TRENTON TELEGRAPH

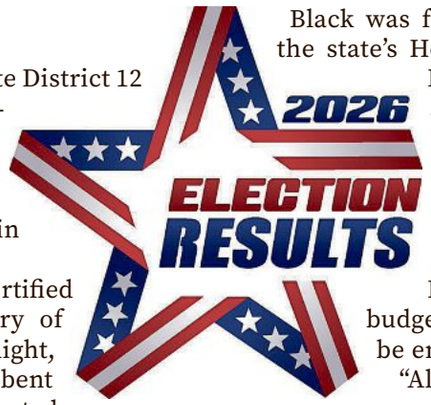
FRIDAY
November 6, 2026
Vol. 2 | No. 9

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Voters keep incumbents in state offices

By Amanda Lubinski
General Manager



Voters in Missouri Senate District 12 and House District 2, including those in Grundy County, have chosen to keep Republican leadership representing them in the General Assembly.

According to uncertified results from the Secretary of State's Office on election night, Tuesday, Nov. 3, incumbent Rusty Black (R), bested Democrat Judy McNeese, taking nearly 70% of the more than 58,000 votes cast in the race for state Senate District 12.

Black was first elected in 2016 into the state's House of Representatives. In 2022, he was elected as state senator. Before his career in politics, he worked as an agriculture educator for 33 years.

Important issues for Black include the state budget since ARPA funds will be ending next year.

"All those dollars will be gone out of the budget," the News-Press in St. Joseph reported Black as saying in an interview last month. "As we continue to see increases in our social services budget, departmental health budget around Medicaid spending, we're going to have to figure out a way to cut back in other areas so we can continue to feed that. The voters wanted Medicaid expansion, and with that comes a price tag. We're going to be paying that price in the upcoming years."

Voters in state House District 2 handily approved sending GOP candidate Phil Fox to Jefferson City to represent them, electing him to the seat being vacated by fellow Republican Mazzie Christensen.

According to uncertified results from the

ELECTION
CONTINUED TO PG 2



SUBMITTED

Gary Dolan joined the Army in 1966. He was to become an integrated wide-band communication specialist during Vietnam.

TRENTON TALES

Vietnam Vet Finds Honor in His Military Experience

By Julie Hill Lehr
Contributor

In this month's Trenton Tales series feature, we honor former Army Sgt. Gary Dolan.

Early life

Dolan grew up on a farm near Trenton. He struggled in school and though he worked hard, he had trouble excelling.

"I didn't even know why I was having so much trouble because I couldn't read," he explained. "I could do everything else: I just couldn't read. I think when you have that, you become a problem solver."

He found out much later as an adult, it was because he was dyslexic. He didn't have time for after-school activities because he was needed to help on the family farm. He milked cows, took care of livestock, helped with crops and gathered eggs just to name a few of his chores.

Dolan worked hard, but had fun. "Saturdays were a big deal," he said. "That's when we came to town."

They got to have popcorn from the stand, which was near where Trenton Hardware is, and sometimes, they got to go to the movies.

He graduated from Trenton High School in 1961 in a world that was undergoing civil rights discussions, participating in the space race and experiencing great social change. Dolan decided to pursue higher education at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University. He thought he would become a wildlife biologist.

In addition to working on a career, going to college meant that he had less chance of being drafted to go to Vietnam.

Military service

As Dolan continued to pursue his higher education goals, he met Ellen Emery, who also grew up on a farm near Trenton. They got married and continued to go to college.

VETERAN
CONTINUED TO PG 4

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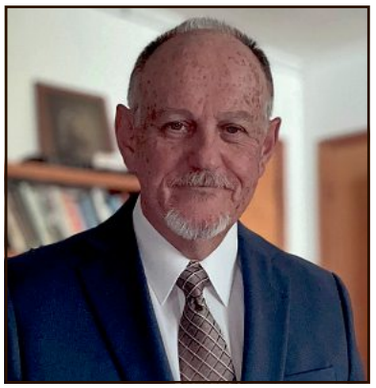
Trenton Schools Host Veterans Day Assembly

Trenton High School and Trenton Middle School will host a Veterans Day assembly on Nov. 11, in the Performing Arts Center. Local veterans are invited to join students from both schools for this special event.

Veterans are welcome to enjoy coffee and cookies before the assembly at 8:30 a.m. in the Graham McVay Memorial Commons. The assembly will begin at 9 a.m.

The program will feature performances by the THS and TMS choirs, and members of the THS band will perform "Taps." Slideshows honoring veterans related to Trenton R-9 staff members and students will also be shown.

Pastor Mike Bragg, a retired United States Army major, will serve as the guest speaker. Bragg served in the military for more than 12 years after receiving his commission through the ROTC program at Truman State University in December 1979.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pastor Mike Bragg, a retired United States Army major, will serve as the guest speaker for the Trenton schools' Veterans Day assembly.

During his military career, Bragg served in operational assignments with the 3rd Armored Division in Germany and the 5th Infantry Division in Louisiana. His assignments included commanding Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry.

He later provided operational expertise in developing the Army's first automated command and control system. He also represented the Army in multinational system integration efforts and served as an operational liaison to the German Bundeswehr.

His military decorations include two meritorious service medals, two Army commendation medals, the humanitarian service medal and the national defense service medal.

After his military service, Bragg pursued a career in healthcare technology and retired as an executive. He currently serves as pastor of First Christian Church in Trenton. Bragg is married to Mindy Bragg of Trenton, a 1981 graduate of Trenton High School.

Election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Secretary of State's Office, Fox took nearly 75% of the 11,511 votes cast, beating Democrat Casey Scott and Libertarian Shelby Dreier.

In other state races, Grundy County voters voted in lockstep with others around the state in the re-election of Republican Scott Fitzpatrick as state auditor.

Fitzpatrick won 50% of the overall state vote to Wilson's 47%. Libertarian Dustin Coffell won 3%.

"Fitzpatrick ran on his record of uncovering waste, fraud and abuse, particularly in local governments, and warning lawmakers about Missouri's increasingly precarious financial outlook. The win gives him another four years to oversee the independent watchdog agency responsible for reviewing how state and local governments spend taxpayer money," reports the Missouri Independent.

Fitzpatrick's second term comes as Missouri faces difficult budget decisions.

"In a report released in December, he warned that state spending was outpacing revenue growth and could exhaust Missouri's general revenue reserves by fiscal 2028 if existing trends continued," reports the Independent. "The report found that the state's general revenue balance, which peaked at $5.8 billion in 2023, had fallen to approximately $4.3 billion by the end of fiscal 2025.

