

Trenton Offers Several Ways To Celebrate 4th Of July

Trenton residents will have several opportunities to celebrate Independence Day as the city, local businesses and community organizations prepare a full day of Fourth of July activities, concluding with the annual community fireworks display.

This year's celebration will feature much more than fireworks. Events will begin during the morning in Eastside Park and continue throughout the afternoon and evening. Activities will include food, swimming, children's crafts, patriotic displays, live music and opportunities to support local organizations.

CELEBRATE
CONTINUED TO PG 2



METRO CREATIVE

Trenton residents will have several opportunities to celebrate Independence Day as the city, local businesses and community organizations prepare a full day of Fourth of July activities, concluding with the annual community fireworks display.



Farmers State Bank Customers To See Changes Under Proposed Acquisition

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Farmers State Bank customers in Trenton and across northern Missouri could see expanded banking services and technology under a proposed acquisition of the bank's parent company.

FSC Bancshares Inc., the holding company for Farmers State Bank, has entered into an agreement to be acquired by Hawthorn Bancshares Inc., the holding company for Hawthorn Bank. The cash-and-stock transaction is valued at approximately \$28.3 million.

For Farmers State Bank customers, including those in the Trenton area, bank leaders said the agreement is intended to preserve the community banking approach customers are used to while adding access to broader financial services and technology.

"We are excited to join Hawthorn and believe this partnership represents a compelling opportunity for our customers, employees, and communities," Michael Poland, president of FSC, said. "Hawthorn shares our commitment to community banking and relationship-driven service, and this combination will allow us to offer broader capabilities, enhanced technology, and additional financial solutions while preserving the local

ACQUISITION

CONTINUED TO PG 10

Atkinson Exhibit Tells Story Of Advocacy After Blindness



SUBMITTED

J. Robert Atkinson, a Galt native who became an advocate and innovator for people who were blind, is featured in the Grundy County Museum's "Notables of Grundy County" exhibit.

New Notables Displays At Grundy County Museum Features Galt Native Who Expanded Braille Printing

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Grundy County Museum has opened a new group of summer exhibits as part of its annual "Notables of Grundy County" display.

The exhibit features five former Grundy County residents whose lives, work and service

left a lasting impact locally and beyond. Each display uses photographs, historical information and other materials to help tell the story of the person being recognized. The Notables of Grundy County exhibits are expected to remain on display through October.

NOTABLES

CONTINUED TO PG 2



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Notables

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Admission to the Grundy County Museum is free.

One of this year's featured displays honors J. Robert Atkinson, a Galt native who became an advocate and innovator for people who were blind.

Beginnings & career

Atkinson was born Nov. 29, 1887, in Galt. As a teenager, he left school and traveled to Montana, where he worked as a cowboy. At age 16, a firearm accident wounded him in the face and eyes. Doctors later removed his eyes to prevent infection and save his life.

Atkinson struggled deeply after learning he was blind. His mother and brothers moved to Los Angeles to help him, and he later found renewed purpose after attending a Christian Science Church.

Atkinson began learning reading systems for blind people, including Braille, and later taught others to read. When he resumed his own education, he discovered there were few materials available in Braille. With family members dictating to him, he used a Braille typewriter to transcribe educational and other materials.

In 1919, Atkinson met Mary Beecher Longyear, a philanthropist involved in efforts to help the blind. Her support helped establish a Braille



SUBMITTED

J. Robert Atkinson founded the Universal Braille Press in Los Angeles, which later became known as the Braille Institute of America.

printing press and allowed Atkinson to produce the first Braille edition of the King James Bible.

That same year, Atkinson founded the Universal Braille Press in Los Angeles, which later became known as the Braille Institute of America.

Beyond printing

His work expanded beyond printing. In addition to inventing a method of two-sided Braille printing, Atkinson recorded books for the blind, gave speeches, lobbied lawmakers



SUBMITTED

J. Robert Atkinson continued to ride horses after losing his sight, maintaining a lifelong connection to the cowboy life he had known as a young man.

and helped blind people find employment. He spent more than 40 years working to improve opportunities for people who were blind or visually impaired.

The museum display also notes that Atkinson never lost his love of horses and continued to ride cowboy-style after losing his sight.

TRENTON TELEGRAPH

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Celebrate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will begin selling ice cream at 10 a.m. from the west shelter house in Eastside Park.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution will join the VFW at the shelter house and distribute American flags and patriotic pinwheels to visitors. Trenton library staff will also be stationed at the west shelter house, where children and families can create patriotic buttons to wear during the celebration.

Main Street Trenton's Farmers Market will be set up on the west lawn of Eastside Park, giving residents an opportunity to shop local vendors while taking part in the morning's holiday activities.

The Elks Lodge will host a community barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the east shelter house. Meal proceeds benefit the Grundy County Senior Center.

Families looking for a way to

cool off during the afternoon can visit the Trenton Family Aquatic Center. The Trenton Park Department and the city will offer admission for \$1 per person during the afternoon.

Additional food options will arrive later in the day as the Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce has organized food trucks and food vendors for the celebration beginning at 4 p.m.

BTC Bank will provide canopies and tables for use during the festivities.

As the evening approaches, David Burkebile will play patriotic music from the Trenton High School parking lot. The music will help set the stage for the evening celebration as residents gather for the fireworks.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will also continue a local patriotic tradition by placing American flags around the Grundy County Courthouse. Members will put up and remove the flags, weather permitting.

The day will conclude with the community fireworks display.

Ahead of the celebrations, city officials also remind residents to follow Trenton's fireworks ordinance during the holiday period. According to city ordinance fireworks may be discharged within the city from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 2 and July 3, and from 8 a.m. to midnight July 4.

Bottle rockets and sky lanterns are prohibited within the city limits. Fireworks also may not be discharged within 600 feet of any church, hospital or school building; within 50 feet of any gasoline pump, filling station, bulk station or building where gasoline or volatile liquids are sold in quantities greater than one gallon; or within 75 feet of any fireworks retail sale location.

