

Burrill Exhibit Honors Lifelong Educator, Historian

Gabe Stark
Reporter

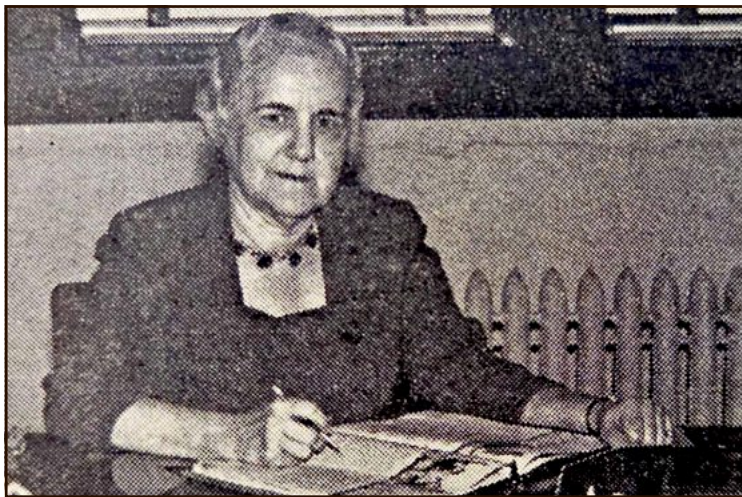
The Grundy County Museum has opened a new group of summer exhibits as part of its annual "Notables of Grundy County" display.

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.

One of this year's featured

BURRILL

CONTINUED TO PG 2



SUBMITTED

Mabel C. Burrill, a longtime Trenton educator and civic leader, is featured in this year's "Notables of Grundy County" exhibit at the Grundy County Museum.

Trenton Native Named To Mizzou Athletics Hall Of Fame

Gabe Stark
Reporter

One of Trenton's most accomplished athletes is receiving one of the University of Missouri's highest athletic honors.

Andy Hill, a Trenton High School graduate who went from walk-on wide receiver to long-time Missouri assistant football coach, has been selected for induction into the University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame as

part of the Class of 2026. Hill will be inducted alongside former Mizzou quarterback Drew Lock after the pair learned of the honor through a surprise announcement arranged by the university.

Hill said he initially believed he had been invited to help surprise Lock with news of his induction.

Athletic department officials contacted Hill in April and asked him to

ATHLETICS

CONTINUED TO PG 6



SUBMITTED

Trenton native Andy Hill is pictured with his wife. Hill has been selected for induction into the University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2026.



METRO CREATIVE

Grundy County voters will select party nominees for federal, state and county offices during Missouri's primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Candidates Set For Grundy County's Aug. 4 Primary Election

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Grundy County voters will select party nominees for federal, state and county offices during Missouri's primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Voters requesting a Democratic, Republican or Libertarian ballot will see candidates seeking their party's nominations. A nonpartisan ballot also will be available for voters who want to vote only on the four state-wide constitutional amendments.

State Auditor

Quentin Wilson and Gregory Upchurch are seeking the Democratic nomination for state auditor.

Scott Fitzpatrick and Gerald "Jerry" Wistrand Jr. are seeking the Republican nomination.

Dustin Coffell is uncontested for the Libertarian nomination and will automatically advance to the Nov. 3 general election.

ELECTION

CONTINUED TO PG 2



Got a smart phone?

Scan the Quick Read (QR) code to go directly to our website



8 60014 64460 3
©2026 Managed by CherryRoad
To subscribe 620-860-4774

Burrill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

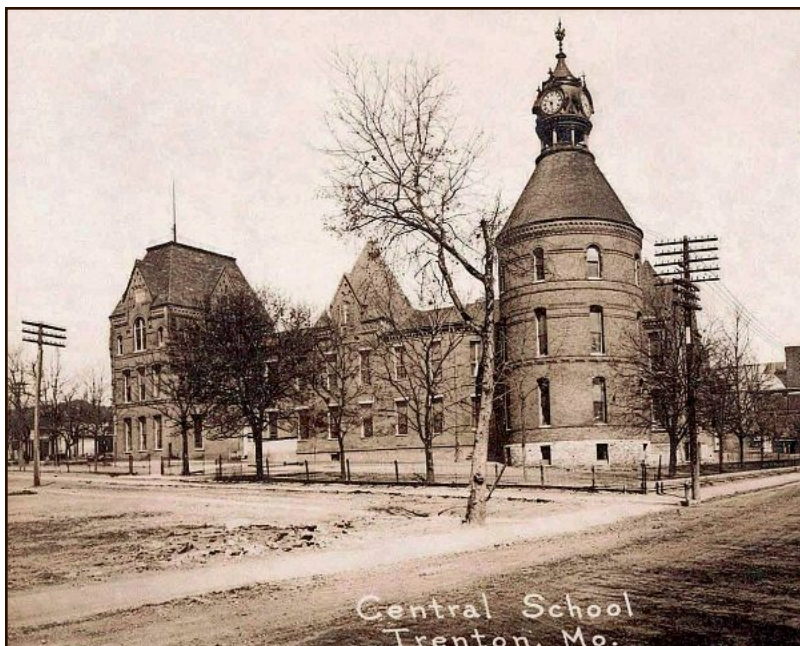
displays honors Mabel C. Burrill, a lifelong Trenton resident whose work in education and historic preservation left a lasting mark on the community.

The exhibits are expected to remain on display through October. Admission to the Grundy County Museum is free.

Early life & career

Burrill was born June 17, 1894, in Trenton to Fred D. Burrill and Lillie C. Burrill. Her father was a farmer and former deputy collector of internal revenue. She grew up in a home that valued education, service and faith, along with her sister, Nellie R. Burrill, brother, Forest C. Burrill, and cousin, Harry Burrill.

