the season with a 26-7 record, nine additional wins than they finished with a year ago.

"That's what happens in sports sometimes," Central Missouri head coach Dave Slifer said. "We achieved a lot this year, and fell short of what we would have liked to do at the end here. But I'm proud of these kids. I'm proud of what we got done. Don't make any excuses whatsoever ... For them to come in last night and beat a tough Mankato team with that crowd was amazing. I thought it was going to be a great benefit for us, but it didn't turn out that way. I love our team. I love what we've done. Does this hurt? Absolutely, it does."

Senior Reese Schaaf paced the Jennies with 23 points. She was the lone UCM athlete to cross into double figures for the second consecutive game.

In the Jennies' 64-55 win over Washburn on Friday, March 13, she had a career-high 35 points.

Schaaf, the D2CCA Central Region Player of the Year, had 19 double-doubles on the season. She finished the year making 53.6% of her shots from the field, 44.1% from three and 84.6% from the free-throw line.

"Stat sheet, she's one of a kind," junior Rylee Vierthaler said. "She's also an incredible leader, friend, everything. She's there for everybody. She's there to help pick players up when she knows they're down. I couldn't ask for a better senior, a better leader. I'm thankful for the two years I got with her. I know she's going to go on and do great things."

Schaaf, who spent the first two years of her collegiate career at Drury, said being at Central Missouri helped grow her both on and off the court.

See **JENNIES**, Page 12



Central Missouri junior Jevon Hill attempts a 3-point shot versus Oklahoma Baptist in the NCAA Division II regional semifinal round Sunday, March 15, at Lee Arena in Topeka, Kansas. PHOTO BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

Central Missouri men's basketball drops regional semifinal to Oklahoma Baptist

By Joe Andrews

joe.andrews@warrensburgstarjournal.com

TOPEKA, Kan. — Central Missouri men's basketball found itself on its heels throughout the back portion of its NCAA Division II Central Region semifinal matchup with Oklahoma Baptist.

After leading throughout the entirety of the first half, the No. 3-seeded Mules fell behind with 16 minutes to go and never retook the lead, seeing their season end with a 75-63 loss to No. 2 Oklahoma Baptist on Sunday, March 15, at Washburn University's Lee Arena. The Mules conclude the season with a 24-10 record, the best the program has achieved since the 2014-15 season.

The Mules jumped out to an 11-2 run through two triples from junior Jevon Hill, a three from sophomore Kyran Tilley, 1-of-2 free throws from freshman Lazer-

ek Houston and 1-of-2 free throws from sophomore Jake Fritz. The opening burst was one of several to take place from both teams over the course of the first half. OBU was within 11-10 with 10:54 left in the first half before Houston hit 2-of-2 free throws, freshman Carter Kaifes sank a layup and Hill knocked in a 3-pointer. The stretch gave UCM a 21-10 lead, its largest in the contest. By halftime, Oklahoma Baptist cut the lead to 29-26. The Mules committed 16 turnovers in the game, nine arriving in the first half. Oklahoma Baptist scored 25 of its points off of UCM's turnovers.

See **MULES**, Page 12

No. 6 Central Missouri baseball drops series with No. 4 Pittsburg State

By Star-Journal Staff

No. 6-ranked Central Missouri baseball won its series finale against No. 4 Pittsburg State on Saturday, March 14, at Al Ortolani Field, in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The Mules (19-5, 10-3 MIAA) scored five runs in the top of the second inning and four runs in the top of the sixth, serving as the anchor point to the win.

They took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first via a RBI bunt from senior Chase Wilcox and a RBI groundout from redshirt freshman Collin Dobson. Pittsburg State tied it in the bottom of the first, before sophomore Cole Kreisel laid an RBI single, putting the Mules ahead for good.

Kreisel went 2-for-4 with one RBI, sophomore Grant Hollister went 2-for-2 with two RBIs, Wilcox went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, junior Ryker Edwards went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, redshirt sophomore Cole Funkhouser went 2-for-4 with four RBIs, and senior Kaiden Ashton

went 2-for-5.

Funkhouser had a three-RBI home run in the top of the sixth.

Junior Chris Massey earned the win, throwing 4 1/3 innings while allowing one run on two hits and nine strikeouts. Freshman Gavin Williams took the save, allowing one run on two hits, two walks and five strikeouts through three innings.

Pittsburg State 8, Central Missouri 5

Pittsburg State (22-2, 12-2 MIAA) scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh in their opening game Saturday, taking the go-ahead lead to finish out the contest.

The Mules initially led 2-0 through one inning, 4-0 through two innings and 5-0 through five innings.

Pittsburg State recorded three homers during its comeback.

Junior Gavin Killion took the loss for UCM, allowing three

runs on four hits, one walk and one strikeout.

UCM had six hits compared to Pittsburg State's nine.

Hollister led UCM, going 2-for-5 with one RBI. Wilcox and Edwards had two RBIs each.

Pittsburg State 13, Central Missouri 4

The Mules pieced all four of their runs during the top of the third inning in their opener on Friday, March 13, cutting an early deficit to 6-4.

Junior Greyson Chappel was credited with the loss, allowing five runs on two hits, two walks and one strikeout through one inning.

UCM was out hit 11-8.

Wilcox led UCM at the plate, going 3-for-4.

Kreisel had two RBIs, Hollister had one and Edwards had one.

The Mules host Northwest Missouri State in a mid-week game on Wednesday, March 18.

