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TRENTON TELEGRAPH

FRIDAY

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Trenton High School Announces 2026 Homecoming Activities

Trenton High School Student Council and Student Leadership have announced several activities planned for the 2026 Homecoming season, including a tailgate, Spirit Week, community pep rally and Homecoming parade.

Homecoming activities will begin Friday, Sept. 11, with a Homecoming Tailgate at C.F. Russell Stadium. Food will be served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., with all funds raised going toward Homecoming activities.

Spirit Week will be held

Sept. 22-25 with the theme, "Let's Have a Marvel-ous Homecoming Week." The Marvel-themed celebration will include special dress-up and spirit days throughout the week. Trenton Middle School and Rissler Elementary School may tailor the activities to best fit their students.

A Community Pep Rally is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. at C.F. Russell Stadium. Students, families and community members are invited to attend and

support the Bulldogs ahead of the Homecoming football game.

The annual Homecoming Parade will take place Friday, Sept. 25, beginning at 1 p.m. Parade participants will begin lining up at 12:30 p.m. Organizations interested in participating in the parade are asked to contact Greg Dalrymple at Trenton High School.

THS will also introduce this year's Homecoming candidates as part of the festivities leading up to Homecoming Week.



SUBMITTED

Jamie Hooyman will serve as interim president of North Central Missouri College while a national search for the position is underway.

College Begins Search for Next President

North Central Missouri College has begun a national search for its next president following the retirement of Dr. Lenny Klaver, effective Aug. 31.

The NCMC Board of Trustees appointed Jamie Hooyman as interim president effective Sept. 1 to lead the college during the search process.

Board President Diane Lowrey expressed confidence in the college's future and the leadership transition.

"Throughout our history, NCMC has been fortunate to

PRESIDENT

CONTINUED TO PG 2

Trenton Chamber Awards 44 Grants to Local Educators

The Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the success of its 2026 Teacher Grant Program after awarding 44 classroom grants to educators at Trenton R-9 School District and Trenton Head Start.

The program was created to provide teachers with additional classroom resources while also recognizing the work educators

GRANTS

CONTINUED TO PG 2



SUBMITTED

Trenton R-9 and Trenton Head Start teachers received classroom grants during the 2026 teacher convocation as part of the Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce Teacher Grant Program.

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Adoption Of Labor Day Took Hard Work

Metro Creative

Come the first Monday of September, many children and their parents start to face the reality that school, if it hasn't yet started, is about to begin again. That's because Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer. But there is much more to this holiday than barbecues and the notion that fall

is right around the corner.

Labor Day was forged by the labor movement of the late nineteenth century. Many workers during this time felt they were underpaid and overworked. Conditions at their places of employment also lacked adequate safety. These workers banded together to fight for higher wages, shorter workdays and improved

working conditions.

Before it was adopted as an American federal holiday, Labor Day was first recognized by labor activists and individual states. Although New York was the first state to introduce a bill, Oregon actually was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, which the state first celebrated on February 21, 1887. Four more states followed suit

that year. By the end of the decade, three more states passed Labor Day holiday laws.

In recognition of the momentum of Labor Day at the state level, and with the adoption of the holiday by another 23 states by 1894, Congress passed an act on June 28, 1894, officially making the first Monday in September a legal holiday each year.

President

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have leaders who were the right people at the right time to build upon our strong foundation," she said. "Today, our college is in a position of strength, and we are confident that our next president will continue our tradition of excellence. We know we will attract outstanding candidates who are eager to become part of our exceptional college community."

The board also expressed appreciation for Klaver's service and the progress made during his tenure.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Lenny Klaver for his years of dedicated leadership and service to North Central Missouri College," Lowrey said. "During his time as president, NCMC experienced meaningful growth and development that strengthened our mission and expanded opportunities for students. We thank Dr. Klaver for his many contributions and wish him the very best in retirement and his future endeavors."

Hooyman brings decades of higher education and leadership experience to the interim role and has longstanding ties to NCMC.

Most recently, Hooyman retired from Northwest Missouri State University, where she served as vice president of academic affairs and provost. Appointed in 2017, she became the first woman in the university's history to serve as chief academic officer, overseeing academic quality, student success and institutional planning. She also served for many years as a mentor with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Academy for New Provosts.