The ordinance also prohibits igniting or discharging fireworks from a motor vehicle, throwing fireworks into or at a vehicle, or throwing fireworks at or near any person or group of people.

Retail fireworks sales require a city business license and a permit. Permitted fireworks sales may take place through July 6.



SUBMITTED

Angela Heins, TRIO Student Support Services assistant director at North Central Missouri College, has been named NCMC's June Outstanding Employee.

Angela Heins Named College's Outstanding Employee For June

North Central Missouri College has recognized Angela Heins, TRIO Student Support Services assistant director, as its June Outstanding Employee.

Heins, of Trenton, has worked at NCMC for seven years. Originally from Carrollton, she holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently pursuing a master's degree in education.

When asked to describe her role, Heins said, "Fun. Rewarding. Unpredictable."

Heins said her favorite part of NCMC is the campus community.

"I love that all the NCMC staff are willing to go the extra mile to help students succeed," Heins said.

During her time at NCMC, Heins has helped expand student engagement

through TRIO SSS programming and workshops designed to meet students where they are. Those efforts include Career and Coffee chats, First Gen Club and the reintroduction of etiquette dinners as Hungry for Success Dinners. The programs are designed to allow students to build on the knowledge they already have without needing advance preparation.

Looking ahead, Heins said she would like to continue expanding First Gen Club and hopes to see TRIO secure another grant for the Savannah campus.

Each month, NCMC faculty and staff nominate employees who demonstrate hard work, dedication and a commitment to making NCMC an exceptional place to work.

Obituaries

DONALD D. HOBBS

Aug 13, 1934 - Jun 29, 2026

Donald Duane Hobbs of Prairie Village, KS passed away peacefully at Kansas City Hospice House early Monday June 29, 2026 after a brief illness. Don was born in Brimson, MO to Harley Jackson Hobbs and Eva Mendenhall Hobbs on August 13, 1934.

He is survived by his wife Donna Harrell Hobbs, Prairie Village, KS; nephew Danny Gannan (Virginia), Oologah, OK; nephew Larry Gannan (J.C.), Tulsa, OK; niece Connie Douglass (Tom), Edmond, OK; and niece Joyce Summerhill, Sand Springs, OK. He is also survived by two cousins: Harold Dean Hobbs of Pleasant Valley, MO and Robert Mendenhall (Donna) of Cameron, MO. In addition, Don is survived by his brother-in-law Michael Harrell (Renarda), Greensburg, KS and nephews Dustin Harrell and Brent Harrell (Angela) all of Goddard, KS. Other survivors include numerous great nieces and nephews, as well as many dear friends and neighbors.

Don graduated from Trenton High School and Trenton Junior College. He served in the United States Army in Germany during the Korean War and returned to graduate from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO.

The majority of Don's career was spent teaching industrial arts at Shawnee Mission South High School; drafting and woodworking were his favorite subjects. He enjoyed passing on creative thinking and skills to his students. He put those skills to work when he designed and built his vacation house at Tablerock Lake. When he retired, he divided his time between volunteering at the Village Presbyterian Food Pantry and working as a general handyman and craftsman. He also used his time to hone his cooking skills to the delight of family and friends.

A man of diverse interests, Don enjoyed dancing, building, gardening and traveling. He had visited nearly every country in Europe and loved a classic road trip. He was a fan of mystery novels and classical guitar music. He kept up on politics religiously, making sure he read several sources to get as many angles as he could, but always leaned to the left. More than anything, Don loved a party and had a talent for throwing a good one! Patio joke fests, garden deck hang outs, New Year's Eve celebrations, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, any lunar or solar event, right down to his 90th birthday blowout—he was in his element. He loved to share stories and hear others do the same.

There will be a graveside service at a later date to scatter Don's ashes at a small country cemetery where four generations of his family rest. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Don's honor to HARVESTERS, 3801 Topping Ave, Kansas City, MO 64129 (www.harvesters.org) or a charity of your choice.





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Lloyd DeSpain Named Wright Memorial Hospital Employee Of The Quarter

Lloyd DeSpain, a security officer at Wright Memorial Hospital, has been named the hospital's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2026.

DeSpain was honored during a ceremony at the hospital, where Wright Memorial Hospital Administrator Catherine Hamilton presented him with the award.

The Employee of the Quarter Award recognizes an employee who provides exemplary service, goes above and beyond to support colleagues, or assists and comforts patients and their families.

"Lloyd goes above and beyond in supporting

patients and coworkers," DeSpain's coworkers said in his nomination. "He completes tasks efficiently, accurately and in a timely manner. Lloyd treats patients, visitors and coworkers with kindness and respect while promoting safety, teamwork and collaboration. He maintains a positive attitude and contributes to a supportive and professional work environment."

In recognition of the award, DeSpain received an Employee of the Quarter certificate, the parking space of his choice for three months, his photo posted in the hospital and recognition in employee communications.



Lloyd DeSpain is Wright Memorial Hospital's employee of the quarter.

SUBMITTED

Rotary Program Highlights Rural School Funding Concerns

Financial issues facing rural Missouri schools was the topic of a program presented Thursday, June 25, at the meeting of the Trenton Rotary Club.

Daniel Gott presided at the meeting and serves as superintendent of Trenton R-IX School District. He said Trenton is one of 389 school districts in Missouri classified as rural. Those districts make up 75% of all school districts in the state and educate more than 200,000 preschool through 12th-grade students.

Gott said recent studies indicate rural school graduation rates are among the highest in the nation and that Missouri ranks 12th nationally for educational outcomes. However, he said state funding for these schools remains among the worst in the United States.

The National Rural Education Association's "Why Rural Matters" study identified Missouri as the second-highest priority state in the nation for policymakers to address public school education needs behind only Oklahoma.



