

No Data Center Planned As Grundy County Meets to Discuss the Future



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Trenton Mayor Jackie Soptic addresses her priorities concerning data centers at the data center hearing held on Aug. 14.

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Grundy County and Trenton officials are beginning to examine how data centers could affect local utilities, natural resources, land use and taxpayers, even as officials emphasized that no data center project is currently planned for the area.

The discussion came during a joint public meeting Aug. 14 at the Grundy County Courthouse involving the Grundy County Commission, City of Trenton, North Central Missouri Development Alliance and Grundy Electric Cooperative.

"We're not going to announce a new data center tonight," Presiding Commissioner Phillip Ray said. "That is not what we're here to do."

What developers look for

Ray said the purpose was to begin understanding how data center developers select communities, what infrastructure they require and what local governments can do to protect residents and resources if a proposal eventually arrives.

GRUNDY

CONTINUED TO PG 2

Prayer Walk Draws Nearly 100 to Pray Over Trenton Schools

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Trenton Assembly of God's annual school prayer walk brought almost 100 people together Sunday, Aug. 16, to worship and pray over Trenton students, teachers, staff and schools ahead of the new school year.

Organizer Darcie Taylor said that the event had grown this year with the crowd surpassing the 50 to 70 participants the event had typically drawn in recent years.

"Any time you have that many people worshipping



SUBMITTED

Members of the Trenton community worship with Freedom Sound ministry at C.F. Russel Stadium during the prayer walk.

God at the same time, it is special. But, to see that many people praying over the schools was amazing," Taylor said.

The evening began at C.F. Russell Stadium with praise and prayer before

participants dispersed along a mapped route around the Trenton R-IX school grounds. The route was also driveable so that anyone could participate.

PRAYER

CONTINUED TO PG 3

Health Department Offers Free Tai Chi Class for Fall Prevention

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Grundy County Health Department will offer a free beginner's Tai Chi class starting Sept. 15, giving area residents an opportunity to learn the low-impact exercise as part of the department's ongoing fall-prevention efforts.

Grundy County Health Department Administrator Elizabeth Gibson, who is also a certified Tai Chi instructor, said the exercise uses deliberate movements to improve the

skills people need to remain steady and mobile as they age.

"It's slow, intentional movements that build balance, strength and stamina," she said.

Gibson became involved with Tai Chi through a former Grundy County Falls Coalition, which focused on ways to reduce falls among older adults. Exercise was one of several prevention strategies discussed by the group, along with medication reviews, vision care and other steps.

CLASS

CONTINUED TO PG 3

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Grundy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Water was among the first concerns raised. Ray said a past economic development study identified water as one of the area's most valuable resources and said local officials do not want future development to compromise existing users.

North Central Missouri Development Alliance Executive Director Megan Pester said the organization is not currently pursuing a data center and has no pending project. She said companies generally begin by evaluating available sites and then contacting utilities to determine whether a community can support the project.

Pester also said the area's labor force would be a limiting factor for a large project.

Grundy Electric Cooperative General Manager Scott Wilson said the cooperative has been contacted multiple times from potential data center interests, but "to my knowledge, there

are none planned in this area currently."

Wilson added the four Grundy Electric substations in the county do not have enough excess capacity for a large project. At present, he said a one-to five-megawatt facility would be about the largest load the cooperative could accommodate without major changes.

He said a smaller modular data center could resemble a shipping container or small building and would generally be located near a substation. A 50-megawatt facility, by comparison, would require substantially more transmission capacity and investment, while Wilson said he does not expect a 500-megawatt hyperscale center to locate in the area under current conditions.

Wilson added a developer locating in Grundy Electric's territory would be required to pay upfront for lines, substation upgrades and other infrastructure needed specifically for the project. He said that arrangement is intended to keep those costs from being shifted to existing cooperative members.

Wilson also said smaller modern facilities may use closed-loop cooling systems that reuse water rather than continually drawing large quantities for cooling.

In Trenton

Inside Trenton, City Administrator Matt Harline said the city currently has no zoning language written specifically for data centers. If a proposal were submitted today, officials would have to determine which existing land-use category most closely applies or amend the city code. Harline said a large facility would most likely be considered for heavy industrial property.

