

WEST PLAINS

Gazette

121ST YEAR | ISSUE 9 | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

\$1.50

WEST PLAINS DAILY QUILL



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W.P. Quill Weekend



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DAILY QUILL STAFF

Chris Herbolsheimer
General Manager
chrish@wpdailyquill.net

EDITORIAL STAFF

Abby Hess
Managing Editor
abbyh@wpdailyquill.net

Kimberly Langston
Reporter
kimberlyl@wpdailyquill.net

**BILLING CLERK/
SUBSCRIPTIONS/LEGALS:**

Durreall VonAllmen
Debbie Wells
subscribe@wpdailyquill.net
legals@wpdailyquill.net

ADVERTISING STAFF

Vicky Rutter
vickyr@wpdailyquill.net
Travis Rhoads
travisr@wpdailyquill.net

**COMMERCIAL
PRINTING STAFF**

Jacob Simpson
Production Supervisor
printing@wpdailyquill.net
Carol Mayfield & Monty Reynolds

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Local NEWS

Judge Anthony to resign from bench

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON,
KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

Associate 37th Circuit Court Judge Donna Anthony has tendered her resignation, effective Feb. 29.

"After an almost-38-year career in law I have decided to retire at a time when I can spend time on hobbies and pursuits I enjoy," Anthony wrote in a statement to the Quill. "I have dedicated my career to serving the poor, the accused, and the maligned — the 'least of these'."

"I am proud to say I have lived in and worked in two of the best states in America. I spent 28 years on our family farm in Tennessee and the remainder of my life in Missouri with a career in law.

"In West Tennessee, farm life was very much like farms in Missouri — lots of hard work as a family enterprise with two big differences, lots of rich top soil and almost no rocks.

"When I was a young judicial law clerk I opened court with these ending words 'All those having business before this court come forward and be heard. God save the United States and this honorable court.' Every citizen in America has a right to be heard in our courts. I have accomplished that here as a judge.

"While I will miss many friends, church family and colleagues, I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life."

Anthony hails from Memphis, Tenn., and earned a Bachelor of Science degree and master's in education from the University of Memphis, the latter in 1981, before spending several years as an English teacher.

She completed her juris doctorate in 1989

at the Washington University-St. Louis School of Law, and was licensed to practice law in Missouri and Illinois, beginning her legal career as a law clerk.

Anthony was a public defender in the 37th Judicial Circuit from 1993 to 2017 and entered into private practice in 2017.

In a letter submitted to Gov. Mike Parson, dated Jan. 30, Anthony explained health issues as part of the reason for retiring.

"It is with a heavy heart that I must retire from my position as Howell County Associate Judge, effective 30 days from this date," she wrote. "I am concluding my cases under advisement so that I leave my position without requiring cases to be reheard. Two rounds of COVID-19 and other health issues have made it impossible for me to continue."

Anthony concluded the letter by offering the governor her opinion on individuals that make the final round of candidates for appointment to the seat, if needed. Anthony was elected in 2018 and 2022, each a four-year term. The process to appoint a replacement will now begin, which involves a review of applications of lawyers who wish to join the court by a commission, then an interview. The commission will next submit the names of three qualified candidates to Parson. Usually, the governor then interviews the three candidates and selects one within 60 days.

If a candidate is not selected by the governor in that timeframe, the commission will select one of the three finalists.

After an appointed judge has served for at least a year, he or she will be placed on a nonpartisan judicial ballot at the next general election for retention for a full term of office.

W.P. Citywide Cleanup Week starts March 25

Typically held in mid to late April, this year's West Plains Spring Citywide Cleanup has been scheduled for the week of March 25, city officials announce.

Prior to the cleanup week, the Citywide Yard Sale will be held March 21 through 23. During this time the \$1 yard sale permit fee will be waived.

The annual spring cleanup gives residents an opportunity to tidy up around their properties and have most items hauled away free of charge. The Sanitation Department asks that waste be separated into five categories.

Those categories include regular refuse, including extra bagged or boxed trash; larger items like furniture and mattresses, which must be wrapped, such as with plastic and duct tape; and metals and white goods such as washers, dryers and stoves. Refrigerators and freezers with compressors must have a certification provided by a licensed technician the Freon has been removed before it will be collected.

In addition, residents may set out yard waste such as bagged leaves and grass clippings. Brush will not be collected curbside but may

be dropped between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays off at the Transfer Station, 1851 Old Airport Road, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. free of charge during the clean-up week only.

The final category is recyclable items, which should be placed in or near the city-furnished red bins.

To have tires picked up, call the Sanitation Department, 417-255-2330 and leave a name and address. Tire collection fees have increased this year to \$6.43 per passenger tire and \$10.71 per passenger tire on a

rim. Those fees were previously \$2 and \$3, respectively.

To prevent injuries to city employees, label and box all broken glass and have any small clean-up items bagged or boxed. Items considered hazardous including asbestos, waste from major demolition or renovation jobs, and items piled onto trailers or trucks will not be collected.

For more information or to request the delivery of a recycle bin, call the Sanitation Department.

WEATHER



TODAY:

Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 38. Wind chill values as low as 10. North wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 5:50 p.m.

Temperature Year Ago
High: 54
Low: 25

Precipitation: 6.21 inches
Last Year: 5.55 inches
Normal: 4.2 inches

TONIGHT: Clear, with a low around 22. Wind chill values as low as 11. West wind 8 to 10 mph.

TOMORROW: Sunny, with a high near 52. West wind 9 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

SUNDAY NIGHT: Clear, with a low around 26.

PRESIDENT'S DAY: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

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Volunteers team up with Family Dollar to be 'Cupid's helpers' on Valentine's Day

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON, KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

Fate, and perhaps some divine intervention, combined on Wednesday with goodwill and volunteerism in the nick of time to facilitate the delivery of balloons and chocolates to nursing home residents for Valentine's Day.

West Plains Family Dollar Store Manager Mary Robnette had organized a means for customers to donate toward the purchase of Valentine treats to be delivered, but she had a big, unexpected problem that hit, literally, less than a week before the big day.

She usually uses her own vehicle to make the deliveries, but her car was out of commission after it struck a deer.

She was chatting with a customer, Judy Tuma, while ringing up her order. In the back of her mind, however, she was trying to work out how the deliveries were going to be made.

Tuma had a few things on her mind as well; her church had just purchased a van to transport its mem-

bers, but it had to be outfitted to be compliant with transporting the elderly and disabled. That was near the end of last week.

During that casual conversation, a solution was hit upon. "Judy was stressed about the van, and I was stressed about getting the deliveries made. It just worked," Robnette said.

Tuma started making calls and a team of volunteers from several churches was formed, and met Wednesday morning at Family Dollar.

In all, 270 balloons and 33 boxes of chocolates were delivered to Brooke Haven Healthcare, NHC HealthCare, West Vue and Cedarhurst nursing homes by 13 volunteers using a bus and the van.

The volunteers were in part represented by the First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, and Spring Creek Church, which is nondenominational.

A prayer expressing thanks for the opportunity



to serve the community and the mild, sunny weather, was given before the groups left to make the special delivery.

West Plains Family Dollar employees and a small army of "Cupid's helpers" met Valentine's Day morning to help deliver balloons and chocolates to local nursing home residents. The treats were purchased with donations made by Family Dollar customers, and the idea was the brainchild of Store Manager Mary Robnette. A total of 270 balloons and 33 boxes of chocolates were delivered to Brooke Haven Healthcare, NHC HealthCare, West Vue and Cedarhurst by volunteers from the First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, and the nondenominational Spring Creek Church. From left: Family Dollar Assistant Manager Kent Deweese, Vicki Shaw, Robnett, Michelle Stirewalt, Judy Tuma, Kristin Gullic, Kathy Schloss, Mary Jones, Carrie Brassfield, Chris Scharff, Loretta Bradshaw, Brandon Harris, Melissa Heath, Charlie Brownley and Ellen Bivens. STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

WP City Council will meet Tuesday

West Plains City Council will hold its regular monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 1910 Holiday Lane.

Consent agenda items include approval of minutes from the Jan. 16 regular meeting and a Jan. 23 special meeting; Planning and Zoning recommendations on a site development plan presented by Al Kharitonov; and the approval of bids for brass for inventory, a high service pump, surplus vehicles, the water and sewer extension for Garner Villas Phase 1, and the purchase of a Parks and Recreation vehicle.

Authorization will be sought for the annual Mis-

souri Department of Transportation Highway Safety Program and the reappointments of four Tourism Board members. They are Lindsey Thompson, Haley Mitchell, Michael Hullinger and Josh Cotter. The terms will expire in February 2026.

Also on the consent agenda is also the approval of a fireworks display during solar eclipse events at the Heart of the Ozarks Fairground.

Guest Kathleen Morrissey will make a presentation about the Missouri Arts Council.

There will be second readings given of bills to become ordinances. One will repeal and replace storm-

water management code and another will amend or repeal six sections of city code regarding the municipal court.

The first reading of an ordinance to annex property on Bill Virdon Boulevard owned by Justin Huddleston and Kelsie Razor Huddleston into city limits will be heard, and a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with the Howell County Health Department for Environmental Public Health Services will be voted on.

City Administrator Sam Anselm will give a report before the meeting adjourns.

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Bobcats make strong showing at District 14 FBLA conference



Front row, from left: Atley Woods, who placed in the top five; Crystal Edwards; Lilly Quarles, top five; Kaden Vardell; Kylie Forrester, top five; Ashlee Jackson; and Brooklyn Leonard, top five. Second row: Brendon Spencer, Michael Cali and Corwin Mullins; Mitchel Nelson, top five; Lilly Tucker; and top five placers Curtis Stockle, Adeline Cypret, Savannah Jackson, Hailey Gorham, Leah Quarles and Jaycelyn Wright. Back row: Skylar McDaniel, Dirk Deckard and Trenton Johnston; District 14 President Gus McFann and Jake McFann, top five; Dustin Adams; Brady Justus, top five; Brady Parker; Aidan Harvey, top five; and Jadyn Allen. Cayson Honeycutt also placed in top five. COURTESY / THAYER SCHOOLS

Members of the Thayer High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter attended the 2024 District 14 FBLA Leadership Conference held Jan. 29 in Hartville.

Members representing Thayer FBLA at the conference attended workshops and competed in various events, shared adviser Tere-

sa Garrison, noting Thayer FBLA was well-represented in the competitive events with 32 members competing in over 26 events.

Members placing in the top five and receiving medals were Brady Justus, fourth place in Advertising; Jake McFann first place, Computer Applications and first place, Public Policy & Ad-

vocacy; Lilly Quarles, third place, Computer Applications; Adeline Cypret, Lilly Quarles and Curtis Stockle, fourth place, Entrepreneurship; Kylie Forrester, Aidan Harvey and Savannah Jackson, second place, Graphic Design, Savannah Jackson, third place, Introduction to Business Communications; Jaycelyn Wright, fourth place,

Introduction to Marketing Concepts; Brooklyn Leonard, fifth place, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures; Hailey Gorham, fifth place, Introduction to Public Speaking; Mitchel Nelson, fourth place, Job Interview; Atley Woods, fifth place, Journalism; Gus McFann, fifth place, Public Policy & Advocacy and third place Word Pro-

cessing; Michael Cali and Cayson Honeycutt, fourth place, Website Design; and Leah Quarles, fourth place, Word Processing.

Thayer student Gus McFann presided over the meeting as the 2023-2024 District 14 President. Nineteen schools participated in the district competitive events and over 524 mem-

bers were present at the conference, competing in 39 events with 901 entries.

Justus, Jake McFann, Forrester, Harvey, Jackson, Wright, Leonard, Woods and Gus McFann will compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference April 14 through 16 in Springfield. Garrison will accompany the students to the FBLA State Leadership Conference.

Gross not among nominees presented to governor for appellate court vacancy

An Ozark County judge who applied to fill a vacancy on the Missouri Court of Appeals is not among the three nominees submitted for Gov. Mike Parson's consideration for appointment.

Following interviews held

Monday in Springfield, the Appellate Judicial Commission submitted its panel of nominees to fill the vacancy on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District. The vacancy exists due to the October 2023 appointment of

Judge Ginger K. Gooch to the Supreme Court of Missouri.

The commission was unanimous in its selection of the three nominees. After nearly 2.5 hours of public interviews, about an hour of deliberations and four rounds

of balloting, the nominees are Matthew P. Hamner, Joseph L. Hensley and Bryan E. Nickell.

