

Hooyman Brings Hometown Ties To College Presidency

Gabe Stark
Reporter

North Central Missouri College's Interim President Jamie Hooyman is focused on keeping the institution moving forward while trustees search for a permanent leader. For her, the assignment is also a homecoming.

Hooyman began serving Sept. 1, following Lenny Klaver's departure to become president of Missouri Western State University. Hooyman grew up in Trenton, graduated from what was then Trenton Junior College and later spent a decade in its administration.

"This place has my heart. It always has," Hooyman said of NCMC.

She described NCMC as an institution in a strong position, supported by dedicated faculty, staff and



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Dr. Jamie Hooyman, a former NCMC administrator, has returned to North Central Missouri College as interim president.

community members. Her role is to maintain that progress while giving the Board of Trustees time to conduct a thorough presidential search, she said.

HOOYMAN

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Trenton Plans 'Marvel-ous' Homecoming

Trenton High School will celebrate its 84th annual homecoming Sept. 22-25 with spirit days, a community pep rally, a parade and Friday night football. This year's theme is "Let's Have a Marvel-ous Homecoming."

George Moore, a 1967 THS graduate and longtime educator, will serve as parade grand marshal. Jesse Meek, a 2005 graduate and Army National Guard major, will be the guest speaker at the community pep rally.

Students, faculty and staff across the district are encouraged to participate in spirit

week. The high school's dress-up days begin Tuesday with class choice, allowing each class to select its own theme. Wednesday will feature heroes vs. villains, with students dressing as their favorite Marvel characters. Thursday's color war will feature class homecoming shirts, followed by the traditional blackout day on Friday.

Competition for the Spirit Belt will begin Wednesday during lunch with hallway judging for the best overall hero or villain.

HOMECOMING

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GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann star as Sherlock Homes and John Watson, investigating who didn't buy tickets to their performance during their recent Arts Alive show.

Arts Alive Opens Season

Arts Alive opened its season Tuesday, Sept. 15, with an evening celebrating famous partnerships as husband-and-wife performers Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann brought "It Takes Two — A Legendary Duo Revue" to the Trenton Performing Arts Center.

The evening also included a surprise that wasn't in the script. The power went out halfway through the first act, prompting improvised jokes from the performers and adding an unexpected twist to the comedy woven throughout the production.

The revue's theme brought together memorable duos from music, movies and popular culture. The production celebrated partnerships such as Johnny Cash and June Carter and Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, alongside playful nods to Batman and Robin and "The Odd Couple." Broadway selections and vocal harmonies helped connect the tributes.

For Dearth and Beckmann, the celebration of partnerships also reflects their own collaboration as performers and spouses. The

ARTS

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Homecoming

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The community pep rally will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at C.F. Russell Stadium. Fall sports teams and activities will be introduced, and the evening will conclude with the coronation of the homecoming king and queen.

Senior queen candidates are Catelin Bowe, Makayla Mejia and Addisyn Freeman. Senior king candidates are Matthew Kralicek, Bradly Miller and Camden Skipper.

Junior attendants are Addisyn Wehar and Kolt Matthews. Sophomore attendants are Paige Little and Luke Csicsai, and freshman attendants are Marie Tobias and Chase Harris. Crown-bearers are Demi Gan and Ozzie Zang.

Moore's selection as grand marshal recognizes a career that included 31 years in education, with the final 21 spent in the Trenton R-9 School District.

Following his graduation from THS, Moore earned a bachelor's degree in education



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Pictured are homecoming freshman attendants Marie Tobias and Chase Harris, sophomore attendants Paige Little and Luke Csicsai, junior attendants Addisyn Wehar and Kolt Matthews; senior queen candidates Makayla Mejia, Addisyn Freeman and Catelin Bowe; senior king candidates Bradly Miller, Camden Skipper, and Matthew Kralicek.

from Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, in 1972. His teaching career included physical education, health, driver's education, middle school science, middle and high school mathematics and computer applications.

He also coached middle school and varsity basketball, middle school and high school football and middle school and varsity track.

Moore earned a master's degree in administration from Northwest Missouri State University in 1999. He served as middle school principal and later held districtwide roles as athletic and activities director, maintenance and building supervisor, transportation director and

district safety coordinator.

Meek, the pep rally speaker, earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and health from Missouri Western State University in 2010. He joined the Army National Guard in 2011 and deployed to Kosovo in 2014, followed by deployments to Kuwait in 2017, 2018 and 2022. He is scheduled to deploy again within the next six months.

Meek serves as a major and chief of air missile defense for the 110th Movement Enhancement Brigade, based in Kansas City.

Homecoming activities will continue Friday, Sept. 25, with school dismissing at 12:15 p.m. Parade line-up will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the high school parking lot, with the parade

departing at 1 p.m.