"I do not see any prospects of a federal bailout coming to soften the blow of what's about to happen this time," Fitzpatrick told The Independent. "I think what we're getting ready to encounter is unprecedented."

In the race for U.S. representative to the Sixth District of Missouri, a seat being vacated by Republican Sam Graves, Missourians across the state also chose to keep a Republican in office, electing Chris Stigall with nearly 59% of the 257,824 overall ballots cast.

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Postal Statement: The Trenton Telegraph, USPS PP#3 is published weekly by CherryRoad Media, 715 Main Street, Unit C2, Trenton, MO 64683. Pending periodical postage is paid at 201 W 11th Street Trenton, MO 64683. and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Department, Trenton Telegraph, 201 W 11th Street Trenton, MO 64683.
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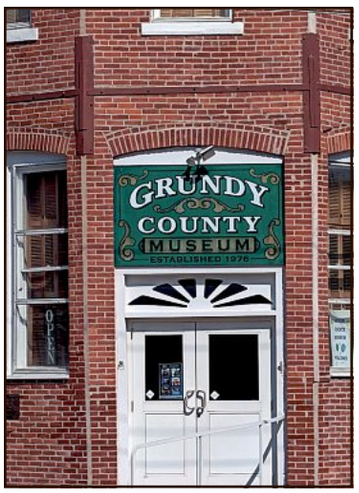
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AMANDA LUBINSKI/STAFF PHOTO

The Grundy County Museum will host a Storybrook Christmas event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, and again from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 4.

Museum Offers Storybook Christmas Event

The Grundy County Museum will host a Storybrook Christmas event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, and again from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 4.

There will be photo opportunities with Santa and Rudolph, a St. Nicholas Square Christmas Village display and a collection of 20 storybook-themed Christmas trees.

Admission is free. The museum is located at 1100 Mable St.

Obituaries

CHARLES LEVI TRUMP

Jun 6, 1939 - Sep 28, 2026

Charles Levi Trump passed away from neurodegenerative disease at Balmoral Care Center in Lake Forest, IL, on a Monday as the summer faded to fall. He was 87.

Charles was born at home on his family's farm in Modena, MO and grew up there and, later, on their dairy farm in nearby Trenton, in Grundy County, one of 12 siblings. He was a first-generation college graduate who taught history--which he loved learning about all his life--and managed a grocery store before beginning a career in office equipment sales. (He harbored no romantic illusions about the challenges of farming--he loved his family, but wanted to leave their farm--or the grocery business.)

In his days working, he was never without peppermint gum or mints, Handi Wipes, and a clutch of maps in his car, or his gold Cross pen. He favored burgundy ties. Charles was warm, witty, and was easy talking to anyone and everyone. So it was not surprising that he was a successful salesperson. But he was content in modest roles, moving multiple times as his wife, Connie, took on larger roles in her own sales career.

He was proud of Connie, and their only child, a daughter, Julie. Connie traveled a lot for her work, so it was often just him and Julie at home. He was the sort of dad who tried to take and treat her seriously. In the 80s, he would swear good-naturedly at tennis and football players (he rooted for the Chiefs, the Cowboys, and the Bears) as he watched them on TV. Julie, then in elementary school, would write him tickets. He always paid the fine she charged. He was a steadying presence then, and always, for her.

He was always an active guy, pole vaulting for his high school's track team and then playing tennis and jogging later in life. In retirement, he took up golf in earnest and kept company with a group that called itself The Geezers. He traveled to the wine country in California and in France, and to England, with Connie. He never lost his workingman's appreciation for the weekend though, reaching out to Julie weekly on Fridays with a text that often began "TGIF!" He kept in regular touch with his siblings, too, attending family and high school graduating class reunions for as long as he could.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Connie, and their daughter, Julie (Trump) Ekkers, of St. Louis Park, MN, his son-in-law, Edward ("Ted") Ekkers, and his grandchildren, Joseph and Clara, in whom he delighted, and by three sisters, Ann (Trump) Taylor of Fulton, MO, Edna (Trump) Kitchen of Owensville, MO, and Venna (Trump) Hicks of Trenton, MO, two brothers, Albert Trump of Trenton, MO and Aaron Trump of Kingsland, TX, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jewell Pauline (Hubbard) Trump and Charles Edward Trump of Trenton, MO, brothers Junyer Trump, Wallace Trump, Leon Trump, and Carl Trump, all of Trenton, MO, and sisters Carolyn (Trump) Walker of Osage Beach, MO and Thelma (Trump) Moore of Sedalia, MO.

When Julie graduated from high school in 1995, Charles' sister, Ann, sent a copy of Life's Little Instruction Book, a book of suggestions for living a happy life that was popular at the time. It is inscribed, in part, "If you have a philosophical nature like your dad, you probably will enjoy these nuggets of truth." Charles did, indeed, have a philosophical nature. (He liked, and was good at, saying grace and giving toasts, and kept his faith in God.) What follows is borrowed from another, but it is for him on the occasion of his passing. May he rest in peace.

Song of Myself, 52
by Walt Whitman

I depart as air, I shake my white locks at the runaway sun,
I effuse my flesh in eddies, and drift it in lacy jags.
I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love,
If you want me again look for me under your boot-soles.
You will hardly know who I am or what I mean,
But I shall be good health to you nevertheless,
And filter and fibre your blood.
Failing to fetch me at first keep encouraged,
Missing me one place search another,
I stop somewhere waiting for you.

Southside Farm Club Meets

The Southside Farm Club met on Oct. 21, at the home of Judith Urich. The club enjoyed an early Thanksgiving feast of turkey and dressing, with members bringing side dishes, salads and desserts.

After the meal, the meeting was called to order by Janice Belvel. Robin Meservey won the hostess gift by having a sticker on her napkin. Judith posed the roll-call question: "What do you do to de-stress?" Answers varied: Some read Bible devotions, some petted the cat or dog and some listened to music. Favorite artists included Lauren Daigle, a Christian contemporary artist; and the iconic Hawaiian singer Israel Kamakawiwoʻole, famous for his gentle voice and acoustic ukulele on "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World;"

One member shared a helpful way to take your mind off what you're stressing about: 1) Name five things you can see; 2) Four things you can hear; 3) three things you can taste; 4) two things you can feel; and 5) one thing you can smell.

Meeting notes were read by Jackie Altenderfer and approved. Thank-you cards were read from Babette Hill and Jessica and Ronnie Surface. A cookbook from the club was given to Judith to pass along to Seanacie Ireland for her upcoming wedding to Kolton Smith.

Judith Urich gave the program, sharing from a book she owns, the "French Aster Birthday Book" (Avon, 1985).