Hamner is a circuit judge and juvenile judge in the 26th Judicial Circuit (Camden, Laclede, Miller, Moniteau and Morgan counties). He was

born in 1976 and resides in Osage Beach. He earned his bachelor of arts, cum laude, in communication in 1998 and his law degree in 2001, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Hensley is an associate circuit judge and presiding juvenile judge in Jasper County (in the 29th Judicial Circuit). He was born in 1973 and resides in Joplin. He earned his bachelor of arts, summa cum laude and with honors, in psychology in 1995 and his law degree in 1998, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Nickell is a private practice attorney with the Blanton, Nickell, Collins, Douglas and Hanschen law firm in Sikeston. He was born in 1969 and resides in Sikeston. He earned his bachelor of science and bachelor of arts in accounting in 1991 from

Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and his law degree in 1994 from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

Associate 44th Circuit Judge Raymond Gross, who serves Douglas, Ozark and Wright counties, applied for the position along with six other candidates.

The governor has 60 days to select one member of the panel to fill the vacancy. If he does not make an appointment in that time, the Missouri Constitution directs the commission to make the appointment.

The commission is chaired by Chief Justice Mary R. Russell and is composed of Neil Chanter of Springfield, Connie Cierpiot of Lee's Summit, Timothy M. Drury of St. Louis, Jennifer Hardester of St. Louis, Sally Hargis of Springfield, and Kirk R. Presley of Kansas City.

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METAL-to-RUST

Burt Rutan, aviation pioneer

By Chris Herbolzheimer

Today Metal to Rust is stepping outside of the bounds of automobiles, or at least the ones that stay on the ground.

Burt Rutan, an American aerospace engineer and entrepreneur, is a towering figure in aviation and spaceflight history. His innovative designs and unorthodox approach to aircraft engineering have not only pushed the boundaries of aerospace technology but have also reshaped our understanding of what is possible in aviation. Rutan's career is a testament to his genius, creativity, and relentless pursuit of excellence, marking him as one of the most influential aerospace engineers of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

What set Burt Rutan apart as an engineer and designer was his willingness to challenge conventional wisdom and explore designs that others considered too radical or unfeasible. Rutan's approach to aircraft design was characterized by a blend of art and science, where creativity and engineering rigor went hand in hand. He was not afraid to fail, understanding that innovation often requires taking risks and learning from mistakes. This mindset allowed him to explore unique aerodynamic concepts and construction materials, leading to the development of aircraft that were not only technologically advanced but also highly efficient and capable of performing tasks previously deemed impossible.

One of Rutan's crowning designs is the Voyager aircraft, which made history in 1986 by becoming the first aircraft to fly around the world without stopping or refueling. This monumental achievement showcased Rutan's ingenuity and his ability to solve complex engineering challenges. The Voyager, designed with an extremely efficient lift-to-drag ratio, was made of lightweight composite materials, which allowed it to carry an enormous fuel load relative to its weight. The success of the Voyager flight captured the world's imagination and firmly established Rutan's reputation as a pioneering aerospace engineer.

Another significant mile-

stone in Rutan's career is the development of SpaceShipOne, the world's first privately-funded spacecraft to reach the edge of space. This achievement marked a pivotal moment in the commercial space industry, demonstrating the feasibility of private spaceflight and opening the door to space tourism. SpaceShipOne's design, featuring a unique "feathering" re-entry system, allowed it to safely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere after reaching suborbital space, a testament to Rutan's innovative thinking and design prowess.

Rutan's fascination with canards, a small forward wing placed in front of the main wing of an aircraft, became a signature element of many of his designs. He often incorporated canards into his aircraft because he believed they offered several advantages, including improved stall characteristics, enhanced control and stability, and increased lift efficiency. Rutan's use of canards was not merely a stylistic choice but a deliberate engineering decision aimed at improving the performance and safety of his aircraft. This design philosophy is evident in aircraft such as the VariEze and Long-EZ, which not only became popular among homebuilders for their performance but also for their distinctive appearance and handling characteristics.

Burt Rutan's contributions to aerospace engineering extend beyond his individual designs. He has inspired countless engineers, pilots, and entrepreneurs to think outside the box and pursue their own innovative projects. Rutan's legacy is not just in the aircraft and spacecraft that bear his name but in the broader impact he has had on the aerospace industry, encouraging a culture of innovation and exploration.

Rutan once again left an indelible mark with the development of the BiPod, a daring foray into the realm of flying cars. This venture, emerging from Rutan's visionary mind, encapsulated his relentless pursuit of pushing the boundaries of conventional aviation and personal transport.

The BiPod, unveiled in 2011, represents Rutan's



Rutan's flying car, the BiPod.

imaginative response to the perennial dream of a flying car. Designed and developed by Rutan's company, Scaled Composites, the BiPod is a unique hybrid vehicle that combines the functionality of a car with the freedom and speed of an aircraft. Its name, BiPod, reflects its dual-mode nature and innovative configuration.

Characteristically unconventional, the BiPod features a striking design with two fuselages. One fuselage houses the pilot during flight operations, while the other accommodates a passenger or additional cargo. When operating as a car, the vehicle is driven from the right fuselage, underscoring its dual-purpose functionality. This unconventional design approach is a hallmark of Rutan's engineering philosophy, blending practicality with groundbreaking aerospace concepts.

The BiPod is equipped with a series of small, efficient engines that power its flight, supplemented by electric motors for ground propulsion, showcasing a commitment to leveraging hybrid technologies. This setup not only enhances the vehicle's versatility but also points to a sustainable approach to personal transportation, aligning with broader environmental concerns and the push towards greener technologies.

Rutan's development of the BiPod addresses several technical challenges inherent in creating a viable flying car. These include the need for a compact yet aerodynamically efficient design, the integration of dual propulsion systems, and the development of controls that are intuitive in

both flight and automotive modes. By tackling these issues, the BiPod stands as a testament to Rutan's ingenuity and his team's engineering prowess.

Although the BiPod remains a prototype and a proof of concept rather than a mass-produced vehicle, its significance extends far beyond its physical mani-

festation. It represents another leap in Rutan's illustrious career, highlighting his undiminished capacity for innovation and his vision of a future where the boundaries between air and road travel are blurred.

Burt Rutan's career is a story of relentless innovation, boundless creativity, and the courage to pursue

the unknown. His designs have not only advanced the frontiers of aerospace technology but have also challenged and expanded our understanding of flight. Rutan's work serves as a reminder of the power of human ingenuity and the endless possibilities that await those bold enough to reach for the stars.



Howell County Republican Caucus

Saturday, March 2, 2024

The Caucus replaces the normal Presidential Primary and is how the Missouri Republican Party sends Delegates and Alternates to the Republican National Convention. The caucus is how you, as a voter, will make your voice heard in the nomination process for President of the United States. **No presidential candidate** will be on the ballot at the August 6 primary in Missouri.

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Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. Event Registration*
- 10:00 a.m. Caucus & Review Republican Platform

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* For more information about the 2024 caucus rules and to pre-register, visit <https://missouri.gov>



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The Tragedy of West Plains

The Unsolved Mystery of the BOND DANCE HALL EXPLOSION

By Chris Herbolzheimer

In the heart of Missouri, the small town of West Plains carries a history marked by a catastrophic event that not only claimed lives but also left an indelible scar on the community. This article delves into the tragic explosion that occurred on April 13, 1928, decimating the Bond Dance Hall and altering the course of West Plains' history forever. Through detailed examination, this piece explores the events leading up to the disaster, its immediate aftermath, the community's response, and the lingering mysteries that remain unsolved to this day.

Prelude to Tragedy

On the evening of April 13, 1928, the Bond Dance Hall, a popular local venue, was alive with anticipation and the youthful energy of around fifty attendees. The hall, located on the second floor of a brick building on East Main Street, was a central hub for social gatherings, offering a space for dance, music, and the joyous camaraderie of the town's younger population.

The Bond Dance Hall's significance extended beyond a mere entertainment venue; it was a symbol of the communal spirit of West Plains. With its spacious interior and lively atmosphere, it provided a perfect backdrop for the social life of the town's youth. The hall was situated above the Wisner Motor Co. garage, which housed used cars and possibly hazardous materials, unknowingly setting the stage for disaster.

April 13, a date now synonymous with bad luck, lived up to its reputation in the most tragic manner. The evening began like any other, with the dance band playing popular tunes of the era, and couples swaying on the dance floor, lost in the music and each other. The band, deciding to extend their set, chose "At Sundown" for their final number before the scheduled intermission. This decision, seemingly innocuous, would later be remembered as the last moment of normalcy before chaos ensued.

As the band played and the dancers moved in rhythm, there was no indication of the impending disaster. The air was filled with the sounds of music, laughter, and the shuffling

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West Plains Weekly Quill

FORTY-THIRD YEAR

WEST PLAINS, HOWELL COUNTY, MISSOURI THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1928.

NO. 32.

37 KILLED IN MYSTERY BLAST; 22 INJURED

DANCE HALL EXPLOSION STILL Baffles. INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

Body Of "Babe" Wisner, Owner of Garage Under Dance Hall, Exhumed After Burial In Effort To Find Clue To Cause of Horrible Disaster.

The cause of the terrific explosion in the Wisner garage here Friday night which sent thirty-seven people to death in a ball of flames and injured twenty-two others, remains today the same appalling and baffling mystery that West Plains people faced Monday after the completion of the first rescue work gave them opportunity to question the cause or the motive of the horrifying disaster.

Many advance the theory that only nitro-glycerine or dynamite could have so completely wrecked the three buildings destroyed, but as yet the investigators have found no evidence to substantiate any such theory.

The coroner's jury, composed of Charles Bohrer, Dr. S. G. Dreyppard, H. T. Green, E. E. McSwaney, C. C. McCallon, and S. J. Galloway, with County Prosecutor H. D. Green of West Plains, Mayor James P. Harlin and all other city and county officials and many prominent business men are co-operating in the investigations, and every possible clue is being unearthed and thoroughly sifted.

Mr. Harlin says: "I am sure that the blast was due to some explosive put in the building by a fanatic who was opposed to dancing by one of the prominent citizens. That person may have left in the garage a car in which nitro-glycerine was hidden, is another theory much discussed. That some kind of bomb or other explosive timed by a clock or electrical device is another theory, but none of them are substantiated by any evidence yet unearthed."

Wisner Mystery Man.

J. W. ("Babe") Wisner, owner of the garage in which the explosion took place and over which was located the dance hall in which all but three of the dead lost their lives, is the center of investigations today. He is the mystery man of the case, and not all of his movements will the investigations progress very far.

That Wisner was in some way connected with the blast is the theory on which the investigations are being carried on. The big question which must first be solved is whether he was connected with the blast by accident, by intention or through a hellish plot against him.

Body Is Exhumed.

In less than an hour following the burial of Wisner's body in Oak Lawn cemetery here Sunday afternoon, the body was ordered exhumed for an autopsy, and although physicians have not made public the result of their investigations, it is known that they do not believe that burns on the face were caused by fire.

Wisner's body was found in a vacant lot at the rear of his building after the fire and was in very good condition. Also his clothing remained on his body and papers and letters in his pockets were examined.

Wisner's face was burned by something which left the flesh smooth but intensely red—almost as red as if it had been painted with mercuriochrome. The burns were entirely different from the burns on the faces and bodies of those who escaped from the burning buildings. There was no blistering or swelling of the flesh as in the case of other victims of the disaster, which leads to the theory that his face was burned by acid.

Also on his right temple was and ugly bruise, and the skull was fractured at this point. The bruise indicated from blood conditions that it had been made before death, which gives rise to the theory that he may have been slugged and left at the rear of his place of business before the explosion. However, it is possible that he may have received the temple injury in the explosion, but that he did not die until some time

(Continued on Page 2)

WIFE DOES NOT BELIEVE WISNER WAS SUICIDE

Garage Owner Was Cheerful Friday Family Declares. Made Garden And Flashed Other Spring Work Around Suburban Home.

WAS NOT FANATIC

Wife Crushed By Thought That Public Believes Her Husband Was In Any Way Responsible for Dance Hall Blast.

Of all the horrors in West Plains on which the Friday night disaster struck its cruel and staggering blow none is more pitiable than the home of J. W. Wisner, owner of the garage in which the fatal blast occurred, and who himself was one of the victims.

Not only is the family crushed by the blow of the death of the husband and father, Frank, whose lips might close up the mystery if they could speak, but even more blasting than his death are the rumors that have been about in West Plains and which have reached the ears of the dead man's family.