After graduating from Trenton High School in 1911, Burrill pursued higher education at a time when fewer women had that opportunity. She completed teacher training through the Trenton High School superintendent, earned a bachelor's degree



SUBMITTED

The original Central School, shown in Mabel C. Burrill's museum display, once stood where North Central Missouri College's Geyer Hall is now located.

from the University of Missouri through summer sessions, extension schools and teacher-to-student correspondence, and later earned a master's degree from Columbia University in New York.

Burrill dedicated 43 years to Trenton's public schools. For

32 of those years, she served as principal of Central Middle School. She also taught history, civics and Latin in the old Central School and continued teaching during difficult periods, including two years in a church basement while the

school was being rebuilt.

The museum display describes Burrill as strong, fair and compassionate. She worked with students, mentored faculty and believed education was about character, citizenship and community as well as classroom lessons.

Outside of school

Outside school, Burrill was involved in civic and church life. She served as secretary of the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, became the first secretary of the Grundy County Historical Society in 1976 and was a dedicated member of First Christian Church of Trenton.

Her commitment to history helped support preservation efforts in Grundy County. In 1969, after retiring from education, she approached KTTN owner Marvin Luehrs about restarting a historical society in the county. The society was later formed, and Burrill remained involved for several years.

Burrill died Feb. 3, 1985, at age 90 and was buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Trenton.

TRENTON TELEGRAPH

715 Main Street, Unit C2, Trenton, MO 64683

PUBLISHER | Jeremy Gulban
jgulban@cherryroad.com

EDITORIAL | Gabe Stark
gstark@cherryroad.com

ADVERTISING | Honi Brown
hbrown@cherryroad.com

OBITUARIES CLASSIFIEDS & LEGALS

obits@trentontelegraph.com
classifieds@trentontelegraph.com
legals@trentontelegraph.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

620-860-4774 | cirlchelp@cherryroad.com

WWW.TRENTONTELEGRAPH.COM

CHERRYROAD MEDIA
800-884-4140



Postal Statement: Trenton Telegraph (USPS Marketing Mail PI Permit #99) is published weekly. Postage paid and verified Independence, MO 64050. Postmaster: Send address changes to PO Box 1302 Hutchinson KS 67504-1302.

NOTICE: By submitting your address and/or email, you understand that you may receive promotional offers from CherryRoad and its related companies. You may cancel your subscription at any time for a refund of the un-used portion of your subscription. All property rights, including any copyright interest of an advertisement produced by CherryRoad, using work and/or typography furnished or arranged by the paper, will be the property of CherryRoad. No such advertisement or any part thereof may be reproduced without prior consent of CherryRoad.

Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District

Josh Smead, Scot Pondelick and Matt Levine are seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. representative in Missouri's 6th Congressional District.

Jim Ingram, Chris Stigall, Nathan Hall Willett, Cody J. Oshel and Nathanael Schultz are seeking the Republican nomination.

Andy Maidment is uncontested for the Libertarian nomination and will automatically advance to the general election.

State Senator, 12th District

Judy McNeece is uncontested for the Democratic nomination for the 12th District seat in the Missouri Senate and will automatically advance to the general election.

Rusty Black is uncontested for the Republican nomination and will automatically advance to the general election.

No Libertarian candidate is

listed for the race.

State Representative, 2nd District

Casey Scott is uncontested for the Democratic nomination for state representative in Missouri's 2nd District and will automatically advance to the general election.

Freddie Griffin Jr., Phil Fox and Brandon Harvey are seeking the Republican nomination.

Shelby Dreier is uncontested for the Libertarian nomination and will automatically advance to the general election.

Associate Circuit Judge

Carrie Lamm-Clark is uncontested for the Republican nomination for associate circuit judge and will automatically advance to the general election. No Democratic or Libertarian candidate is listed.

Presiding Commissioner

Phillip Ray is uncontested for the Republican nomination for presiding commissioner of the Grundy County Commission and

will automatically advance to the general election. No Democratic or Libertarian candidate is listed.

Circuit Clerk And Ex-Officio Recorder Of Deeds

Michelle Vandevender and Amanda Spencer are seeking the Republican nomination for Grundy County clerk of the circuit court and ex-officio recorder of deeds.

No Democratic or Libertarian candidate is listed.

County Clerk

Courtney Campbell is uncontested for the Republican nomination for clerk of Grundy County and will automatically advance to the general election. No Democratic or Libertarian candidate is listed.

Prosecuting Attorney

Kelly Puckett is uncontested for the Republican nomination for Grundy County prosecuting attorney and will automatically advance to the general election. No Democratic or Libertarian candidate is listed.

City Council Approves Infrastructure Projects, Legal Services Agreement

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Trenton City Council approved several infrastructure projects and ordinances during its Monday, July 13, meeting while postponing or rejecting other proposals for further review.

The council accepted a \$30,000 bid for an electric distribution project involving approximately 2,500 feet of boring. The work will include installing 2-inch conduit containing 1/0 stranded power cable.

Council members also approved an agreement with Lauber Municipal Law to provide special counsel and general municipal legal services. City Attorney Kenton Kenny will remain Trenton's primary attorney, with the firm available to assist with complex matters or when Kenny is unavailable.

Although council members supported having additional legal assistance, several raised concerns about monitoring the cost. The firm's primary rate is expected to be approximately \$270 per hour. City officials agreed to report the expenses regularly to councilmen and notify the council if more than three hours of service are used.

The council also considered two bids for diesel fuel used by Trenton's electric production facilities. Because neither fully met the city's specifications, both bids were rejected and the purchase will be advertised again with clearer instructions. Officials also plan to develop a policy allowing fuel to be purchased quickly if the city is asked to generate electricity for an extended period.