Next month's meeting will be held at the home of Ellen Dolan on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Trenton Rotary members aid community betterment programs

Members of the Trenton Rotary Club participated in a community service project, assisting Bright Futures Trenton during the club's "Fifth Thursday" meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Bright Futures building. Kristi Harris presided at the meeting and Dan Wilford gave the prayer.

Lynn Griffin and Terri Critten, co-directors of the Bright Futures Trenton organization, presented information about its Food Pals program, which provides food during the school year to students and their families on weekends and days when school is not in session. Food Pals replaces the Back Pack Buddies program and has allowed for more students in grades Pre-K through 12 and families to be served. The program is open to all schools in Grundy County, including Trenton R-9, Grundy R-5, Laredo R-7, Pleasant View R-6 and Spickard R-2. To be considered for the program, families must fill out a free and reduced lunch application. The schools then identify students and families in need, with food boxes being distributed monthly. Up to 165 children and their families can be served in the program, which currently has around 151. Bright Futures accepts donations of food staples as well as money to purchase items to be used in the food boxes. Drop-off sites are located at all of the banks in Trenton as well as several churches. Kayla Graham serves as the Bright Futures distribution coordinator.

Members of the Rotary Club then helped sort, fold and pack hoodies and sweatshirts to be given out during the November Food Pals distribution. Some of the items will also be available to students throughout the year when needed. The hoodies and sweatshirts are being stored at the Bright Futures building along with the food items used for the food boxes.

During the business meeting, it was announced District 6040 will be sending a group of Rotarians to Guatemala for five days in January/February to distribute shoes collected through the district's Shoes for Orphan Souls project.

Veteran

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even though he was married and in college, Dolan knew that his draft number was likely to come up.

Dolan's uncle, Jack, who was a World War II sniper, told Dolan and his siblings tales of his experience in the war.

"I didn't want to sleep in a foxhole like my uncle Jack," Dolan explained. "I thought if I joined the military, I wouldn't have to be involved in those battles. I wanted to get in and out and get an easy job."

He joined the Army in 1966. He took an aptitude test that identified him as someone who would do well as a communication and electronic specialist. He was to become an integrated wide-band communication specialist and was sent to Ft. Monmouth, NJ to learn his job.



SUBMITTED

Once he was back in Missouri, Dolan decided that farming would be a good career for him. He did various types of farming throughout his adult life.

After nine months of training, he was sent to Vietnam. He became part of the 1st Signal Brigade, originally called the Strategic Communications Command Signal Brigade. It was located in Southeast Asia, at Long Binh near Saigon. The brigade was charged with helping to create a communications network for the soldiers fighting throughout Vietnam. This network would improve strategic planning and allow knowledge of a particular platoon's status.

"It was a real sophisticated and an encrypted system," Dolan said. "We didn't have much downtime. It was a 24/7 job. We were under a lot of stress."

As part of his job, Dolan reported to a number of senior officers, letting them know what was happening throughout the communications system. Sometimes it was bad news and the soldiers didn't particularly want to be the messenger.

"I discovered that it was really important to tell the truth, even if it was grim," Dolan explained. "They wanted actual truth. One of my big mottoes is that you need to tell the truth."

Many times, while Dolan was with the signal brigade their building was under fire. "We were under attack every night and every day," he said. "The whole thing was intense. We had to worry about getting shot and shooting back all the while keeping this encryption communications system up and running."

Dolan said his entire brigade understood the importance of their job.

"Everyone gave their job 100%. It was more than the call of duty to keep the communication system working," he said. "I was so busy and excited that I didn't have time to be scared."

Dolan said being in Vietnam was a lot to adjust to for a farm boy from Missouri.

"The whole thing was overwhelming," he said. "You simply had to be there. It was the smell, it was the heat, it was so much. You just had to be there to understand."

Back in the states

With one year to go in his deployment, Gary was moved to Ft. Hood, in Texas. There, his job was not in great demand the same way it had been in Vietnam. In the states, AT&T was doing most of the work that Dolan and the brigade had done. At Ft. Hood, the soldiers turned their attention to training for a possible conflict with Russia. Dolan said each man had to have a special go bag ready in case they were deployed quickly.

He learned a lot in the military, but was grateful when he could go home.

"I was glad to be back home where it was peaceful. I was tired of all the structure so I decided not to go back to college."

Like many other Vietnam vets, Dolan said he felt wounded when he arrived back in America.

"It broke my heart when I came back, the way people treated us," he said. "The American people were not supportive of us. When we came home, the American people had no time for us. I'm still a little resentful about that."

Though the unpopular war made Dolan feel bad upon his return, he found his military experience valuable.

"I think the military holds our country together and defends our country," the veteran said. "If somebody tried to overthrow our government, the military are the people who would make sure that doesn't happen. Most people in the military respect and believe in our constitution."

During his military career Dolan earned a number of medals including the Army Vietnam service medal, the Army commendation medal, the Republic of Vietnam gallantry cross, the national defense medal and a good conduct medal.

To learn more about Dolan's life, check out the longer version of this story at TrentonTelegraph.com.

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Missouri Winter Weather Preparedness Week Nov. 2–6

Although September broke a 1931 heat record in our state and October is following a similar trend, winter – and its snow, sleet and ice – will return to Missouri.

To help Missourians prepare and stay safe during shorter days and the coldest weather season, the State Emergency Management Agency and National Weather Service are partnering to promote Nov. 2-6 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Missouri.

"While meteorologists tell us a strong to very strong El Niño winter is almost upon us, Missouri is in a transition zone, which makes it harder to forecast than in other parts of the nation," SEMA Director Jim Remillard said. "But we know we will experience a Missouri winter – which means being prepared for sub-freezing temperatures and dangerous snow and ice, along with hazardous driving conditions, the loss of power and heat in our homes."



METRO CREATIVE

Safety experts recommend creating a family emergency plan and a home emergency kit. Emergency supplies should include bottled water, canned and dry foods, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a manual can opener and a first-aid kit.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services reportshypothermia deaths are up by 26 from 2024 to 2025 – a 68% increase.

"I encourage residents to take extra precautions to protect themselves and their families. Remember, your plans should include several days' worth of supplies," said Remillard.

According to preliminary results from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, there were more than 3,699 vehicle crashes in Missouri in 2025 during periods of snow, sleet, hail or ice, resulting in 656 injuries and nine fatalities.

Avoiding non-essential travel during winter storms is the best way to avoid being stranded or involved in a crash, reports SEMA.