Mrs. Wisner was not a witness in the first session of the coroner's inquest Saturday, owing to the fact that the jury had not the heart to summon her while she was prostrated by the first sting of the tragedy.

Monday, however, she granted an interview to the Quill. A mild, sweet-faced woman, loved with a grief almost beyond human endurance, she talked freely except when sobs and tears choked her.

Mrs. Wisner emphatically discredits the theory that her husband may have planned the explosion to take his own life. Such a thing is entirely out of the question with her.

Her husband was not desperate over finances and he was not fanatical in any way, Mrs. Wisner declares. According to Mrs. Wisner her husband was cheerful Friday and slept the preceding days. At noon Friday

(Continued on Page 4)

The Identified Dead:

R. G. MARTIN, Ford Automobile Agent.
MRS. R. G. MARTIN.
KITTY McFARLAND, head of McFarland Undertaking Co.
MRS. CARL MULLINS.
PAUL EVANS, Jr., son of D. Paul Evans.
CHAS. FISHER, Ava, Mo., 13th school student.
MAJOR BOB MULLINS, produce dealer.
J. W. WISER, head of Wisner Motor Co.
JOHN BATES, son of Rev. J. F. E. Bates, Methodist pastor.
CHARLES MERK, high school junior.
JULIAN C. JEFFERY, Mammoth Spring, Ark.
CARL JACKSON, Mountain Grove, Mo.
MISS DIMPLE MARTIN, daughter of Robert Martin, local Ford dealer.
LEV REED, son of J. R. Reed, President Reed-Harlin Wholesale Grocer Co.
HAZEL SLUSSER, Willow Springs, Mo., daughter of Bert Slusser former editor of the Willow Springs Republican.
BEN JOLLY, 68 years old.
CLINTON CLEMMONS.

The Unidentified Dead.

MISS MARY ADAIR.
MISS FRANCES DRAGO, Manager local Western Union office.
MRS. WALLACE ROGERS, Pleasanton, Kans.
ROBERT MURPHY, of Springfield.
MRS. ROBERT MURPHY, Springfield, Mo.
MISS RUTH FISHER, high school girl, daughter of local contractor.
MARVIN HILL, high school student.
EVELYN CONKIN, of Kansas City.
ESCO RILEY, employed in Allen's Grocery and Meat Market.
MRS. ESCO RILEY.
MISS JENNIFER Thayer, Mo.
BOYD GARNER, Mammoth Spring, Ark.
CARSON McLELLAND.
CHESTER HOLSTEIN, Ava, Mo.
MISS HEATHICE BARKER, Mountain Grove, Mo.
MISS JUANITA LAWS, Cabool, Mo.
MISS RUBY HODKINSON, Kansas City, Mo.
NEWT RILEY.
JAMES LOYING, Mammoth Spring, Ark.
HUGH SAMM, employee of Ryer's Cleaning & Pressing.

The Injured:

H. C. (LUM) ALLEN, Grocery Merchant.
DAIL ALLEN, son of H. C. Allen.
GARRETT McBRIDE, of McBride Drug Co.
MRS. GARRETT McBRIDE, injuries very serious.
CARL MULLINS, son of H. R. Mullins, local produce dealer.
BOYD GRAY, of Moody, Mo.
MO ASHLEY, son of J. D. Ashley, local wholesale grocery dealer.
MRS. WILLIAM FITCHETT
WILLIAM FITCHETT
GLENN MOORE, local baseball player.
E. D. WHITE, Doniphan, Mo.
DAVID S. WHITE, Doniphan. White and his brother, E. D. While operate a bus line between West Plains and Poplar Bluff.
FRED ARCHER, Mountain Grove.
CHARLES UNGER, Cabool.
CHARLES STOCKDALL, Mountain Grove.
RALPH LANGSTON, JR., local high school athlete and grandson of T. J. Langston of the Langston-Pease Mercantile Co.
MISS ERNESTINE CUNNINGHAM, Willow Springs.
LEWIS ACUFF, employee of Hull Grocery and Market.
GUY WILSON, high school athlete and son of Joe Wilson of Webster avenue.
JOHN RILEY.
ELTON WHITE, 17, employee of Laird Plumbing Co.
ROY CRAIN, employee of Bohrer Drug Store.

EXPLOSION IN GARAGE WRECKS DANCE HALL —DANCERS DIE

Mystery Envelops Cause of Explosion, Although Many Believe Gasoline In Wisner Motor Co. Building Was Cause. Dance Hall Wrecked; Flames Envelop Dancers and Only Few Escape

(From Saturday's Daily Quill.)

THIRTY SIX or probably more people are dead and nineteen are injured, many of them seriously, as a result of a mysterious explosion which occurred at 11:05 o'clock last night in the garage of the Wisner Motor Co., on East Main street, and which wrecked the Bond dance hall on the second floor of the building where a dance was in progress.

Nearly all of the dead and injured were those attending the dance, and members of a small orchestra who gave the dance and who were providing the music.

The blast, which was heard all over the city and which completely wrecked the building in which the Wisner Motor Co., and the Bond hall were located, came without an instant of warning. People in nearby buildings, who rushed out, saw the bodies and debris flying high into the air. In another instant the bodies were coming back down. Several of those who escaped and are now in the hospital were blown out of the building and were picked up in the streets.

THOUSANDS VISIT TRAGEDY SCENE HERE SUNDAY

Street Seething Mass of Automobiles and People Throughout Day Sunday. Newspaper Reporters Came By Automobile and Airplane.

Thousands of people from far and near have been coming and going in West Plains since the Friday night dance hall disaster, and Sunday found every street in West Plains a seething mass of automobiles and humanity. Added to the relatives and friends of the victims were thousands of persons who came merely to view the scene of the horrifying tragedy and to watch the workmen who are still digging in the ruins to recover any remaining bodies.

Newspaper reporters and photographers from St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Memphis and other cities have swarmed like bees in West Plains since Saturday morning.

Paul B. Zimmerman of St. Louis, a special representative of the Associated Press, came to West Plains Saturday morning by airplane and remained on the scene until late Monday.

Among the visitors Sunday also were many city officials and Chamber of Commerce officials from Springfield, who came to offer assistance to Mayor Harlin.

A coroner's jury today will investigate the cause of the explosion, although many believe that a tank of gasoline in the Wisner garage was responsible for the tragedy.

J. W. ("Babe") Wisner, owner and manager of the Wisner Motor Company, was in the garage at the time, and his body was picked up after the explosion.

Building Is Flashed Instantly

Following the explosion the Wisner building and also the Riley building on the east, and the Adams building on the west of the Wisner building, burst into a mass of flames which leaped a hundred feet or more into the air.

The two adjoining buildings were badly wrecked and persons living in them had narrow escapes.

G. B. Owens and his family and Arnold Merk, who lived in apartments on the second floor of the Riley building, barely escaped with their lives, and Charles Merk, young son of Arnold Merk, lost his life, his body being recovered today.

Aged War Veteran Saved

Frank K. (Daddy) Pool, an aged Civil War veteran, who also occupied rooms on the second floor of the Riley building, was rescued.

Mrs. Martha Hawkins and her four children, who occupied an apartment on the second floor of the Adams building, also barely escaped with their lives.

Owing to the intense heat rescuers who rushed to the scene were able to do but little toward rescuing the victims from the debris, and only some of those in the front of the building were saved.

Scene Is Horrifying

The scene was a horrifying one. Screams and groans issued from the wrecked building for a few moments following the blast, but soon the scene was quiet.

After the explosion only a part of the front wall of the building remained standing. The second floor and roof of the building and parts of the walls dropped to the level of the street. When rescuers arrived one youth was hanging by his hands on a part of the wrecked wall dropped to the street and was carried out of danger.

Three injured boys were in a second story window of a part of the remaining front wall screaming to be saved. A ladder was put up to the side of the building and they were brought down.

Others who escaped were rescued from the debris on the street level.

Few Women Escape

One of the pitiable facts was that only three women escaped from the dance alive, while sixteen men escaped. This obviously was due to the fact that the men were stronger and were able to extricate themselves

(Continued on page 5.)

Two of These Among Unidentified of Holocaust



Miss Ruth Fisher, pictured at the left, and Miss Billy Drago, at the right, were among the unidentified dead whose charred bodies were laid to rest today with the sixteen other unidentified victims of the holocaust of Friday night. Miss Drago, a beautiful girl, was manager of the Western Union Telegraph office, and a soprano soloist in the Episcopal church. Miss Fisher, a dainty little blonde, was attending her first ball dance.

Major Bob Mullins, the central figure, was a World War hero, and one of West Plains' most popular young men. His engagement to Mrs. Kitty McFarland, also lost in the fire, was expected to be announced soon.

(Continued on Page 2)

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TRAGEDY

From Page 6

of feet on the wooden floor. The hall, lit by the soft glow of early electric lights, offered a warm refuge from the dark night outside. The attendees, mostly young people, were immersed in the joy of the moment, unaware that their lives and their community were about to be changed forever.

Below the dance hall, the Wiser Motor Co. garage

harbored conditions ripe for catastrophe. Used cars, possibly leaking gasoline, and other flammable materials were stored within its walls. The exact trigger for the explosion remains a mystery, but it is believed that something within this garage ignited, leading to the devastating blast that would tear through the dance hall above, leaving destruction in its wake.

The prelude to the tragedy of the Bond Dance Hall explosion was a conflu-

ence of ordinary moments and routine decisions that culminated in an extraordinary disaster. The night began with the promise of enjoyment and ended in unimaginable horror. This section of history serves as a somber reminder of the fragility of life and the unforeseen dangers that can lurk within the most benign settings. As we delve deeper into the events of that night and its aftermath, the memory of those lost and the resilience of those who

survived continue to shape the narrative of West Plains and its community.

The Explosion

At approximately 11:05 p.m., the Bond Dance Hall and the small town of West Plains, Missouri, were forever changed. An explosion of immense force erupted from the Wiser Motor Co. garage located directly beneath the dance hall. This devastating event occurred without warning, transforming a scene of youthful exuberance and communal

joy into one of chaos and tragedy in mere moments.

The explosion's impact was catastrophic, with the force powerful enough to obliterate three brick buildings, including the dance hall itself, reducing them to rubble. The shockwave shattered windows across Court Square, sending shards of glass flying into the night, adding to the pandemonium and danger for those nearby. The blast was so intense that it was felt miles away from the

epicenter, with reports of residents in surrounding areas hearing the explosion and mistaking it for an earthquake or a distant thunderstorm.

In the immediate aftermath, the dance hall, once a place of laughter and music, was engulfed in flames and smoke, casting an eerie glow over the disaster scene. Survivors, dazed and injured, emerged from the ruins, while others were

See TRAGEDY, Page B2

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Obituaries

GLEN 'SHORTY' WILBANKS

Dec. 12, 1945 – Feb. 12, 2024



United States Army. He was a dairy farmer and cattle hauler. Glen served as the board president of Peace Valley School for several years; he was a part of the first eighth grade class to graduate from Junction Hill School.

Shorty enjoyed watching and listening to the St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Chiefs on TV and radio. He enjoyed playing pitch and especially enjoyed watching his grandkids play ball. He loved his friends and family, was always willing to help anyone in need and always made others feel welcome. Glen also loved quail hunting with his friend Ronnie Bryan.

He is survived by his wife Donna Wilbanks, of the family home; two children Scott Wilbanks and wife Brandee, Pomona, Mo., and Todd Wilbanks and fiancée Jama, Peace Valley, Mo.; six grandchildren Brett Wilbanks, Mason Wilbanks

(Shyanna), Weston Wilbanks and wife Sharla, Ella Wilbanks, Braxton Wilbanks and Jaxton Wilbanks; two great-grandchildren Kasen and Bennett and one more on the way; two sisters Linda Edgeller and husband Bruce, and Cora Jane Gunter and husband Sam, all of West Plains; two sisters-in-law Joyce Nielsen, Pomona, and Pat Caplinger, West Plains; and several nieces and nephews.

His parents; three brothers Ray, Carl and Joseph Wilbanks; and one sister Sybil Pittinger preceded him in death.

Mr. Wilbanks lay in state from 6 until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, 211 West Main St., West Plains, MO 65775. Online condolences may be left at www.robertsondrago.com.

Graveside services for Glen William "Shorty" Wilbanks, 78, West Plains, Mo., were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at Antioch Cemetery, under the direction of Robertson-Drago Funeral Home.

Mr. Wilbanks passed away Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at his home.

He was born Dec. 12, 1945, in West Plains to Paul "Pete" Jones Wilbanks, Jr., and Maude Ruth Layson Wilbanks. On May 24, 2001, he was married in West Plains to Donna Fugate.