Additional purchases approved during the meeting included a



truck for the city's code department and a \$20,500 bid from S&N Construction for concrete work along Riverside Drive.

In other infrastructure updates, approximately 40 feet of Riverside Drive was removed when a sewer main was relocated to accommodate construction of a house on two adjoining lots. The concrete project will repair about 110 feet of the street, including sections that were already deteriorating.

A separate sewer easement ordinance was rejected after officials discovered that its supporting documents appeared to reference different projects. A corrected ordinance will be presented to councilmen for consideration of approval at a later date.

The council also approved an ordinance reaffirming the conflict-of-interest provisions of the Trenton City Code. Councilmen also granted Brent Mitchell a conditional use permit to convert three office spaces into apartments at 400 E. Ninth St.

Consideration of a proposed city equipment rental policy was postponed to allow additional review. However, the city will honor an existing verbal agreement allowing a local business to use municipal equipment during July.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about requiring direct deposit for city employees following a payroll software problem involving paper checks. One proposal would allow current employees to continue receiving checks while requiring future hires to use direct deposit. No action was taken.

Carl Mobley Living Estate Auction Personal Property, Farm Machinery

Location: 6700 SE Country Lane Road, Braymer, MO

10 a.m. Saturday, July 25th, 2026

A Highway South from Braymer to E Highway. West on E Approximately 2 Miles to Soo Line Road. West on Soo Line Road 1.5 miles to Country Lane Road, then North to Property. Alternate: Take B Highway South at Cowgill approximately 2 miles to Soo Line Road. East on Soo Line Road 3 miles to Country Lane Road, then North to Property

There is something here for everyone! Like New Gas Stove, Refrigerator, Washer and Dryer, John Deere Tractors, Firearms, Dodge 4 Wheel Drive Pickup, Arctic Cat 4-Wheeler, Gravely Zero Turn Mower and lots of good Quality Tools! You won't want to miss this sale!

See details @clevengersells.com



TRUCK, TRACTORS, TRAILERS, 4-WHEELERS AND MOWER: 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4WD-VIN 1D7HU18D55S285641; John Deere 4020 with JD 48 Loader-10202 Hours; John Deere 820-3780 Hours; 1987 16' Tandem Axle Bumper Hitch Trailer-VIN DRX000086013M0; 1974 Hale 16' Tandem Axle, Bumper Hitch Livestock Trailer, Good Floor-VIN 7476; Arctic Cat 400 4-Wheeler, 4WD; 2004 Outlander Bombardier 4-Wheeler, Not Running, No Key-VIN 28VEGSF154V000634; Gravely ZT60HD Zero Turn Mower-Kawasaki Motor

FIREARMS: Western Field .410 Single Shot Shotgun; Marlin Model 783 .22 Caliber Rifle With Scope; Springfield Model 56 Cammo .22 Caliber Rifle-Clip Load; Black Fiber Stock .22 Caliber Single Shot; Fiber Stock Remington .22 Caliber Single Shot With Scope; Remington Woodmaster Model 742 .243 Caliber With Scope; Marlin Model 335 Lever Action .30-.30 With Scope

FARM EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: John Deere 709 3pt 7ft Brush Hog; 14 inch Post Hole Auger, 3pt Hitch Hook Up; 7 ft, 3pt Tandem Disk; 3pt 3 Bottom Plow; 3pt Bale Spike; 6ft 3pt Blade; Batwing Mower; Side Delivery Rake; 4ft Four Wheeler Blade; Several Hog Sheds; Livestock Gates; Head Squeeze Gate; Corral Panels

SHOP EQUIPMENT, TOOLS & MISC: Gas Powered Hydraulic Log Splitter, Hydraulic Log Splitter, Wheel Barrow, Yard Cart, Dog Pens, Hunting Ground Blind, Chrome Plated Dog Box, Honda 401 Rear Tire Tiller, Proforce Compressor Tank, 3 Door Style School Lockers, John Deere L118 Lawn Mower, Walk Behind Grass Seeder, Iron Tubing and Lumber, Pressure Washers, Igloo Style Dog Houses, 500 Gallon Propane Tank, 2 Wheel Car Hauler, Homemade Truckbed Wagon, Central Pneumatic 21 Gallon 125 PSI Air Compressor, Six Door Mini Locker, John Deere Top-Link, Gas Cans, Grease Guns, 12 Ton Hydraulic Jack, Two 12 Gallon Shop Vacs, Loading Ramps, Scaffolding, 6 Ft Fiberglass Ladder, 8 Ft Aluminum Ladder, Log Grapple, Several Gas and Electric Motors, Heavy Duty Floor Jack, 3/4 Inch PVC Pipe, Acetylene Torch Set on Dolly, Saw Horses, Log Chains, Full 5 Gallon Hydraulic Fluid, Little Giant Style Ladder, Tow Ropes, Proto Shop Tool Chest, 3 1/2 Ton Floor Jack, Hobart Beta-Mig 170 Wire Welder, Popular Mechanics Tool Box, Stihl Chain Saw, Pipe Wrenches, Levels, C Clamps, 3/4 Inch Drive Socket Set, Pittsburgh 7 Piece Quick Attach Grease Fitting Kit, Airless Paint Sprayer and Gun, Heavy Duty Bench Grinder, Two 4 Inch Vices, Tire Changing Machine, Sears Craftsman Battery Charger, Magnaforce Air Compressor, 1/2 Inch Drive and Socket Set, 1/2 Impact Sockets, Portable Air Tanks, Electric Over Hydraulic Heavy Duty Floor Lift, Lincoln Electric Welder, Heavy Duty Trailer Hitches, Electric Cords, Shop Lights, Miscellaneous Hand Tools, Many Scrap Vehicles and Scrap Metal.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: 8 Ft Wood Picnic Table, New Braunfels Charcoal Smoker, Weber Gas Grill, Brown Loveseat and Sofa Set, Several Flatscreen TVs, Hexagon Top End Table, Sofa Cabinet, Oak China Cabinet, Matching Oak Table and Chairs, Desk and Office Chair, Stainless Steel Samsung Refrigerator, Stainless & Black Frigidaire Gas Stove, Quinsair Toaster Oven, Cast Iron Skillets, Bavaria Dish Set, Frigidaire Table Top Ice Maker, Cookware, Pots and Pans, Miscellaneous Dishes & Cups, Three 3 ft x 7 ft x 7 ft Pantry Type Wood Cabinets, Maytag Washer & Dryer, White Linen Cabinet, White End Table, Antique Dresser and Mirror, Full Wood Bed Frame, 10 Drawer Dark Wood Dresser, 8 Gun Cabinet, Magic Mill Meat Grinder, Nice Cedar Chest, Kenmore 15 Freezer, Kenmore 20 Freezer, Coleman Lanterns, Craftsman Gas Weed Eater, Decorations, Knick-Knacks, Home Decor, Etc.