Before joining Northwest's leadership team, Hooyman spent more than a decade at NCMC in several leadership positions, including vice president of institutional effectiveness. In that role, she oversaw instruction, student services, grants, dual credit and outreach programs, business and industry partnerships and information technology initiatives. She also represented the college on state-level committees and task forces.

Her professional experience also includes serving as a faculty member at the University of Central Oklahoma and holding leadership roles with Metropolitan Community College and Jackson County. She began her career in health care, working in clinical and wellness settings focused on improving quality of life for diverse populations.

Hooyman holds a Doctor of Education in human performance from Oklahoma State University, a Master of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University, a Bachelor of Science in Education from Missouri State University and an Associate of Arts degree from NCMC.

Throughout her career, Hooyman has served on numerous committees and

professional organizations, presented at conferences and received regional and national recognition. Among her honors are NCMC's Top Sail Award and Northwest Missouri State University's Influential Woman Award.

"I am thrilled to serve as Interim President because I believe so strongly in what NCMC does every day to help individuals achieve their dreams," Hooyman said. "This institution has been an important part of my family's history, and I never hesitate to give back when I can. I look forward to working alongside our talented faculty and staff and with the communities we serve as we continue moving the college forward."

Lowrey said the board is confident Hooyman will provide steady leadership during the transition.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Hooyman back to NCMC as Interim President," Lowrey said. "She brings a wealth of higher education experience, a strong understanding of our institution, and a demonstrated commitment to student success. Her leadership will provide continuity, stability, and support as we move through the presidential search process and continue serving our students and communities."

GRANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do throughout the community. Local businesses, organizations and individuals sponsored \$50 classroom grants, which were presented during the 2026 teacher convocation at the beginning of

the school year.

According to the chamber, the grants can be used by teachers to purchase books, art supplies, science materials and other classroom resources that support student learning.

The chamber notes the program was also intended to show local educators that the community

appreciates their efforts and recognizes that teachers sometimes spend their own money to provide needed classroom materials.

Following the success of the inaugural program, the chamber plans to continue the Teacher Grant Program next year and hopes to expand the initiative to provide additional support for area educators.

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SUBMITTED

Left to right: Brianna Wheelbarger, Titus Kottwitz, Maxey, Kale Batson and Kaidence Griffith, receiving the Graham McVay scholarship.

TRENTON TALES

Steve Maxey Supports Trenton From Afar

By Julie Hill Lehr
Contributor

Though he no longer lives in town, Steve Maxey is among a handful of former Trentonians who continue to give back to the community.

In 2014, Maxey and his wife, Shirley, retired and moved to the Kansas City area to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Although Maxey decided to move, he could not completely cut ties with his hometown. He wanted to continue his work with the Foundation Trust for Trenton High School Board of Directors.

Maxey was invited to join the Foundation Trust board in 1991 and was proud to become part of the organization.

"At that time, there were only five members, and I was the kid," Maxey said.

He remembers some of the first projects he worked on for the foundation.

"Among our projects in those early years was acquiring stage curtains for the former Trenton High School, a chair lift for the school, assisting in providing air conditioning for classrooms throughout the system and spearheading a project to construct the Blocks for Growth concession stand and restrooms on the north side of C.F. Russell Stadium," Maxey said.

One of the board's newer responsibilities is overseeing the THS Alumni Association. Maxey and other board members organize the association's continuing projects, culminating each September with all-school alumni activities held over Labor Day weekend.

"With the wonderful support of the board, I do my best to prepare the annual alumni newsletter, serve as the scholarship coordinator awarding over \$25,000 annually to THS graduates with the tremendous support of caring donors and spearhead much of the weekend's activities," Maxey said.



SUBMITTED

Steve Maxey, a 1966 Trenton High School graduate, continues supporting the Trenton community through decades of professional and volunteer service.

Alumni History

Trenton's alumni activities began in 1948 and have continued for nearly eight decades. The success of the alumni weekend depends on dedicated volunteers.

"We need to be so very proud of our Foundation Trust and Alumni Association, as not many school districts can boast of that success," Maxey said.