Mr. Wilbanks was a veteran, having served with the

PATRICIA FIELDS

Sept. 24, 1942 – Feb. 14, 2024

Jennings Fields.

Pat will lie in state from 5 until 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, and 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home. Private burial will be at Howell Memorial

Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and may be left at or mailed to Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, 211 West Main St., West Plains, MO 65775.

JACK BOWMAN

Aug. 24, 1954 – Feb. 12, 2024



He enjoyed playing guitar, singing and going on motorcycle rides. He loved his family and friends. Mr. Bowman attended Rescue Church.

He is survived by his wife Wanda Bowman, of the family home; four children Sherry Bowman, Springfield, Mo., Cody James Bowman, Columbia, Mo., Jacque Collins, West Plains, and Veronica Rees and husband Joe, West Plains; five grandchildren Zachary Jones, Noah Jones, Dustin Collins, Cody Collins and wife Sarah, and Khalees Rees; one great-grandchild Sapphire Collins; one brother Roy Lance, Rogersville, Mo.; two nephews Christopher and

Austin Lance; and one great-niece Amelia Lance.

His parents, first wife Patricia Bowman, son-in-law Matthew Collins, father-in-law and mother-in-law Hobert and Lucille Moffis and one sister-in-law Reta Ann Weatherford preceded him in death.

Visitation services were held from 6 until 8 p.m. Friday at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the family and may be left at or mailed to Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, 211 West Main St., West Plains, MO 65775. Online condolences may be left at www.robertsondrago.com.

Graveside services for Jack Bowman, 69, West Plains, Mo., will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery, under the direction of Robertson-Drago Funeral Home.

Mr. Bowman passed away at 3:25 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at his home.

He was born Aug. 24, 1954, in Wichita, Kan., to Gerald Nathan Bowman and Evelyn Joyce Thornton Bowman. On June 19, 2004, he was married in West Plains to Wanda Kibbe.

Before his retirement, Jack was the West Plains Regional Airport manager in Pomona, Mo. He loved airplanes and was president of Missouri Airport Manager Association.

Thank you!

To everyone who has supported us following the death of Tamara Walesky, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation. Your many acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be a great comfort to us in our time of sorrow.

The family of Tamara Walesky

DEATH NOTICE

Kristin Crabtree

Kristin Michelle Crabtree, 43, Winona. Died at 12:52 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at SSM Health St. Joseph, St. Charles. Yarber Mortuary, Winona.

NOTICE OF OBITUARY DEADLINES

Obituaries must be received by the West Plains Daily Quill no later than 10 a.m. Tuesdays for publication in Wednesday papers, and no later than 10 a.m. Fridays for publication in Saturday editions of the West Plains Gazette.

All obituaries received after those deadlines will be published in the next printed publication.

Note that in case of holidays, deadlines may be moved earlier. In such cases, notices will be published in the Quill.

Submit obituaries by email to obits@wpdailyquill.net or bring them into the office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at 205 Washington Ave. in West Plains.

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Eclipse tips for viewing from Mark Twain National Forest

On April 8, the 2024 solar eclipse's path of totality will sweep across many states, including a swath of Missouri and the Mark Twain National Forest within.

People will travel from around the world to see this celestial alignment. Anyone planning a visit to the Forest for the event can prepare by learning some "eclipse tips" about how to view it in a way that is safe and respectful of the natural beauty of the area. To learn more about where you

can go and what to do on the Forest, visit the Forest's eclipse

tips on the website at fs.usda.gov/mtnf.

Be safe: Wear appropriate glasses. Ensure that the solar eclipse viewing glasses you have are authentic and properly rated. NASA has solar eclipse viewing safety information online.

Be prepared and be patient: Unprecedented crowds could be in many areas around Mark Twain National Forest on and before April 8. Here are few tips to make your experience safer and more enjoyable:

- Drive cautiously and stay alert

on the winding country roads; and do not pull over to watch the eclipse from the roadside, which could cause accidents, as many roads have blind corners. Pulling off roadsides could cause vehicles to get stuck and block traffic flow, since many roads have very little shoulder area.

- Pulling off in tall grass could also potentially cause a wildfire if the vehicle's exhaust system is hot enough and the grass is dry enough.

- Bring a paper map of state roads in case you need to find

alternate routes and find yourself in an area without good cell reception.

- Visitors can also help care for the beautiful forest while here. Pack out what you pack in – bring garbage bags along with you to appropriately dispose of trash, in a dumpster or at home later, in case you are in an area with no trash cans or the ones at your site are full.

- After the eclipse, people may want to stick around for a while to avoid any traffic jams that could occur if everyone goes home at the same time.

Behold! Viewing an eclipse can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Where better to witness an event that speaks to the incredible workings of the universe than within the natural beauty of Missouri's Ozarks? Additionally, information about eclipse viewing events across Missouri can

be found at moeclipse.org. There is plenty to see and do in communities around the Forest for those that choose to come early or stay a while longer to enjoy the food and fun in communities around the Forest.

Spring Forward:

Essential February Lawn Care Steps for a Lush, Vibrant Garden

By Quill Staff

As February unfolds, gardeners and homeowners alike turn their thoughts towards spring and the promise of lush, green lawns. Preparing your lawn for spring during the final weeks of winter is crucial for achieving a healthy turf in the coming months. This detailed guide outlines the essential steps to take in February to ensure your lawn emerges from its winter dormancy vibrant and full of life.

1. Evaluate Your Lawn's Condition

Start with a thorough evaluation of your lawn's condition. Look for areas of damage from winter weather, pests, or disease. Identifying these problems early can help you address them more effectively as the weather warms. Pay special attention to any signs of soil compaction or thatch build-up, as these issues can hinder grass growth.

2. Plan for Early Spring Aeration

If you've noticed areas of compaction or your lawn is prone to heavy thatch, plan for aeration in early spring. Aeration involves perforating the soil with small holes to allow air, water, and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots. This helps the roots grow deeply and produce a stronger, more vigorous lawn. February is the perfect time to schedule aeration for early spring, as it's best done when the lawn is actively growing.

3. Soil Testing and Amendment

Testing your soil's pH and nutrient levels in February gives you ample time to amend the soil before the growing season begins. Most grass types thrive in slightly acidic to neutral soil (pH 6.0 to 7.0). If your soil test reveals imbalances, use this time to adjust the pH or apply the necessary nutrients as recommended by the soil test results.

4. Tackle Weeds Early

Late winter is an ideal time to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent common spring weeds from taking root. Pre-emergent herbicides work by creating a barrier at the soil surface that affects weed seeds as they germinate. Be sure to choose a product that is suitable for your grass type and the specific weeds you're targeting.

5. Overseed Thin or Bare Patches

If you have cool-season grass, late winter to early spring is a good time to overseed any thin or bare patches in your lawn. Choose a grass seed that matches your existing lawn and consider mixing it with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer for better establishment. Keep the seeded areas moist until germination occurs.

6. Fertilize

Appropriately

While heavy fertilization is best saved for later in the spring when the grass is actively growing, applying a light application of a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in late February can help prepare your lawn for the growing season. Be cautious with the amount and type of fertilizer you use, as too much nitrogen can harm your lawn and contribute to runoff problems.

7. Mower and Tool Maintenance

February is an excellent time to perform maintenance on your lawn mower and other gardening tools. Sharpen mower blades to ensure clean cuts, which are healthier for the grass. Also, check and repair any lawn irrigation systems so they're ready to go when needed.

8. Mulching and Edging

Prepare garden beds adjacent to your lawn by applying a fresh layer of mulch. Mulching not only improves the appearance of your garden beds but also helps retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. Edging the beds can provide a clean and tidy border, enhancing the

overall look of your lawn and garden.

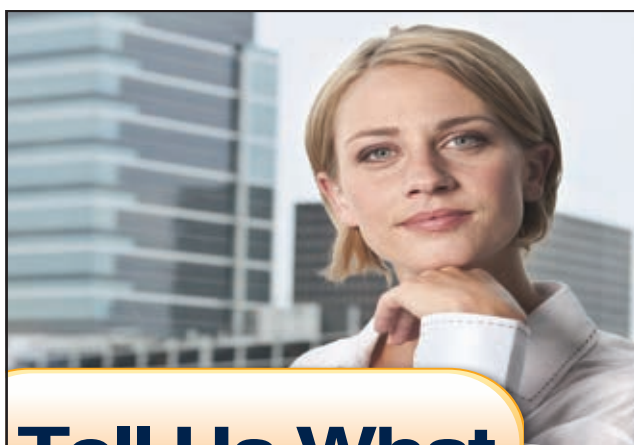
9. Watering Strategy

As the weather begins to warm, adjust your watering strategy accordingly. While overwatering can be as harmful as underwatering, maintaining a consistent moisture level can be beneficial, especially for newly overseeded areas. Follow local watering guidelines and consider the rainfall in your area to determine the need for supplemental watering.

10. Pest and Disease Monitoring

Start monitoring for signs of pests and diseases early in the season. Early detection and treatment can prevent these issues from becoming major problems later in the year. Keep an eye out for common lawn pests and any symptoms of fungal diseases.

By taking these steps in February to prepare your lawn for spring, you set the stage for a healthy, vibrant turf that can withstand the challenges of the growing season. Patience, diligence, and a proactive approach to lawn care in the late winter months can yield rewarding results in the form of a lush, green landscape.



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Learn about wildlife diseases at Feb. 20 MDC virtual program

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Avian flu and rabies are examples of diseases that frequently make news, yet many people don't know the specifics about where these diseases are found and how they circulate throughout wildlife populations.

People can learn more about these and other common wildlife diseases at the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) free virtual program "Wildlife: Nature's Common Diseases." This online program will be from 3-4 p.m. on Feb. 20 and is being put on by the staff of MDC's Springfield Conservation Nature Center. This program is open to ages 12 and up and will include photos of dead and diseased animals. People can register for this event at:

<https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/197642>

At this program, MDC Naturalist Sam Grove will discuss common wildlife diseases found in Missouri such as avian flu, rabies, and distemper. She will discuss how they spread, what animals are affected, and

what MDC scientists are doing to study and track these diseases.

Though this program is free, registration is required. To participate, use the link above. Registrants must provide an e-mail, so a program link can be sent to them. This program will include a chat-based question-and-answer period where participants can interact with the presenters.

MDC's Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield at 4601 S. Nature Center Way. People can stay informed about upcoming programs at the nature center and other MDC facilities by signing up for text alerts and e-mail bulletins. People who have questions about upcoming events or how to sign up for text alerts from the nature center can call 417-888-4237.

Staff at MDC facilities across the state are holding virtual and in-person programs. A listing of these programs can be found at mdc.mo.gov/events.

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CAPITOL REPORT: Tax relief for Missouri's working-class families

By U.S. REP. JASON SMITH,
Republican, Missouri 8th District

When my colleagues selected me to lead the Ways and Means Committee in Congress, which has responsibility for writing our tax laws, I promised that my number one priority would be looking out for the interests of working-class Americans, small businesses, and family farmers. From day one in my role as chairman, I



U.S. Rep. Jason Smith, 8th District,
Missouri COURTESY

have worked around the clock to write legislation that would deliver on that promise. The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, a pro-worker, pro-family, and pro-American tax cuts package will directly benefit thousands of hardworking families in southeast and south-central Missouri. Having passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support on Jan. 31, this bill is one step closer to becoming law.

A key pillar of the legislation are reforms to the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The CTC is critically im-

portant to the working-class families I am fighting for in Washington. It was originally created by Republicans back in the 1990s to give families struggling with the high costs of raising a family some additional tax relief. In 2017, President Donald Trump's landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) doubled the CTC to \$2,000.

More than 73,920 families in southeast and south-central Missouri claim the CTC. Thanks to the tax relief legislation, a family with three children making minimum wage would now be eligible for a \$5,400 credit, which is the maximum amount per child. If Congress does not send this bill to the president's desk, that same family would only be eligible for a credit of \$3,462.60. With all the struggles families are facing because of the Biden economy, that is desperately needed relief.

In the TCJA, President Trump prioritized making sure that illegal immigrants were not given these generous benefits meant to help working American families. For the first time ever in the history of the Child Tax Credit, we added a Social Security Number protection. Prior to 2017, that never existed. This new law extends those strong protections that prevent illegal immigrants from being able to receive the CTC. However, that provision in the TCJA that established guardrails preventing illegal immigrants from benefiting from the CTC is set to expire at the end of 2025. It requires congressional action to extend or make it permanent; yet another reason why Congress should act quickly to get the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act enacted into law.