MANY MORE
ITEMS - TOO
NUMEROUS TO
MENTION

SOLD!



Clevenger Real Estate & Auction
Cell: 816.718.5023

Greg Clevenger
Real Estate & Auction Service
clevenger.g@yahoo.com

OFFICE ADDRESS: 1899 SE State Rt. A Braymer, MO 64624



Advertise here!

Contact a staff member to find out
how you can advertise in this spot!

Subscribers Like You
Make the Difference

Esquivel Earns 2nd At National FCCLA Conference

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Trenton High School student Anthony “Tony” Esquivel earned second place in the nation during the 2026 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference, held July 6-10 in Washington, D.C.

Esquivel competed in the Level 2 Repurpose and Redesign STAR Event, earning a gold medal score while placing second nationally. The competition challenged students to establish a budget, transform reused or thrifted materials into a functional object, develop a marketing plan and present the finished project to a panel of judges.

For his entry, Esquivel turned a skateboard, a discarded Missouri license plate and vintage wall sconces into a light fixture featuring a built-in shelf.

“Winning second place at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference is more than just an award to me,” Esquivel said. “It represents the countless hours of preparation, problem-solving and determination that went into my project.”

Esquivel, the Trenton High School FCCLA chapter president and an incoming junior, said the experience taught him to believe in his abilities, move outside his comfort zone and remain committed to his goals.

“I’m incredibly grateful for the support of my family, friends, adviser and everyone who encouraged me along the way,” he said. “Representing my school and community on the national stage is an honor I’ll always be proud of.”



SUBMITTED

Trenton High School student Anthony “Tony” Esquivel holds the award he received after placing second in the nation in the Level 2 Repurpose and Redesign STAR Event at the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

STAR Events, or Students Taking Action with Recognition, allow FCCLA members to apply knowledge and skills learned through Family and Consumer Sciences education to real-world projects, presentations and career-related challenges. Students must advance through local and state competitions to qualify for the national level.

Smith added that Missouri FCCLA participation reached record numbers during the past year, with continued growth expected as more people support the organization.

The Trenton chapter joined more than 10,000 FCCLA members, advisers and guests from across the nation, Puerto Rico and American Samoa at the National Leadership Conference. The gathering included competitive events, leadership development, career exploration, educational workshops and national recognition.

Esquivel was one of three Trenton students who qualified for the national conference. Two of the qualifying groups attended the event.

Trenton High School student Jordan Gannon competed in the Level 2 Promote and Publicize FCCLA event and earned a silver medal with a score of 80%. Trenton Middle School student Ashlynn Davis also competed in the Level 1 Fashion Construction event.

Rebecca Smith, Trenton High School FCCLA adviser, said the students’ accomplishments were especially rewarding during her first year leading the program.

“That’s obviously very exciting and very rewarding for all of the hard work that the students and I did,” Smith said. “We had three groups qualify to go to nationals, two groups went, and then, of course, to have one finish second out of the entire country was very rewarding.”

Smith said students worked hard throughout the year and were willing to adjust to a new adviser and a slightly different direction for the chapter. Because FCCLA is a student-led organization, she focused on allowing members to contribute ideas and work cooperatively to develop plans.

“I was really about letting

everybody’s voice be heard and fostering that cooperative environment,” Smith said. “Toward the end of the year, that really took off.”

Smith said she hopes community members recognize the dedication demonstrated by the chapter’s students.

“They are hard-working students who are really working on their leadership skills, and these are the future leaders of your community,” Smith said. “I’m very proud of that.”

The chapter plans to expand its community involvement during the coming school year through additional outreach programs and service projects benefiting different portions of the Trenton community.

Competition goals include maintaining or increasing the number of students participating in FCCLA events and returning to the national conference. Smith said the chapter also hopes to raise awareness about FCCLA and strengthen its relationships with Trenton-area small businesses.

“We have a strong group of students leading this year and have a solid plan of what it’s going to look like for this year and going into the future,” Smith said.

The Trenton High School FCCLA chapter credited Modine, the Trenton Elks and BTC Area Youth Benefit Corp. for providing donations that helped students attend the national conference.

Community members interested in supporting the Trenton High School FCCLA chapter can email Smith at rsmith@trentonr9.k12.mo.us.



HVAC

Geothermal



FOSTER

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING INC

Reliable HVAC Repair Services You Can Trust

Why Choose Geothermal?

- ✓ Natural energy
- ✓ Energy Efficiency
- ✓ Hot water assist
- ✓ Floor Heating options

Contact Us Here!