Maxey said THS Alumni Weekend is facing challenges as longtime volunteers and alumni are lost.

"The loss of so many dedicated alums is leaving a void," Maxey said. "There is no doubt about it that it takes 25 or more years for grads to realize the importance of classmates, teachers and others who have impacted their young lives."

Maxey said many people may not realize

Obituaries

LYLE EUGENE SPILLMAN

Aug 16, 2026

Lyle Spillman of Jamesport, class of 1959, passed away peacefully in Scottsdale, AZ on August 16, 2026.

After graduating from Tri-County High School, Lyle attended Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, MO on a basketball scholarship. During college he was married to Linda Sue Burton of Lock Springs, MO. After college they moved to Phoenix, AZ for three years while Lyle worked for General Electric. They then returned to Jamesport where they acquired The Spillman Insurance Agency. Lyle then commuted to UMKC School of Law and obtained his JD Degree. After a stint in private practice, Lyle became Associate Circuit Judge of Daviess County.

During this period, following in his grandfather's footsteps, he acquired banks in South-Central Missouri. Upon retiring from the Judgeship and selling the banks, Lyle and Linda retired to Arizona in 1986. They subsequently traveled the world and enjoyed their six grandchildren. Lyle also continued to enjoy flying his own plane, piloting his Steerman biplane into his early 70's.

Lyle is survived by his wife Linda Sue (Burton) and their three children and six grandchildren: Scott and Susan Ann (Horner) Spillman of Scottsdale, AZ and their children Andrew Glen and Sarah Elizabeth; Sally Sue Spillman of Black Hawk, CO and her sons Jason Carter and Jackson Robert Gaines Spillman Wolle; and Jason Slade and NiChea (McHargue) Spillman of Victor, ID and their sons, Grady Slade and Grant Orville. He is also survived by his sister Kay Lynne (Spillman) Salmon and her husband Mike Salmon and his brother Kent Nelson Spillman. Upon having grandchildren, Lyle was asked what he wanted the grandkids to call him. He said, "They can call me Sir" and for the last 34 years he has been affectionately known as "Sir" in his family circle.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Albert Virgil Spillman, Jr. and Dorothy Elizabeth (Kelsey) Spillman, his fraternal grandparents A. V. and Estelle (Grimes) Spillman of Jamesport, and maternal grandparents William Ashel Kelsey and Bessie May Hern Kelsey, of Alpha, MO.

Lyle was cremated in Phoenix, AZ. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no formal ceremony. Upon Linda's passing their ashes will be spread at a place of her choosing. Rest in Peace "Sir".

the financial impact the Foundation Trust and Alumni Association have had on the Trenton R-IX School District.

"Thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars have supported the school district with special projects and the needs of the district when budget dollars could not support the needs," Maxey said. "I challenge everyone to get involved and give back to the Trenton R-IX School District, just as I plan to continue to do."

MAXEY

CONTINUED TO PG 6

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Bulldog Volleyball Sweeps Brookfield in Season Opener

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Trenton High School volleyball team opened its season with a sweep of Brookfield on Tuesday night, with both the varsity and junior varsity teams earning victories.

The varsity Bulldogs defeated Brookfield in three sets, 25-18, 26-24 and 25-23. Trenton's junior varsity team also earned a straight-set win, defeating Brookfield 25-19 and 25-13.

Sarai Birkhead led Trenton with 16 assists while also recording nine digs. Alexis Bonnet added nine digs, Alexis Gamet served six aces and Timberlon Hignutt led the Bulldogs at the net with six kills.

Trenton head coach Bradley Ewald said it was encouraging to begin the season with a victory, particularly after the Bulldogs were able to close out two tightly-contested sets.

"Overall it was nice to finish and get a win to start the season," Ewald said. "I feel every year that Brookfield keeps improving, and this year was no different."



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Senior Ty Bonnet goes up for a spike during Trenton's season-opening victory over Brookfield on Tuesday night.

After taking the opening set by seven points, Trenton faced considerably more pressure in the second and third sets.

"I was proud of the way the girls stayed calm at the end

when the score got close, and found ways to win," Ewald said.

Despite the victory, the Bulldogs still have areas they will look to improve as the season continues.