Trenton's participation in a pooled municipal electric system also provides mechanisms for dealing with unusually large electric loads. Agreements could require deposits and long-term power commitments to protect the city if it purchased additional capacity for a facility that later closed or left.

"The greatest risk to us is if they came and then they left,

and we made purchases of capacity," Harline said.

Mayor Jackie Soptic said the city's Planning and Zoning Commission gives Trenton a public process to consider land-use impacts, including how a project could impact neighboring property owners.

County zoning

The county faces a different situation because Grundy County does not currently have countywide planning and zoning. Ray said options could include a temporary moratorium or beginning the much longer process of adopting planning and zoning.

Ray said county zoning is not the commission's first choice because county leaders have historically emphasized private landowner rights. However, he said they are now considering whether some form of regulation could ultimately be needed to protect those same rights from incompatible development.

"We have stayed out of zoning for the very reason that we may be entertaining the idea of enacting it," Ray said.

Ray further addressed the process during a Grundy County Commission meeting, explaining that the commissioners could not enact county zoning on their own.

"For Grundy County to become zoned, it has to be initiated by the people," Ray said.

He said a petition would be required to place the matter before voters, with a simple majority needed for approval. Ray said details of how a county zoning system would ultimately be administered, including the makeup and responsibilities of a zoning board, would still have to be determined.

Grundy County is classified as a third-class county with a township form of government. Missouri law provides a process for county or township planning and zoning that includes development of a proposed plan, public hearings and voter approval before adoption.

Ray also said individual landowners retain an important degree of control over whether their property could become

part of a future data center development.

"The best thing people can do is to not sell their property," Ray said. "And you will retain control of it that way."

Ray said local officials would have to determine whether revenue generated by a project would be enough to offset demands on roads, emergency services and other public infrastructure.

Around the state

Missouri has also begun addressing concerns about electrical costs. Senate Bill 4, approved in 2025, requires certain regulated electric utilities to establish special tariffs for very large customers so their rates reflect the cost of serving them and do not shift unreasonable costs to other customer classes.

The Missouri Association of Counties, Missouri Municipal League and Missouri School Boards' Association also held a Local Government Data Center Summit June 17 in Jefferson City covering energy, water, infrastructure, incentives, zoning and potential legislation.

The statewide discussion comes as major data center investment expands in Missouri. Google announced in May a \$15 billion investment in a data center and related infrastructure in Montgomery County. The company and state said Google would pay for power and infrastructure costs directly driven by the facility and that the Montgomery County project would use air cooling to limit water consumption.

Ray said Grundy County is not presently in the same position as communities attracting projects on that scale. Instead, he said the goal is to develop a framework before a proposal appears rather than reacting after commitments have already been made.

Ray said the County Commission will not sign nondisclosure agreements involving data centers and wants future discussions to remain as public as possible.

"These conversations will continue with our community and with our stakeholders," he said.

TRENTON TELEGRAPH

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Class

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The need for fall prevention is significant, say experts. More than one in four older adults report falling each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC specifically recommends exercises that strengthen the legs and improve balance, including Tai Chi.

Unlike exercises built around speed or high-impact movement, Tai Chi emphasizes slow, controlled motions and deliberate changes in body position. Gibson said participants learn to transfer their weight from one foot to another and become increasingly aware of where their body is positioned.

"It's harder than it looks," she said, adding the program can be modified as needed. Some movements can be performed from a seated position for people who have difficulty standing for extended periods. Those with significant balance problems or other medical concerns should consult their healthcare provider before beginning a new exercise program.

The department has



METRO CREATIVE

The Grundy County Health Department will offer a free beginner's Tai Chi class starting Sept. 15, giving area residents an opportunity to learn the low-impact exercise as part of the department's ongoing fall-prevention efforts.

offered Tai Chi for years. Gibson currently works with an advanced group of six people over age 65, some of whom have practiced for about eight years.

For those participants, she said, the benefit extends beyond exercise.

"There is absolutely a social component to why people enjoy the class," she said, "people like to get up and do social things together."

Gibson recalled one farmer she trained with who found that after practicing Tai Chi, everyday tasks such

as getting in and out of his tractor became easier and his back bothered him less at the end of the day.