The parade will turn right onto Normal Street, left onto 17th Street, left onto Harris Avenue, left onto Ninth Street and left onto Bulldog Avenue, ending at C.F. Russell Stadium.

Pregame activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the introduction of the queen and her court. Candidates and attendants will be escorted by their fathers or mothers along the 50-yard line.

The THS Marching Band, directed by Anthony Webb and Phil Ray, and the THS Color Guard, directed by Laurie Bonta, will assist with the introductions. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The homecoming dance will follow from 9:30 to 11 p.m. at the high school.

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Hooyman

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"My job is just to help keep us moving," Hooyman said.

The interim president's responsibilities include working with college leadership, monitoring developments in higher education and state funding and supporting the foundation's work with donors.

Hooyman's ties to the college began in childhood. Born in Milan, she moved to Trenton with her family in the late 1960s when her father became head basketball coach at TJC. He later served as a dean.

Despite that background, education was not initially her intended career.

"My dad and I kind of compromised. I said I was never going to go into education. And my dad thought that that would be a good fit for me," Hooyman said.

She eventually studied education and exercise science at what is now Missouri State University, then pursued graduate studies at Northern Illinois University. Her early career included wellness programming and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation at a Texas hospital.

She later taught at the University of Central Oklahoma and earned her doctorate at Oklahoma State University.

Returning to Trenton to raise her three daughters near family led to a decade at NCMC, where she served as a dean and

vice president. She then spent 10 years at Northwest Missouri State University, serving as associate provost before becoming provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Hooyman retired in December to spend more time with family. Returning to NCMC offered an opportunity to give back to her hometown, she said.

Trustees will determine the presidential search process. Hooyman said a January start could be possible, although May or June might be more likely.

For now, she said community support remains a strength as NCMC prepares for its next chapter.

"The community has always been so supportive of this institution," Hooyman said.



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Mr. Williams & Mr. Fender joined in the picture with their families, local veterans and DAR members.

DAR Chapter Honors Veterans, Recognizes KTTN

The Dorcas Richardson Trenton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored two veterans and recognized KTTN during activities surrounding its Sept. 14 meeting at the Grundy County Museum Annex.

Before the meeting, members honored Ryan Williams as September's Patriot of the Month and Vince Fender as October's Patriot of the Month.

Williams served in the Army National Guard from 1994 to 2014 in military police and field artillery. His service included deployments to Iraq and Qatar and a domestic deployment in response to Hurricane Katrina. He and his wife, Tocarra Jazinski, have one daughter.

Fender served in the Army Reserve from 1989 to 2023, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. His deployments included Iraq and Haiti. He and his wife, Kira, live in Trenton and have five children.

Both men continued serving their communities after returning home. The chapter's Patriot of the Month program recognizes veterans and active-duty military personnel for their service.

Regent Connie Key called the meeting to order, followed by DAR rituals, pledges, the preamble and the American Creed. Members presented highlights from the president general's message and the National Defender publication.

Barb Spencer presented the American Indian minute, Cindy Guthrie presented the woman's minute and Cheryl King presented the conservation minute.

Following the meeting, members traveled to KTTN Radio to present a certificate of appreciation to John Anthony, Carol Ausberger and the station's employees. The certificate recognized their dedication, broadcasting service and support of the community.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization that promotes patriotism, education, historic preservation and community service. Women 18 and older who can document direct descent from an ancestor who aided in American independence are eligible for membership.

Grundy County Democratic Club Forms for Year-Round Involvement

Grundy County residents met virtually Sept. 9 to organize the Grundy County Democratic Club, an informal group intended to offer year-round opportunities for community involvement and political participation.

The club will complement the work of the Grundy County Democratic Central Committee, which has traditionally concentrated much of its activity around election seasons.

The club plans to hold monthly meetings and organize community activities, encourage civic engagement

and support Democratic policies and candidates. Organizers also identified building connections among left-leaning residents and contributing to the welfare of Grundy County as goals.

Casey Scott, the Democratic candidate for Missouri House District 2, addressed the group during the recent meeting. Scott discussed developing local connections and resources to help inform and support current and future Democratic candidates in the area.

The club's first public activity will be a drop-in,

postcard-writing event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Main Street Creamery in Trenton.

Participants may stop by or stay for the entire event to write postcards to Grundy County voters about the Nov. 3 election.

The club will meet via Zoom at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, with additional activities planned throughout the year.

Residents interested in meeting and event updates may complete an interest form at tiny.cc/grundydems and/or join the Grundy.

Arraignment on Assault Charge Postponed to October

Gabe Stark
Reporter

A Gilman City man charged with felony assault is scheduled for arraignment Oct. 15 after a Grundy County court judge granted a request to postpone his September hearing.

Brayden S. Hughs faces one count of third-degree assault involving a special victim, a Class D felony, and one count of first-offense peace disturbance, a Class B misdemeanor. Both charges stem from alleged offenses June 21, according to court records. The Grundy County Sheriff's Office is listed as the investigating agency.