UCM men's wrestling has two All-Americans

By Star-Journal Staff

Central Missouri men's wrestling finished its season with a pair of All-Americans in the NCAA Division II National Championships on Saturday, March 14, at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Redshirt senior Damon Ashworth, an Excelsior Springs native, finished runner-up in the 184-pound bracket.

Ashworth lost the championship match to McKendree's Darion Johnson by a 17-2 decision. Ashworth gained points via an escape and caution, while Johnson's performance was anchored by four takedowns and one nearfall.

He had wins by a 4-2 decision of Colorado School of Mines' Wyatt

Reisz, Nebraska-Kearney's Kaden Hart by a 4-1 decision and Wisconsin Parkside's Sullivan Ramos by fall to advance to the championship match.

Junior James Wright finished eighth in the 141-pound weight class. He lost to Glenville State's Ethan Hardy by a 7-1 decision in the seventh-place match.

Anthony Erickson, Gage Bernall, Torin Forsyth and Drew Stanfield also competed in the tournament, but did not make it out of the opening day.

This was the most qualifiers UCM has had since 2009.

The Mules finished 17th as a team with 26 points.

MIAA member Nebraska-Kearney won the National Championship with 83 points.

Central Missouri indoor T&F podiums four at NCAA DII National Championships

By Star-Journal Staff

Central Missouri indoor track and field tallied four first team All-American finishes during the 2026 NCAA Division II National Championships, which concluded Saturday, March 14, at the the Virginia Beach Sports Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The showing was anchored by two runner-up showings from junior Grizell Scarlett. Scarlett finished second in the women's 60-meter dash with a time of 7.33 seconds, and second in the women's 200-meter dash with a time of 23.58 seconds.

Nolan Vancauwemberghe finished fifth in the men's 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.84 seconds.

Redshirt senior Landon Mason, a native of Green Ridge, capped the first team All-American showings, finishing eighth in the men's weight throw with a throw of 20.28 meters (66 feet, 6.50 inches).

Junior Zachary Proctor was just shy of a podium finish, placing ninth in men's high jump clearing 2.06 meters (6-9).

Junior Kristen Jones finished 13th in the women's pentathlon with 3,593 points.

Freshman Michenainda Aritus finished 15th in the women's long jump, leaping 5.70 meters (18-8.5).

Sophomore Gracious Ushie finished 18th in the men's 60-meter dash with a time of 6.86 seconds.

The Jennies finished 12th in the team standings with 16 points. The Mules tied for 32nd with five points.

The Pittsburg State men's and women's track and field programs captured the team national championships.

SPORTS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 College Women's Golf

Central Missouri at Midwest Intercollegiate, All Day

Softball Jamboree

Leeton at Versailles, TBD

Baseball Jamboree

Holden vs Butler, Windsor, 4 p.m.

Girls Soccer Jamboree

Warrensburg at Knob Noster, 5:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 College Women's Golf

Central Missouri at Midwest Intercollegiate, All Day

Softball Jamboree

Kingsville vs Wellington-Napoleon, All Day

College Baseball

Central Missouri vs Northwest Missouri State, 3 p.m.

Central Missouri softball splits doubleheader with Fort Hays State

Game 1: Central Missouri 7, Fort Hays State 1

The Tigers (10-10) opened the scoring with a run in the top of the first, but Central Missouri evened the game with an RBI infield single from Bailey Brumley that scored Kyrsten Moran.

The Jens (15-6) took the lead for good with a Lexi Blackmon solo shot in the bottom of the fourth, before Brumley delivered her second RBI of the ballgame in the fifth that plated Sheffield.

Three batters later, Marisa Johnson put the exclamation point in the frame with a grand slam as Brumley (3-2) picked up her third victory of the season in the circle, allowing one run on seven hits, while striking out a season-high six Tiger batters.

Moran, Brumley, and Blackmon each collected two hits in the ballgame, pacing the Jens offensively for good measure.

Game 2: Fort Hays State 3, Central Missouri 2

Taylor Thompson gave the Jens an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first with an RBI single.

The Tigers took the lead with a trio of runs in the sixth, before Johnson cut the lead in half with an RBI single in the bottom of the inning that scored Aly Hageman.

UCM's comeback efforts fell short as Riley Bebb (3-2) suffered the loss, allowing two runs on five hits, striking out three on 62 pitches in the ballgame.

Release courtesy of UCM Athletics.

No. 23 UCM women's bowling earns berth to ITC National Championship

No. 23-ranked University of Central Missouri Jennies Bowling earned a berth to the 2026 Intercollegiate Team Championships after placing fourth at the ITC Sectionals March 13-15 in Addison, Ill.

UCM started off the weekend going 4-4 on Saturday with wins over Huntington (684-564), Wartburg (799-688), Grandview (774-672), and McPherson (813-717), before posting an impressive 5-1 record on Sunday with victories over Wisconsin-Whitewater (718-661), Marian [Ind.] (747-664), Alma (744-731), Marian [Wis.] (840-706), and Capital (869-603).

For the two-day tournament, Central Missouri posted a record of 9-7.

Over 64 Baker games, the Jennies tallied a total pinfall of 12,255 and an average of 191.48.

In the singles portion of the ITC Sectionals conducted on Friday, UCM's Haylee Bates qualified for the Intercollegiate Singles Championship after placing seventh in a field of almost 250 competitors with a six-game total of 1,222.