"We have to continue to work on our consistency," the coach said. "We had a lot of self-inflicted errors that kept the game closer than I would have liked to see."

School Leaders Announce Expectations For Home Football Games Attendees

Trenton High School has announced expectations for students attending home football games in an effort to provide a safe environment for students, families and other spectators.

School officials are asking parents and guardians to review the expectations with their children

before attending games in C.F. Russell Stadium.

All students in prekindergarten through eighth grade must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old and is not currently a K-12 student. Students are asked to remain seated or standing with the

accompanying adult throughout the football game unless they are walking to or from the concession stand or restrooms.

Students should not run inside the football stadium while traveling to the concession stand or restroom areas.

Balls and tossing games will

also not be allowed inside the stadium. The rule includes throwing water bottles, soda bottles or similar items.

To keep viewing areas accessible for spectators, children are asked to remain seated in the bleacher area and keep stadium walkways clear.

Bulldogs Build On Tournament Title Despite Loss To Lathrop

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Trenton High School softball saw its three-game winning streak come to an end against Lathrop, but the Bulldogs continued to show positives on both sides of the ball in an 11-1 loss.

The setback moved Trenton to 3-2 on the season, matching Lathrop's record.

Trenton stayed close early after Lathrop scored once in the top of the first inning. Morgan Smith answered for the Bulldogs in the second, belting a solo home run to tie the game at 1-1.

Smith accounted for both of Trenton's hits, finishing 2-for-2 with the home run, one RBI, one run scored and a walk. She reached base in all three of her plate appearances.

Lathrop regained the lead with a run in the third before breaking the game open with six runs in the fourth. The Mules added three more in the sixth.

Despite the final score, Trenton Head Coach Maddison Stillwell



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Trenton softball players compete during the Bulldogs' 11-1 loss to Lathrop. The result moved Trenton to 3-2 on the season.

said the Bulldogs produced several impressive moments in the field.

"We did make some amazing defensive plays," Stillwell said. "Two diving stops, and a throw out at home plate and second base!"

Emma Welch worked four innings in the circle for Trenton and struck out six. She allowed five hits and two walks, with only one of the eight runs charged to her being earned.

Kimberly Clark pitched the final two innings and added two strikeouts.

The loss followed a successful weekend in which Trenton captured first place at the Marshall

Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The Bulldogs opened the tournament with a 3-0 win over Warrensburg behind a strong performance from Welch, who struck out 10 while allowing three hits and two walks. Makkie Mejia led the offense by going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Trenton followed with a 14-2 victory over Knob Noster, pounding out 18 hits and stealing seven bases. Clark went 3-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs, while Betsy Price finished 3-for-3 and scored twice.

The Bulldogs then defeated Marshall 9-4 in the championship

game. Clark went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a run, while Welch earned another victory in the circle with 10 strikeouts.

Stillwell said the Bulldogs are approaching each game — regardless of the result — as another opportunity to improve for the postseason.

"We continue to work," Stillwell said. "When we are winning, we work. Even when losing, we work. Every at bat, every pitch, we are still working to get better for the post season game."

Stillwell said the early-season schedule is helping prepare Trenton for stronger competition later in the year.

"Every game before then, win or lose, is preparing us to be better for post season," Stillwell said. "We have to keep working to take on those bigger schools and compete."

Trenton will have another opportunity to measure itself against a common opponent when the Bulldogs travel to Savannah next week for a 4:30 p.m. game. Savannah handed Lathrop one of its two losses this season.

Trenton Golfers Place 2nd in Season Opener

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Trenton High School girls golf team opened its season with a second-place finish in a three-team match Sept. 1 at Riverside

Country Club in Trenton.

Due to the heat, the tees were moved forward and the nine-hole course was played as a par 27.

Brookfield won the match with a team score of 182, followed by Trenton at 199 and

Marceline at 204.

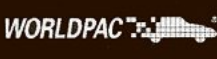
Kenlie McCall paced the Bulldogs with a 48. Bailey Williams and Paige Little each shot a 50, while Adaline Anderson and Lucy Gottman both carded a 51.

Brookfield golfers claimed the

top two individual finishes with scores of 39 and 42.

Trenton will return to action at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, at Penney. The Bulldogs will then compete in the Chillicothe Quad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, in Chillicothe.