Hughs' arraignment is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, in the main courtroom of the Grundy County Courthouse, 700 Main St. in Trenton.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Sept. 10. The defense filed a motion for continuance Sept. 7, which the court granted Sept. 9.

Bond was set Aug. 11 at \$100,000 cash only, with conditions including GPS monitoring and no contact with the alleged victim or victims.

Health Department Offers Free STI Testing

The Grundy County Health Department is offering free, confidential testing for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C on select dates through December, with a \$20 Casey's gift card available to those tested while supplies last.

Testing will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at the health department, 1716 Lincoln St. in Trenton. Appointments are required.

Upcoming testing dates are Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 12 and 23 and Dec. 10 and 17.

According to the health department, HIV, syphilis and hepatitis C can sometimes cause no noticeable symptoms, allowing a person to have an infection without knowing it. Testing can help people learn their status and connect with treatment if needed. Early detection and treatment can help protect individual health and reduce the spread of infection.

The gift cards are provided through grant funding supporting the testing program and will be distributed while supplies last.

To schedule an appointment, call the Grundy County Health Department at (660) 359-4196.

College Foundation Elects Officers, Welcomes 4 Board Members

The North Central Missouri College Foundation recently elected new officers and welcomed four members to its board of directors. The foundation also recognized outgoing President Allan Seidel for eight years of leadership and service.

Seth Cox will serve as president, joined by Joyce Cutsinger, vice president and president-elect; Cathy McKay, treasurer; and Tricia Key, secretary.

New board members Christine Hedges, Dean Kratochvil, Kristin Rosenbaum and Doug Tye bring experience in agriculture, business, education and community service, along with connections to NCMC and the communities it serves.

"The foundation has a strong group of officers and board members who care about NCMC and the students it serves," Cox said. "I look forward to building on the foundation's work and the leadership of those who have served before us."

Hedges earned an associate degree from NCMC in 2010 and a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Missouri. She works for the Farm Service Agency and is involved in her family's diversified livestock operation. She previously served as an Upward Bound leader at NCMC, teaching agriculture courses, coordinating volunteer activities and mentoring students.

Kratochvil founded Kaeco Group Inc., a veterinary wholesale company serving distributors and veterinarians across the United States. His background includes developing and marketing veterinary products, and he holds several patents related to ulcer treatments.

Rosenbaum graduated from NCMC in 2005 and went on to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural sciences. She is an integrated field scientist with Corteva Agriscience, with experience in crop protection research and agronomy. Her community involvement includes service with the Harrison County R-IV Board of Education, the Hundley-Whaley Research Center Advisory Board and NCMC's Agriculture and Barton Farm Advisory Committee.

Tye attended Trenton Junior College, now NCMC, before earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri. He spent more than 30 years with the accounting and consulting firm now known as Forvis Mazars LLP, retiring as a partner in 2012. He is president of the NCMC Athletics Booster Club and serves several community organizations, including the North Central Missouri Development Alliance, Grundy County Industrial Development Corporation and Foundation Trust for Trenton High School.



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Dean Kratochvil, Kristin Rosenbaum and Christine Hedges are some of the college foundation's new board members.



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Current foundation President Seth Cox recently recognized outgoing President Allan Seidel for his years of service.



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MU Extension Offers Walking Program

University of Missouri Extension will offer Walk with Ease in Trenton this fall to help adults safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines.

Classes will meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 6 through Nov. 19 at the Ketcham Community Center, 1322 Mable St.

The walking program is open to adults who want to become more active, including those with arthritis. Each session includes tips for walking safely and staying active, a warm-up, walking at participants' own pace and a cool-down.

According to MU Extension, the program can help improve balance, strength and walking pace



METRO CREATIVE

University of Missouri Extension will offer Walk with Ease in Trenton this fall to help adults safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines.

while reducing arthritis pain and discomfort.

"Sometimes it can be hard to take that first step toward being more active," said Micah Potgieter, nutrition and health specialist with

University of Missouri Extension. "Walking with a group can provide support and encouragement to help people get started, stay motivated and make walking a regular part of their routine."

Arts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two developed "It Takes Two" together, drawing on backgrounds spanning theater, music, dance and directing.

Dearth is an actress, producer, director, choreographer and tap dancer who has worked on hundreds of theatrical productions across the country. She also created "Letters From Home," a touring musical production inspired by wartime entertainment that honors veterans, active-duty military members and their families. According to her biography, that production has traveled to all 50 states.

Beckmann, a Minneapolis native, is an actor, singer, director, writer, filmmaker and photographer. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and his performance experience includes regional and Off-Broadway productions, concerts, national tours, cruise ships and international venues.

The couple also works together at Spring Theatre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, providing opportunities for young performers. Dearth founded the organization and serves as executive director, while Beckmann serves as artistic director.