660-707-0797

Patriotic Concert July 23

Event will feature military displays, children's activities, fireworks

By Angie Hutschreider
CherryRoad Media

What began as plans for a patriotic concert has grown into a communitywide celebration honoring veterans and recognizing local first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, clergy and military personnel.

The One Nation Under God Celebration will be held Thursday, July 23, at the Mervyn Jenkins Expo Center at the Litton Agri-Science Learning Center in nearby Chillicothe. Displays and activities will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by an indoor program at 6:30 p.m. A fireworks show will conclude the evening after dark.

Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from vendors on the grounds.

Organizer Don Bosworth said

the idea began in February after the Nashville-based music group Peach Goldman contacted him about hosting a patriotic concert featuring a guest speaker.

The concert was initially considered for the days surrounding Independence Day, but organizers moved it to July 23 after realizing many people would be traveling during the holiday.

"As we planned, it was suggested that we recognize our veterans," Bosworth said. "Then it just kept growing."

National Guard equipment is also expected to be displayed, and a LifeFlight Eagle helicopter is scheduled to attend, weather permitting.

From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., children will be able to climb inside fire trucks, explore military and emergency response equipment and view

the helicopter up close if conditions allow.

"We want families to come out together," Bosworth said. "The kids will be able to get into the equipment and really experience it."

Doors to the expo center will open at 5 p.m. Veterans may register to receive a special gift, while attendees age 18 and older will be eligible for door prizes. Jamie Pauls will begin playing piano inside the center at that time.

The main program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation of colors by the Veterans Color Guard Unit. Kimberly Keith will sing the national anthem, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" and a prayer by the Rev. Tim Munday. Munday will also recognize past and present clergy from Chillicothe-area churches.

Larry Warren and George

Laprade will recognize veterans and highlight their accomplishments. Maples will present a recognition of law enforcement personnel, while Reeter will recognize firefighters, emergency medical personnel and the LifeFlight crew.

Goldman will then perform a selection of patriotic and Christian music. The concert will be followed by a presentation from nationally known Christian comedian Dennis Swanberg, known as "America's Minister of Encouragement."

The indoor program will close with the retirement of the colors and drawings for door prizes. Afterward, Mike Sensenich and his crew, in cooperation with Kelly's Fireworks, will present a fireworks display after dark.

Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

GREENACRES

**SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE.
STAY INFORMED**

*Subscribe
today!*

**CALL TODAY
816-396-5505**



OR SCAN THE QR CODE
For fast and easy sign-up!

Get the latest in local ag news, market trends, and community stories delivered to you every other week.

**All for just \$71.50
per year.**

Harris Begins Term as Trenton Rotary Club President

Kristi Harris has begun her term as president of the Trenton Rotary Club, taking over leadership duties for the new Rotary year.

Harris officially received the club gavel from outgoing president Daniel Gott during the club's Thursday, July 9, meeting at the BTC Bank community room. Her term began July 1.

Carrie Lamm-Clark will serve alongside Harris as vice president and president-elect.

During her first meeting as president, Harris shared several upcoming Rotary dates with members. The District Rotary Foundation Dinner is scheduled for Nov. 6 in Kansas City, while Assistant District Gov. Chad Higdon is expected to visit the Trenton club Sept. 3.

Members also heard a thank-you note from Bright Futures Trenton recognizing the club's support of the organization's shoe project.

Grundy County Sheriff Rodney Herring presented the meeting program. Herring discussed the responsibilities of the sheriff's department, staffing at the Grundy County Law Enforcement Center and changes in law enforcement during his 22 years as sheriff.

Herring said his current term will end in 2028 and that he does not plan to seek re-election.

Trenton City Prosecutor Kenton Kinney will present the program at the club's July 16 meeting. Lamm-Clark will serve as program chairman.



SUBMITTED

Past President Daniel Gott officially "passed the gavel" to new President Kristi Harris during the July 9 meeting of the Trenton Rotary Club. Mrs. Harris began her duties as president on July 1.

Athletics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

participate in a video involving former Missouri Tigers who had won Super Bowl championships. Hill was given a letter announcing Lock's induction and read it to his former player while cameras captured the moment.

Once Hill finished, university officials said the announcement was not over. Lock was then handed a letter revealing Hill had also been selected.

"I was totally shocked and surprised, and certainly it was a great honor to be chosen," Hill said.

For Trenton residents, the recognition is another milestone in a football journey that began on Bulldog fields decades ago.

Hill is the son of Robert and Patsy S. Hill and grew up in Trenton, where he played football for the Trenton High School Bulldogs and also competed on the THS golf team. After graduating, he enrolled at Missouri in 1980 and walked on to the Tigers football team. He later earned a scholarship and developed into one of Missouri's top receivers.

Hill said the Hall of Fame includes a select group of athletes

and coaches from throughout the university's history. The Class of 2026 is especially meaningful because it also includes Lock and Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton.

Hill also has deep family ties to Missouri. His wife, father, children and members of his wife's family attended Mizzou. He described Trenton, the university and the Chiefs as three constants throughout his life.

Following his playing career at Missouri, Hill pursued his dream of reaching the NFL. He attended Kansas City Chiefs training camp in 1985 and advanced to the final roster cuts while competing alongside veteran receivers Carlos Carson, Stephone Paige and former Missouri standout Henry Marshall.

Although he narrowly missed making the regular-season roster, Hill also spent time with the Calgary Stampeders before turning to coaching.

His coaching career would ultimately include 24 years at Missouri. After serving as head coach at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, Hill returned to Mizzou's staff in 1996.

He served in several roles, including wide receivers coach, quarterbacks coach, associate

head coach and special teams coordinator. Missouri appeared in four conference championship games during his tenure, including two in the Big 12 Conference and two in the Southeastern Conference. The Tigers also recorded several seasons with at least 10 victories.