SUBMITTED

Daniel Gott is superintendent of Trenton School District. Gott said recent studies indicate rural school graduation rates are among the highest in the nation but state funding for these schools remains among the worst in the United States.

Gott said Trenton was underfunded by nearly \$300,000 in state appropriations this past year. He said the district received just under \$6,900 per pupil instead of the more than \$7,100 per pupil the district had been told it would receive through the foundation formula.

As a result, Gott said Trenton district leaders, along with other districts' leaders facing similar situations across the state, have been looking for ways to reduce spending and keep district fund balances in good standing.

Gott recommend to the school board a deficit budget of \$18,000 for the 2026-27 fiscal year, with hopes the deficit will not occur by the time the school year ends June 30, 2027.

He said the Missouri legislature, which appropriates state funding for schools, has already cut funds in various education programs for the next school year. With a less-than-positive outlook regarding funding for the coming year, Gott said he would not be surprised to see the governor make withholdings that could reduce state education appropriations even further.

Gott said Trenton is fortunate to have a healthy fund balance at this time, but the district may have to use some of that money if unforeseen expenditures occur.

TRENTON TALES

Stepping Back Into History With Beverly Wimer

By Julie Hill Lehr
Contributor

A passion for history and service motivate Beverly “Bev” Wimer, a Trenton native who spread her wings and left her small-town roots for a time, but is now back home helping older citizens and contributing to the preservation of local history.

Wimer moved back to Trenton in January 2024 to be closer to her mother and to see if she might enjoy living in a smaller community again. Not only is she thriving, but she also is making a place for herself.

Early life

Wimer was born in Trenton in September 1960. The history of Trenton holds a special place in her heart.

“As a kid, I was free to explore the local wooded areas,” Wimer said. “I grew up in a neighborhood that was full of kids, and we spent many hours in the timber, searching for old bottles, arrowheads and more. In some ways, we were exploring history at a very young age.”

Wimer said a local history and culture class in high school introduced her to how to navigate microfilm machines at the library and research old newspapers.

“Old newspapers are incredibly fascinating to me,” Wimer said.

Wimer also loved sports and played softball, basketball and tennis, and ran track. She was a good student, enjoyed learning and felt fortunate to have a strong group of friends. She also feels lucky to have had valuable athletic experiences.

“I truly appreciated my coaches Ron McCollough, Dennis Adamson, Carl Carpenter and Jack Derry,” Wimer said.

After graduating high school in 1978, she attended Northwest Missouri State University and planned to major in physical education. She also was a student-athlete on the women’s softball team, where she played second base.

As college progressed, Wimer found out that as part of her



SUBMITTED

Beverly “Bev” Wimer, a Trenton native and member of the Grundy County Museum board, has taken the lead on an oral history project featuring local residents sharing memories of Trenton and Grundy County.

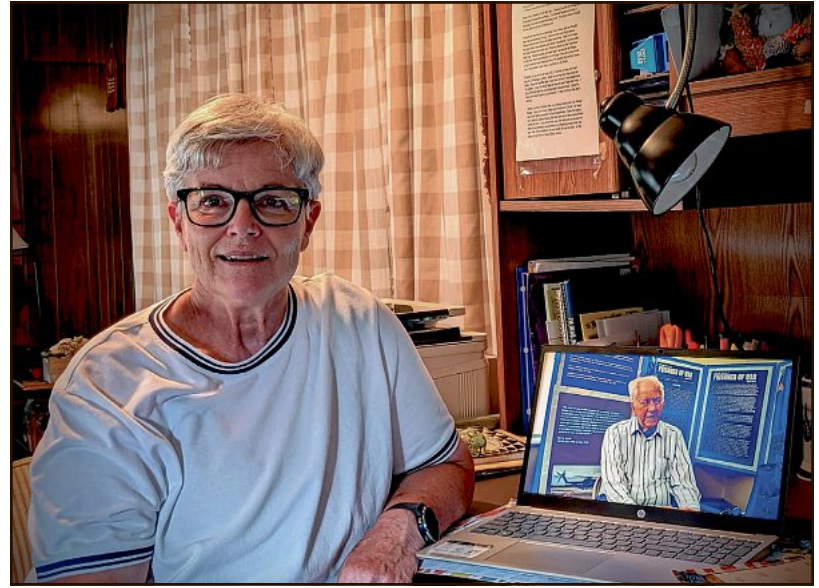
physical education degree, she would have to student teach.

“The thought of student teaching felt scary and overwhelming,” Wimer said. “So, I changed majors because I didn’t feel confident enough in my ability to teach.”

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public and therapeutic recreation and set out for her first job. She moved to Springfield and worked for the Parks and Recreation Department as a recreation supervisor. After a couple of years, she was ready to try something different and became the assistant softball coach at Southwest Missouri State University.

While she was at Missouri State, Wimer enjoyed coaching at the college level. She began applying to graduate programs and was accepted into the exercise and sport science program at the University of Arizona. She also was offered a teaching assistant position within the Department of Exercise and Sport Science.

“Accepting a teaching assistantship was a financial necessity for me; therefore, I was faced with the fear of teaching once again,” Wimer said. “It didn’t take long to realize that the thing I’d feared might actually be what I would enjoy. I loved teaching, but more importantly, the students. In my



SUBMITTED

Bev Wimer highlights the Grundy County Museum’s oral history project interview with Gary Meek, a longtime county resident. The interviews are available to watch on YouTube.

final semester teaching at the U of A, I earned a meritorious teaching award.”

Continued career

Following graduate school, Wimer was hired at Eastern Arizona College. She stayed for one year as a full-time instructor and softball coach.

Wimer then became an assistant professor within the Riverside Community College District in Southern California. She also served as head softball coach for 10 years. She taught there for 31 years and ended her career teaching mostly wellness and stress management classes.

Along the way, Wimer learned valuable life lessons.

“I learned that every human has value and deserves respect,” she said. “I learned that students will enjoy learning in environments where they are accepted and appreciated for exactly who they are. I also learned that we, all of us, are far more capable than we probably realize and that people are basically good.”