Arts Alive's season continues with Lindley Creek at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Trenton Performing Arts Center. The family band blends bluegrass roots with contemporary sounds.



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Trenton Softball Powers Past Maysville

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Trenton turned a tie game into a comfortable lead with five runs in the sixth inning Tuesday, Sept. 15, defeating Maysville 7-2 behind a 16-hit performance and 12 strikeouts from Emma Welch.

The Bulldogs scored twice in the first inning to take an early lead, but Maysville gradually worked its way back. The Wolverines scored once in the third and again in the fifth, drawing even at 2-2 while keeping Trenton scoreless through the middle innings.

That changed in the bottom of the sixth, when the Bulldogs pushed across five runs to regain control. Trenton then held Maysville scoreless in the seventh to secure the victory.

Welch provided much of the Bulldogs' extra-base power, going 3-for-3 with two triples and a double. She drove in two runs, scored twice, drew a walk and stole two bases.

Sydney Blackburn led Trenton in hits with a 4-for-4 performance that included a double and an RBI. Betsy Price and Claire Woodard

added two hits apiece, with Price scoring twice and driving in a run.

Every player in Trenton's batting lineup recorded at least one hit. Kimberly Clark, Makayla Mejia, Morgan Smith, Lucy Price and Lillian Ortega each contributed one. Lucy doubled and scored while Clark added a run and an RBI. Mejia drove in a run and recorded both a sacrifice and a sacrifice fly.

The Bulldogs also kept pressure on Maysville on the bases, finishing with eight steals. Clark led with three, followed by Welch with two. Betsy, Smith and Woodard each stole one.

In the circle, Welch allowed two earned runs on eight hits and one walk over seven innings. Woodard pitched one-third of an inning without allowing a hit or run and was credited with the win.

Trenton finished without an error and struck out just once at the plate. Maysville committed two errors and finished with eight hits.

The Bulldogs record is now 5-6. They are scheduled to face Gallatin Thursday, Sept. 17, followed by Lawson Monday, Sept. 21.



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Trenton's Emma Welch pitches to keep Maysville from scoring in the sixth inning. Trenton ended with an 7-2 win over Maysville on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Welch struck out 12 and went 3-for-3 at the plate with two triples, a double and two RBIs.

Balanced Effort Helps Trenton Sweep Penney



GABE STARK/STAFF PHOTO

Trenton's Lillee Dalrymple guards the net during volleyball action. Dalrymple recorded four aces in the Bulldogs' straight-set victory over Penney, 25-10, 25-17, 25-13.

Gabe Stark
Reporter

Strong serving and contributions throughout the lineup helped Trenton's volleyball team sweep Penney, with the Bulldogs regaining their focus after an uneven second set to finish the match in three.

Trenton won 25-10, 25-17, 25-13, combining a balanced statistical effort with the ability to work through moments of frustration.

Sarai Birkhead, Lillee Dalrymple, Emma Gifford and Alexis Bonnett each recorded four aces, giving the Bulldogs 16 aces among the four players. Birkhead also contributed seven assists and 10 digs, while Peyton Curd matched her with seven assists. Riah Vehikite finished with eight kills and two blocks.

Trenton's coach said the

statistics reflected contributions across the lineup, with little separation between the team's statistical leaders.

"The girls did a nice job staying focused last night to get the win," Trenton's coach Brad Ewald said.

After taking the opening set by a comfortable margin, the Bulldogs faced some frustration with their own execution in the second. They worked through it to take a two-set lead, then closed out the sweep with another double-digit set victory.

"In the second set, you could tell that they were getting a little frustrated that we weren't playing quite as crisp as we would like, but they shook it off, got back to playing for each other, and finished the game well," the coach said.

This brings Trenton's record to 3-5-2.

Bulldogs Still Seeking 1st Win After Marceline Loss

Gabe Stark
Reporter

The Trenton Bulldogs posted their highest point total of the young football season Friday, Sept. 11, but their first victory remained out of reach. Marceline handed Trenton a 53-27 loss at home, leaving the Bulldogs 0-3 after three games.

Bradly Miller provided one of Trenton's offensive highlights with a 44-yard touchdown run. He finished with a team-leading 78 rushing yards, accounting for more than half of the Bulldogs' production on the ground.

Camden Skipper contributed on both sides of the ball, adding a rushing touchdown, directing the passing game and leading Trenton in tackles. Skipper rushed for 49 yards, including a 7-yard scoring run, and completed seven of his 10 passes for 60 yards.

The Bulldogs finished with 197 yards of offense — 137



METRO CREATIVE

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rushing and 60 passing. Miller and Skipper combined for 127 rushing yards, while Dru Vandevender added the remaining 10. Jacob White was Skipper's leading target, catching four passes for 53 yards. His longest

reception covered 37 yards, giving Trenton its biggest gain through the air. Vandevender added two catches for 10 yards, while Miller caught one pass for a loss of 3 yards.