Today's economy is incredibly tough for farmers and ranchers, whether it is the skyrocketing cost of fertilizer, diesel, or equipment. That is exactly why I worked to include a provision in this new tax relief package to raise the expensing cap for small businesses and farmers. This will directly benefit more than 30,000 farmers and ranchers in southeast and south-central Missouri. In addition, the bill's 100% immediate expensing provision will allow farmers and ranchers to write off the equipment and machinery they use to produce the best food, feed, and fertilizer found anywhere in the world.

Anyone who runs a farm, ranch, or business knows how costly and time consuming it can be to deal with burdensome red tape. Under the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, the reporting threshold for businesses that use subcontract labor would increase from \$600 to \$1,000 and be indexed for inflation — the first update to that threshold since the 1950s. For example, under current law, a rancher who pays someone more than \$600 to haul hay or put up a fence would have to fill out a 1099 tax form. By increasing the threshold to \$1,000, farmers, ranchers, and small businesses will have less paperwork and more time to spend running their operations.

As a family farm owner, I know how critically important it is to invest in agriculture research, including finding ways to produce more with less and increasing crop resiliency. The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act allows businesses of all sizes to immediately deduct the cost of their U.S.-based research and development (R&D) investments instead of over five years. On my annual Farm Tours, I have visited numerous innovative, tech-driven ag businesses in southeast and south-central Missouri that use research to help farmers maximize production and achieve their crop goals. The R&D provision is just another example of how this bill will help businesses grow and create more economic opportunities for our farmers and ranchers.

I look forward to working with the United States Senate to get this bill to the President's desk to deliver the relief Missouri families, farmers and businesses desperately need.

Editor's Note: Political commentary published in the West Plains Daily Quill is provided by elected officials and does not reflect the opinions of the Quill or its staff. The content of the reports are not vetted by the Quill and readers are encouraged to fact-check the reports and draw their own conclusions.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Readers,

This week at the West Plains Daily Quill has been nothing short of extraordinary. Your calls, your messages, your words of appreciation, they've been like unexpected postcards from a friend, brightening our days and reaffirming the value of our work. To each of you who took the time to reach out with kind words about my writing, or the overall efforts of our team, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. It's hard to convey the depth of my gratitude, but I hope you can sense the sincerity in these words.

At the Quill, our mission has always been to craft stories that matter, to shed light on the truths of our time, and to provide a voice to our community. I won't lie, it's a grind. The late nights, the constant search for the next lead, the diligence in fact-checking, it's all part of the relentless pace we keep to bring you an edition you can trust and enjoy. And while we're no strangers to criticism, which is part and parcel of the newspaper biz, it's the pats on the back that often feel few and far between. So, when you tell us we've gotten something "right," it's like a shot in the



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S Desk

arm, a little extra fuel to keep our engines running.

I want you to know that your thoughts don't just vanish into the ether. We read them, we discuss them, and we take them to heart. And here's something else: We're all ears for what you think deserves a spotlight in our pages. Got a tip on a topic, a person, or an organization that's doing something special? Shoot it our way. Saw a feature in our paper that reminded you of someone or something equally deserving of attention? Tell us. We're all about sharing the love and the limelight.

But let's get one thing straight, we're not in the business of playing favorites. This isn't about who knows whom or who's got the flashiest story. We strive for stories that resonate, that

mean something, that bring a little more understanding or joy into your day. Sure, we can't catch everything that's going on around town, and sometimes we miss a beat. That's where you come in. If you think there's a gap in our coverage, let's hear it. The only thing I ask is that we skip the "why this and not that" spiel. Fairness isn't about tit-for-tat. It's about sharing diverse perspectives and celebrating our community in all its facets.

So, keep those suggestions coming, and remember, it's not just our newspaper, it's yours too. We're just the stewards, and you are the beating heart of West Plains.

Let's wrap this up on a high note, shall we? Spring is knocking on the door, the days are getting longer, and somewhere out there, a story waits to be told. A story of triumph, of kindness, of West Plains at its finest. Here's to the stories ahead, and to the community we build, one edition at a time.

Warm Regards,

Chris Herbolzheimer
Publisher

West Plains Daily Quill
& West Plains Gazette

EDITORIAL: Missouri's war on women targets rape victims, health care — and democracy itself

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

What does the Missouri Legislature have against women?

It's a question that feels more pressing all the time lately. And not just because of the near-total ban on abortion rights that the state imposed literally minutes after the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade in 2022.

Despite already realizing their most long-held, fundamental goal, the Republicans who control state government still seem determined to continue transforming Missouri into some real-life version of the dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale."

In recent days alone, they have tried to nix funding for the contraceptive services provided by Planned Parenthood, have moved to prevent a fair referendum vote on abortion rights, and — in a remarkable demonstration of the callousness at the heart of their movement — summarily defeated proposals to allow abortion exceptions for rape victims.

Missouri's abortion ban is as strict as any in the nation, outlawing the procedure in all cases, including rape and incest, with only a vaguely defined exception for "medical emergencies."

The specter of re-victimizing rape and incest victims, including minors,

by forcing them to continue the pregnancy has made even many anti-abortion rights advocates around the country amenable to those exceptions.

But when Democrats on Feb. 7 proposed such exceptions in the Missouri Senate, every Republican present reaffirmed commitment to this cruelty by voting it down.

Comments in floor debate by Sen. Sandy Crawford, R-Buffalo, were especially illuminating regarding the party's mindset. She allowed that rape is "mentally taxing," but declared: "God is perfect. God does not make mistakes. And for some reason he allows (rape) to happen. Bad things happen."

Just for the record, rape isn't "mentally taxing" — it's deeply traumatic. And American lawmakers are supposed to advance the public's interests, not their personal religious views.

Polls indicate that if Missouri voters were given the opportunity, the majority would reinstate abortion rights here. Which explains the continuing determination of Republican lawmakers to change the rules in order to make statewide referendums more difficult to pass.

The latest proposal would require majority support from voters in more than half of the state's 163 House districts, instead of just a majority of

all voters statewide. It's a process that, according to an analysis by the Missouri Independent, could mathematically empower as few as 20% of the state's voters to determine the outcome of any referendum and give rural areas virtual veto power over every ballot measure.

It's a direct assault on the democratic principle of one person, one vote, with a clear goal in mind. As Tim Jones, state director of the hard-right Missouri Freedom Caucus, bluntly told the Independent, doing it that way would be "better for folks on the right side of the political spectrum" — meaning, worse for women and their supporters who are trying to restore abortion rights.

Separately, legislative Republicans are continuing their yearslong campaign to cut off all public Planned Parenthood funding in Missouri.

To be clear: Planned Parenthood no longer provides abortion services in Missouri because of the state ban. So what legislators would cut off with the defunding effort is contraceptive services, cancer screening, STI testing and other women's health care still provided by the organization.

But, hey — "Bad things happen." Especially for women in Missouri.



People & EVENTS

Strickland sisters reunite for shared birthday celebration



The Strickland sisters, Virgie McCannon, left, and Leona Hope Heselton, right, recently celebrated their birthdays together at Pizza Ranch in Hull, Iowa. Both were born in February, they shared: Heselton on Feb. 1, and McCannon on Feb. 5. The sisters were born and raised in West Plains, where Heselton still resides. COURTESY

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West Plains Daily Quill

McCallian campaign for 8th District seat kicks off Feb. 24 at Piney River

A campaign kickoff event for Randi McCallian, who has declared her intention to file to run as a Democratic candidate for Missouri's 8th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at Piney River Brewery, 15194 Walnut Grove Drive, Bucyrus in Texas County. McCallian will be joined

by Jess Piper, educator-turned-podcaster and activist. Piper is a resident of Maryville and hosts "The Dirt Road Democrat," a podcast dedicated to discussing politics and life in rural America. McCallian is a resident of Phelps County and challenged current U.S. Rep. Jason Smith in his bid to hold onto the 8th District seat in 2022.

Learn more about her and her campaign at www.randimccallian.com. Jefferson County resident Franklin Delano "Denny" Roth has also announced his intention to file as a Democratic candidate. Filing for candidacy in Missouri officially begins at 8 a.m. Feb. 27 and runs through 5 p.m. March 26, for all levels of office.

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The Possibilities

Unraveling the Divine Enigma

By Chris Herbolzheimer

The debate between predestination and free will stands as one of the most enduring and complex theological discussions within Christianity. It delves into the very essence of God's nature, human autonomy, and the interplay between divine sovereignty and human freedom. This discourse is not merely an academic exercise but touches upon the personal and existential aspects of faith, salvation, and the human condition.

At the heart of the predestination versus free will debate is the question of how divine foreknowledge and omnipotence relate to humanity's capacity to make free choices. Predestination, in its most rigorous form, suggests that God, in His omniscience and omnipotence, has predetermined the eternal destinies of all individuals. Free will, conversely, advocates for human beings' genuine ability to choose or reject God's offer of salvation, implying that these decisions influence their eternal destiny.

The doctrine of predestination is closely associated with the theological insights of Augustine of Hippo and later, more systematically, with John Calvin. Augustine argued that since God is omniscient, He must already know the future, including the ultimate destinies of every soul. For Augustine, this divine foreknowledge did not negate human free will but demonstrated God's profound engagement with the world's salvation history. John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, further developed this notion into what is often referred to as "double predestination," the belief that God has predestined some people for salvation (the elect) and others for

damnation (the reprobate). Calvin's emphasis was on the majesty and sovereignty of God, asserting that God's will is ultimately inscrutable and that human beings are incapable of earning salvation through their own efforts.

The counterpoint to predestination is the concept of free will, which has been championed by theologians such as Jacob Arminius and later by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. Arminius posited that predestination contradicts the moral responsibility implied in the Bible's calls for repentance and faith. He argued that God's grace enables, but does not compel, the acceptance of salvation, preserving human freedom and ensuring that divine judgment is just. Wesley expanded on this by emphasizing God's prevenient grace, which precedes any human decision, enabling individuals to freely respond to God's invitation to salvation.

The debate is further complicated by differing interpretations of key biblical texts. Passages such as Ephesians 1:4-5, which speaks of God choosing us "in him before the foundation of the world," and Romans 9:18, where Paul writes that God "has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden," are often cited in support of predestination. Conversely, verses like 1 Timothy 2:4, asserting that God "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth," and Deuteronomy 30:19, where God sets before humanity life and death, blessing and cursing, and then urges, "choose life," are used to argue for human free will.

The philosophical and ethical implications of this debate are profound. If predestination is true,

it raises questions about the nature of God's justice and the meaning of human freedom and responsibility. If God has already determined each person's fate, how can individuals be genuinely accountable for their actions? Conversely, if free will is paramount, how can God be truly sovereign and omniscient, and what does this mean for the assurance of salvation and the problem of evil in the world?

In seeking to reconcile these viewpoints, some theologians have proposed various models. Molinism, for instance, suggests that God's omniscience includes knowledge of all potential choices individuals could make (middle knowledge) and that God's predestinative plans are formulated based on this knowledge. This model attempts to uphold both divine sovereignty and human freedom. Others have explored the concept of compatibilism, which suggests that divine predestination and human free will are not mutually exclusive but can coexist in a manner that is ultimately beyond human comprehension.

The predestination versus free will debate is not merely a theological puzzle to be solved but a reflection of the broader human quest for meaning, purpose, and understanding in the face of divine mystery. It challenges believers to ponder the depths of God's love, justice, and sovereignty, and to live out their faith with humility and grace, recognizing that the fullness of divine truth may transcend human understanding. In the end, this discourse invites a deeper engagement with the mysteries of faith, encouraging a posture of awe, worship, and trust in the God who is both infinitely beyond us and intimately with us.

Words to Live By: Abide

By Diane Cooke

One of the things Jesus asked his disciples to do was to abide in him. In John 15:4 Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." In the

Bible, to abide means to dwell, to lodge with, to be present. If we abide in Jesus, we actively accept a relationship with him...not something casual or occasional, but a relationship that is steady, alive, and active. We will be connected just like the vine and the branch are. That connection is love. John 15:9 says, "As the Father

has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." The connection is love...God's love and from that love springs fruit. May we accept Jesus' invitation to abide in him and his love each and every day. May God bless your week! Diane Cooke, Pastor of the Presbyterian Churches, Willow Springs and Mtn. View.

Moment in the Word:

By Edwin Woolsey

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Absolutely nothing has changed in the enemy's approach to destroy our lives.