"It also allows snow removal crews to clear the roads faster and helps first responders reach crashes more quickly. If you must drive, check road conditions in advance on the Missouri Department of Transportation Traveler Map at traveler.modot.org/map," reads a release about the preparedness week. " Always clear your vehicle of snow and ice, especially from windows and rearview mirrors. Buckle up, put the phone down, and allow extra travel time. Expect delays, reduce speed according to conditions, and increase following distance. If your vehicle breaks down or slides off the road, stay in the vehicle, keep your seat belt fastened and call for help."

Motorists traveling when winter weather is forecast should dress appropriately for the weather or keep warm outerwear in the vehicle, even for short trips, in case they become stranded and exposed to harsh conditions for an extended period. According to DHSS, 64 people died in Missouri in 2025 due to low body temperatures from prolonged exposure to cold weather. Find more information about hypothermia and nearby warming center locations at health.mo.gov/hypothermia.

Missourians should consider these additional winter weather preparedness tips:

- Create a family emergency plan and a home emergency kit. Emergency supplies should include bottled water, canned and dry foods, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a manual can opener and a first-aid kit.
- Assemble a vehicle winter emergency kit. Include extra clothes, a blanket, a radio and spare batteries, snacks and water, jumper cables, flares, and a shovel, sand or shingles for tire traction.
- Ensure that alternate heat and power sources, such as fireplaces, wood stoves, kerosene heaters, and generators, function properly. Proper ventilation is essential, and generators should only be operated outdoors. Install carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home to prevent serious illness or death.
- Space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and 80% of home heating fire deaths. Supplemental heating sources like these should be turned off when leaving a room or going to bed. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.

For more winter weather tips, including safe driving techniques and preparing for power outages, please visit sema.dps.mo.gov/plan_and_prepare/winter_weather.php.

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FSA Reminds Farmers of Key Program Deadlines, Loan Opportunities

By Jason Vance
Contributor

As farmers across the country wrap up harvest and begin preparing for the next growing season, the Farm Service Agency is reminding producers to pay attention to important program deadlines, including sign-up periods for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage.

David Schemm, Kansas Farm Service Agency state executive director, said fall is a busy time for farmers and ranchers, but producers should make time to visit their local FSA office and review the programs available to them.

One of the most immediate priorities is enrollment in the 2026 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 11, and producers must make an election between the two programs.

Schemm said producers also have an opportunity to enroll in a multi-year contract covering 2026 through 2031. Those who choose that option can still change their ARC or PLC election in future years.

The Working Families Tax Cut Act also provided 30 million additional base acres nationwide. Kansas producers received approximately 1.67 million additional base acres, affecting more than 53,000 farms across the state.

Producers should have already received notification from FSA regarding additional base acres allocated to their operations. Those acres will be reflected in ARC and PLC calculations beginning with the 2026 program year.

Schemm emphasized that payments producers received in October were associated with the 2025 program year and did not include the additional base acres. However, those payments did reflect higher reference prices established under the legislation.

Looking ahead, FSA also has begun enrollment for the 2027 Dairy Margin Coverage program. The program provides financial protection to dairy producers when the difference between milk prices and feed costs falls below selected coverage levels.

The 2027 enrollment period opened Oct. 1 and continues through Dec. 18. Schemm said producers who selected the $9.50-per-hundredweight coverage level have already triggered payments, with processing beginning Sept. 30.

Although most FSA programs operate on the federal fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, some programs, including Dairy Margin Coverage, follow a calendar-year schedule. Schemm encouraged producers to pay close attention to individual program deadlines rather than assume all enrollment periods follow the same timetable.

FSA also offers marketing assistance loans that can help crop producers manage cash flow and marketing decisions during harvest. The short-term loans carry relatively low interest rates and are available for eligible commodities, including corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and grain sorghum.

Producers who harvest and place crops in on-farm storage may be eligible to use those commodities as collateral for a marketing assistance loan.

Loans also may be available for grain stored at commercial elevators, although Schemm cautioned producers to discuss the arrangement with their elevator or storage facility before making a decision. A warehouse receipt is required when using a commercial storage facility as collateral.

Beyond commodity loans, FSA offers operating and farm ownership loans for producers who need assistance financing their operations or purchasing farmland.

Schemm said producers experiencing financial difficulties, including those having trouble obtaining credit through commercial lenders, should contact their local FSA office to discuss available options.

Beginning farmers also have access to specialized loan programs designed to help them establish and grow their operations.

Schemm noted that the definition of a beginning farmer is not necessarily tied to age. Under FSA guidelines, a beginning farmer generally is someone who has been actively farming for 10 years or less.

That means someone returning to a family farm later in life may qualify, even if they are in their 30s, 40s or 50s. The designation is based on farming experience and participation in agricultural programs, not simply how old someone is.

Schemm also addressed the administration's recently announced Harvest Fuel Relief program, saying additional information is expected as federal officials develop program rules and application procedures.

He said FSA is working through the details with officials in Washington, D.C., and will share information with producers as it becomes available.

In the meantime, Schemm encouraged farmers and ranchers to stay informed by regularly visiting Farmers.gov and maintaining access to their Login.gov accounts.

Many FSA programs now allow producers to complete applications electronically, providing another option for those who may have difficulty making an in-person visit during busy seasons.

Schemm said the online system has made it easier for producers to access assistance programs, including Farmer Bridge Assistance, and additional programs are expected to offer similar application options.

With several enrollment periods underway and additional assistance programs in development, Schemm encouraged producers not to wait until the last minute to explore their options.

Whether reviewing ARC and PLC coverage, applying for a loan or seeking assistance through a new federal program, producers can contact their local FSA office for information about eligibility, deadlines and application requirements.

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Federal Universal Service Charge Multi Line Business	$ 5.12
Single Party Residence Service (includes Touchtone)	$ 23.50
Single Party Business Service (includes Touchtone)	$ 23.50
Federal Subscriber Line Charge Residence/Single Line Business	$ 6.50
Federal Subscriber Line Charge Multi Line Business	$ 9.20
Toll Blocking (available at no charge for low-income customers that qualify)	$ 3.00
Federal Access Recovery Charge (ARC) Single Line Business	$ 3.00
Federal Access Recovery Charge (ARC) Multi Line Business	$ 3.00

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Corn, Milo Stalks Offer Dairy Producers Alternative To Straw

By Jason Vance
Contributor

With straw supplies limited and prices remaining high in many parts of the country, dairy producers may want to consider corn and milo stalks as alternative sources of winter bedding and roughage.

Mike Brooke, a dairy specialist with K-State Research and Extension, says the availability and cost of straw are creating challenges for dairy operations preparing for the winter months. The average straw price in Kansas is approximately $140 per ton, making it an expensive input for producers who rely on it for animal bedding or feed.