That gradual improvement in ordinary movement, Gibson said, is one of the goals of the program.

The beginner class will be 11 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in the Health Department annex building. There is no charge to participate.

For additional information, the Grundy County Health Department can be reached at 660-359-4196.

Obituaries

DR. DENNIS LEE GUTSHALL

Aug 27, 1946 - Jul 29, 2026

Dr. Dennis Lee Gutshall, DC, age 79, of Leawood, KS passed away at his home on July 29, 2026.

Dennis was born in Trenton, MO on August 27, 1946, the son of Lewis and Dorothy (Taylor) Gutshall.

Dennis grew up on family farms in the Gilman City and Jamesport area. He graduated from Gilman City High School in 1964. Dennis attended York College in York, NE and Oklahoma Christian College, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Bible. He went on to serve in the US Army as a medic in 1969 and 1970.

After the service, Dennis enrolled and graduated from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City, MO, where he practiced as a chiropractic physician until his retirement in 2021. On July 28, 1974, Dennis married Angela Paletta in Raytown, MO and together they had one daughter, Rebecca. Above all, Dennis enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a people person and was able to strike up a conversation with anyone. He especially enjoyed baseball, researching family genealogy, and family history. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Angela of the home and their daughter, Rebecca and son-in-law, Matt Terry; a brother, Roger and wife Kathy, of Omaha, NE; a brother, Tim and wife, Rogene of Russell KS; and a sister, Penny and husband, Alan Tolle of Trenton, Mo; and many nephews and nieces.

Private Memorial Graveside Services with Military Rites will be held in Pilot Grove #1 Cemetery in Gilman City, MO under the direction of Roberson Funeral Home, Bethany, MO. There is no scheduled family visitation. Memorials may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation in care of Roberson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 46, Bethany, MO 64424 or at <https://t2t.org> Online condolences may be left at www.robersonfuneralhome.com.

Prayer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Different locations along the route provided participants with specific prayer focuses, including student-athletes at the stadium and younger students and friendships near the playground.

Derek McCauslin was on hand with Freedom Sound, providing worship music for the gathering. Freedom Sound is a Trenton-based ministry focused on community outreach through worship, music, prayer and fellowship.

"We are all about spreading God's word," McCauslin said. "It was cool to see different denominations coming together as one."

Taylor said the final worship song of the evening, "The God of This City," made the sight of community

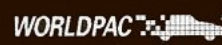
members spreading out to pray over the schools particularly meaningful.

"To see that many people praying over our schools was touching," Taylor said. "God never ceases to amaze me."

Following the prayer walk, around 30 youth remained for a youth event. The after-party had been planned as an opportunity for area youth to spend additional time together following the community prayer walk.

For Taylor, the turnout reinforced the purpose organizers have continued to build around the event — bringing the community together and covering local schools in prayer as students and staff begin another year.

"We have a responsibility to cover our children and our staff and our schools in prayer, knowing that that's what God asked us to do," Taylor said.



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\$40,000 Grant Supports Grundy County Veterans

BTC Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank partner to provide funding

BTC Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines have awarded a \$40,000 grant to the Grundy County Veteran’s Association to help renovate a building that will become the organization’s permanent home.

The grant was awarded through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines’ Member Impact Fund, a matching program intended to expand the community investments of member financial institutions supporting local housing, business and economic needs.

The funds will help renovate a building for use by the Grundy County Veteran’s Association, which supports Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 919, American Legion Post No. 31 and veterans throughout the area.

Plans for the building include permanent office space for the veterans service officer and a private area where a psychologist can meet with veterans. The facility also is expected to include space for meetings, fellowship and relaxation, and may be made available to other community organizations.

“Organizations like the Grundy County Veteran’s Association make a real difference in our communities,” BTC Bank President and CEO Doug Fish said. “Through our partnership with FHLB Des Moines, this grant helps provide resources that might not otherwise be available. We’re honored to support a project that will serve veterans and the broader community for years to come.”

Sam Smith, quartermaster of the Grundy County Veteran’s Association, said establishing a permanent location will allow the organization to expand its support for area veterans.