Life back in Trenton

Since returning to Trenton, Wimer has been a helper to her mother and her mother’s friends, who are all older than 85 and live independently.

A few months ago, she also became the newest member of the Grundy County Museum board of directors. Wimer has taken the lead in creating an oral history project for the museum, featuring community residents talking about their memories of Trenton and the surrounding area.

“I’m interested in talking to longtime residents of Grundy County who have been involved in the community,” Wimer said. “I’ve done four interviews. The youngest is 85 and the oldest is 95. I am attempting to schedule with four others now. The obstacles in some cases have been humility. Some don’t understand how interesting their lives have been.”

People can watch the interviews on YouTube. Those interested in nominating someone for the project can contact Wimer by email at bwimer2020@gmail.com.

Wimer gives credit for the project to the rest of the museum’s board, whose members, she said, dedicate themselves to discovering more about the history of the county and bringing it to the people who live here.

“They are the ones who have made the museum possible and built it into such an incredible place,” Wimer said.

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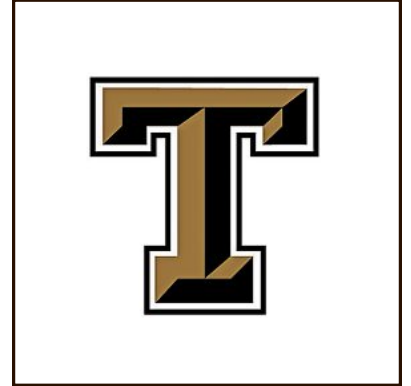
Trenton School District Announces Personnel Updates

The Trenton R-IX School District announced several personnel updates, including a retirement, resignations, a new hire and coaching assignments.

Carol Leeper, food service employee at Trenton Middle School, is retiring from the district. The district also accepted the resignations of Dre Morehead as TMS track coach and Zachary Kiel as TMS assistant track coach.

Meghan McLain was hired as a new paraprofessional.

New coaching assignments include Travis Mullenix as the high school boys golf coach, Lucas Lewis as THS boys track coach, Chris Parks as THS girls track



coach, David Shockley as baseball coach, David Sager as boys tennis coach, Brad Ewald as assistant baseball coach and Emily Lasley as THS assistant track coach.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Extraordinary Session)
HCS HJR 3]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Modify current requirements that a statewide majority of voters may approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution;
- Require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution; and
- Make available to each voter the full text of initiative petitions with their ballot?

The Department of Corrections estimates increased annual costs of up to \$21,817. The Office of State Public Defender estimates an unknown fiscal impact. Other state governmental entities estimate no costs or savings. Local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment to Article III of the Constitution of Missouri, by adopting one new section relating to ballot measures, with penalty provisions.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Article III, Constitution of Missouri, is amended by adopting one new section, to be known as Section 54, to read as follows:

Section 54. 1. This section shall be known as the “Protect Missouri Voters” amendment.

2. For purposes of this section, a statewide ballot measure shall mean any measure submitted or proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state under articles III or XII of this constitution.

3. (1) No political committee that makes expenditures or contributions in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure shall knowingly or willfully receive, solicit, or accept, whether directly or indirectly, contributions from a foreign adversary of the United States or a foreign national. No foreign adversary of the United States or a foreign national shall make any contribution or expenditure in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) A foreign adversary of the United States shall be defined as:

a. Any national, provincial, or local government or any entity that is directly or indirectly controlled or owned by a government or that directly or indirectly controls a government or a political party of a foreign country designated as a foreign adversary by the United States Secretary of State from the time such designation is published in the Federal Register until revoked; or

b. Any individual who is a citizen of a foreign country meeting the requirements of subparagraph a of paragraph (a) subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section and who is not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident;

(b) A foreign national shall be defined as any individual who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States of America.

(3) Any violation of this subsection shall be punishable by imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to one thousand dollars or both, plus an amount equal to three times the illegal contributions. The attorney general shall have exclusive criminal jurisdiction.

(4) The general assembly may by law:

(a) Enact laws to implement the restrictions of this subsection, or enact further restrictions to implement this subsection;

(b) Enact restrictions on foreign support for or opposition to Missouri ballot measures;

(c) Enact reporting requirements regarding foreign support for persons or committees that oppose or support ballot measures; and

(d) Provide for the investigation and enforcement of the provisions of any such enactments, or of this subsection including, but not limited to, criminal penalties or civil remedies.

4. (1) Any person who commits any of the following acts with respect to a petition on a statewide ballot measure is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:

(a) Signs any name other than his or her own to any petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or who knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this state;

(b) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the signature sheet did not actually sign the petition;

(c) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the one the voter intended to sign;

(d) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

(e) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of value to another person in exchange for a signature on a petition.

(2) Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator’s signatures to be submitted for counting, and who either knows that such circulator has violated subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of facts indicating that such person may have violated subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition signature fraud.

(3) The crime of petition signature fraud shall be punishable by imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to one thousand dollars or both. The attorney general shall have exclusive criminal jurisdiction to prosecute under this section.

5. At a reasonable time and place after an initiative petition is submitted with signatures and before a petition is placed on a ballot, the secretary of state or the secretary’s designee shall conduct one or more in-person or web-based hearings to receive additional public comment regarding the purpose and effect of the proposed measure. Transcripts or summaries of the hearings shall be made available to the public no later than seven days after the hearing is conducted and before the petition is placed on the ballot.

6. Notwithstanding Sections 51 and 52(b) of this article and Article XII, Section 2 (b) of this constitution, statewide ballot measures to amend the constitution that are proposed by initiative petition are approved only if affirmative votes are cast by a majority of voters in each congressional district in effect at the time of the vote.