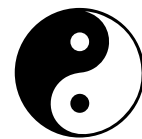




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Groomer Leads NCMC Men's Golf to 5th-Place Finish



SUBMITTED

NCMC golfer Kaleb Groomer competes during the SWCC "War at the Moor" on Friday at Crestmoor Golf Club in Creston, Iowa. Groomer shot a 70 to finish runner-up individually and earn All-Tournament Team honors.

The North Central Missouri College men's golf team opened its fall competition with a fifth-place finish Friday at the Southwest Community College "War at the Moor" in Creston, Iowa.

Competing at Crestmoor Golf Club, the Pirates finished fifth among 10 teams after posting a team score of 312.

Kaleb Groomer led NCMC with a 2-under-par round of 70, recording six birdies and an eagle. Groomer finished runner-up individually and earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

Dylan Groomer also turned in a strong performance for the Pirates, shooting a 75 with nine-hole scores of 38 and 37.

Lucas Viertaler finished with an 83, while Jack Donovan began his collegiate career with a round of 84. Tom Billings rounded out NCMC's team scoring with an 85.

The Pirates also had three golfers competing as individuals. Riley Gott led that group with a round of 80, while Joseph Trevillion finished with an 81. Peyton also competed for NCMC and recorded an 85.

NCMC will return to competition Sept. 14-15 at the Missouri Valley College Fall Invitational at Indian Foothills Golf Course. The 54-hole tournament will feature live scoring for fans and families wishing to follow the action.

Maxey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Maxey's history

Maxey's dedication to Trenton began long before he joined the Foundation Trust. A 1966 graduate of Trenton High School, he was active in the Student Council, Speech Club, Mixed Chorus, TAWANA staff, senior play and Latin Club. He was also named to the Senior Hall of Fame.

Throughout his career, Maxey pursued positions that allowed him to advance professionally while supporting his family. His only position that took him away from Trenton was in the sales department at the Lodge of the Four Seasons.

Among his jobs in Trenton was what he described as his dream position: director of development, marketing and public relations at North Central Missouri College. He also served as executive director of the NCMC Foundation.

His work today

Today, he serves as director

of sales for Hy-Vee Arena, formerly Kemper Arena, in Kansas City. When he moved to Kansas City, Maxey planned to retire, but the arena's owners invited him to work as a contractor. He later became a part-time employee before advancing to his current position.

A major part of his job is directing the Twelve Courts of Christmas, which Maxey said has become the country's largest high school holiday basketball shootout. Now in its sixth year, the event includes more than 150 teams from over a dozen states and its first international participant.

Maxey is also known in Trenton for his extensive volunteer service.

"I have been blessed to have employers who recognized the importance of being involved in the community, and that has made me happy," he said.

Maxey served as president of the Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He directed the Missouri Day Festival for more than a dozen years and helped bring the

marching festival to Trenton.

He was a member of the first Grundy County Health Department Board of Directors and served as a member and officer of the Sunnyview Nursing Home Board of Directors.

His board service also included the Wright Memorial Hospital Foundation, Grundy County Senior Center, Walden of Trenton Senior Housing, Riverside Country Club, Missouri Community College Association and Missouri Community Action Agency. He also served as president of both the Trenton Jaycees and Rotary Club.

Maxey may be best known as the founding director of the Miss Trenton Area Scholarship Pageant.

"Through that involvement, we grew that pageant to national recognition and annually presented one of the local preliminaries in the Midwest," Maxey said.

He also served as director of field operations for the Miss Missouri Pageant and business manager for Miss Missouri.

Maxey's recognitions include being named Trenton's Outstanding Young Man and Missouri's Outstanding Young Civic Leader. He was also named a Distinguished Alumnus of North Central Missouri College and was inducted into the NCMC Athletic Hall of Fame.

His other honors include serving as grand marshal of the Missouri Day Festival and being named a Paul Harris Fellow. He received the Trenton Area Chamber of Commerce Above and Beyond Award, the Missouri Community College Association Administrative Professional Leadership Award and recognition as one of the Missouri Jaycees' Ten Outstanding Young Missourians.