The ITC Team and Singles National Championships are scheduled for April 13-18 in Green Bay, Wis.

The Jennies compete in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship March 19-22 in St. Louis.

Release courtesy of UCM Athletics.

Sedalia's Blake Grupe re-signs with Colts

By Jack Denebeim
jack.denebeim
@sedaliademocrat.com

Sedalia native Blake Grupe is returning to the NFL team he finished the 2025-26 season with.

The Indianapolis Colts announced Monday, March 9, that they re-signed Grupe to a one-year deal, bringing the kicker back to compete for a starting job this fall.

In five games with Indianapolis last season, Grupe went 11-for-11 on his field goal attempts and 10-for-10

on his extra point attempts.

Grupe also set a Colts franchise record when he made a 60-yard field goal against the eventual Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks on Dec. 14.

According to a report by the NFL Network's Mike Garafolo, who cited Grupe's agent, Mike Delle Donne, Grupe's contract is for one year and worth up to \$1.4 million.

Grupe will have to earn his spot on the Colts roster, as kicker Spencer Shrader is slated to return for the

2026-27 season.

Shrader was 13-for-14 on his field goal attempts and 14-for-14 on his extra point attempts with Indianapolis before tearing his ACL against the Las Vegas Raiders in Week 5.

The Colts activated Shrader off the injured reserve list on Feb. 15.

This upcoming season will be Grupe's fourth in the NFL.

Grupe, 27, entered the league as an undrafted free agent with the New Orleans Saints in 2023. He spent two full seasons with New Orleans before being waived 11 games into the 2025-26 season.

Grupe joined the Colts on Dec. 2 after beating out

Justin Tucker and Maddux Trujillo in a tryout. He replaced Michael Badgley, who initially replaced Shrader.

Despite Grupe's perfect performance with them, the Colts finished last season on a seven-game losing streak after starting the year 8-2.

In his career, Grupe is 86-for-105 (81.9%) on his field goal attempts and 96-for-98 (98.0%) on his extra point attempts. His 98.0% conversion rate on his extra point attempts is the best among active NFL players.

The NFL's new league year began at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Jack Denebeim can be reached at 660-530-0142.

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Sedalia summer baseball team rebranded as Sedalia Steamers

By Democrat Staff

The new era of summer baseball in Sedalia will pay homage to the city's deep railroad roots.

The Diamond Baseball League announced Friday, March 13, that the Sedalia franchise formerly known as the Sedalia Bombers has been rebranded as the Sedalia Steamers for the upcoming 2026 season.

"A large number of people participated in our name-the-team contest," general manager Kayla McAndrews said in a statement. "Train themes were easily the most prevalent suggestions by Sedalia residents. We are looking forward to people visiting www.sedaliasteamers.com to see all that we have planned for this summer."

The new branding features a color palette of navy, gold and gray. The primary logo showcases a steam engine emerging from a plume of smoke, positioned above an industrial-style "Steamers" wordmark.

The secondary logo is circular with the blastpipe of a steam engine in the center. Gold letters that spell out "Sedalia Steamers" fill the top and bottom edges.

The logos were created and finalized by Zachry Design in Abilene, Texas.

The Steamers' season begins May 28 and concludes August 1. The team will be managed by Craig "Boomer" McAndrews, who managed the Bombers from 2014-22.

Liberty Park Stadium will be the home of the Steamers this summer.

The Diamond Baseball League purchased the Bombers in November 2025. The Bombers had been part of the MINK League since 2009.

The DBL owns and operates all six teams in the league to ensure operational consistency and efficiency and the long-term financial security and growth of the league.

The league also includes the Jefferson City Reneagades, also formerly of the MINK League; the Grand Island, Nebraska, Fightin' Cranes; the Hastings, Nebraska, Sodbusters; and the Salina, Kansas, Sliders.

One additional team and location is still to be announced.

STANDINGS

MIAA BASEBALL			MIAA SOFTBALL		
School	Overall	MIAA	School	Overall	MIAA
Rogers State	20-3	8-1	Emporia State	16-7	3-1
Pittsburg State	22-2	12-2	Northeastern State	16-9	3-1
Northwest Mo	16-6	7-2	Mo Western	19-4	1-1
Central Missouri	19-5	10-3	Washburn	24-8	2-2
Emporia State	16-6	7-5	Central Mo	15-7	1-1
Mo Southern	12-10	7-5	Fort Hays State	12-10	2-2
Fort Hays State	9-14	6-7	Rogers State	17-9	1-3
Washburn	8-15	5-6	Pittsburg State	26-1	0-0
Central Okla	12-11	3-6	Mo Southern	25-3	0-0
Mo Western	9-14	4-8	Central Okla	20-5	0-0
Ark. Fort Smith	4-17	3-9	Northwest Mo	20-5	0-0
Northeastern State	7-17	2-10	Nebraska-Kearney	11-16	0-0
Newman	4-20	2-12	Newman	4-12	0-0

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DEADLINES

Liner Classifieds: 1 p.m. on Thursday for Friday Edition; 9 a.m. Monday for Tuesday Edition
Display Classifieds: 1 p.m. Wednesday for Friday Edition; 3 p.m. Friday for Tuesday Edition

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices
ALANON FAMILY GROUPS meets Thursday at 6:30pm at First United Methodist Church at 141 E. Gay St. RM 240. Please call Mike 816-255-6903 for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings held four days a week 300 West 2nd St Warrensburg, MO For more information call 816-612-1594 And leave a message.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS Monday, Wednesday AND Friday AT 7:00PM AT 300 W 2ND ST. PLEASE CALL 1-800-561-2250 FOR more information.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MEETS Tuesday at 6:30pm in room 141 of the First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg at 141 E. Gay St. For more information, call 660-232-2115.