7. The full text of any statewide ballot measure proposed by the initiative shall be made available to each voter, either legibly printed on paper or in digital format, at the time a ballot is made available to the voter for voting. This requirement is in addition to, and does not replace, all other printings and displays of the full text and the ballot title required under this constitution or by law. The secretary of state is expressly authorized to promulgate rules consistent with rule making authority under Missouri law to implement and administer the provisions of this subsection.

8. The provisions of this section are self-executing. All of the provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or unconstitutionally enacted, the remaining provisions of this section shall be and remain valid.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state, the official summary statement of this resolution shall be as follows:

“Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Stop foreign nationals and foreign adversaries of the United States from providing funding to influence ballot measure elections, and allow criminal prosecution of violators;
- Punish initiative petition signature fraud as a crime;
- Require public hearings be held to get public comment before initiative petitions are placed on the ballot;
- Require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution; and
- Make available to each voter the full text of initiative petitions with their ballot?”

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Missouri

To be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of August, 2026.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

[Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c), Missouri Constitution (SJR 1, 2005)]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall Missouri continue for 10 years the one-tenth of one percent sales/ use tax that is used for soil and water conservation and for state parks and historic sites, and resubmit this tax to the voters for approval in 10 years?

The measure allows continued collection of the existing sales and use tax, which generates revenue of approximately \$140 million annually.

Article IV, Section 47(c) of the Missouri Constitution:

Section 47(c). Provisions self-enforcing, exception—not part of general revenue or expense of state—effective and expiration dates.—[The effective date of this amendment shall be November 8, 1998.] All laws inconsistent with this amendment shall no longer remain in full force and effect after the effective date of this section. All of the provisions of Sections 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall be self-enforcing except that the General Assembly shall adjust brackets for the collection of the sales and use taxes. The additional revenue provided by Sections 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall not be part of the “total state revenue” within the meaning of Sections 17 and 18 of Article X of this Constitution. The expenditure of this additional revenue shall not be an “expense of state government” under Section 20 of Article X of this Constitution. [This Section 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall terminate after ten years following the effective date of this amendment.] **Upon voter approval of this measure in a general election held in 2006, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, the provisions of this section, 47(b), and 47(a) shall be reauthorized and continue until a general election is held in 2016 or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose. Every ten years thereafter, the issue of whether to continue to impose the sales and use tax described in this section shall be resubmitted to the voters for approval. If a majority of the voters fail to approve the continuance of such sales and use tax, Section 47(a), 47(b), and 47(c) shall terminate at the end of the second fiscal year after the last election was held.**

STATE OF MISSOURI }
Secretary of State } ss

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 1, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins
DENNY HOSKINS, CPA
Secretary of State

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (First Regular Session) HCS HJR 23 & 3]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- require all charter counties, including Jackson County, to provide for the election of a county assessor; and
 - require assessors in all charter counties to comply with any training requirements established by general law?
- State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Section 18(b) of Article VI of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to assessors.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article VI of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Section 18(b), Article VI, Constitution of Missouri, is repealed and one new section adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Section 18(b), to read as follows:

Section 18(b). The charter shall provide for its amendment[.]; for the form of the county government[.]; for the number, kinds, manner of selection, terms of office, and salaries of the county officers[.]; and for the exercise of all powers and duties of counties and county officers prescribed by the constitution and laws of the state[.]. However, such charter shall[, except for the charter of any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants.] require the assessor of the county to be an elected officer **and to comply with all training provisions required by general law.**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI }
Secretary of State } ss

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 2, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins
DENNY HOSKINS, CPA
Secretary of State

STATE OF MISSOURI }
Secretary of State } ss

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 4, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins
DENNY HOSKINS, CPA
Secretary of State

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS SCS HCS HJR 173 & 174]

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Require legislative phase-out of the individual state income tax based on revenue growth, and authorize the expansion of sales and use taxes;
- Curtail constitutional limits on taxing goods and services; and
- Require local tax rate cuts without reducing school funding if local sales tax revenue increases?

The proposal has no direct impact on state or local tax revenue. If passed, implementing legislation will have an unknown impact to state and local tax revenue. If implemented, state government entities expect a reduction of \$57,000 annually in income tax check-off donations and implementation costs of at least \$100,000.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Sections 4(d) and 26 of Article X of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting two new sections in lieu thereof relating to taxation.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article X of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Sections 4(d) and 26, Article X, Constitution of Missouri, are repealed and two new sections adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Sections 4(d) and 26, to read as follows:

Section 4(d). 1. In enacting any law imposing a tax on or measured by income, the general assembly may define income by reference to provisions of the laws of the United States as they may be or become effective at any time or from time to time, whether retrospective or prospective in their operation. The general assembly shall in any such law set the rate or rates of such tax. The general assembly may in so defining income make exceptions, additions, or modifications to any provisions of the laws of the United States so referred to and for retrospective exceptions or modifications to those provisions which are retrospective.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, the general assembly shall enact legislation to reduce and eliminate the state individual income tax by requiring reductions to the top rate of the individual income tax based on revenue growth until such tax is eliminated. Upon the elimination of the individual income tax, the general assembly shall be prohibited from enacting or imposing any state individual income tax.

Section 26. 1. In order to prohibit an increase in the tax burden on the citizens of Missouri, state and local sales and use taxes (or any similar transaction-based tax) shall not be expanded to impose taxes on any service or transaction that was not subject to sales, use or similar transaction-based tax on January 1, 2015.

2. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, including subsection 1 of this section, for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates, state and local sales and use taxes (or any similar transaction-based tax) may be expanded by legislation to impose taxes on transactions involving any goods and services. For the purposes of this section, the phrase "for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates", with respect to legislation enacted by the general assembly,

means that the legislation expressly states the general assembly's finding that such legislation will directly lead to the reduction and elimination of the state individual income tax as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and will directly or indirectly lead to the reduction of local tax rates as provided in subsection 3 of this section.