In the last couple months I have been considering several notable individuals who were political leaders, celebrities, performers, comedians, musicians, etc. Many were very dedicated to God in their youth. Some were even ministers who suddenly took another road because the allure of wealth or the excitement of cheering crowds was more tempting than serving God.

Obviously, I cannot publicly identify any of these people in this politically-correct era without offending a whole host of individuals for being insensitive, but Satan unquestionably attacked their lives in the same way that he did Jesus, "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me."

At the time, it seemed like the moral compromise, traded for the elusive promise of wealth and notoriety, was a really good deal. However, each victim never noticed the anguish of drug addiction, broken families, ruined health, loneliness, desperation, or absolute physical and spiritual exhaustion that waited just out of sight around the next corner of the crooked road that the Devil offered them. When each one finally realized they had been maliciously tricked, their awareness

came much too late since horrific sin had already trapped them in a prison of bondage. Sadly, they squandered their fragile lives by "bowing down and worshipping" the deception until their last opportunity was gone.

I think the saddest story was the account of a preacher who turned into a popular comedian that reviled God's holy things merely to get a laugh on stage. But following a horrific accident, bystanders heard him praying, "Why do I have to die now?" followed by, "OK... OK... OK..." The former minister immediately passed into eternity to stand before God and explain why he chose to "bow down and worship" the fleeting prospect of approval from "all the kingdoms of the world."

So, what's your price for personal betrayal? You

better set the amount high to cover all your other losses that will surely come as a result of "bowing down and worshipping" the enemy of your soul. But before you sign on the bottom line, remember Jesus' warning, "What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" Mark 8:36

Too many have already compromised and lost absolutely everything because they ignored Jesus' answer to the devil's temptation, "Get out of here, Satan.... for the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Matthew 4:10 (quoting Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Please do not be among the number of poor disillusioned souls who believed the lie and were damned while chasing the splendor of a condemned world. (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Faith Commentary: Better Together

By Tim Richards

Sometimes a single word can bring a thousand memories to mind, words like: "Mom," "Dad" or "Sweetheart." Some names from the Bible are like that. Adam and Eve make us think of Paradise Lost. Noah brings to mind the flood. David makes us think of Goliath, Bathsheba, his role as Israel's king and the twenty-third Psalm.

In the New Testament there is Peter, the outspoken fisherman who regularly put his foot in his mouth, but also loved Jesus. In the book of Acts we discover Saul, who was famous for persecuting the church and then helping it grow as the Apostle Paul.

Paul was blessed to have Epaphras serving alongside him, however, only serious Bible students know his name. I am including him in my list because he represents most of us; people who make a positive contribution to life, but who remain largely unknown. This does not mean he made no difference. Paul referred to him as a "fellow servant" and "faithful minister."

The name Epaphras means "lovely" which is significant since at the time people were often given names based upon who they were. You were not named

"Lovely" if you were not. Paul's ministry was more effective because Epaphras served faithfully alongside him.

More than one thousand years later, Martin Luther was the face of the reformation. He bravely stood up to the corrupt religious system of his day. He once said, "I am born to fight against innumerable monsters and devils..." His sometimes-abusive language and very public disputes eventually led to him being excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

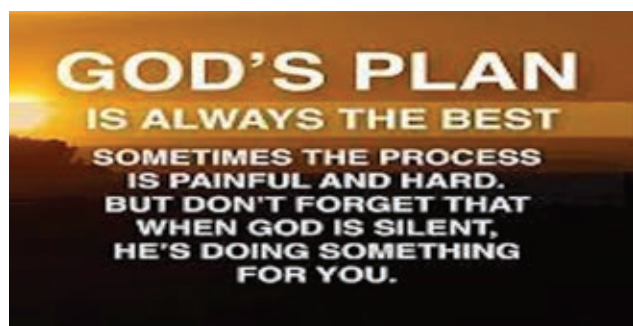
At first glance he appeared to need no one but God, but that was not true, his role in changing the world was aided by a man in the shadows who in his own way was as essential to the reformation as Luther. Philip Melancthon was a scholar. While Luther had warmth, vigor and explosive strength, Melancthon possessed discretion and clarity of thought. Luther energized

his quiet friend and Melancthon balanced his. Luther convinced common people of the truths of the reformation, but it took Melancthon to win the support of scholars.

When Luther died Melancthon spoke at his grave. When Melancthon died he was buried beside Luther. The two still rest side by side in the Old Castle Church at Wittenberg. Each made the other better.

Scripture describes the kind of relationship they had this way, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." (Proverbs 27:17, NLT)

All of us need others. Good friends make each other better. Whether you are a leader, a follower, someone comfortable with the status quo, or someone who questions everything, you can be more effective when you are exposed to a friend's fresh perspective. Simply put, wise supportive friends make one another better.



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WHAT MATTERS?

Paul writes, "I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace."

What matters is something far more interior: Faith expressed in LOVE."

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TRAGEDY

From Page A7

trapped under debris, calling out for help in the darkness. The community was thrust into emergency mode, with rescuers, including townsfolk and emergency personnel, rushing to the scene to assist the victims.

The human cost of the explosion was staggering. Thirty-seven people were initially reported dead, most of whom were young attendees of the dance, their lives cut short in an instant. The death toll would later rise to 39, as one more victim succumbed to their injuries in the days following the tragedy. The severity of the explosion meant that half of those who perished were beyond recognition, their identities obscured by the flames and the force of the blast.

The search for survivors was frantic and fraught with danger. The collapsed structure posed a significant risk to rescuers, who navigated through unstable rubble and intense heat

to reach those trapped. Amidst the confusion, the community came together in a desperate effort to save as many lives as possible, showcasing remarkable bravery and solidarity in the face of unimaginable adversity.

What caused the explosion remained a mystery, compounded by the complexity of the scene and the extent of the destruction. Initial speculations centered around the garage's contents, including stored gasoline and used cars, which could have created a volatile environment prone to ignition. Despite extensive investigations and numerous theories, a definitive cause was never determined, leaving the tragedy shrouded in mystery and speculation.

The Aftermath and Community Response

The magnitude of the tragedy prompted a communal outpouring of grief and solidarity. Services held in every church town-wide mourned the victims, both known and unknown, culminating in a massive

funeral attended by an estimated 7,000 people. This event, reflective of the tight-knit nature of the community, saw the unidentified dead laid to rest in Oak Lawn Cemetery, under a monument that serves as a somber reminder of the lives lost.

The Unresolved Mystery Despite extensive investigations and the formulation of numerous theories, the cause of the explosion remains a mystery. Speculation has ranged from gasoline stored in the garage to deliberate acts of sabotage, yet no conclusive evidence has ever been presented. This unresolved aspect of the tragedy adds a layer of intrigue and sorrow, as the lack of closure continues to haunt West Plains.

The Identified and Unidentified Victims

The explosion claimed the lives of individuals from various walks of life, each with their own story. Among the identified were business owners, students, veterans, and musicians, painting a picture of a community diverse in its

composition but united in tragedy. The unidentified victims, represented by a collective monument, remind us of the personal stories lost to history.

The Impact on West Plains

The explosion left a physical and emotional scar on West Plains, prompting changes to the town's infrastructure and communal psyche. Buildings were destroyed, the courthouse was condemned, and the townspeople were left to rebuild not just their town but their sense of security. The incident also propelled West Plains into the national consciousness, forever altering the town's identity.

Legacy and Remembrance

Today, the Bond Dance Hall explosion is a poignant part of West Plains' heritage. It serves as a reminder of the fragility of life and the strength of community in the face of tragedy. The town has worked to preserve the memory of those lost, ensuring that this chapter of history, though painful, is not forgotten.

The Bond Dance Hall explosion of 1928 is a tragic event that encapsulates the unpredictability of life and the resilience of the human spirit. As West Plains continues to remember and honor those affected by the tragedy, the mystery of what happened on that fateful night remains, a somber reminder of our search for understanding in the face of inexplicable loss. Though the years have passed, the impact of the explosion on the community of West Plains is indelible, a testament to the town's capacity for remembrance and renewal in the aftermath of tragedy.

The Identified Deceased:

• Mary Katherine "Kitty" McFarland - thirty-one, proprietor of McFarland Undertaking Company, widow of Ray McFarland, mother of twelve-year-old Jack.

• Robert G. Martin - fifty-four, Ford dealer, Masonic leader, West Plains, husband of Soula Gaines Martin, cosponsor of the dance.

• Mrs. R.G. Martin - head of McFarland Undertaking Co.

• Elbert White - nineteen, a singer, at the Presbyterian Church in Doniphan, member of the National Guard, died one week after explosion, son of Mrs. E.N. White of Doniphan.

• Paul Evans, Jr. - twenty-three, single, University of Missouri graduate, dairy farmer, son of Dr. Paul Evans (state horticulturist), West Plains.

• Charles Fisher - twenty, single, student at Kirksville Teachers College, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Fisher of Ava, Mo.

• Major Bob Mullins - thirty-four, overseas veteran of World War I, officer in 140th NGM, commission and storage man.

• J.W. Wiser - forty-six, West Plains, owner of Wiser Motors Company, husband of Carla Wiser.

• John Bates - twenty, single, studied civil engineering, at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, son of Reverend J.F.E. Bates, Methodist minister, West Plains.

See TRAGEDY, Page B3

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- Eclipse Art Show
- Live Mural Painting
- Sci-Fi Movies
- Self-Guided Mural, History & Art Tours
- Sunshine Festival, Food Trucks & Beer Garden
- Optimist Club Duck Races
- Cosmic Carnival for Kids
- Downtown Art Stroll
- Yellow House Music Fest & Art Show
- Neon Parade

SUNDAY

04.07.2024

- Dice Run to the Mills
- Food Trucks
- Eclipse Art Show
- Live Mural Painting
- Sci-Fi Movies
- Self-Guided Mural, History & Art Tours
- CASA Dodgeball Tournament
- Child Advocacy Center Hot Air Balloon Glow & Fireworks with concerts by Ha Ha Tonka & Fender Bender

MONDAY

04.08.2024

- Colton's Pancake Breakfast
- Eclipse Art Show
- Live Mural Painting
- Food Trucks
- Self-Guided Mural, History & Art Tours
- Official Viewing Sites
- Total Solar Eclipse @ 1:54 p.m.



More events will be added as they are confirmed.



West Plains is in the path of totality for the solar eclipse!

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TRAGEDY

From Page B2

• Naomi Reeves Mullins – nineteen, pregnant wife of Carl Mullins.

• Charles Merk – seventeen, high school student, son of Arnold Merk, contractor, West Plains.

• Jullius C. Jeffrey – single, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

• Carl Jackson – nineteen, single, high school senior, Mtn. Grove, artistically gifted, buried in double funeral with friend Charles Fisher.

• Soula "Dimple" Martin – twenty-one, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Martin, crushed by the piano she had been playing.

• Lev Reed – twenty-six, head of legal department of Reed-Harlin Grocer Company, owned by his father John R. Reed.

• Hazel Slusser – twenty-three, single schoolteacher from Willow Springs, daughter of H.T. Slusser, retired newspaper editor.

• Ben Jolly – sixty-eight, painter and employee of McFarland Undertaking Company.

• Clinton Clemmons – twenty-three, single, worked at Davis Grocery, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.D. Clemmons, secondhand dealers, West Plains.

• Mabel Daum Riley – twenty-five, wife of Esco Riley, Blythesville, Ark.

The Unidentified Deceased:

• Miss Mary Adair – seventeen, single, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Adair, West Plains.

• Miss Frances Drago – twenty-two, single, manager of Western Union, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Drago.

• Susan Rogers – nineteen, wife of Wallace Rogers, Emporia, Kansas, mother of one-year-old, daughter Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Drago, West Plains.

• Robert Murphy – thirty, Springfield, owner of Murphy Tire Company, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Murphy, husband of Nellie Murphy.

• Nellie Murphy – twenty-four, wife of Robert Murphy. Daughter Mr. and Mrs. Pleas "Dutch" James, West Plains.

• Miss Ruth Fisher – eighteen, single, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Fisher, West Plains. Ruth was attending her first public dance.

• Marvin Hill – nineteen, member of National Guard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill, West Plains.

• Evelyn Conkin – twenty, single, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Houston Conkin of Kansas City, sweetheart of Mo Ashley, cousin of Lev Reed, niece of Mayor Jim Harlin.

• Esco Riley – twenty-seven, head of sales at Allen Grocery, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Riley of West Plains, husband of Mabel Daum Riley.

• Newton Riley – twenty, single, member of the National Guard, worked at Allen Grocery, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Riley of West Plains.