Brooke says crop residues, including corn stalks and milo stalks, may provide an opportunity to reduce the amount of purchased straw needed throughout the winter.

"One of the available options that we actually do have out there is corn stalks as well as milo stalks, and these can be effective as a bedding source, but they can also be utilized in diets as well," Brooke says.

Before turning to crop residues, producers should evaluate how much straw they already have available and determine whether additional bedding or roughage will be needed to get through the winter. They should also consider whether corn or milo stalks are readily available in their area.

Quality is an important consideration when harvesting stalks for either purpose. Brooke recommends harvesting material that is dry, ideally at 18% moisture or less, while keeping dirt and mud contamination to a minimum.

Harvesting practices can also influence the quality and usefulness of the material. Brooke recommends using a rotary mower to clip the stalks and create a windrow suitable for baling. Whenever possible, producers should avoid raking windrows together because additional handling can increase field losses.

A wider mower that produces a larger windrow may help eliminate the need for raking and preserve more of the available material.

Brooke also encourages producers to consider using a baler equipped with net wrap rather than traditional string ties. Net-wrapped bales generally hold together better during handling, making them a practical choice for harvesting crop residues.

Some balers also have cutter mechanisms that partially chop the material as it enters the bale. While that feature can be beneficial, Brooke says producers can still harvest usable stalks with a rotary mower and a net-wrapped baler.

Storage practices should depend on how the material will be used. Producers planning to incorporate corn or milo stalks into livestock diets should keep the bales dry by storing them inside a shed or under a covered pile.

Bales intended strictly for bedding may be stored outside, provided producers take appropriate precautions to protect the material.

However, there is an important difference between crop residues and traditional straw when it comes to animal bedding. Corn and milo stalks generally do not absorb moisture as effectively as straw.

That difference means producers may want to consider combining the two materials rather than completely replacing straw.

Brooke suggests using corn or milo stalks as a base layer, followed by a layer of straw on top. This approach can reduce the total amount of purchased straw while still providing a more absorbent surface for animals.

For dairy operations managing tight input budgets, that combination could offer a practical way to stretch existing straw supplies without sacrificing as much bedding quality.

As producers across the country prepare for winter, evaluating locally available crop residues could help reduce bedding expenses and provide additional roughage options. Brooke emphasizes the importance of planning ahead and making sure adequate supplies are available to meet both bedding and feeding needs throughout the winter season.

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STATE & FEDERAL LICENSED

MDC to host first-time youth antlerless deer hunt in Trenton Dec. 12

Participants must be 11 to 15 years old, certified to hunt, and should register by Nov. 30

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will provide young, aspiring hunters with the knowledge and opportunity to bag their first deer during a new youth antlerless deer hunt in Trenton on Dec. 12. By participating, youth ages 11–15 can develop their hunting skills, learn about deer management, and gain valuable outdoor experience.

This youth hunting opportunity is designed to introduce young hunters to the responsibilities and traditions of deer hunting while emphasizing safety, ethical practices, and wildlife conservation. Participants will spend time at the shooting range, review deer hunting regulations, learn about deer processing, and participate in additional educational activities focused on hunting and conservation.

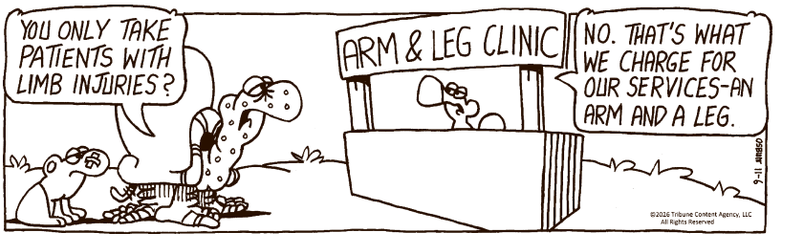
"This event is an opportunity to help young hunters build confidence, develop safe hunting practices, and gain a better understanding of Missouri's wildlife resources," said MDC Conservation Agent Joshua Paskiewicz. "By providing hands-on instruction and guidance, we hope to encourage the next generation of responsible hunters and conservationists."

Eligible participants must be 11 to 15 years old and have successfully completed Hunter Education certification, available at https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/hunter-education. The class size is limited to five hunters.

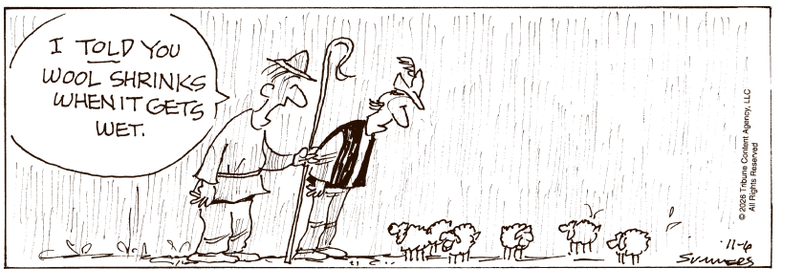
Registration will be open Nov. 1–30 at https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/222507. For additional information or questions about the hunt, contact Agent Paskiewicz at 660-654-2677 or by email at Josh.Paskiewicz@mdc.mo.gov.