Gov. Mel Carnahan also appointed Maxey to the first Missouri Community Service Commission.

To say Maxey has led a busy life would be an understatement. Although he no longer lives in Trenton, he has dedicated much of his life to making the community a better place.

PUZZLES

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Becomes older
 - 5 Celestial body
 - 9 ___ up the works
 - 13 Opposite of strong
 - 14 Protagonist
 - 15 Massenet opera
 - 16 Italian first course
 - 18 Nostalgic tune
 - 19 "Sure!"
 - 20 Make a choice
 - 21 Egg-based paint
 - 23 Chihuahua or beagle
 - 25 Laughed loudly
 - 26 Hitter's attempt
 - 29 Sacred ceremonies
 - 31 ___ than life
 - 33 Rim of a glass
 - 34 Wee bit
 - 37 Hilton hotel brand
 - 38 Outcomes
 - 41 Comedian
 - 42 Tiebreak periods: Abbr.

- 43 Allow
- 44 Crude dwelling
- 46 Brings into existence
- 50 South American mountains
- 51 Fellow emcee
- 53 Poorly lit
- 55 Brother of Electra
- 57 Stinging insect
- 58 Sit-up muscles
- 61 Milky coffee drink
- 62 Talk-show segment
- 65 Fish-eating mammal
- 66 "___ noted"
- 67 Mental formulation
- 68 Close by
- 69 "Only Time" singer
- 70 Curly hairdo

- DOWN**
- 1 Not at home
 - 2 Singer Autry
 - 3 Has for dinner

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Created by Stella Zawistowski 9/4/26

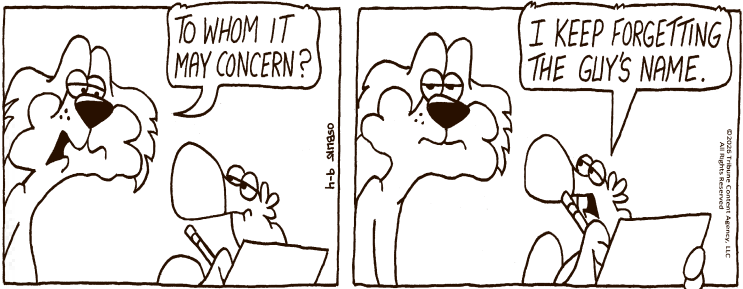
- 4 Hit the slopes
- 5 Hexagon, e.g.
- 6 Perfume trial bottle
- 7 Museum display
- 8 Square ___
- 9 Female friend: 2 wds.
- 10 Mentally grasp
- 11 Fabric with a wavy finish
- 12 Golfer Sam
- 15 Jason of "Aquaman"
- 17 Luggage handler
- 22 Bursts forth
- 23 "It's in the ___!"
- 24 Thinned out
- 26 Palo ___, California
- 27 Sour-tasting
- 28 Bread-based appetizer
- 30 "___ death do us part"
- 32 Narrate
- 35 Poker payment
- 36 24-hour periods
- 39 Established

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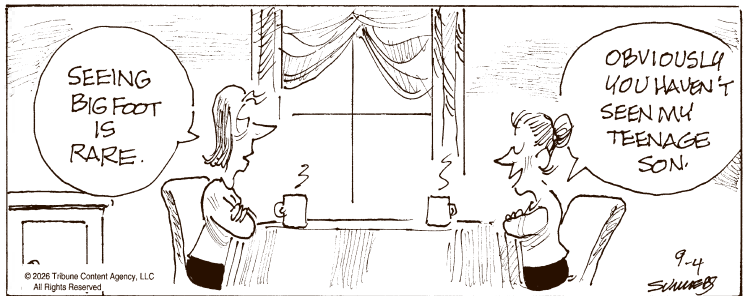
Friday's Puzzle Solved

- 40 Salt dispenser
- 45 "___ one will do"
- 47 List of players
- 48 Fragrant compound
- 49 In an understated way
- 51 Punctuation in "12:30"
- 52 Speak publicly
- 54 "Bye!": 2 wds.
- 56 Half of an LP
- 58 Assistant
- 59 Budweiser beverage
- 60 Crawled in a pool
- 63 Convent member
- 64 Bigwig: Abbr.