PLEASE READ YOUR ad carefully for accuracy. The classified advertising staff makes every effort to print your ad correctly. However, if an error is made in your ad, it must be reported immediately. We will only be responsible for errors the first time your ad runs. Call Mon.-Fri., 8:00am-5:00pm 660-826-1000; fax to 660-826-2413.

THE 2ND CHANCE Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Monday and Thursday at 6:30pm in room 141 of the Methodist Church in Warrensburg at 141 Gay St. Call 660-909-7814 or 660-441-0141 for more information.

EMPLOYMENT

Miscellaneous
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN WANTED for apartment complexes in Warrensburg and Sedalia. This is Full-time position with benefits. Must be able to repair drywall, painting, plumbing, electrical and general building maintenance. Must have reliable transportation. Applications can be filled out online at <https://fairwaymanagement.com/careers/> or at the Vineyard Apartments after March 16th

REAL ESTATE RENTALS

Wanted
OLDER DISABLED GENTLEMAN Looking for a place to live. Can take care of myself and pay rent but need a wheel chair ramp. Are you looking for a roommate? Please call 816-345-1294

SERVICES

Child/Elderly Care-Services
AFFORDABLE DEPENDABLE professional Mini Adventures Preschool 6:00AM-6:00PM 360 S. Division Rd infants-12 years DFS accepted Serving this community for 30 years transporting to all schools before after school programs Lisa 660-747-1265 or 660-909-1722.

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LAWN MOWER RIDERS repaired, pickup and delivery. Also used push mowers, riders for sale. Warrensburg, MO 660-909-2916

Miscellaneous

LONGARM QUILTING SERVICES with BRCD Quilting. Contact Susan at 660-424-8424. Located between WAFB and Warrensburg.

NEED HOME IMPROVEMENTS? We're looking for jobs. Siding, decks, seamless gutters, room additions. All kinds of bathroom, walk-in showers, and walk-in tubs. All kinds of remodel. Fair prices. Call Walt 660-723-5597.

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Automobiles
2005 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER V6, excellent condition, 270K miles, very well maintained with all service records available. Cold AC & heat, clean interior, reliable and efficient. \$2,500. Call 660-422-4745

Legal Notice

IN THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, JOHNSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
Judge or Division: PROBATE
In the Estate of CLAUDIA CATHERINE CARGEN, Deceased.
Case Number: 26J0-PR00031
Notice to Creditors (Small Estate)
To All Persons Interested in the

Legal Notice

Estate of CLAUDIA CATHERINE CARGEN, Decedent. On 03-02-2026, a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of JOHNSON COUNTY, Missouri. All creditors of Decedent, who died on 24-JAN-2026, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of Decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration. Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of JOHNSON COUNTY, Missouri. Date of first publication is 03-10-2026.

/s/Marcy Anderson, Circuit Clerk
By Cynthia Correa, Deputy
2x-3/10, 17, 2026

City of Warrensburg ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAINEMENTS GRANT UPDATE TO THE MARCH 20TH, 2026 EMVIROMENTAL CONTAINEMENTS MEETING DATE CHANGE
The City of Warrensburg will hold a public meeting on April 23, at 10:00 am at the Warrensburg Municipal Court at 200 South Holden Street, Warrensburg, Missouri to discuss the Environmental Containments Grant Project. The purpose of this meeting is to address public comments and questions concerning the Proposed Project and the Environmental Information as it relates the proposed project. Information can be obtained by calling the City at (660) 262-4664 or by writing to the City at 102A South Holden Street, Warrensburg, MO 64093, ATTN: Joe Clifford
The City of Warrensburg will hold a public hearing on April 23, 2026, at 10:30 am at the Warrensburg Municipal Court at 200 South Holden Street, Warrensburg, Missouri to discuss the Environmental Containments Grant Project. The purpose of

Legal Notice

this hearing is to address public comments and questions concerning the Environmental Containments Grant Project, the proposed project. Information can be obtained by calling the City at (660) 262-4664 or by writing to the City at 102A South Holden Street Warrensburg, MO 64093, ATTN: Joe Clifford.
3x-3/10, 17, 24, 2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
A default has accrued on a certain note secured by a deed of trust executed by, Shawnacy Johnson; Lashandra Johnson dated 8/3/2022 and recorded on 8/8/2022 in Book 3902 Page 18, in the Recorder's office for Johnson County, Missouri. The successor trustee will on April 3, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, more particularly at 12:30 PM, at the Reese Education Center, 301 W. Market St, Warrensburg, Missouri sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only), the following real estate:
LOT 50 IN FIRST ADDITION TO NORTH FIELD, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT FILED IN PLAT BOOK 5, AT PAGE(S) 31, IN THE CITY OF WARRENSBURG, JOHNSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust. STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH FINCEN RULES AND REGULATIONS IS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS SALE. A FORECLOSURE DEED WILL NOT ISSUE WITHOUT SUCCESSFUL BIDDER PROVIDING ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH FINCEN. CSM Foreclosure Trustee Corp. Successor Trustee (800) 652-4080 CSM File 26-25-01438 NOTE: This office is a debt collector.
4x-3/10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF MISSOURI
Planet Home Lending, LLC Plaintiff, vs. Jared Edwards a/k/a Jared Edward, et al.