Comics & Puzzles

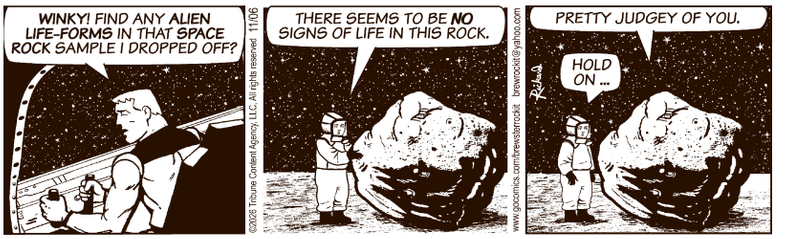
ANIMAL CRACKERS



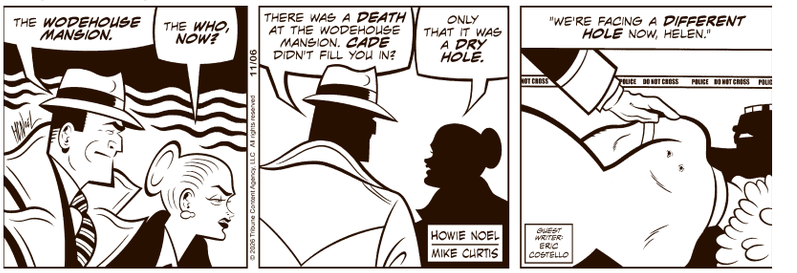
BOUND & GAGGED



BREWSTER ROCKIT



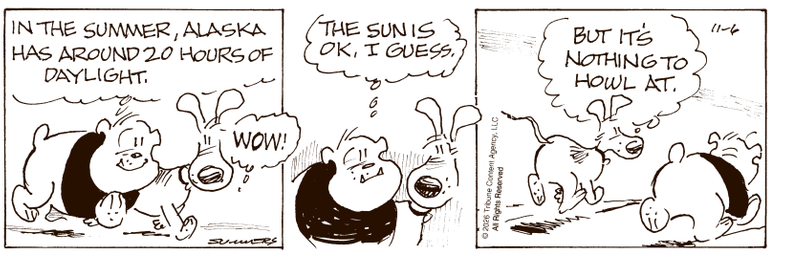
DICK TRACY



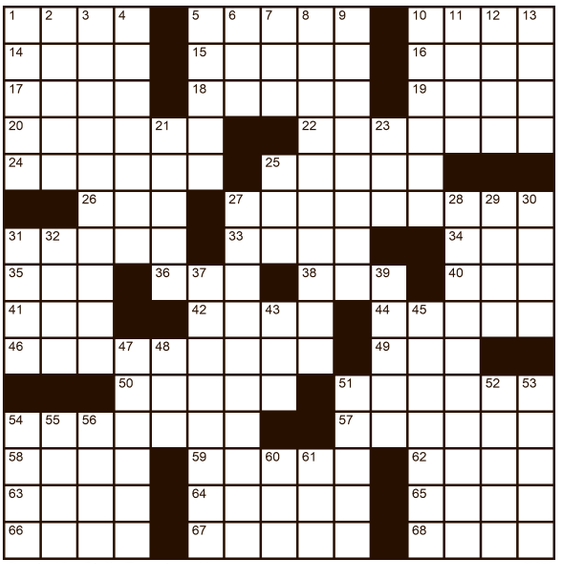
GASOLINE ALLEY



THE MIDDLETONS



THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski



Created by Stella Zawistowski 11/6/26

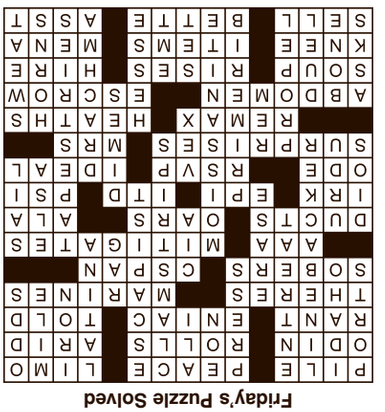
ACROSS

1 Heap
5 "Give __ a Chance"
10 Ride for promgoers
14 Chief Norse god
15 Sushi bar offerings
16 Very dry
17 __ and rave
18 Historic computer: Abbr.
19 Narrated
20 "__ no way that's true!"
22 "Semper Fi" service members
24 Gets serious
25 DC coverage network
26 Slim battery size
27 Makes less severe
31 Air passages
33 Rowing tools
34 In the style of: 2 wds.
35 Annoy
36 Prefix with "center"
38 "__ be an honor"
40 23rd Greek letter
41 Poem of praise
42 Answer an invitation: Abbr.
44 Best possible
46 Unexpected events
49 Bride's title: Abbr.
50 Century 21 competitor
51 Wild landscapes
54 Stomach's area
57 Earnest money account
58 Minestrone, e.g.
59 Goes up
62 Add to the workforce
63 Leg joint
64 Agenda listings
65 Actress Suvari
66 Exchange for money
67 Actress Midler
68 Helper: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Harbor cities
2 Wyoming neighbor
3 Defensive NFL player
4 Beg anxiously
5 Shoulder exercise
6 Very long time
7 Boxer Muhammad
8 Fried seafood treat: 2 wds.
9 Reality avoider
10 Jennifer Lopez, e.g.
11 Type of golf club
12 Odometer unit
13 __ and ends
21 Wipe chalk from
23 Cleaning cloth
25 Ratcliffe's bureau: Abbr.
27 Diamond substitute
28 Woven artworks
29 "Frozen" queen
30 Travel by ship
31 "Ay, __ mio!"
32 Pakistani language
37 Beef entree: 2 wds.
39 Thin coins
43 Really annoy
45 Old Greek coin
47 Push forward
48 "Stand" band
51 Poet Hermann
52 Features of a ram
53 Perspiration
54 Inquires
55 Femur or fibula
56 Swordfight
60 __ the tone
61 First responder: Abbr.

Friday's Puzzle Solved



SUDOKU

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

11/6/26

Level 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Solution to Friday's puzzle

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

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NCMC Foundation Celebrates Record-Breaking Expansion at Annual Scholarship Reception

The North Central Missouri College Foundation officially hosted its annual Scholarship Reception on Wednesday, October 14th, in the Jeanette Hoffman Robison Auditorium at the Ketcham Community Center, bringing together hundreds of student scholars, regional donors, and institutional leaders to celebrate a historic year of philanthropic growth.

This year's reception marked a monumental milestone for the NCMC Foundation, which successfully managed the distribution of 413 total Foundation scholarships, in addition to recognizing 147 students for receiving a NCMC Athletic, SSS, Board of Trustees or other institutional scholarships, impacting over 560 students. Driven by extensive community advocacy and regional investments, the Foundation disbursed over $375,000 in scholarships. This unprecedented volume of student support is anchored by a master donor portfolio that has officially expanded to encompass over 70 active scholarship funds.

"The energy in the Ketcham Center was incredible because this reception is about so much more than financial transactions," noted NCMC Scholarship Coordinator Kristi Varner. "It's a powerful moment where students get to look their benefactors in the eye and say, 'thank you.' Distributing over $375,000 this year means hundreds of students can focus entirely on completing their degrees and stepping directly into vital workforce roles. The inspiring stories shared by all our speakers tonight truly highlighted the deep personal bonds built through these awards, leaving a profound impact on every single attendee in the room"

The program opened with warm welcoming remarks from NCMC Interim President Dr. Jamie Hooyman, who highlighted the institution's deep commitment to rural workforce development and student success. She introduced Amy Guthrie, English Instructor, and welcomed her to the stage to perform the National Anthem. Serving as the master of ceremonies for the evening, Dr. Mitch Holder smoothly guided the program through its historic milestones and presentation tracks.