Hill credited the players he recruited and coached with making his lengthy tenure and Hall of Fame recognition possible.

"They're the reason why we were able to keep a job for 24 years at Missouri, because of the players we had that allowed us to win," Hill said.

Hill added one of the most rewarding parts of coaching was helping young athletes develop during an important, and often challenging, period of their lives.

His connection with the Chiefs eventually came full circle. After retiring from Missouri following the 2019 season, Hill joined Andy Reid's staff as an assistant special teams coach.

During five seasons in Kansas City, Hill helped the Chiefs win two Super Bowl championships while playing in four.

Hill said sharing those experiences with his family, friends, former teammates and hometown has been among the most

meaningful parts of his career.

"Whenever they're watching the Chiefs game or the Chiefs won the Super Bowl, I kind of feel like I'm bringing everybody along with us," Hill said.

Hill credited his upbringing in Trenton with giving him the values that guided his playing and coaching careers. Before Hill left for Missouri as an 18-year-old freshman, his father gave him a simple piece of advice: "Do not forget where you came from."

Hill said the message meant more than remembering Trenton. It also meant remaining humble, confident, truthful and honest.

Hill remains close with friends from high school and continues to return to Trenton to play golf, hunt and spend time with them. Members of the Trenton High School Class of 1980 also stay connected through a group text.

"I'm very proud of our hometown of Trenton, Missouri," Hill said. "I just love going back there. I have such great, fond memories of growing up in Trenton."

Hill was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 and has also received the Mizzou Alumni Association Award for Alumni Relations Excellence.

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 } ss
Secretary of State

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 } ss
Secretary of State

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

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.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss
Secretary of State

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 } ss
Secretary of State

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

Grand River Garden Club Announces July Beautification Award Winners

The Grand River Garden Club has announced its July Yard of the Month and Business Beautification Award recipients.

Betty Maupins, who lives on Harris Avenue, was selected for the July Yard of the Month award winner in recognition of the care and appearance of her property.

Main Street Creamery, 1011 Main St., received the club's Business Beautification Award for July.

The award recognizes local businesses that help improve the appearance of the Trenton community through attractive



SUBMITTED

The Grand River Garden Club selected Betty Maupins' yard on Harris Avenue as its July Yard of the Month.

landscaping and property maintenance.



SUBMITTED

Main Street Creamery, 1011 Main St., received the Grand River Garden Club's Business Beautification Award for July.

Pond Turnover Can Threaten Fish, Livestock and Water Quality During Summer

By Jason Vance

Summer thunderstorms and changing weather can trigger a natural process known as pond turnover, creating sudden water quality problems that may threaten fish populations, livestock and overall pond health.

Joe Gerken, a fisheries and aquatics extension specialist with Kansas State University, said ponds naturally develop distinct water layers during warm weather. The warmer surface layer, known as the epilimnion, contains oxygen because it is in contact with the air. Beneath it, the cooler bottom layer, called the hypolimnion, gradually loses its oxygen as plants, animals and microorganisms consume it.

Because water of different temperatures does not readily mix, these layers remain separated throughout much of the summer.

A pond turnover occurs when something disrupts that separation. Heavy rain, strong winds or severe thunderstorms can force the layers together, circulating oxygen-poor water from the bottom to the surface while pushing oxygen-rich water downward.

Instead of having oxygen concentrated near the surface, the entire pond may suddenly have low oxygen levels.

"The deep water moves up to the surface, and the surface is pushed down toward the bottom," Gerken explained. "When that happens, oxygen levels drop, sediments become suspended and nutrients that were trapped on the pond bottom are released into the water."

One of the first signs of a turnover event is a pond that becomes muddy or cloudy almost overnight. Fish may begin gasping for air at the surface or, in severe cases, die from lack of oxygen. Pond owners may also notice unpleasant odors caused by low-oxygen conditions that stress or kill aquatic organisms.

Gerken encourages pond owners to contact their local Extension office or fisheries specialist if they notice sudden changes in water appearance or fish behavior.

While fish kills are often the most visible consequence, pond turnover can also create risks for livestock. The mixing process releases nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from bottom sediments, providing

ideal conditions for harmful algal blooms, particularly during hot summer weather.

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, can produce toxins that are dangerous or even fatal to livestock. Gerken said affected water often appears as a bright green, paint-like scum floating on the surface.

Animals exposed to toxic blooms may experience seizures, abnormal behavior, kidney damage and, in some cases, death.

Although pond turnover is a natural process that cannot always be prevented, Gerken said several management practices can reduce the likelihood or severity of problems. Maintaining adequate pond depth and installing aeration systems to keep water circulating can help prevent strong temperature layering and improve oxygen distribution.

Even with these measures, pond owners should remain vigilant during periods of hot weather followed by heavy rainfall or strong storms, when turnover events are most likely to occur. Monitoring ponds regularly and recognizing the warning signs can help producers respond quickly and reduce risks to fish, livestock and water quality.

Art's Alive Fine Arts Show Returns During North Central Missouri Fair

Art's Alive will give area artists an opportunity to display their work during its annual Fine Arts Show, scheduled for July 28 through Aug. 1 in conjunction with the North Central Missouri Fair.

The exhibit is open to junior and adult artists and will feature oil paintings, acrylic paintings, watercolors, drawings and photography. Organizers said the show is intended to encourage artists throughout the area to share their talents with the public.

The Fine Arts Show will be held in the Fine Arts Building in the merchants' area of the Rock Barn.

The building is located on the northeast side of the fairgrounds.

Public viewing hours will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, and Thursday, July 30; from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 31; and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. The exhibit will be closed Wednesday, July 29, while judging is conducted.