“This grant is a tremendous step forward for the Grundy County Veteran’s Association and for the veterans we serve,” Smith said. “Having a permanent location will give us the opportunity to better support local veterans, provide access to important resources and create a welcoming space for fellowship, connection and community use. We are grateful to BTC Bank and FHLB Des Moines for partnering with us and helping make this vision a reality.”

In Missouri, 956 applications received funding through partnerships with 174 member institutions. The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines matched \$3 for every \$1 contributed by a member institution. Member contributions totaled \$6.5 million, while the bank awarded \$19.4 million.

“The Member Impact

Fund is designed to help our members champion organizations like the Grundy County Veteran’s Association that make a real difference in their communities,” FHLB Des Moines President and CEO Kris Williams said. “By partnering with our members, we’re able to multiply resources and support their vital work as they continue to strengthen opportunities for the people they serve.”

Since the fund was launched in 2023, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines has provided more than \$106 million in grants. Every eligible application submitted to the program has received funding, according to the bank.

“Projects like this are exactly why community partnerships matter,” Fish said. “When local organizations, community banks and partners like FHLB Des Moines work together, we can accomplish more than any one of us could alone.”

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TRENTON ATHLETICS

2026 FALL SEASON SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE KEY

HOME

AWAY

HOMECOMING

PINK OUT

FOOTBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
8/21	Lathrop Jamboree w/ Trenton/North Platte/Plattsburg	-
8/28	East Buchanan	7:00 pm
9/4	at Fayette	7:00 pm
9/11	Marceline	7:00 pm
9/18	at Brookfield	7:00 pm
9/25	South Harrison	7:00 pm
10/2	at Milan	7:00 pm
10/9	Putnam County	7:00 pm
10/16	at Maysville	7:00 pm
10/23	Gallatin with Tri-County	7:00 pm

GIRLS GOLF		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/1	Trenton/Marceline/Brookfield Tri	4:00 pm
9/1	Brookfield	TBD
9/1	Marceline	TBD
9/8	Chillicothe Quad	4:00 pm
9/9	Lawson Invitational	8:00 am
9/10	Gallatin Quad - Trenton, Penney, Mercer	4:00 pm
9/15	Gallatin Tournament	-
9/16	Spartan Invitational	-
9/21	at Penney	4:00 pm
9/24	Chillicothe Invitational	-
9/29	Trenton Triangular (South Harrison/Maysville)	4:00 pm
9/30	at Putnam County	4:00 pm
10/5	GRC Tournament	-

SOFTBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
8/22	Putnam County Jamboree	-
8/27	at Worth County	5:00 pm
8/29	Marshall Tournament	-
8/31	Lathrop	5:00 pm
9/1	at Savannah	4:30 pm
9/8	Brookfield	5:00 pm
9/9	at Princeton	5:30 pm
9/10	at Putnam County	5:00 pm
9/12	Benton Tournament	-
9/14	Penney	5:00 pm
9/15	Maysville	5:00 pm
9/17	at Gallatin	5:00 pm
9/21	Lawson	5:00 pm
9/22	at South Harrison	5:00 pm
9/24	Milan	5:00 pm
9/26	NCMC Nan Carter	-
9/29	at Marceline	5:00 pm
10/3	La Plata Invitational	-
10/5	at Albany	5:00 pm
10/6	North Harrison	5:00 pm
10/8	at Cameron	5:00 pm
10/12	at Chillicothe	5:00 pm

VOLLEYBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/1	Brookfield	6:00 pm
9/3	at Chillicothe	7:00 pm
9/7	at Cameron	7:00 pm
9/8	Plattsburg	6:00 pm
9/10	at Carrollton	6:00 pm
9/12	Lexington Volleyball Tournament	-
9/14	Penney	6:00 pm
9/15	at South Harrison	6:00 pm
9/17	at Kirksville	6:00 pm
9/19	Lathrop Invitational	-
9/22	East Buchanan Tri	-
9/24	Maysville	6:00 pm
9/26	Hy-Vee Invitational	-
9/28	at Brookfield	6:30 pm
9/29	East Buchanan	5:00 pm
10/1	South Harrison	6:00 pm
10/5	Chillicothe	7:00 pm
10/6	at Lathrop	7:00 pm
10/10	GRC Round Robin Tournament	-
10/12	Lexington	6:00 pm
10/13	at Bishop LeBlond	7:00 pm
10/15	at St. Joseph Christian	6:00 pm