PUBLIC AUCTION

(TIGHTWAD MO)

Due to death of my wife Sheila, I will offer the below listed merchandise for Public Auction at 356 SE 1201 Road, Clinton MO. From Clinton MO, South Jct. Of 7 Highway and 13 Highway, go East on 7 Highway approx. 13 miles (county line) and turn left on 1201 Road, first driveway. From Warsaw, MO Jct. 7 Highway and 65 Highway, go approx. 14 miles (county line), turn right on 1201 Road, first driveway. Auction to commence promptly at:

10 AM SATURDAY MARCH 21st 2026

"THIS IS THE SECOND OF THREE FANTASTIC AUCTIONS"

GUNS, BOW
HENRY .45-70 GOV'T RIFLE; HENRY.17 HMR LEVER ACTION RIFLE; PUMA M92 454 CASUL RIFLE; SMITH & WESSON M&P .223/556 RIFLE; NEW FRONTIER AR RIFLE; RUGER AMERICAN .22 WIN MAG RIFLE; MOSSBERG 7MM MAG RIFLE; UTAS-USA HATFIELD 20 GAUGE 3" SHOTGUN; REMINGTON MODEL 870 WINGMASTER 16 GAUGE SHOTGUN; SPRINGFIELD MODEL 67 SERIES E .410 SHOTGUN; SMITH & WESSO .44 MAG REVOLVER; SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT 9X19 PISTOL; BARNETT GHOST 420 CROSSBOW W/15 BOLTS; LARGE ASSORTMENT OF AMMUNITION

MOUNTS, SAFE, ETC.
8 - SHOULDER AND EURO MOUNT DEER; HORNETS NEST; ASST. KNIVES (CASE, WESTERN, UNCLE HENRY ETC.); STACK ON 8 GUN SAFE; ANTIQUE ULU; WOODEN AMMO & ADVERT. BOXES; 4 - MOTOROLA RDU2020 COMMERCIAL WALKIE TALKIES; MISC. HUNTING & FISHING ITEMS AND DÉCOR; ASST. OTHER ITEMS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES
LARGE COLLECTION OF CHAIN ANIMALS; 50+ PIECES VINTAGE FIREKING; COLLECTION VINTAGE ASST. PATTERNS PYREX; DEPRESSION GLASS (PINK, GREEN ETC.); REDWING AND CALIFORNIA DINNERWARE; POTTERY PIECES (ROYAL COPLEY, MCCOY, USA ETC.); 50+ JUICE GLASS SETS (MANY WITH HOLDERS AND PITCHERS); IG. COLLECTION SALT AND PEPPER SETS; ASST. SPICE SETS (MANY WITH RACKS); 20 PIECES OF ROSEVILLE POTTERY; LARGE COLLECTION OF PORCELAIN WARE; LARGE ASSORTMENT VINTAGE AND PRIMITIVE KITCHENWARE; LONGABERGER BASKETS; PICNIC BASKETS (METAL & WICKER); ASSORTED PRIMITIVE NOVELTY PIECES; METAL SIGNS, ASST. OLD PICTURES; LARGE COLLECTION VINTAGE TOYS; ANTIQUE BICYCLES, ANTIQUE CARD VIEWER; MANY, MANY MORE ITEMS

WESTERN ITEMS, MISC.
COLLECTION WESTERN AND COWBOY STATUES; WESTERN TOOLED LEATHER PURSES; 2 - LARGE ANVILS; MANY MORE HAND AND POWER TOOLS; LARGE ASST. CRAFT ITEMS; BOXES BOOKS AND COOKBOOKS; ASST. LAWN DÉCOR; MANY, MANY MORE ITEMS TO NUMEROUS TO LIST

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: THIS IS AUCTION #2 OF 3 HIGH QUALITY AUCTIONS CONTAINING SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. WE WILL SELL 2 RINGS PART OF THE DAY. BRING TRUCKS AND TRAILERS AND PLAN TO SPEND THE DAY. AUCTION #3 IS MARCH 28th. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THESE AUCTIONS!!!

TERMS: CASH, CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS WITH CONVENIENCE FEE, CHECKS WITH PROPER ID. ALL MERCHANDISE SOLD "AS IS, WHERE IS". ALL MERCHANDISE MUST BE SETTLED FOR BEFORE REMOVING. STATEMENTS MADE DAY OF AUCTION TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN MATERIAL.

RON MARTIN (OWNER)
BOOKER AUCTION SERVICES

Ron Booker Auctioneer bookerauctions@facebook.com
660-492-3616 bookerauction91@gmail.com

Tractor - Truck - Trailers Meat Processing Equip. Live Auction

Due to the recent death of my husband, Jeff Kuecker, I will sell all the following items located at 9565 Bohlman Rd. Concordia, MO 64020. Directions from I-70 & 23 Hwy: Take Hwy 23 north approx. 2.5 miles to State Hwy AA then left or west approx. 1 1/2 miles to Bohlman Rd. then straight or north on Bohlman Rd. to auction on

Sat., March 21, 2026 • 9:00am
12:00 NOON SELLING GUNS & TITLED ITEMS
9565 Bohlman Rd. Concordia, MO
Owners: The Late "Jeff" & Lisa Arnette Kuecker
Auctio neers Note: Everything is extremely clean and well taken care of. Lots of items not listed. Guns, truck, trailers & tractors sell at 12:00 noon.