(2) Any expansion of the sales and use tax base or increase in the state sales and use tax rate enacted for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates shall be offset in the same legislation by a reduction in the top rate of individual income tax that reduces such tax revenues, less refunds, by an amount that is at least substantially equal to revenues generated by such expansion of the sales and use tax base or increase in the state sales and use tax rate, and, if such legislation is enacted within five years of the effective date of this amendment, shall not be considered new annual revenue for the purposes of Section 18 (e) of this Article and shall be exempt from the provisions of Article IV, Sections 30(b), 30(c), and 30(d) of this Constitution.

3. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, beginning twelve months from the effective date for legislation in which the general assembly expands the sales and use tax base pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, any political subdivision that imposes a sales or use tax shall, in the manner provided by law enacted by the general assembly, make a one-time adjustment to one or more of the following rates of tax imposed by the political subdivision to reduce the amount of revenue generated thereby in an amount that is substantially equal to ninety-seven percent of the additional revenue produced by any expansion of the sales and use tax base authorized by this section:

- (a) The sales and use tax rate;
- (b) The levy imposed on property in class 2;
- (c) The levy imposed on property in subclass (1) of class 1;
- (d) The levy imposed on all class 1 property if such political subdivision imposes a single rate of levy on all such property; or
- (e) The rate of any tax imposed on earnings.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection to the contrary, no political subdivision shall adjust its local tax rates in a manner that results in any reduction in funding to any public schools within, or serving, such political subdivision.

4. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, beginning twelve months from the effective date for legislation in which the general assembly expands the sales and use tax base pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, each sales and use tax rate imposed directly by this constitution, with the exception of the rate imposed under Article XIV of this Constitution, shall, in the manner provided by law enacted by the general assembly, be adjusted in order to reduce the amount of tax in an amount substantially equal to the amount of tax produced by any sales and use tax base expansion authorized by this section. The state auditor shall be responsible for calculating the reduced rates that will go into effect as provided in this subsection.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state, the official summary statement of this resolution shall be as follows:

"Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Phase-out the individual income tax based on revenue growth;
- Reduce personal property and other local taxes when local revenues increase;
- Modify the sales and use tax to eliminate income tax and reduce local taxes; and
- Protect local funding for public schools and other purposes?"

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI }
Secretary of State } ss

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 5, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins
DENNY HOSKINS, CPA
Secretary of State

College Hosts Annual Mouse Race

North Central Missouri College Athletics' second annual Mouse Race Fundraiser will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Ketcham Community Center.

The event will begin with social time and registration at 5 p.m., followed by dinner from Alewell's Whole Hog BBQ at 5:45 p.m. The first live auction will begin at 6:30 p.m., along with the start of the silent auction. Mouse races will begin at 7 p.m., and the event is expected to conclude around 9 p.m.

Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit NCMC athletic programs. Tickets and corporate

sponsorship opportunities are available. Those interested in sponsorships may contact Athletic Director Nate Gamet at ngamet@pirates.ncmissouri.edu.

"This event is a fun way for Pirate fans and community members to come together, enjoy some great entertainment, and help support our student-athletes," Gamet said. "Whether you're coming for the races, the food, or the one-of-a-kind auction items, it's going to be an unforgettable night."

To learn more or buy a ticket, call (660) 357-6450.



SUBMITTED

North Central Missouri College Athletics' second annual Mouse Race Fundraiser will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Ketcham Community Center.

Pomp & Circumstance

Students at Central Methodist University were recently recognized for earning degrees during the spring 2026 semester.

Mercedes Jicole West of Trenton was among the CMU graduates for the semester. West graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in

elementary education.

"Pomp & Circumstance" includes names of local students who received a degree from a college, university, trade school or other post-secondary institution. To submit information about student achievements, email Gabe Stark at gstark@cherryroad.com.

Prepare Pets For 4th Of July Festivities

Metro Creative

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly furry members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones.

While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.

Update identification

Be sure prior to any July 4th events that pets are wearing collars with current identification information. If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you

updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

Be careful with alcoholic drinks

Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can become very intoxicated, severely depressed or go into comas if they drink alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

Check with the vet

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thunderstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion - something that occurs in spades come July 4th. Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help pets cope with the stimuli.

Create a quiet space

Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environment.

Acquisition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decision-making and service culture our customers value."

FSC Bancshares is headquartered in Cameron and is the parent company of Farmers State Bank, which operates nine branch locations. According to the announcement, Farmers State Bank would bring approximately \$384 million in total assets to the combined company.

The proposed transaction is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2026. It remains subject to approval by FSC shareholders, required regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. The boards of directors of both companies have unanimously approved the agreement.

Under the terms of the transaction, FSC shareholders will receive 413,101 shares of Hawthorn common stock and \$14 million in cash. The transaction value is based on Hawthorn's closing stock price of \$34.57 as of April 28.

After the acquisition, the combined company is expected to have approximately \$2.2 billion in total assets, \$1.7 billion in total loans and \$1.9 billion in total deposits, based on

financial data as of March 31.

Brent Giles, chief executive officer of Hawthorn, said Farmers State Bank's relationships with customers and communities were part of what made the acquisition a good fit.

"We are pleased to partner with Farmers State Bank as we continue to execute on our strategy of disciplined growth," Giles said. "Farmers has developed strong customer relationships and a respected community presence that align closely with Hawthorn's values. This proposed transaction expands our footprint in northwest Missouri and positions us to deliver an expanded range of products and services while maintaining the personalized service that customers expect from a community bank."