GIRLS TENNIS		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/1	Carrollton	4:00 pm
9/3	at Savannah	4:00 pm
9/8	at Bishop LeBlond	4:00 pm
9/9	Carrollton Invitational	-
9/10	Cameron	4:00 pm
9/11	Benton Tournament	-
9/16	Cameron Tournament	-
9/17	at Kirksville	4:00 pm
9/21	at Maryville	4:00 pm
9/24	at Chillicothe	4:00 pm
9/28	Benton	4:00 pm
9/29	Lexington	4:30 pm
10/5	Maryville Tournament	-

CROSS COUNTRY		
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/1	NWMO 2 Miles	-
9/10	St. Joseph Christian School Cross Country Meet	-
9/19	Bishop LeBlond Invitational	-
9/24	Chillicothe Invitational	-
10/13	Cameron XC Meet	-
10/17	West Platte Invitational	-

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
9/1	NWMO 2 Miles	-
9/10	St. Joseph Christian School Cross Country Meet	-
9/19	Bishop LeBlond Invitational	-
9/24	Chillicothe Invitational	-
10/13	Cameron XC Meet	-
10/17	West Platte Invitational	-

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check the Trenton R-X website and social media for the latest updates.

As the 2026 school year begins, the Telegraph has put together this sports schedule for the fall season. Be sure to read weekly issues of the Trenton Telegraph and TrentonTelegraph.com to stay updated on the coming season.

GABE STARK/STAFF ILLUSTRATION

School Board Approves Personnel Changes

The Trenton R-IX Board of Education approved several personnel changes during executive sessions held Aug. 5 and Aug. 12, including the resignation and replacement of the district's varsity girls basketball coach.

During the Aug. 5 session, the board accepted the resignations of paraprofessionals Jessie White and Ashley McIntosh, along with varsity girls basketball coach Steve Richaman.

The board also approved three new hires at that meeting. Kim Foster and Darcie Taylor were hired as fourth-grade teachers, while Jennifer Mullins was hired as a paraprofessional.

Additional personnel action was taken during the Aug. 12 executive session. Samantha Boxley was hired as the Trenton High School varsity girls basketball coach. Tasha Wyant was approved as the Class of 2027 sponsor, and Sarah Pauley was hired as the THS Scholar Bowl sponsor.

The board also hired Aaron Pryor for part-time summer grounds work, Robin Burkeybile as Rissler kitchen manager and Isabelle Wilson as TMS/THS kitchen manager.

Forty substitutes were approved for August. They are Kelli Adams, Jeff Berti, Susan Burkey-Hill, Jane Cooksey, Barbara Cox, Tyann Cox, Dana Creason, Robert Deaver, Jesus Diaz, Angela Dugan, Janice Gates, Karen Glenn, Martha Goedert, Janet Gott, Kayla Graham, Marsha Hurst, Sonci Jones, Kaitlyn Keith, Tamara Leafgreen, Susan Leeper, Avery McCauslin, Cara McClellan, Krysta McCullough, McKaila Miller, Rebecca Mullins, Tammy Ockenfels, Chris Parks, Tonya Patridge, Finley Williams Pattison, Jordan Sahagun, Leola Sharp, Tanya Sheppard, Hannah Stark, Nathan Stark, Hannah Weaver, Kristi Weyer, Jessie White, Cathie Whitney, Karen Willis and Robin Wilson.

Grundy County Health Department to Host Fall Baby Shower

The Grundy County Health Department will host a fall baby shower for expectant mothers in Grundy County with due dates from September through February. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, in the department's education annex, 1307 E. 17th St., Trenton.

The baby shower will feature vendors, refreshments, gifts and information about programs and services available to mothers and families. A special infant-feeding class will also be offered at 5:30 p.m.

Christina Ferguson, the department's WIC-certified registered dietitian, will discuss infant-feeding options and answer questions from participants.