<p>Tractor & Implements</p> <p>Farmall super C tractor w/belly mount sickle mower - all tires good David Bradly single section disc 3PT 48" box blade 3PT rear blade 5' 3PT carry-all Rotary hoe 48" PT Single section drag harrow 6' culti packer PT 3PT 4-tooth ripper</p> <p>Truck & Trailers</p> <p>2010 Ford F-150 4x4 4-door pickup (some rust) 306,087 miles 2004 16' & 2' Dove car trailer bumper hitch Smoker trailer single axle (farm use) 1994 10' flatbed tilt trailer single axle bumper hitch</p> <p>Fishing & Misc.</p> <p>Numerous fishing poles & tackle Rod stand (wood)</p> <p>Lawn & Garden</p> <p>John Deere F-525 front deck lawn mower 3 wheel 48" deck ATV/lawnmower alum. ramps Poly wheelbarrow 54"x16" yard roller PT Several live traps Several leg traps Yard 2 wheel trailer Hand tools - shovels - axes - rakes - pitch forks, etc. Poly 12 volt sprayer 55 gallon PT sprayer 10' boom w/wand 4+ chainsaws - leafblowers - weed eaters T-post hand puller</p> <p>Tools & Misc.</p> <p>Hobart Handler 135 mig welder on cart 120 volt (no bottle) Lincoln AC 225 stick welder Dewalt 14" chopsaw Napa 5HP 40 gallon air compressor vertical 10" radial arm saw Pipe bender (manual) Lots of socket sets - Snap-On, Craftsman & others Lots of wrenches - Snap-On, Craftsman & others 18-20 volt Dewalt cordless tools - several Allied 3/4 drive socket set Lots of air tools - impacts,</p>	<p>etc. - Snap-On & others 6 ton jack stands 6" bench grinder Craftsman tool chest & boxes Snap-On tool boxes - chest type Leg vise on stand Pry bars - several Coleman 5000 gas power 10HP generator Floor mount drill press & machine vise Organizer bins - full of nuts, bolts & misc. Pro Lift floor jack Simpson power washer - gas powered Shop fan Propane heater 2 wheel dolly Hand sprayers 1-5 gallon Backpack sprayer Log chains - various Milwaukee cordless tools & others Shop rugs & mats Pipe wrenches 6" bench vise CAT - battery jump box Lots of ratchet straps</p> <p>Guns</p> <p>Winchester model 94 30-30 cal. lever action gold spike Winchester 410 ga. single shot model 37 Winchester model 1400 12 ga. semi auto Winchester model 61 22LR cal. pump Henry 22LR cal. lever action Ruger model 10-22 22LR auto w/scope & sling Olympic Arms AR style 1223 cal. w/case 5 clips Remington Springfield model 700 30-06 cal. bolt action w/scope Ruger Viper 22 cal. take down pistol in case bi-pod & clips Western Auto model 107 bolt action 22 mag cal. & clip Hi-Point model 4595 45 ACP cal. BSA scope forward grip Remington Sportsman model 74 30-06 w/ Simmons scope & sling Marlin model 60 22LR semi auto Crescent firearms 12 ga. single shot Westernfield 880A 22 cal. semi auto</p>	<p>Pistols</p> <p>S&W 357 mag revolver stainless S&W 44 mag stainless Taurus PT III G2 9mm Rohm GMRH model 86 7 shot 22 cal. Benjamin Franklin .177 air pellet pistol</p> <p>Crossbow</p> <p>In Vader 400 crossbow w/scope & case</p> <p>Meat Processing Equipment & Misc.</p> <p>Sanitary 14" meat & bandsaw stainless table 3 phase - very clean Hobart 12" manual meat slicer Waltons sausage linker - stainless Weston 2300 pro-vac sealer very clean - like new Vac bags & supplies Max vac pro vac Weston 300# digital scales Wrapper supplies - paper & plastic 100+ hand crank meat grinders - several Keen Kutter Elect. knife sharpeners Misc. meat processing tools - knives, tenderizers, etc. 1 1/2 gallon stuffing press w/horn Roaster pans Stainless pans & misc. several w/lids Alum. roller conveyor manual Coleman xtreme cooler Fisher cookers - propane Lots of items not listed!</p> <p>Antiques & Collectibles</p> <p>Coop sign Coop metal thermometer Beer steins JD coffee mugs Earnhart diecast car #3 Toys Tractor trailer toys - Budweiser, MOR Soy Seed - several Case Tractor John Deere combine (newer) John Deere tractors - approx 20+ various sizes International tractor Ford tractor Baseballs - George Brett Snow globes - John Deere</p>
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Warrensburg, MO Auctioneers: Chad Davis & James Bell
660-747-6988 email: chad@bellanddavis.com
www.davisbellauctions.com