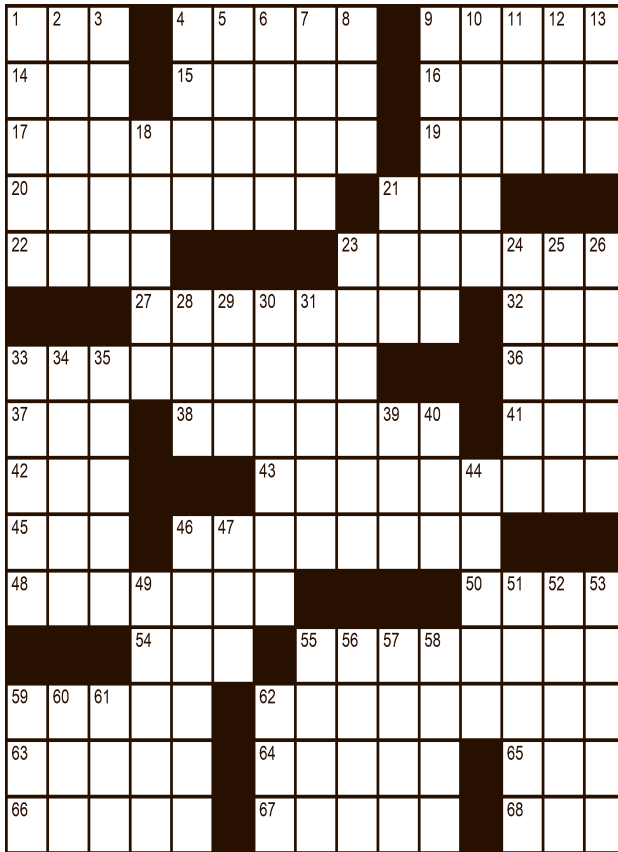
For local customers, the announcement signals a change in ownership at the holding company level, but the companies emphasized continued community banking, personal service and local decision-making as part of the transition.

Additional details are expected as the acquisition process moves forward, including any updates on the timeline, regulatory approvals and what the transition could mean for local customers.

PUZZLES

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dog's foot
 - 4 Obeys a red light
 - 9 __ Claus
 - 14 In the past
 - 15 Place to stay on vacation
 - 16 Once more
 - 17 Group with a sense of belonging
 - 19 Satisfy a debt
 - 20 Analytical piece of writing
 - 21 Put on
 - 22 Make smooth, as wood
 - 23 Pitt athlete
 - 27 Changing with the times
 - 32 Bitter beer
 - 33 Warner Bros. specialty
 - 36 OR hookups: Abbr.
 - 37 "Haha!": Abbr.
 - 38 Pumpkin seeds
 - 41 Golf-ball support
 - 42 Run-bike-swim race, for short
 - 43 Story surprise: 2 wds.
 - 45 Doctors' group: Abbr.
 - 46 Region of Greece
 - 48 Animal with a "mask"
 - 50 Feel sore
 - 54 Operated
 - 55 Marinara ingredients
 - 59 Sits for a portrait
 - 62 December holiday
 - 63 Perspiration
 - 64 Practical joke
 - 65 Upper undergarment
 - 66 Not watertight
 - 67 __ and regulations
 - 68 Pig's home

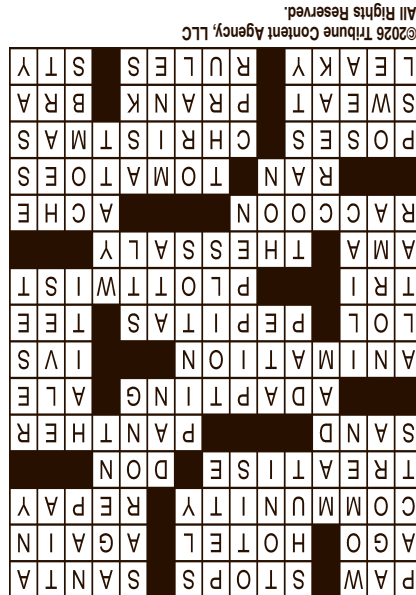


Created by Stella Zawistowski

7/3/26

- DOWN**
- 1 Treaties
 - 2 Old Greek marketplace
 - 3 Ladies

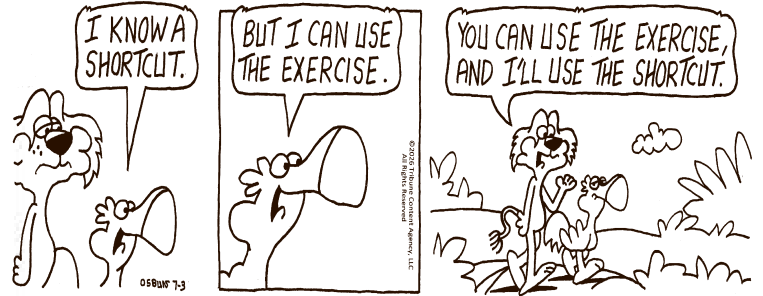
- 4 Closed
- 5 Singer Braxton
- 6 Elevator brand
- 7 Sampras of tennis
- 8 Cunning
- 9 Wrapped garment
- 10 Secret __ (spy)
- 11 Short sleep
- 12 Aunt, in Spanish
- 13 One or more
- 18 Respectful title
- 21 Actor Levy
- 23 Speckled beans
- 24 DR neighbor
- 25 North Pole helpers
- 26 Put back to zero
- 28 Type of greeting
- 29 Consumed
- 30 Scottie of basketball
- 31 Works hard
- 33 Wedding location
- 34 Actress Shearer
- 35 Hip adjective
- 39 __ snail's pace: 2 wds.
- 40 Arch city: Abbr.



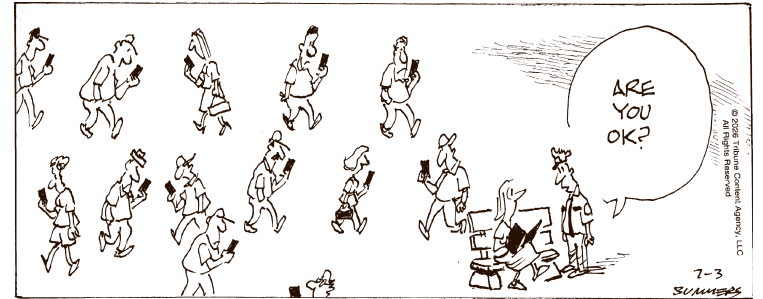
Friday's Puzzle Solved

- 44 Earp of the Old West
- 46 Comfortably warm
- 47 Dearie
- 49 Old floor's sound
- 51 Hair-taming tools
- 52 Lettuce center
- 53 Piece of writing
- 55 No __ Traffic
- 56 Spoken
- 57 Get ore from
- 58 Inquires
- 59 Starbucks drink: Abbr.
- 60 Be in debt
- 61 Manatee's home
- 62 Lifesaving skill: Abbr.