Artists should deliver their entries to the Rock Barn from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 25. Entries are requested several days before the exhibit opens to allow organizers time to arrange the display.

All entries must be framed,

wired and ready to hang. Solid frames are required, and paper frames will not be accepted. Artwork must have been completed within the past two years and cannot have previously received a prize in the same department of the fair. Paint-by-number artwork will not be accepted.

All submitted pieces must be the work of the exhibiting artist. The Fine Arts Show committee reserves the right to refuse any work it determines is unsuitable for public exhibition.

Judging will take place during

the evening of July 29. Award results will be available for viewing when the exhibit reopens Thursday. The Best of Show and People's Choice awards will be presented on the final day of the exhibit.

Artists may remove their entries between 10 a.m. and noon Saturday, Aug. 1. Entries will not be released before Saturday without forfeiture of any prizes or monetary awards. Appointments may be made to retrieve items remaining after noon, although Art's Alive will not be responsible for artwork left after that time.

PUZZLES

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Sandwich shops

6 Golden retriever, e.g.

9 Like porcupines

14 On the ball

15 The "A" in 49-Across

16 Not self-confident

17 Deception: 3 wds.

20 "Wait one ___!"

21 Body of saltwater

22 Coerce

24 Religious sculpture

26 Photo shooter

27 Creates sour feelings in

30 Abided

31 "Rats!"

32 Fraudulent operation

34 Mojito ingredient

35 Sign into law

37 ___ or nothing

38 Actor Guinness

40 Positively declare

41 '90s tech devices: Abbr.

42 Pharmacy

45 ___, white, and blue

46 Pilfered

47 Store transactions

49 Hoppy beer: Abbr.

50 Like a ___ of bricks

51 "Be more polite!": 4 wds.

60 Gracefully athletic

61 Notable time

62 Vertebrate's feature

63 Doomed one

64 T-shirt size: Abbr.

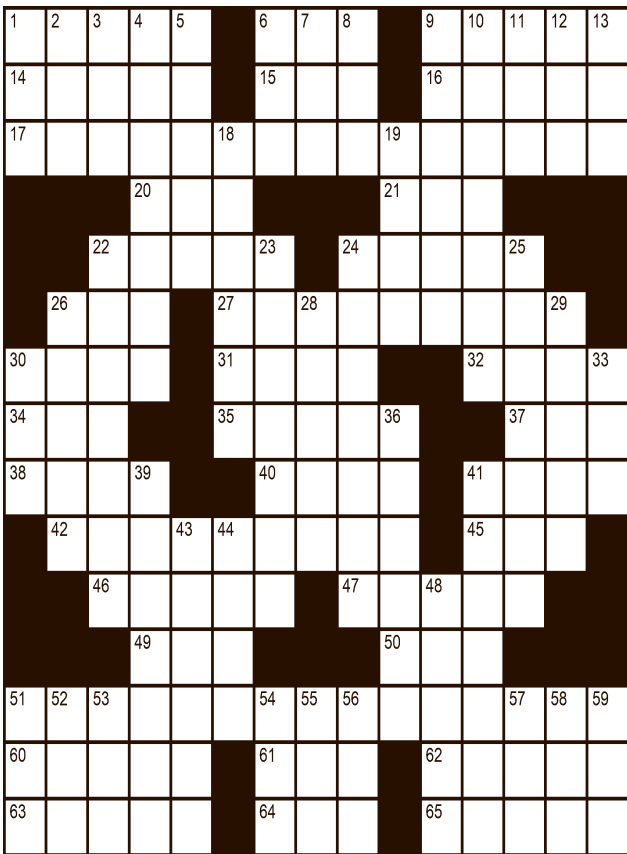
65 Athletic awards since 1993

- DOWN
- 1 "___ Boot" (1981 film)

2 Shade tree

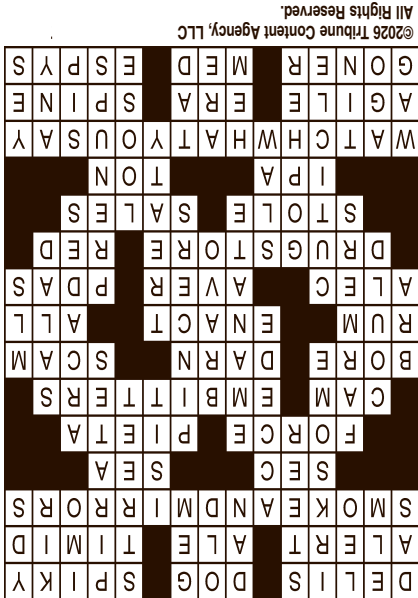
3 Lion of the zodiac

4 Annoying



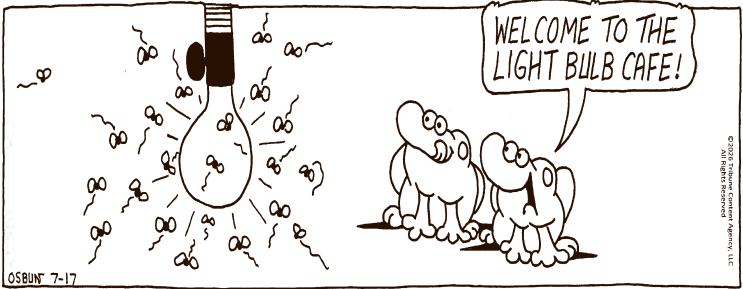
Created by Stella Zawistowski 7/17/26

- 5 Take the helm
- 6 Marino of football
- 7 Of long standing
- 8 Precious stone
- 9 City thoroughfare
- 10 Pittsburgh MLB team
- 11 "Hot take" preceder: Abbr.
- 12 Cassis cocktail
- 13 NFL distance units: Abbr.
- 18 Give consent
- 19 "What ___ this time?": 2 wds.
- 22 Crop cultivators
- 23 Flow out (from)
- 24 Crab's claws
- 25 Video-game parlors
- 26 Was able to
- 28 "Below Deck" network
- 29 Waldorf ___
- 30 Part of a bikini
- 33 Inter Miami's league: Abbr.
- 36 Negotiated agreement