• Miss Icy Risner – twenty-three, single, elementary school teacher in Thayer, Mo, daughter of J. Willard Risner of Thayer, Mo.

• Boyd Garner – twenty-one, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

• Carson McLelland – twenty-five, single, state

highway department employee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wellington McLelland, Chapin, Mo.

• Chester Holstein – twenty-two, son of J.F. Holstein, Ava, Mo. Chester was playing the saxophone at the time of the explosion.

• Miss Beatrice Barker – seventeen, single, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I.B. Barker of Mtn. Grove.

• Miss Juanita Laws – twenty-seven, single, Kansas City, Mo, visiting her parents in Cabool.

• Miss Ruby Hodgkinson – twenty-two, Kansas City, married to Clifford Hodgkinson, mother of a three-year-old son, visiting her cousin in Cabool, Mo.

• James Loven – twenty-two, single, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

• Hugh Sams – nineteen, member of National Guard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid J. Sams, West Plains.

The Injured:
• H.C. (Lum) Allen – grocery merchant; severe burns on face, hands, and back; leg crushed from ankle to knee.

• Dail Allen – son of H.C. Allen, musician; internal injuries; broken collarbone; severe cuts and bruises on back.

• Garrett McBride – of McBride Drug Co.

• Mrs. Garnett McBride – wife of Garrett McBride, three fractured vertebrae; ankle fracture.

• Carl Mullins – son of local produce dealer, musician; eye and hip injury; fractured ribs.

• Boyd Gray – from Moody, Mo, brother of Mrs. Fitchett; sprained ankle; burns on face and hands.

• Mo Ashley – son of J.D.

Ashley, local wholesale grocery dealer; burns, cuts, and bruises.

• William Fitchett – West Plains Glass Company; severe hip injury.

• Mrs. William Fitchett – hip, knee, and ankle injuries; head wound; no burns.

• Glenn Moore – local baseball player, employee of Reed-Harlin mercantile; crushed left arm; burns on hands and face.

• E.D. White – seventeen, from Doniphan, Mo, employee of Laird Plumbing Company; burns on hand and face.

• David S. White – from Doniphan, Mo. Brother of E.D. white, they ran a bus line between West Plains and Poplar Bluff.

• Fred Archer – from Mtn. Grove, Mo; burns on right hand, arm, and foot; crushed ankle.

• Charles Unger – from Cabool, Mo; crushed left leg; burns on right foot, hand, and face.

• Charles Stockdall – high school senior from Mtn. Grove, Mo; burns on hands, face, and feet; both ankles sprained.

• Ralph Langston, Jr. – local high school athlete and grandson of T.J. Langston of the Langston-Pease Mercantile Co; severe burns on hands and face; only victim treated at Cottage Hospital.

• Ernestine Cunningham – from Willow Springs, Mo; severe burns, rescued from fire by Glen Moore.

• Lewis Acuff – employee of Hull Grocery and Market; severe burns on face, hands, and arm; left ankle broken and dislocated.

• Guy Wilson – high school athlete and son of

Joe Wilson, West Plains; suffered cuts, bruises and burns.

• John Riley – son of Con Riley, West Plains; burns on face and hands.

• Elton White – employee of Laird Plumbing Co.

• Roy Crain – employee of Bohrer Drug Store; bruises

on face, hand, and legs; severe cuts over entire body. Deceased after fire:

• Elbert White – nineteen, a singer, at the Presbyterian Church in Doniphan, member of the National Guard, died one week after explosion, son of Mrs. E.N. White of Doniphan.

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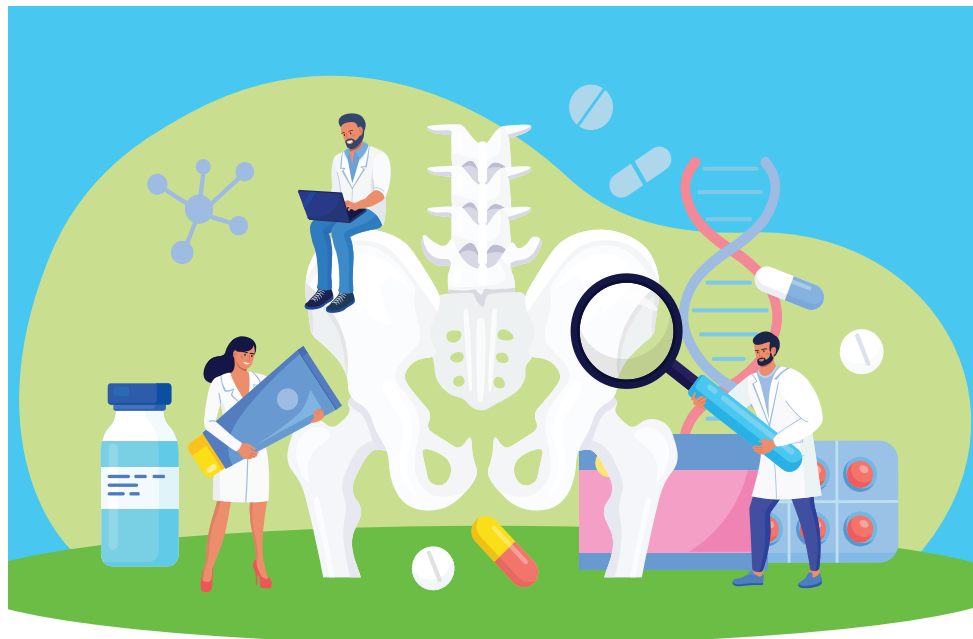
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Local SPORTS

Pink Out raises \$25k for OZH Cancer Treatment Center

Before the varsity game tipoff Thursday night, the West Plains High School Lady Zizzers basketball team presented a check for \$25,000 to representatives from the Ozarks Healthcare Cancer Treatment Center. The funds were raised by the team for the annual Pink Out event that was held last week. The funds donated in 2024 set a new record, beating the previous record by nearly \$3,000. "I am always shocked by, and incredibly grateful for, the support we receive every year for this event," said Lady Zizzers Head Coach Scott Womack. "From private donors to business sponsors, I am thankful for everyone who supports us in this cause." The Lady Zizzers would like to extend a special thanks to all of this year's sponsors, including: West Plains Bank & Trust Co., Westgate Realty-Shaun Duggins, Law Office of Jacob and Erika Garrett, Jack Randolph, Sugar Lily Bakery, West Plains Daily Quill, Pepsi MidAmerica, Leonardo DRS, Ozarks Healthcare Foundation, and State Representative-Travis Smith.



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Lady Zizzers go 1-1 against Rolla

VARSITY FINAL SCORE

LADY ZIZZER BASKETBALL

LADY ZIZZERS 59

VS ROLLA 64

TOP SCORERS: OLIVIA LAWSON: 16, ALLYSSA JOYNER: 12, LUCY HAFFER: 12. RECORD (18-6) OC (7-2)

JV FINAL SCORE

LADY ZIZZER BASKETBALL

LADY ZIZZERS 39

VS ROLLA 31

TOP SCORERS: ASHLEY CULTON: 11, DELANI WAHOME: 9, CAMERON BRILL: 8. RECORD (11-5) OC (8-1)

By Chris Herbolzheimer

The West Plains High School Lady Zizzers basketball team experienced a gamut of emotions Tuesday night as they faced off on the road against the formidable Rolla Bulldogs. The evening was a showcase of tenacity and skill, with the Lady Zizzers splitting the results; the varsity team narrowly missed victory, whereas the junior varsity team seized a win.

The action commenced with the junior varsity (JV) game, setting the tone for the evening. Ashley Culton shone brightly, leading her team with 11 points. She was ably supported by the combined effort of Delanie Wahome and Zoe Shrubbs, who each netted 9 points. Cameron Brill was not far behind, contributing 8 points to the team's tally, while Jewelina Willard added a valu-

able 2 points. The JV squad's triumph was a testament to their collaborative spirit and strategic execution on the court, ending the game with a solid 39-31 victory over the Bulldogs. This win bolstered the JV Lady Zizzers' record to an impressive 11-5 for the season and an even more commendable 8-1 in conference play.

The atmosphere was charged as the varsity squad took to the court, with the air thick with anticipation. The varsity game unfolded as an intensely competitive clash, with both teams exchanging leads and the crowd on the edge of their seats. Olivia Lawson emerged as the leading scorer for the Lady Zizzers, racking up 16 points through sheer determination and skill. Lucy Hafer and Allyssa Joyner each played pivotal

roles, scoring 12 points apiece, while Mylea Adams added 6 points to the tally. Zoe Shrubbs, pulling double duty from the JV game, managed to score 11 points, and Zoe Scharnhorst contributed 2 points. Despite their valiant effort and a gritty display of basketball, the Lady Zizzers varsity team fell just short, with the final scoreboard reading 64-59 in favor of Rolla.

The varsity team's record now stands at a commendable 18-6 for the season, with a strong conference play record of 7-2. These statistics, while impressive, only tell part of the story. Each game is a narrative of effort, strategy, and moments that define the outcome. Coach Scott Womack expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance, despite the varsity's narrow loss. He acknowledged the high stakes of the game, emphasizing the importance of each possession in such tightly contested matches. "Games like this usually turn on just a couple of mistakes. At this level of play, every single possession counts," Coach Womack reflected, highlighting the razor-thin margins that often dictate the difference between triumph and defeat.

The Lady Zizzers' tenacious performance against the Bulldogs, particularly in such a

See ROLLA, Page B6

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Caitlin Clark breaks the NCAA women's career scoring record

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Caitlin Clark wasted no time becoming the NCAA women's career scoring leader, taking less than three minutes to score the eight points she needed to break Kelsey Plum's record. Clark did it with her signature shot — a 35-foot 3-pointer that hit nothing but the bottom of the net. And Clark didn't let up from there. She finished with a school-record 49 points, tied her career best with nine 3-pointers and had 13 assists in No. 4 Iowa's 106-89 victory over Michigan. Clark's huge night put her at 3,569 points and within 80 of her next milestone, Lynette Woodard's major women's college scoring record of 3,649.

Dispute may have led to the mass shooting after the Chiefs' Super Bowl parade, police say

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Police say the shooting that left one person dead and nearly two dozen injured after the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade appeared to stem from a dispute between several people. Police Chief Stacey Graves said Thursday that the 22 injured people ranged in age from 8 to 47 years old, with half of them were under the age of 16. A mother of two was killed. Police say they detained three juveniles but released one who they determined wasn't involved, leaving two in custody. Investigators are asking for witnesses and victims to call a dedicated hotline. The shooting outside the city's historic Union Station happened despite the presence of more than 800 police officers.

Championship parades likely to change in wake of shooting at Chiefs Super Bowl celebration

BOSTON — Kansas City's mayor and security experts say it could be time to rethink the way teams celebrate their championships. Mayor Quinton Lucas said if the Chiefs win another Super Bowl it might be better for a smaller party at their home stadium, where security can be managed more easily. One person was killed and 22 others wounded when gunfire broke out shortly after the Chiefs left the stage at their victory rally. Police say they believe the shooting was the result of a dispute among individuals in the crowd, and not a terrorist attack. Security experts say large gatherings combine with the prevalence of guns to make a deadly combination.

Cantlay leads at Riviera with a 64. Tiger Woods ends his return to golf with a shank

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods attracted all the attention. The best golf was in the group ahead. Patrick Cantlay is looking like he wants to join the list of Southern California natives who have won at Riviera. He opened with a 64 at the Genesis Invitational and has a one-shot lead. Woods shot a 72 that was marked by a bizarre finish. He hit a shank from the middle of the 18th fairway and then hit a brilliant recovery through the trees. He was eight behind. Rory McIlroy was in worse shape with a double bogey-triple bogey stretch that led to 74.

Western Conference race for players well underway before the NHL trade deadline

The NHL trade deadline is still three weeks away, and yet three of the top teams in the Western Conference have already made an addition. The Vancouver Canucks acquired the top center on the market in Elias Lindholm from Calgary for picks and prospects. The Winnipeg Jets responded by getting Sean Monahan from Montreal for a first-round pick. Around the same time, the Colorado Avalanche signed veteran winger Zach Parise without having to give up anything. This is just the start of the movement in the West and around the NHL as trade talk picks up.