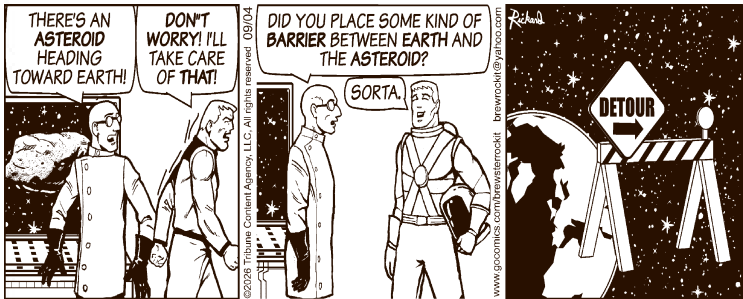
ANIMAL CRACKERS



BOUND & GAGGED



BREWSTER ROCKIT



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

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

9/4/26

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

Celebrating 50 Years with the Class of 1976

By Julie Hill Lehr
Contributor

"We're the class with all the tricks. We're the spirit of '76!" That was one version of our class cheer. It is hard to find something that rhymes with six and makes sense as something to cheer about!

Fifty years ago, the Trenton High School Class of 1976 graduated from high school and went our separate ways. We graduated in a special year. It was the bicentennial, an election year and an Olympic year. We felt special. We were poised for the rest of our lives.

Until then, our whole world was in Trenton and Trenton High School. Oh, we had newspapers and TV, so we knew some of what was going on outside our small town, but it was oh so different then. We were insulated to a large degree. There was no internet, no social media, no cell phones and no VCRs. We watched movies at the Plaza or the drive-in outdoor theater. We hung out at the Lazy K, Pizza Hut or Frost Top. We bowled at Trenton Bowl or played pinball there. Sometimes we stopped at Cisco's or Fair's to get some ice cream. We shopped at JCPenney, Smith's, Steins and Matco, and bought snacks at IGA or Hy-Vee. Our greatest form of entertainment was "riding around" up and down Ninth Street looking for our friends.

We loved the Bulldogs and went to their games — football, basketball, wrestling, track, tennis, golf and cross country. We supported girls' and boys' teams, and the community did too. We played softball or baseball in the summers. We were sure to go to the North Central Missouri Fair when it happened each August. We had summer jobs of all sorts. And each fall, we headed back to Trenton R-IX schools until that year.

We typically didn't stray far from home. Sure, sometimes there was a shopping trip to Kansas City or perhaps a concert if we could talk our parents into it. But the majority of us found our world in Trenton.

We graduated. We went to college or trade schools, or found other ways to make

a living. We branched out. Some of us went to Trenton Junior College, others to nearby state schools like Kirksville, Maryville, Warrensburg and even Springfield. Some of us became Tigers and went to the University of Missouri in the "big" city of Columbia. Well, big to us. And some went even farther away. Those were the truly daring ones. We became teachers, salespeople, businesspeople, accountants, engineers, journalists, hairstylists, HVAC specialists and carpenters. We worked in retail, became cooks, worked construction or honored our traditions and farmed the rich land of the Green Hills area.

We got married, had babies, became families and declared our independence on our own. We had bumps along the way: broken hearts; divorce; disease; the loss of children, family and friends; a global pandemic; work issues; money issues; and all kinds of issues, just like everyone who had come before us. We grew older,

stockpiled knowledge and made our places in the world. We grew to be wise — at least wiser.

We survived.

In 2026, we are celebrating the semiquincentennial, the USA's 250th birthday; we had the Winter Olympics, and in November the midterm elections will happen. The world is the same, but so different.

This alumni weekend, we come together again to remember our youth and all that went with growing up in Trenton, Missouri. I tell my friends today that I grew up in a Norman Rockwell painting, a small, rural town in north central Missouri, where we came of age in a safe, simpler world. Our yearbook theme was "Man's Drive for Achievement," and the Class of '76 worked hard on our achievements for the last 50 years. And we were successful, each in our own way.

I am so grateful for those years and so proud to be a member of the THS Class of 1976.

Happy golden anniversary THS Class of 1976! Onward!



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Contest

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TO SCHOOL PHOTOS
9/1 - 9/30**

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