(L to R): Catherine Hamilton, Katelyn Jones, Joyce Cutsinger, Christy Gottman, Jaden Stuart, Dr. Mitch Holder

Representing the student body, three student speakers took the stage to share direct, personal accounts of how the community's investments have transformed their academic lives. Each speaker left and everlasting impact on the audience with their emotional and inspiring journeys.

Christy Gottman, recipient of the Everett & Hazel Frey and the Church Women United of Grundy County Scholarships, shared her nontraditional educational journey and highlighted the profound personal validation that comes with community support. "When you are working tirelessly to balance classes and future goals, knowing that someone has invested in your success gives you an incredible push to keep going. This award is an investment in our dreams, and we are determined to make our donors proud."

Student speaker Jaden Stuart emphasized the long-term impact on career preparation. "The donors in this room are directly building the future workforce of North Missouri. This scholarship gives me the stability I need to complete my training and immediately step into a career where I can give back to my hometown community." In an emotional address, Jaden courageously shared his personal health struggles and explained how it directed him to his future in the medical field. Jaden received a Jeanette Hoffman Robison Scholarship.

The evening's featured keynote address was delivered by Joyce Cutsinger, a celebrated member of the 2024 NCMC Distinguished Alumni class and long-time campus instructor. Her deeply personal remarks hit home with every student in the room as she openly shared her own historical financial struggles while pursuing a college education.

"I sat exactly where you are sitting today, knowing the heavy stress of wondering how to pay for the next semester,"

Cutsinger shared during her address. "I know firsthand the profound, life-changing difference that a timely scholarship makes when you are trying to build a better life through education. That is why I am so incredibly proud to stand here tonight and be able to give back to this institution by establishing a permanent scholarship in my mother's name, the Phyllis Tuggle Scholarship, to carry that light forward for the next generation."

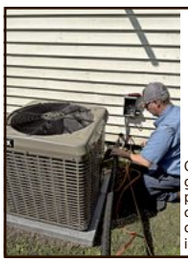
Adding to the collective gratitude of the evening, student presenter, and Warren & Nanette Carter Track & Field Scholarship recipient, Katelyn Jones shared her profound gratitude for her awards: "Receiving this scholarship means so much more than just a financial deduction on my bill; it means a donor out there looked at my hard work and believed in my future. Because of your generosity, I can focus on my intense clinical studies rather than worrying about how to afford my books." She shared her story of determination and bravery recovering from a high school sports injury to be able to continue not only her academic, but her athletic career at NCMC.

The evening concluded with an inspiring message from Foundation Board member Catherine Hamilton, who served as the closing speaker, challenging the newly named scholars to carry their academic momentum forward and thank the visionaries who backed them. The entire recording of the event can be viewed at www.piratesdigitalmedia.com.

The NCMC Foundation is a 501c(3) IRS approved organization that raises funds through different campaigns including the Gifts in Action Scholarship Campaign. It is through scholarships that students are given the chance to develop as a student, an individual and as a member of the community. The NCMC Foundation works in partnership with North Central Missouri College. For more information on creating or adding to a scholarship investment, please contact the Foundation Office at 660-357-6403 or Kristi Varner at kvarner@pirates.ncmissouri.edu.

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Trenton Girls Wrestling Roster Nearly Triples

Special report

Trenton's girls wrestling program didn't just grow this year, it nearly tripled.

The Bulldogs expect to open the season with 16 wrestlers, said Chris Wever, Trenton High School athletics director.

"Girls wrestling will have 16 athletes start the season, up from six last year," Wever told the Trenton Telegraph.

That growth comes as girls wrestling continues to take hold across Missouri. The Missouri State High School Activities Association crowned its first official girls wrestling state champions in 2019, and the sport has spread to schools statewide since.

A veteran core

Trenton's roster starts with a strong returning core. Five of last year's six wrestlers are back: seniors Sarai Birkhead and Kendall Foust and juniors Timber Hignutt, Emma Lowrey and Trinety Fults.

All five have district tournament experience and they're chasing a trip to state this season, Wever said.

Behind them comes a wave of new talent, led by a freshman who already owns a state title.

"We have a very large freshman class, led by Ally Miller, who was a Missouri 14U state champion earlier this spring," Wever said. "We also have some others that are highly experienced. A few sophomores that are out for their first year round out the team."

Miller's 14U title came down to the final seconds.

Wrestling for the Trenton Kids Wrestling Club, she won the 14U 105-pound girls bracket at the Missouri USA Wrestling State Folkstyle Championships on March 15 at Wilson Logistics Arena in Springfield, the Telegraph reported in March.

She pinned her first two opponents to reach the final. There, she trailed Lynkin Carter of Honey Badger Wrestling 4-3 late in the third period before scoring a reversal with four seconds left to win the championship.

Miller finished the tournament 3-0. She was one of 14 Trenton Kids Wrestling Club wrestlers to qualify for the youth state meet, a sign of the pipeline now feeding the high school program.

Coaching staff & opener

Head coach Chuck Rossol leads the high school girls' program, according to the Grand River Conference's Trenton directory. Charlie Bacon, Dan Dunkin and Joe Rongey will assist, Wever said.

Fans won't have to travel far to see the expanded roster in action.

"Our first competition action of the year is at home, has us hosting Kirksville and Palmyra," Wever said.

That home opener is set for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Trenton Boys, girls' Lilly Ferguson Take On State Cross Country

Special report

Trenton's runners are carrying the Bulldogs to the biggest stage in Missouri cross country.

The Trenton High School boys team and girls team runner Lilly Ferguson will compete in the state championships Friday, Nov. 6, in Columbia after qualifying at districts, said Chris Wever,Trenton High School's athletics director.

"Cross country boys team consisting of Gabe Harris, Logan Harris, Gage Pierce, Asher Pryor and Luke Csicsai finished third at districts and qualified as a team for state," Wever told the Trenton Telegraph. "And, Lilly Ferguson qualified as an individual for the girls."

Pryor led the way at districts, placing eighth, according to the school's posted results. Logan finished 19th, Gabe 20th, Pierce 45th and Csicsai 47th.

Ferguson placed 15th in the girls race to claim her spot as an individual qualifier.

Veteran Lady Bulldogs Hope To Flip Last Season Script

Kimberly Clark, Catelin Bowe and Zaylea Phillips have been on the court for Trenton since they were freshmen. Now, in their final season, they'll try to turn a hard-luck program into a winner.

The trio will lead Trenton High School's girls basketball team into its season openers later this month, said coach Samantha Boxley.

"These seniors are all four-year players and bring experience and leadership to the floor," Boxley told the Trenton Telegraph.

That experience was hard-earned. Trenton finished 5-22 last season and 1-7 in Grand River Conference play, according to conference results.