Defensively, Skipper finished with 15 tackles, recording 10 solo stops and five assists. He also was credited with a tackle for loss.

Sam Ledbetter and Miller followed with seven tackles apiece. Ledbetter added a tackle for loss, as did Bentley Lawrence, who recorded five solo stops among his six tackles.

Jace McCall contributed four tackles, including a sack. White and Kolt Mathews each finished with six tackles, while Vandevender and Jackson Bethards recorded five apiece.

The Bulldogs will continue Grand River Conference play at Brookfield at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18. Trenton will then return home to face South Harrison on Sept. 25.

Class of 1976 Celebrates 50th Reunion

Julie Hill Lehr
Contributor

The Trenton High School Class of 1976 celebrated its 50th reunion Sept. 5 at Riverside Country Club as part of Trenton Alumni Weekend activities.

Forty classmates and their guests gathered to catch up and make new memories.

The class enjoyed a taco bar and desserts. Classmate and DJ Randall Duncan provided music and led a 1970s-themed trivia contest. Classmates competed in table groups, earning prizes for correct answers.

George Duncan provided customized THS Class of 1976 apparel for special giveaways.

Cathy Clark McKay and Julie Hill Lehr served as masters of ceremonies for the evening.



Members of Trenton's Class of 1976 met earlier this month for a 50-year reunion.

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Property Rights Cases Offer Lessons

Jason Vance
Contributor

Property rights can become complicated when farmland is held through corporations or trusts, easements cross agricultural property, or government rules affecting land use change over time.

K-State and Washburn law professor Roger McOwen recently examined five cases involving different aspects of property rights and said the cases offer important lessons for farmers and ranchers.

One South Dakota case involved about 1,000 acres of family farmland held through a family corporation and a living trust. A disputed \$3.2 million sale of some of the farmland to a third party was challenged by one of the family members, who alleged his brother had improperly influenced their father and interfered with the family's estate plan.

The court's decision centered on who had the legal authority to challenge the corporation's transaction.

McOwen said the family member was not an officer, director or shareholder of the corporation and was not personally a party to the land sale contract.

"Being a family member or even a beneficiary of a trust doesn't necessarily give you the authority to act on behalf of a corporation or a trust or an estate," McOwen said.

The case demonstrates why landowners should understand how property is titled and who has legal authority to make decisions involving it.

Another case, from Texas, involved an easement for an electric line that had crossed a ranch since 1947. When the ranch was purchased, the power line was visible and the buyers knew the easement existed.

Decades later, however, the electric cooperative

substantially upgraded the line, tripling the number of poles and doubling the number of wires to serve new customers and a new substation.

The landowner challenged the expanded use. Although the court recognized the existing easement, it determined the utility's expansion went beyond the scope of the original easement and constituted a trespass.

McOwen said the case illustrates that an easement does not necessarily give another party unlimited rights to use property.

"Read your easement documents carefully," he said. "They will often say what type of expansion is allowed, what type of development is allowed."

If an easement does not address expansion, the law generally permits only reasonable development, he said.

An Arizona case focused on another issue important to agricultural landowners: property valuation.

The county initially valued agricultural property using the state's statutory agricultural income approach. It then added separate values for permanent crops, including \$12,000 per acre for orchard trees and \$8,000 per acre for vineyard vines.

The Arizona Supreme Court sided with the landowner, finding that the economic contribution of the permanent crops was already reflected in the property's productive income. Adding a separate market value for the trees and vines effectively

applied two valuation methods to the same property.

McOwen said agricultural landowners should pay attention not only to the final assessment but also to how that assessment was calculated.

"Make sure as a farmer you understand the statutory basis for how ag land is valued," he said, noting that special agricultural valuation rules may apply depending on the state.

Two other cases demonstrated how changing government regulations can affect expectations for future land use.

In New Mexico, a farming corporation had entered into an annexation and development agreement with a town involving about 1,300 acres. Years later, the corporation sought to divide the property into five parcels. Although the subdivision initially received approval, local officials later reversed course because of concerns about water resources.

The farm challenged the change, arguing it had relied on the earlier agreement and invested significant resources in planning the property. The case ultimately was dismissed on procedural grounds, but McOwen said it still illustrates the risks associated with long-term property investments.

Farmers considering subdivision, development or commercial uses should carefully document government approvals and understand the legal nature of any commitments on which they are relying, he said.



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USDA Disaster Assistance Can Carry Tax Implications For Producers

Jason Vance
Contributor



Producers who receive USDA disaster assistance to help recover from losses should consider the potential tax consequences of those payments, according to Oklahoma State University Extension agricultural economist J.C. Hobbs.

Disaster assistance programs can help producers rebuild after events that damage property, livestock feed and other farm assets. However, Hobbs said the tax treatment of assistance can vary depending on what was lost, the cost of replacing it and whether the producer also receives insurance proceeds.