- 39 Skin near a nail
- 41 Agreements before marriage
- 43 The ___ State (Minnesota)
- 44 Picnic side dish
- 48 Not taut
- 51 Tail movement
- 52 In the past
- 53 Pewter component
- 54 Skirt edge
- 55 "You ___ too much!"
- 56 Wee bit
- 57 Small taste
- 58 One or more
- 59 "Sure!"

ANIMAL CRACKERS



BOUND & GAGGED



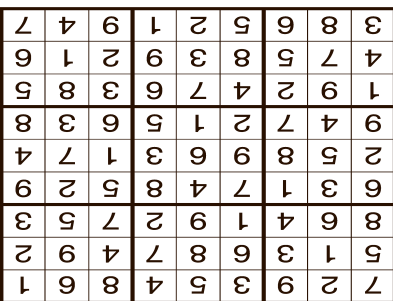
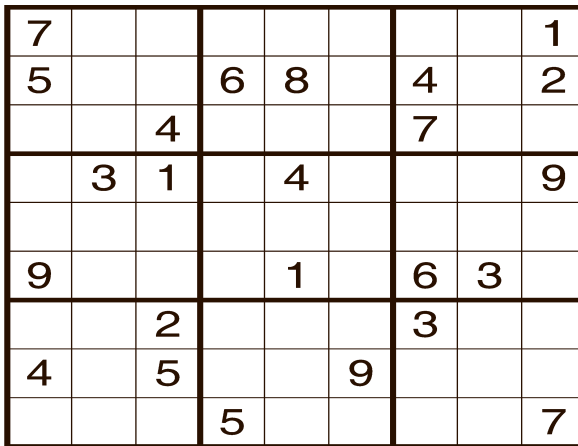
BREWSTER ROCKIT



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4



7/17/26

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

Farmland Title Fraud on the Rise

By Jason Vance
CherryRoad Media

A growing scam targeting rural landowners is raising concerns across the country, particularly in the Plains states and western regions where large tracts of farmland and ranchland often sit unattended.

According to Roger McEowen, a law professor at Washburn and Kansas State, scammers are increasingly impersonating landowners in an attempt to sell property they do not own.

“What once seemed unimaginable is now occurring with alarming frequency,” McEowen said. “Scammers are impersonating landowners and trying to sell rural property, and in some cases they’re getting dangerously close to succeeding.”

Unlike residential real estate, many farm and ranch properties have no occupied structures or daily activity that would alert owners to suspicious behavior. Absentee-owned farmland, hunting properties, pasture ground, recreational tracts, and mineral-producing properties are especially vulnerable.

Scammers often search public records for landowners who live out of state or rarely visit their property. Using publicly available information such as legal descriptions, tax mailing addresses, ownership histories, and even family details, fraudsters create convincing false identities.

Once armed with that information, they contact real estate agents while posing as the owner and attempt to move a sale through quickly. Frequently, the property is listed just below market value to attract immediate buyers and close the transaction before the legitimate owner becomes aware of the fraud.

Technology Speeds Fraud

McEowen noted that modern technology has made these scams increasingly sophisticated.

Many fraudulent transactions are conducted exclusively through email, text messages, electronic signatures, and remote communications. Artificial intelligence tools can now mimic voices and even create convincing video interactions, making it more difficult to verify identities.

“In smaller communities, people often know who owns the land,” McEowen said. “But when that

owner lives elsewhere and communication is entirely electronic, agents may not realize they’re dealing with a scammer.”

Warning Signs

McEowen recommends watching for several red flags, including:

- Sellers insisting on communicating only through text or email.
- Claims that the owner is overseas, traveling, hospitalized, or unavailable for in-person meetings.
- Aggressive pressure to complete a transaction quickly.
- Asking prices set slightly below market value.
- Out-of-state owners who are difficult to contact directly.
- Heavy reliance on electronic signatures without additional verification.

While electronic signatures are legal and commonly used, McEowen said they should not replace proper identity verification.

Exposing The Scammer

Real estate professionals can protect themselves by asking detailed questions that only a true owner would likely know.

Topics might include:

- Fencing locations and conditions.
- Cropping and grazing history.
- Tenant arrangements.
- Water access and water rights.
- Neighboring landowners and operators.
- Mineral production activity.

“Those are details that are often not available through public records,” McEowen said. “A scammer may know basic information, but they typically won’t know the specifics of the property.”

In some cases, fraudsters go beyond impersonating landowners.

They may spoof phone numbers, create fake email domains, fabricate identification documents, manipulate electronic signature platforms, and even produce fraudulent notarization records.

Some bypass real estate professionals entirely by advertising properties as “for sale by owner” and attempting to complete transactions without agents or title companies.

“They can make it appear that a legitimate agent, broker, or title company is involved when the entire transaction is fraudulent,” McEowen said.

To read more about title fraud visit www.trentontelegraph.com.

Quality Care Close to Home

Wright Memorial Hospital offers local access to advanced specialty providers



Susana D'Amico, MD, specializes in treatment for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, obesity, thyroid disease, osteoporosis, and pituitary and adrenal disorders.

Schedule an appointment
660-358-5818

View our clinic calendar
SaintLukesKC.org/WMH-Specialty



Saint Luke's
Wright Memorial Hospital