The Lady Bulldogs' season ended with a 48-24 loss to Lawson in the district tournament Feb. 23 at Lathrop.

There were, however, bright spots. Trenton beat Braymer 47-29 and Winston 36-28 on back-to-back nights in December, then topped Novinger 50-26 and Gallatin 34-29 in January.

The Lady Bulldogs saved their lone conference win for late in the year, routing Polo 47-31 on Feb. 11. That avenged a 38-37 heartbreaker against the Panthers in early December.

Clark led the way. She averaged 11.2 points per game, the team's best mark, and hit 1.1 3-pointers per game, according to conference statistics.

The seniors won't carry the load alone this season though. Trenton also returns two more starters.

"Other key players returning for the Lady Bulldogs are Claire Woodard and Lilly Ferguson," Boxley said.

Ferguson averaged 4.8 points per game last season, third-best on the team, and Woodard added 2.3.

Behind them, a group of juniors is ready to step up.

"We are excited to see some players move into bigger roles, such as Violet Breitenbucher, Jayden Gannon and Katie Ferguson," Boxley said.

With that mix of veterans and rising players, Boxley likes what she sees.

"We are a more experienced team this year, and I am excited to see what we can do," the coach said.

Fans can get a first look at the program Monday, Nov. 23, when the junior varsity team opens at home against Cameron.

The varsity tips off the next night, Tuesday, Nov. 24, at East Buchanan, a rematch of last season's opener. The Bulldogs fell 44-19 to East Buchanan last November, and again 47-32 in January.

The Lady Bulldogs' home varsity opener is Monday, Dec. 7, against Brookfield, a conference foe that edged Trenton 30-20 last season, according to the team's schedule.

The early schedule builds toward a local holiday tradition. NCMC Holiday Hoops begins Friday, Dec. 18, in the Ketcham Community Center on North Central Missouri College's Trenton campus.

The annual high school basketball showcase is sponsored by the North Central Missouri College Foundation.

Beyond Reason: Science

by Rob Perez
Columnist



I was listening to Sam Cooke sing about all the things he doesn't know, and it's quite a list. History, biology, French, etc. And I was thinking, that guy should maybe go back to school and get a few fundamentals under his belt because you never know when you're going to need them. But then my 8-year-old daughter and I went to a science museum, and I'm not sure I know any more than Cooke.

This museum is highly regarded. It had all kinds of exhibits, hands-on, interactive, informative, educational, entertaining. It covered a pretty vast array of topics, from the earth to animals to outer space. And about halfway through the museum I realized, I don't know any of this.

I mean, I guess I know a little bit about gravity. Like that if you knock a coffee cup off a table, it doesn't fall up, or sideways. That sucker falls down. But that might be it. Like everything.

I was going from exhibit to exhibit, from the periodic table to a pendulum, from how planes fly to how the brain works, and at some point I wondered: How did I make it this far in life without knowing this?

I mean, I guess I took a different path. Like Sam Cooke knows love. I know words. I can make words go. As Steve Martin once said, "Some people have a way with words, others... no have way." I comfortably plunk myself in the former camp.

But then you put me in front of a pendulum that explains that the Earth is really rotating and I'm like, um, what is going on here? I'm not a science denier like some people. I accept the science. They tell me the Earth is spinning about a thousand miles an hour, and that pendulum somehow proves it. Fine. I'll take your word for it. But don't ask me to explain it because I have no idea. Like, not the foggiest.

Then I'm in front of a wall displaying the periodic table of elements. I think, mmm-hmm. But if someone ever asked, what's an element? I'd say: An element is a thing without another thing, like it's one thing, not two.

There was an exhibit on how planes fly and I sat there and I tried. I really tried to comprehend. A plane goes up because of this. And if you asked me what "this" is, I'd say magic.

Then there's the Big Bang. Now, this one I know. First, there was nothing. Then there was a bang. A big one. And it was pretty loud. And then, somehow, a universe.

But what caused the bang? In my experience, a bang happens when you walk into something, like a wall. Usually because it's dark and you can't find the lights. But there weren't any lights. Or walls, for that matter. So the big bang's still a bit of a mystery.

There's even a bit of science in my blood. My dad was a physicist, and I have to tell you, I have no idea what that guy did all day long. When I think of physics, I think of leverage. So maybe he was just working with pulleys and banging objects into other objects all day long? I lived with that guy until I was eighteen and he tried to explain it to me more than once. I just didn't get it. Now I don't even think I came close.

And yet, my shoes and clothes and cars and planes and computers and phones and medicines exist because of someone else's science. So that same someone else should stay in charge of the science. Sam Cooke can take care of the love. And I'll be in charge of the words.



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North Central Missouri College Registrar Receives Award



SUBMITTED

North Central Missouri College announced that Joni Oaks, Director of Enrollment and Records/Registrar, has been selected for the Missouri Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Star Award.

North Central Missouri College announced that Joni Oaks, Director of Enrollment and Records/Registrar, has been selected for the Missouri Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Star Award.

The MACRAO Star Award is one of only two service awards presented annually by the organization. It recognizes admissions and registrar professionals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, service, and dedication to their institutions, their colleagues, and the profession. Recipients are selected based on their service to their institution, service to MACRAO, and a nomination that highlights exemplary professional involvement and impact.

Joni, who has served North Central Missouri College for nearly two decades, has built a reputation for excellence, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success. Throughout her career at NCMC, she has led numerous initiatives that have strengthened institutional operations, improved student services, and enhanced efficiencies across the College.

Among her many accomplishments, Oaks developed a system to track curriculum changes to ensure accuracy within the student information system, led the transition from paper records to digital files, streamlined enrollment verification processes, and coordinated the outsourcing of diploma production, resulting in cost savings while providing graduates with digital diploma options. She also played a key role in reviewing associate degree requirements, helping create opportunities for transfer students to receive degrees they had earned.

In addition to her responsibilities as Registrar, Oaks has provided leadership throughout the College by serving as Staff President, representing NCMC through regional and statewide leadership programs, serving on the Centennial Committee, and helping lead an employee-funded initiative that provided scholarships to 100 students. She also contributes to the profession through her service to MACRAO, where she currently serves as Treasurer.

"Joni has made significant contributions to NCMC, and we are happy to see her dedication and hard work recognized by MACRAO," said Dr. Kristen Alley, Vice President of Student Affairs. "She is a valued member of our team, and we are proud to see her accomplishments and impact also celebrated by her MACRAO colleagues."

North Central Missouri College congratulates Joni on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her many contributions to NCMC, students, and the higher education profession.





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