One example is the USDA Emergency Conservation Program, which can provide financial assistance for restoring conservation practices and replacing items such as livestock and property fencing.

"Essentially, you're gonna rebuild that fence, replace it," Hobbs said. "Then we're looking at the value of the fence that was lost."

The age of the fence can become important for tax purposes. Hobbs said fencing constructed on a farm is generally depreciated over seven years.

"A fence that we build on the farm is depreciated to zero within seven years," he said. "So if that fence is more than seven years old, more than likely its value for the tax purposes is zero."

That can create a potential taxable gain when a producer receives reimbursement for an asset that has already been fully depreciated.

"Consequently, any reimbursement that would come is gonna be taxable to the extent that it is greater than the cost of replacing that fence," Hobbs said.

The tax implications can be different when the disaster involves livestock feed. The USDA Livestock Forage Disaster Program, for example, can provide assistance related to forage losses caused by qualifying disasters.

"Feed loss is a little different ballgame," Hobbs said.

Feed is normally treated as a deductible farm expense in the year it is purchased. If a producer receives reimbursement for feed that was lost, the reimbursement can affect the amount of the expense that ultimately can be deducted.

However, Hobbs said producers will generally use the assistance to purchase replacement feed, which can offset the tax impact of the reimbursement.

"More than likely, we'll have to use that money to buy the replacement feed," he said. "Therefore, that reimbursement comes out being zero and non-taxable."

Hobbs said producers should consider the tax treatment of disaster payments before assuming the full amount of assistance represents an economic gain.

"You really gotta look at what the item was and if there's any reimbursement from USDA or even from an insurance company," he said.

Insurance payments can also affect the tax treatment of a loss. Producers need to account for both USDA assistance and insurance proceeds when determining how much of a loss remains deductible.

"Again, that has an impact on the amount of the tax deduction as a loss or the potential for a taxable gain," Hobbs said.

Because the tax consequences can vary depending on the circumstances, producers receiving disaster assistance should keep detailed records of the original property or expense, its tax basis, replacement costs and all USDA or insurance payments received. Consulting with a tax professional familiar with farm income and expenses can help producers determine how the assistance should be reported.

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North Central Missouri College Continues Talent Search Program

North Central Missouri College's Talent Search program recently received notice of a five-year grant renewal, allowing it to continue helping students explore careers, prepare for college and build confidence in their futures.

Talent Search is one of three federally funded TRIO programs at NCMC, along with Upward Bound and Student Support Services. TRIO's history began with Upward Bound in 1964, followed by Talent Search in 1965. Today, TRIO includes eight programs supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

NCMC received its first Talent Search grant in 2021. The program provides resources and support for students who have the potential to succeed in

postsecondary education.

NCMC Talent Search serves students in grades six through 12 in the St. Joseph School District. While the program is open to all students in those grades, participants are selected through a process that gives priority to students from income-eligible backgrounds who would be first-generation college students.

The renewed grant will allow the program to serve 600 students and provide opportunities they might not otherwise experience. Services include tutoring, academic advising, career exploration, camps and activities that develop financial literacy, study skills, and life and career skills. Students also explore science, technology, engineering, math and artificial intelligence

concepts and participate in career and cultural field trips.

As students enter high school, services expand to include help with course selection, ACT preparation workshops, college visits, financial aid and college applications, along with other support.

"It hardly seems possible that Talent Search is preparing to begin its sixth year. Looking back over the past five years, enrollment has grown from 281 students in 2021-22 to 521 in 2025-26. After operating at capacity for the past three years, we are preparing to reach more students," reads a release about the program from the college.

While workshops, field trips, tutoring and other services remain important, some of Talent Search's greatest benefits,

according to leadership, develop through the relationships students build along the way.

"One of those benefits is a positive relationship with a Talent Search adviser. These advisers become more than instructors. They become mentors who help students navigate academic challenges and pursue personal goals," reads the release.

Another important part of Talent Search is helping students build confidence and self-esteem.

"Seeing them grow in their knowledge and abilities while becoming more confident in themselves is truly gratifying. Career exploration is woven into Talent Search experiences, helping students connect their interests with opportunities for fulfilling careers," states the release.

Lean Beef Trimmings Play Key Role In Beef Supply

Jason Vance
Contributor

Ground beef may be one of the most familiar products in the American meat case, but producing the blend consumers expect often depends on lean beef trimmings from multiple sources.

Brian Coffey, agricultural economist at Kansas State University, said about half of the beef consumed in the United States is in ground beef form, making a steady supply of lean trimmings important to the beef industry.

The United States is highly efficient at

producing high-quality, well-marbled beef. However, that marbling also means trimmings from finished steers and heifers can contain substantial amounts of fat. Coffey said those trimmings can be roughly 50% fat and 50% lean, which is too fatty to use by themselves for the ground beef consumers expect.