Legal Notice

Defendants.
Cause No. 25JO-CC00258
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The State of Missouri to Defendants, Unknown Spouse of Bailey Gibson and Marietha Uithoven
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for Johnson County, State of Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to foreclose the property secured by a deed of trust dated October 13, 2023 and to Quiet Title as to the property secured by said deed of trust, and which action affects the following described property to wit: LOT 252 IN ORIGINAL TOWN LEETON, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 5, IN LEETON, JOHNSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.
SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, AND COVENANTS OF RECORD, IF ANY.
The names of all parties to said action are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff is Saad Malik and/or Cynthia M. Kern Melone, Millsap & Singer, LLC, 612 Spirit Dr., St. Louis, MO 63005, (636) 537-0110.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within forty-five (45) days after the 24th day of February, 2026 judgment by default will be rendered against you.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 20th day of February, 2026.
Marcy Anderson,
Circuit Clerk
By: /s/ beb,
Deputy Clerk
4x-2/24, 3/3, 10, 17, 2026

Legal Notice

close your proposal in a sealed envelope with "Knob Noster Mural" written on the envelope and deliver it to Knob Noster City Hall no later than 12:00pm April 3, 2026. There will be a public opening of proposals at 4:15pm on April 3, 2026, in the Knob Noster Council Chambers.
Knob Noster, Missouri reserves the right to: (1) waive any defect in the offer of any Respondent; and (2) to reject any or all offers.
Bid packages may be picked up at City Hall, 201 N. State Street, Knob Noster, Missouri or found online at www.cityofkn.net. Contact the City Administrator, Cameron Jackson, for additional information, at cjackson@cityofkn.net via email or call (660) 563-2595.
Bid Deadline is Friday, April 3, 2026 at 12:00pm.
3x-3/10, 17, 24, 2026

Request for Proposals
The Board of Aldermen for the City of Knob Noster, MO, is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide solid state water meters and an add-alternate fully automated Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system to support accurate billing, operational efficiency, system reliability, and improved service to residents and customers of Knob Noster. Enclose your proposal in a sealed envelope with "Water Meters and AMI System" written on the envelope and deliver it to Knob Noster City Hall no later than 12:00pm April 3, 2026. There will be a public opening of proposals at 4:00pm on April 3, 2026, in the Knob Noster Council Chambers.
Knob Noster, Missouri reserves the right to: (1) waive any defect in the offer of any Respondent; and (2) to reject any or all offers.
Bid packages may be picked up at City Hall, 201 N. State Street, Knob Noster, Missouri or found online at www.cityofkn.net. Contact the City Administrator, Cameron Jackson, for additional information, at cjackson@cityofkn.net via email or call (660) 563-2595.
Bid Deadline is Friday, April 3, 2026, at 12:00pm.
3x-3/10, 17, 24, 2026

KINGSVILLE

Continued from Page 7



Kingsville senior John Fleeman posts a basket against Faith Christian in the MSHSAA Class 1 Show-Me-Showdown third-place game Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena.
PHOTOS BY JOE ANDREWS | STAR-JOURNAL

"I know I can't do it all by myself, even though sometimes I wish I would be able to," Fleeman said. "They mean a lot. As a freshman, I mean, you start off and don't really know where you're headed. You just know where you want to be. For a while, it was just me before and after practice. I think I've led by example in some ways. And also, we all grew. I wasn't alone anymore. The workouts weren't just formed by myself. That was me and Chase, me and Christian or all of us. Sometimes by ourselves, too. I think that is one of the reasons we got here. The extra time, the extra work that others weren't willing to put in to get here."

Kingsville fell behind 17-6 in the opening quarter and trailed 28-16 at halftime and 44-31 at the end of the third quarter. It hit 39% (16-of-41) of its shots.
"They're good," Adams said of Faith Christian. "They're balanced. They're longer than us and stronger than us in every position but one. We're good players, they're good players. They did more good things today than we did. Anything we did defensively really didn't work. They were able to get 50/50 balls."

The Tigers' senior class accounted for 35 of 37 points, nine of nine assists, 14 of 23 rebounds and five of six steals.
Fleeman had 18 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and one block. Stevenson had nine points, five assists, one block and five steals. Stout had six points, one rebound and two assists.

Junior Gavin Mullins had two points and two rebounds, sophomore Jack Ewing had three rebounds and one steal and sophomore Tanner Ratajczyk had two points and two rebounds.

"It means a lot," Stevenson said of reaching the final four. "[The outcome] is not the way you want to go out, but if you're gonna go out your senior year you want to make it to state. It's definitely good and bad."

Faith Christian Academy, also making its first final four appearance after becoming MSHSAA official in 2024-25, was paced by senior Josiah Dull's 14 points.

The Knights sank 39% (16-of-41) of their shots, including 47.1% (8-of-17) from deep. They outrebounded Kingsville 31-23.

Faith Christian recorded 10 steals and forced Kingsville into 18 turnovers.

"Our game plan today was to push the ball, make the defense work hard, take inside outs - paint touch three is what we call it - and tag the big guys on their team so we could get some boards," Faith Christian head coach Dennis McClain said. "It's pretty tough to stop their big guy, but we just tried to contain him and do a good job of being up on the other four guys."

Kingsville thanked the community for its support over the course of its



Kingsville senior Christian Stevenson posts a shot versus Faith Christian Academy in the Class 1 Show-Me-Showdown third-place game Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena.



Kingsville senior Chase Stout attempts a shot versus Faith Christian Academy in the MSHSAA Class 1 Show-Me Showdown third-place game Saturday, March 14, at Mizzou Arena.

playoff run.

The fourth-place finish joins a third-place showing from the boys cross country team in the 2025 MSHSAA Class 1 Cross Country Championships as the lone top-four finishes in school history.