"Having a baby brings a lot of excitement, but it can

also bring a lot of questions," Shelby Roof-Ewald, community health nurse with the Grundy County Health Department, said. "This baby shower is a time to connect with those who can help, learn something new and enjoy time celebrating this important stage of life."

Roof-Ewald said the event can be beneficial for both first-time mothers and those who already have children.

"We want moms to feel supported and know they have resources available to them as they prepare for their new baby and continue their journey into motherhood after the baby arrives," Roof-Ewald said.

No registration is required. For more information, call the Grundy County Health Department at 660-359-4196.




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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing Notice

The Grundy County Commission will be holding a public hearing on September 1st at 11:00 am at the Grundy County Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Trenton, Missouri 64683, regarding the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for funding assistance to purchase office information technology equipment for the Grundy County Ambulance Service. All citizens are encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew D. Walker, EMS Director at (660) 359-4422

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Trenton R-IX, Grundy R-V, Laredo R-VII, and Pleasant View R-VI announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,748	\$1,729	\$399	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$568
2	28,132	2,345	541	40,034	3,337	770
3	35,516	2,960	683	50,542	4,212	972
4	42,900	3,575	825	61,050	5,088	1,175
5	50,284	4,191	967	71,558	5,964	1,377
6	57,668	4,806	1,109	82,066	6,839	1,579
7	65,052	5,421	1,251	92,574	7,715	1,781
8	72,436	6,037	1,393	103,082	8,591	1,983
Each add'l member	+7,384	+616	+142	+10,508	+876	+203

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income or other information provided on the application at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Households with children who are eligible under the foster, Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving meal benefits. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Children who are members of households currently certified as receiving Food Stamps, TANF or FDIPIR are eligible for free meals. To complete an application, the household must provide the names of the children, a statement that the household receives the qualifying benefits, the Food Stamps/TANF/FDIPIR case number, and the signature of the adult household member making application. When known by the school that members of a household are receiving assistance from Food Stamps, TANF or FDIPIR, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free school meals. If any children in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to all children in the household. If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the [Title of Determining Official] will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the [Title of Hearing Official]. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

USDA Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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PUZZLES

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Timeline section

5 The ___ & the Papas

10 Discount grocery chain

14 Swallow quickly

15 Gas meter measurement

16 Two-person combat

17 A single time

18 Fatigued

19 Talking test

20 Biblical da Vinci mural: 3 wds.

23 Make tweaks to

24 Use scissors

25 TV controllers

28 1940 Hitchcock film

32 Large dwarf planet

33 Has a fine meal

35 Bar soap brand

36 Not trans

37 Used-up pencil

38 Oversharing reaction: Abbr.

39 Performs in a play

41 Day's dawn

43 Field of interest

44 Chalklike sticks

46 Inked body designs

48 Former President Biden

49 Comedian Rivers

50 Upper Manhattan neighborhood: 2 wds.

56 Soapy lather

57 Doom and ___

58 "Frozen" snowman

60 If not

61 Hågar the Horrible's wife

62 Narrow cut

63 Sprays with water

64 ___ army knife

65 Beach surface

- DOWN
- 1 Sense of self

2 Smallest in a litter

3 Elixir of life seekers

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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	20			21						22				
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56					57					58			59	
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

Created by Stella Zawistowski

8/21/26

- 4 Tight swimsuits
- 5 Genetically changed
- 6 Without changes: 2 wds.
- 7 Trading center
- 8 Gets older
- 9 Persuasively charms
- 10 Took in, as a shelter dog
- 11 Entice
- 12 Beloved
- 13 Not feeling well
- 21 Ignited
- 22 U.K. watering hole
- 25 TV episode summary
- 26 "All My Children" role

- 27 Nasal cavity
- 28 Argue against
- 29 Natural bug repellent
- 30 Small movie role
- 31 Assumed name
- 34 Religious sister
- 40 Patron of pilgrims: 2 wds.