Processors need leaner beef to blend with those fattier trimmings. Coffey said there are two primary sources: imported lean beef trimmings and domestic non-fed slaughter.

Imported beef used for this purpose is often about 90% lean and 10% fat. Coffey emphasized that the United States generally is not importing ground beef ready for the retail meat case or restaurant.

"We're importing trimmings," Coffey said. "So we're going to take those leaner trimmings ... and the processor, depending on their end goal, would mix those with those higher-fat trimmings ... to come up with ground beef."

The other major source is domestic non-fed slaughter, which includes beef and dairy animals that enter the food supply but were not raised in an intensive feeding program specifically for beef production.

Examples include cull dairy cows, cull beef cows and, to a lesser extent, bulls. Because these animals are generally older and have not been fed high-energy diets designed to rapidly add weight, their meat typically has a lower fat content. Their trimmings can provide the lean component needed for ground beef blends.

Changes in the size of the U.S. cattle herd can significantly affect the availability of domestic lean trimmings.

Coffey said the beef cow herd reached a recent peak in 2019. In the following years, market conditions, economic incentives and widespread drought contributed to aggressive herd liquidation and historically high beef cow slaughter.

That increased domestic supplies of lean beef trim and reduced the need for imports.

The trend changed around 2023 as the cattle cycle reached a point where fewer beef cows were available for slaughter and producers needed to retain more animals for breeding.

"With that, now we had less U.S. lean beef trim available, and we needed to go out and get that trim from other markets," Coffey said.

Consumer demand is another important factor. Ground beef is widely consumed at retail stores, fast-food restaurants, sit-down restaurants and in prepared foods.

Coffey recently examined the issue in a paper titled "Domestic and International Sources of U.S. Lean Beef Trimmings." He noted that simply looking at total beef imports does not tell the entire story.

Much of the increase in U.S. beef imports since 2019 has been in beef likely destined for lean trimmings rather than higher-value muscle cuts.

"Pounds are important, but pounds don't tell the whole story," Coffey said.

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PUZZLES

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS
- 1 Hooded winter coats

7 Enter forcibly

13 Literary twist

15 Gadget for potatoes

16 Competitor who's not the favorite

18 Shade-providing cover

19 Notices

20 Made a conjecture

22 __ Artois (beer brand)

24 Cry loudly

26 Illegal acts

29 Opening remarks

32 High-class group

33 Convent residents

35 "Wise" bird

37 Take home after taxes

38 Michigan State athlete

41 "Golly!"

42 Swim-bike-run race, for short

43 Well-qualified

44 From Japan or Cambodia, e.g.

46 Selena's genre

49 Gem surfaces

50 __ Moines

51 __ split (ice-cream dessert)

54 Speak very softly

56 Medical scans: Abbr.

60 Trainee worker

63 Schoolbag

65 Chinese broccoli: 2 wds.

66 NFL official

67 Involuntary movements

68 Written rant

- DOWN
- 1 Name of 12 Popes

2 Composer Thomas

3 Took a taxi

4 Israel's parliament

5 Balloon filler

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60	61	62					63		64				
65							66						
67								68					

Created by Stella Zawistowski

9/18/26

- 6 Marsh plants
- 7 Some craft beers: Abbr.
- 8 Most recent
- 9 Seller
- 10 Boxer Laila
- 11 Lion's home
- 12 Rowing machine
- 14 Heart and __
- 17 Type of toothpaste
- 21 __-Chapelle (Paris church)
- 23 Three, in Spanish
- 25 Dance energetically
- 26 Penny
- 27 Phone notification
- 28 Felt sorry for
- 30 Secret gov't. group: Abbr.
- 31 Perspiration
- 33 Powerful people
- 34 Web address: Abbr.
- 36 Camera part
- 39 Negative review
- 40 Indian flatbread
- 45 Run playfully

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Friday's Puzzle Solved

- 47 Gemstones

48 Hindu retreat

49 Zany comedies

52 Police announcement: Abbr.

53 Close by

55 Rustic lodges

57 Hard to find
- 58 Frozen drink brand

59 Agenda, for short

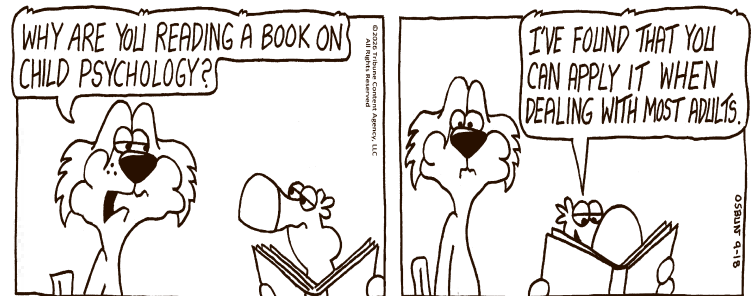
60 Social-media accounts: Abbr.