"Everyone was rooting for us," Stout said. "Everyone knew we had a chance, everyone believed. The town was full of belief and gave us motivation. We knew every single person in that locker room said, 'We can do this, we can get to Columbia.' That's what we did. We were able to get here, which is an extremely amazing accomplishment for the city of Kingsville."

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

JENNIES

Continued from Page 7

She appeared in a regional twice at Drury and once at UCM.

"Being here has been pretty fun," Schaaf said. "I have dealt with some struggles and overcome some struggles. I felt like being here for two years, I've really grown not only as a person but as a player."

The Jennies never had the lead, but were within 8-5 early. Duluth then went on a 19-2 run, leading 27-7 at the end of the first quarter.

It trailed 47-22 at halftime and 69-34 at the end of the third quarter. Duluth hit 54.5% (36-of-66) of their shots. They scored 50 points in the paint compared to UCM's 26.

Duluth had four players finish in double-figures, led by senior Lexi Karge's 16. It had 18 assists, six coming from sophomore Claire Bjorge.

"I was surprised that the game went the way that it did today," Duluth head coach Mandy Pearson said. "That is a good basketball team. I spent way too much time watching film trying to prepare for them because they have a lot of talented players. We were sad to see their season end, but I'm really proud of our teamwork. It just continues to grow and improve."

UCM played the back half of its season with just eight players available.

Seven of the eight scored in the semifinal. Along with Reese Schaaf's 23, sophomore Taylor Weishaar had seven, freshman Makenzie Farmer had six, Vierthaler had five, freshman Neely Schaaf had three, freshman Hayden Heim had two and freshman Jayla Griffith had two.

"Rylee, she's a junior, this is the first tournament she's gotten to go to as a regional tournament," Slifer said. "That's a couple of years where we didn't do well enough to do that. We want to do better. I think we're on the right track."

The regional marked UCM's first since 2023, and was the program's 12th under Slifer's leadership.

With a young team, Slifer stated he is hoping to use this as a building block for the future.

"I'm very, very happy with the direction the program is going," Slifer said. "I would like to find a way to get back here next year."

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

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY AUCTION
Johnson County Fairgrounds
386 NW 145 Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Check in
Thursday April 9th and Friday April 10th
9:00 am until 5:00 pm
Saturday, April 11th, 2026
9:00 am Auction begins
Farm Equipment of all kinds-Trucks-Cars- Trailers-Tools & Shop Equipment- Lawn Mowers and more
Absolutely no Junk or Tires!!
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660-747-6988
Chad Davis cell 660-909-2759
James Bell cell 660-909-3164
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Star Journal

MULES

Continued from Page 7

"They did a great job of the possession game in terms of getting a lot on the O glass and then turning you over," Bohac said. "That was the discussion coming in - we gotta hang in there on the backboards. The first half we did, we did a tremendous job with that. We had way too many turnovers in the first half. Then we just took some rushed, tough twos. The big boy (7-foot-2, 370-pounder Erik Madrid) is different. He makes it feel a little bit different."

UCM used one layup each from freshman Trinell Parker and Hill to make it a seven-point advantage early in the second half.

OBU proceeded to go on an 8-0 run, using baskets from junior Terry Coner Jr., senior Joshua Udoumoh and freshman Christian Hodge to take a 34-33 lead.

UCM never led again and trailed by as many as 16 by the contest's end.

"I'm very disappointed about how tonight went," Tilley said. "But that stuff happens. We just got to keep our heads up and know we did do something this year."

UCM hit 36.2% (21-of-58) of its

shots, 38.2% (13-of-34) from deep. Oklahoma Baptist hit 46.8% (29-of-62), and was just 2-of-19 from deep.

Hill paced UCM with 25 points, hitting 7-of-10 threes while going 2-of-3 inside the arc.

"My teammates, getting me open with the screen, we knew that, especially their five would be able to screen a lot off the ball," Hill said. "Just having this experience for me, just getting me open shots, it's all a credit to them. I wouldn't have scored that much if it weren't for them."

Tilley had 13 points, Houston had 12, Parker had seven, Kaifes had five and Fritz had one.

"Outside of Jevon, we didn't really get anybody else into rhythm in the first half," Bohac said. "Then when it starts going sideways and nobody has a rhythm, I just didn't have enough answers for us to help us keep up tonight."

The Mules were the last MIAA team left standing in the DII tournament.

While the Mules beat No. 6-seeded and conference member Rogers State 88-77 in the opening round, MIAA regular and postseason champion

and top-seeded Washburn lost to No. 8 Minnesota Duluth 64-62 and No. 5-seeded and MIAA member Missouri Western lost to No. 4 St. Cloud State 83-65.

The Mules' playoff run came behind a roster that featured just four returners in Tilley, Fritz, junior Noah Martin and sophomore Kyree Polk.

The remainder came via transfers in Hill, redshirt sophomore AJ Lux, redshirt junior Naz Brown, junior Deshawne Crim, sophomore Deadric Fikes, and junior Judah Saault, along with true freshmen in Houston, Parker and Kaifes.

"We have awesome people in that locker room," Bohac said. "That's what gives you hope, and that's what gets you through when you play like this. That's why it stinks so much. We didn't deserve it tonight by how we played, but we deserved to be here because of the kind of people we have. That's when it hurts. We could deserve it tonight if I had coached them a little bit better and we played a little bit better."

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