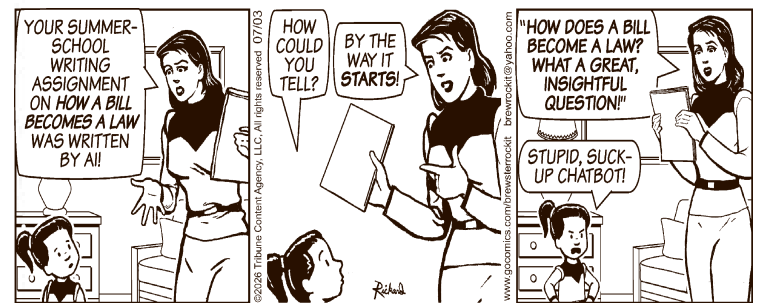
ANIMAL CRACKERS



BOUND & GAGGED



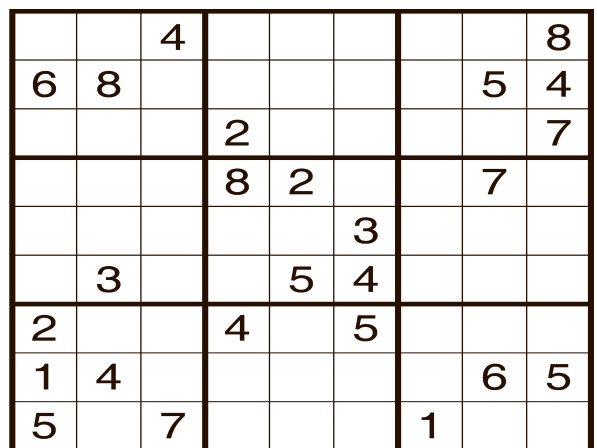
BREWSTER ROCKIT



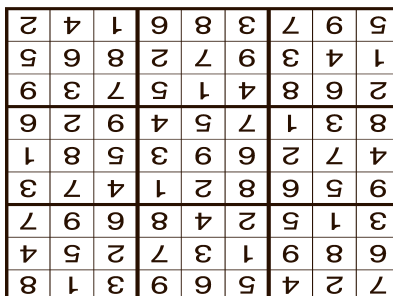
SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4



7/3/26



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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Beyond Reason: Costco Rich

by Rob Perez

I recently smuggled a drink into a country club. Some may wonder, Why, man, why? Isn't a country club more than capable of meeting such demands? Normally, yes.

But I was going to the pool. The pool doesn't have a full bar. They'll sell you a hard seltzer for eight bucks. I wouldn't drink a hard seltzer if you paid me eight bucks. So I poured bourbon and grapefruit in the correct proportions into a tumbler and parked poolside.

The pool was hopping. Summer in full bloom. Children splashed. Parents lounged. Lifeguards kept a watchful eye. As I surveyed the scene, it became clear there were two types of people at the pool. The first group was perfectly content to pay eight dollars for a drink in a can. God bless them.

The second group carried tumblers. Yes, tumblers. Plural. Now, those tumblers may have contained only water. Or tea. Or coffee. But time told a different story. The group with tumblers seemed

quietly committed to the spirit of summer. They were there for a good time. And whatever was in those tumblers sure seemed to help.

These were people with means. After all, membership at a country club is not a choice you make if you're on a budget. And yet, here they were, spending a beautiful afternoon by the pool with a tumbler. That got me thinking.

Every rich person I know shops at Costco.

I know this because I've seen them there. In the flesh. Shopping. Their carts overflowed with goods. Not luxury goods. Consumables. Groceries. Household goods. Cleaning supplies.

These are people with multiple houses. Luxury cars. Boats. They vacation in exotic lands. And yet, at Costco, they buy their Kleenex, twenty boxes at a time. Apparently, these are people who can afford anything except paying retail for toilet paper.

To be fair, I've never seen a billionaire at Costco. Maybe once your net worth reaches nine

figures, someone else shops at Costco for you. Or maybe you're perfectly happy to overpay for household goods.

I have too many T-shirts. My rich friends have too many houses. Billionaires have too many sports teams. It's a question of scale.

I suppose there are different kinds of rich. White pants rich. Country club rich. I fly first class rich. I fly private rich. I own an island rich. And then there is Costco Rich.

Finding a bargain isn't about the money anymore. It's the sport. The principle of the thing.

A person who is truly wealthy can still become emotionally invested in saving three bucks on laundry detergent. I know because I am one of them.

And when things go on sale at Costco? This is exactly the sort of thing that drives Costco Rich crazy. Costco Rich will buy things they don't need simply because they're on sale.

A vat of non-dairy coffee creamer. A year's supply of ketchup.

Enough paper towels to survive the apocalypse. This isn't about need. It's all about getting something on sale! You'll hear people say things like, "You can't afford not to buy this."

Which brings me back to the pool. There I sat, sipping discreetly from my tumbler and congratulating myself on my ingenuity. That's when I saw him. Across the pool. My distance vision remains exceptional. The chosen one. Lounging. Enlightened.

His tumbler was... more. A larger vessel. Possibly seaworthy. With my eyes hidden behind sunglasses, I observed him discreetly adding ingredients. Tequila. A mysterious yellow elixir. Ice.

He pressed a button. His tumbler whirred to life. A moment later, he was holding a frozen margarita. Poolside. It was a modern miracle.

Here I was feeling clever because I'd smuggled in a drink. Meanwhile, this man brought an appliance. I had a cocktail. He had the means of production.

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