61 Short sleep

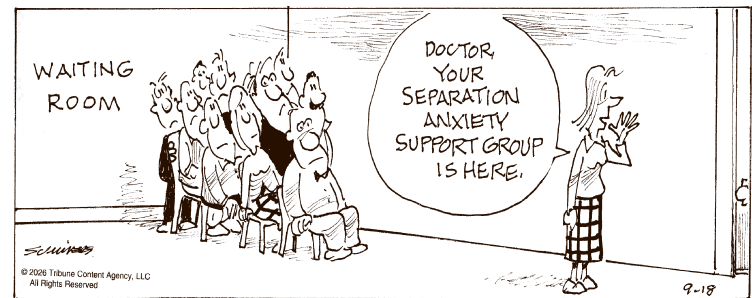
62 Actress Carrere

64 Chick-fil-A competitor

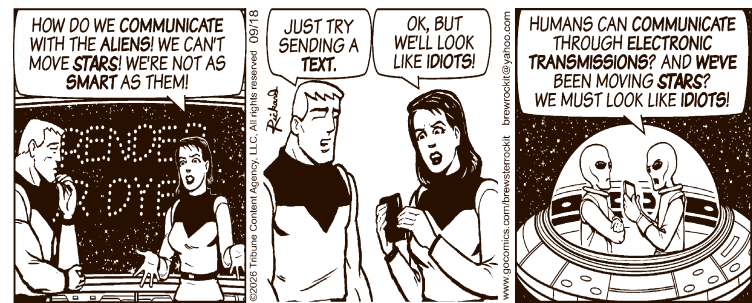
ANIMAL CRACKERS



BOUND & GAGGED



BREWSTER ROCKIT



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

9/18/26

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

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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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

Beyond Reason: Spotless

Rob Perez
Columnist

I'm not a doctor, but I've always admired people who start sentences like that and proceed to finish them anyway.

The reason I'm thinking about doctors is I'm thinking about the Hippocratic Oath. As oaths go, it's alright. Do no harm. Now, some may say, isn't that kind of a low bar? Yeah, but doing good is harder than doing no harm and, well, you have to start somewhere.

And the reason I'm thinking about the Hippocratic Oath is I just got home after a long day of what Mel Brooks would call work, work, work, and the cleaning lady's been here.

This place is spotless.

Every counter is, well, something to see. Literally. Because it's no longer covered with toys or shoes or stuffies or electronics or Amazon packages. Tonight my house is just counters as far as the eye can see.

I honestly didn't know I had this many counters.

Normally, this is what we call a temporary state. The family walks in the door after a long day. We all look at the home we could have if we only had staff. We admire the place for about three seconds. Then we put down our bags and the spell is broken.

The children make it to the kitchen and, well, have you seen them eat? Let's just say it's not museum-quality eating. And have you seen them disrobe? It lacks a process. So suddenly the house has a teenager's socks here. An eight-year-old unicorn costume there. Also, have you seen where The Wife put down her electronics? That's okay. Neither did she.

Normally I don't have to be precious. Normally the children are plenty of cover for me. I am but one squeaky wheel on a car with four. Normally I'm the neat one in this family.

But today, they're out of town. So tonight, it's me in my museum.

And I know the rules. We either eat out or host guests and pretend this is what our house

normally looks like.

But I'm home. I've had a cocktail and I'm not eating out.

I have noodles and red sauce to reheat. The only problem is the red sauce. Although the noodles aren't helping.

Which is why I now think they should give the Hippocratic Oath to more than just doctors. I think they should give it to me. Because I'd like to follow that oath right now. Except I don't know how with noodles and red sauce.

This is a scratch kitchen. I made this red sauce from scratch. The Wife gets annoyed every time I ask her if she knows what a mirepoix is. Which is why I keep asking.

So, yes, I could put the noodles and red sauce in the microwave. But the microwave isn't really for food. It's for reheating coffee.

Besides, the herbs and vegetables in the sauce came from my garden. The only thing is I made it yesterday. And the thing I should mention about yesterday is that yesterday was before the cleaning lady came.

Have you seen what heat does to red sauce? Heat heats it up. And when red sauce gets hot, it bubbles. And bubbles pop, man. Today, popping bubbles of red sauce are about as close as you can get to the opposite of doing no harm.

And I don't know how you like your noodles and red sauce but I like to finish mine with a little freshly grated Parmesan. I was also thinking about a glass of red wine.

Do you see how every single step in this process has enormous potential to do harm? Which is why I need to talk to Hippocrates. Now. And I need to know what the hell was in that oath.

Except I looked it up and found out that do no harm is actually not in the Hippocratic Oath. At all. Plus, it's in Latin. So I'm totally on my own on this one.

Maybe I can get my calories from another cocktail?

Although, I mean, I'm not a doctor but a guy's gotta eat. Right?

Right?

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