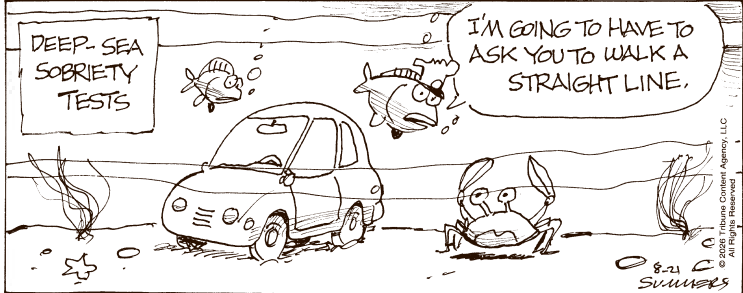
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A	L	D	I				S	A	M	A	S		R	E

- 41 Horse-drawn sleds
- 42 Bedclothes
- 43 Perplexed: 3 wds.
- 45 Very long time
- 47 Craggy hill
- 50 Only
- 51 "That's all in the ___"
- 52 Large quantity
- 53 Hindu spring festival
- 54 Big pigs
- 55 Most important
- 56 Not many
- 59 Flower retailer: Abbr.

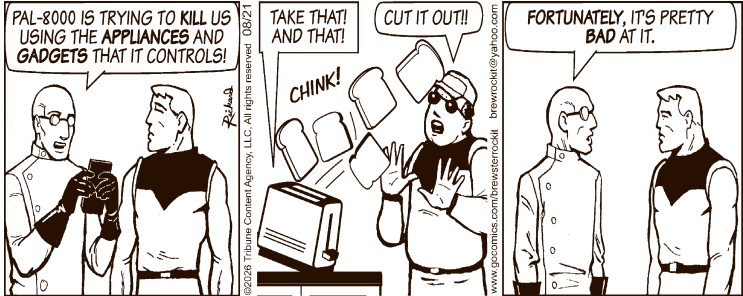
ANIMAL CRACKERS



BOUND & GAGGED



BREWSTER ROCKIT



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

8/21/26

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

Trenton Administrative Committee Advances Code Enforcement, Animal Control Changes

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Trenton Administrative Committee advanced recommendations to the City Council, including a full-time code enforcement position, an animal control contract, a title change for Wes Barone and an additional wastewater employee.

The committee met Aug. 18 at Trenton City Hall.

City administrator Matt Harline said the proposed code enforcement officer would report to Barone. The employee would handle complaints involving tall grass, weeds, junk and other nuisances while assisting with dangerous buildings and learning building and property maintenance inspections.

Harline said the city has no employee dedicated to those duties. Guidance from municipal attorney Holly Dodge could help the city move more quickly on nuisance

abatement while the court process for fines continues.

"We'll still be working with the police department on these things when necessary," Harline said.

The committee unanimously recommended forwarding the position to the council.

Members also advanced a proposal to contract with Affordable Vet Care for animal control services. The business could respond to stray animals and provide housing, while police would retain enforcement authority.

Mayor Jackie Soptic said finding space for stray animals has been a challenge. Affordable Vet Care is considering forming a non-profit and developing a larger animal housing facility.

The committee recommended changing Barone's title from Code Enforcement Officer/Airport Manager to Community Development Director. His duties would continue to include zoning, demolition projects, Community

Development Block Grant projects and airport oversight. The title change would not include an immediate pay increase.

Wastewater supervisor Bob Hutchinson requested another employee at the wastewater treatment plant. He said the plant previously operated with four employees plus a supervisor, a staffing level recommended by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, but has operated with three employees plus him for several years.

Hutchinson said he expects to retire within a year to a year and a half and wants another employee hired soon enough to receive training.

"I would just like to go ahead and bring somebody on now to start learning this plant," Hutchinson said. "There's a lot to it."

He said another employee could reduce overtime needed to cover vacations, weekends and holidays. The committee recommended forwarding the request.

A proposal to move City Council meetings from their current 7 p.m. start time was also forwarded for further discussion.

Committee member Lindsay Stevens, participating by Zoom, said an earlier meeting could make participation easier for council members, city employees and residents with children or early work schedules.

Possible start times of 6 or 6:30 p.m. were discussed, although the Building and Nuisance Board currently meets before council meetings. The committee forwarded the issue without recommending a specific time.

The committee also discussed updating city code to more accurately reflect the Administrative Committee's responsibilities. Soptic said the committee has long handled issues that do not clearly fall under another standing committee despite the code listing more limited duties. City officials plan to return with a proposal.

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