Klay Thompson sent to the bench for the first time since 2012, responds with a season-high 35 points

SALT LAKE CITY — Klay Thompson was told Thursday he wouldn't be starting a game for the first time since he was a Golden State rookie in 2012. He responded with his best game of the season. Thompson scored a season-high 35 points, making seven 3-pointers and leading the Warriors to a 140-137 victory over the Utah Jazz. Thompson was replaced at shooting guard by rookie Brandin Podziemski. Thompson, Stephen Curry's longtime partner as the starting backcourt, entered the game in the first quarter. It was the first time the four-time NBA champion came off the bench since March 11, 2012, during the lockout-delayed first season of his career.

Tiger Woods hits a shank in his return to golf and opens with 72 at Riviera

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods is back on the PGA Tour and his lasting memory was a shank. Woods hit a shank with an 8-iron from the 18th fairway at the Genesis Invitational. He attributes that to back spasms over the last two holes. At least he made a terrific recovery. He still made bogey

and shot 72. That leaves him eight shots out of the lead. He'll need a better round Friday to make sure he sticks around for the weekend. Woods says his back has been acting up at home. He also says there was rust from not having played much.

Seven-time NASCAR champ Jimmie Johnson welcomes Creed to Daytona 500 with arms wide open

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jimmie Johnson and Creed are headed to the Daytona 500. Legacy Motor Club reached an associate sponsorship deal with the band to give Creed a spot on the Toyota for Sunday's Daytona 500. Creed decals that face the "Creed Tour In-Car" cameras are also plastered the inside of the car. The band was one of the most successful rock acts of the 1990s, selling more than 40 million albums. Creed won the Grammy for best rock song for "With Arms Wide Open" in 2001.

Jimmie Johnson uses desperate late push to qualify for his 21st Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jimmie Johnson raced his way into the Daytona 500 with a three-wide move through the final turn of Thursday night's first qualifying race. Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing won the 150-mile race that is part of how the field is set for Sunday's season-opening "Great American Race." Johnson has Sunday's race on what he expects to be a nine-race schedule this season. He's co-owner now of Legacy Motor Club and, in his second season, switched the team from Chevrolet to Toyota. But the Toyota's lacked speed in Wednesday night time trials and Johnson failed to earn a guaranteed spot in what will be his 21st Daytona 500. It meant that he had to beat J.J. Yeley in the first of two qualifying races Thursday night at Daytona International Speedway.

Rob Manfred says he will retire as baseball commissioner in January 2029 after 14 years

TAMPA, Fla. — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred says he will retire when his current term ends in January 2029. Speaking at a spring training news conference, Manfred noted he will be 70 years old and been commissioner for 14 years when his term ends on Jan. 25, 2029. The 65-year-old succeeded Bud Selig in January 2015 and was given a five-year term. Owners voted in November 2018 to offer Manfred a new deal through the 2024 season, then voted last July to approve his latest term.

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February 17, 1924

Johnny Weissmuller sets a world record in the 100-yard freestyle swim

By Chris Herbolzheimer

On Feb. 17, 1924, Johnny Weissmuller, an emblem of aquatic prowess and a harbinger of the golden age of competitive swimming, etched his name into the annals of sports history. This day witnessed Weissmuller shattering the world record in the 100-yard freestyle swim, clocking an astonishing time of 52.4 seconds. This feat, set against the backdrop of the roaring twenties, was not merely a testament to Weissmuller's physical capabilities but also a symbol of the era's burgeoning obsession with sport, celebrity, and the breaking of human limits.

Johnny Weissmuller, who would later gain fame as the quintessential Tarzan in the film industry, was at this time primarily known for his unprecedented achievements in swimming. Born on June 2, 1904, in Timisoara, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and now Romania, Weissmuller moved to the United States as a young child. His athletic talent became evident early on, and by the time of his record-breaking swim, he had already established himself as a formidable force in the water.

The setting for this historic achievement was the Miami Biltmore Pool in Coral Gables, Florida, a venue that epitomized the glamour and luxury of the Jazz Age. The pool, part of the opulent Biltmore Hotel, provided a picturesque stage for Weissmuller's performance, with its grand architecture and tropical setting serving as a stark contrast to the rigorous discipline of competitive swimming. Spectators, clad in the fash-

ion of the era, gathered around the pool, their anticipation palpable in the warm Florida air.

Weissmuller's training leading up to the event was intense and innovative. Under the guidance of coach William Bachrach, Weissmuller had honed his technique, focusing on the efficiency of his stroke and the power of his kick. His regimen included not just endless laps in the pool but also weight training and diet adjustments, practices that were relatively novel in the athletic training of the time. This holistic approach to preparation was a significant factor in his success, reflecting a shift in the understanding of athletic performance and physical conditioning.

The swim itself was a display of sheer athleticism and determination. Weissmuller took to the water with a confidence that belied the pressure of the moment. From the starting signal, he surged ahead, his body slicing through the water with rhythmic precision. Each stroke was a testament to years of training, each breath a measure of his resolve. The crowd watched in awe as Weissmuller dominated the pool, his lead undeniable as he approached the final stretch.

When Weissmuller touched the wall, the stopwatch confirmed what many had already suspected: he had broken the world record. His time of 52.4 seconds was not just an improvement on the previous mark; it was a declaration of his unparalleled ability and a moment that would be remembered as a milestone in the history of swimming.

This achievement was more than a personal victory for Weissmuller; it was a demonstration of human potential, a challenge to the boundaries of what was considered possible.

The aftermath of the event saw Weissmuller celebrated not just as a sports hero but as a national icon. Newspapers and magazines were filled with his image and stories of his life and achievements. The public's fascination with Weissmuller extended beyond his athletic prowess to his charismatic personality and Hollywood good looks, making him one of the first athletes to achieve celebrity status beyond their sporting achievements.

The record set by Weissmuller on February 17, 1924, would stand as a benchmark for future generations of swimmers. It underscored the importance of innovation in training and technique, themes that would continue to evolve in competitive swimming. Weissmuller's legacy, however, extends beyond the records and medals. He embodied the spirit of an era that celebrated the joy of achievement and the pursuit of excellence.

In retrospect, that day in Coral Gables was more than a momentary triumph; it was a reflection of the times, a confluence of sport, culture, and innovation that defined the 1920s. Johnny Weissmuller's swim on February 17, 1924, remains a vibrant chapter in the story of competitive sports, a reminder of the enduring allure of breaking barriers and setting new standards of human achievement.

Lady Zizzers show grit and grace in thrilling Thursday night showdown

Under the bright lights of the West Plains High School gymnasium, the Lady Zizzers basketball teams showcased a night filled with sheer determination, heart-stopping moments, and undeniable grit. This was not just another Thursday night; it was a night where every dribble, pass, and shot told a story of resilience, passion, and the relentless pursuit of victory.

The evening kicked off with the "C" team, setting the tone for what was to be an unforgettable series of games. The young squad, led by the dynamic duo of Delani Wahome and Brylie Osborn, dominated the court with an energy that was both infectious and inspiring. Wahome, with her quick moves and sharp shooting, racked up an impressive 8 points, while Osborn, with her agility and keen eye for the basket, added another 6 to the tally. Together, they propelled the Lady Zizzers to a commanding 18-5 victory, a testament to their hard work and teamwork.

But the night was just getting started. The JV squad took to the floor next, facing off against a formidable Bolivar team in a game that would push them to their limits. It was a nail-biter, a rollercoaster of emotions, with the lead changing hands more times than the crowd could count. Ashley Culton emerged as the star of the show, scoring a whopping 17 points with the kind of skill and determination that left the audience in awe. She was supported by a cast of warriors: Whom with her steady 8 points, Jewelia Willard with her crucial 6, and the trio of Cameron Brill, Aubrey Tidwell, and Zoe Shrubbs, each chipping in with 2 points. Despite their heroic efforts, the game slipped into overtime, and the JV Lady Zizzers narrowly missed out on victory, with the final score standing at 37-41.

The climax of the evening arrived with the varsity squad taking center stage. The air was electric, the stakes were high, and the Lady Zizzers were ready. They played with a fire in their eyes, leading the game with a display of skill and teamwork that was nothing short of spectacular. Olivia Lawson was a force to be reckoned with, leading the scoring with 17 points, her every move echoing her dedication to the game. Allyssa Joyner was right there with her, adding 15 points to the scoreboard with a performance that blended grace and power. Zoe Scharnhorst, Mylea Adams, and Zoe Shrubbs contributed valuable points, showcasing the depth and talent of the Lady Zizzers squad.

However, as the game progressed, Marshfield began to claw their way back, inch by inch, point by point. The tension was palpable as the fourth quarter unfolded, with the lead diminishing and the crowd on the edge of their seats. Despite the Lady Zizzers' valiant efforts, Marshfield managed to take the lead, sealing the game with a final score of 50-42.

Yet, even in the face of tough, close losses for both the varsity and junior varsity squads, the spirit of the Lady Zizzers never wavered. Led by Coach Scott Womack, they demonstrated what it means to fight with heart, to stand tall in the face of adversity, and to show the true character of champions.

With a season record now standing at 18-7 and a conference play record of 7-2, the Lady Zizzers are not just a team; they are a force to be reckoned with. As they prepare for their last home game against Bolivar, with the "C" team tipoff at 4:30 p.m., one thing is clear: the Lady Zizzers are ready to leave it all on the court, to play with passion, and to continue writing their story of grit, determination, and unwavering spirit.



Mylea Adams puts up a shot.



Lucy Hafer taking it to the hole.



Olivia Lawson with the short jumper.



Just Allyssa Joyner doing Joyner things like soaring in for a layup.



Allyssa Joyner fighting through a trio of defenders.



Zoe Scharnhorst



Coach Womack runs through strategies during a 4th quarter timeout.



Mylea Adams with a layup.

ROLLA

Continued from Page B4

high-pressure environment, is indicative of the team's resilience and capability. Coach Womack's leadership and strategic acumen were evident in the way the Lady Zizzers conducted themselves on the court. The varsity squad may have lost the battle, but the war is far from over. With the season progressing and the stakes getting higher, the Lady Zizzers have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with in the world of high school basketball.

The night's outcomes serve as a poignant reminder of the unpredictable nature of sports, where triumph and setback walk hand in hand. For the West Plains High School Lady Zizzers, the journey continues, fueled by the passion for the game and the relentless pursuit of excellence. As they regroup and focus on their upcoming encounters, one thing is clear: they are not just players; they are warriors of the hardwood, and their story is still being written.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Nearby
 - 1 Uncloudy
 - 5 Nigerian some z's city
 - 10 Make sense
 - 12 Without aid
 - 13 Italian physicist
 - 14 Gun-powder ingredient
 - 15 Mine yield
 - 16 Bureau-cratc hassle
 - 18 Very popular
 - 20 — Antonio
 - 21 Woeful cry
 - 23 Important time
 - 24 Show up
 - 26 Diplomatic skill
 - 28 Phoned copy
 - 29 Phone assistant
 - 31 Paris pal
 - 32 View from Yemen
 - 36 Carnivore's craving
 - 39 Price setting
 - 40 Space visitor
- DOWN**
- 43 Caught
 - 44 Safe spot
 - 45 Undoes a dele
 - 46 Stiff drink
 - 1 Party gift
 - 2 Find darling
 - 3 Took it easy
 - 4 Tire track
 - 5 Hit the runway
 - 6 Stepped down
 - 7 "Can I talk to you?"
 - 8 Self-contained
 - 9 Venus's sister
 - 11 Lets out early
 - 17 Greek vowel
 - 19 Deli meat
 - 22 Prison sentence
 - 24 Arthur's home
 - 25 Rust, say
 - 27 Help out
 - 28 Electrical units
 - 30 S&L offering
 - 33 Hot spot
 - 34 Art supporter
 - 35 Deal maker
 - 37 Convene
 - 38 Finishes
 - 42 Research site

K	I	S	S	M	E	S	H	E	D	
I	R	O	N	E	D	P	E	R	U	
D	E	S	I	R	E	R	A	R	E	
			D	E	N	S	E	R		
A	S	H	E		T	E	T	R	A	
L	E	E		B	E	E	S	W	A	X
I	P	A		R	A	P		O	D	E
C	A	R	R	O	T	S		O	I	L
E	L	T	O	N		A	D	O	S	
			L	O	C	A	L	S		
A	L	A	S		R	O	S	E	T	O
G	E	N	T		A	V	A	L	O	N
O	D	D	S		B	E	M	I	N	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19					20	
			21			22		23	
	24	25				26	27		
28				29	30				
31					32		33	34	35
36			37	38				39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45								46	

2-15

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Foolhardy
 - 5 Spheres summons
 - 9 Manner of speaking
 - 11 Seasonal songs
 - 13 Sudden swell
 - 14 Apartment sign
 - 15 Building wing
 - 16 Unpopular mailer
 - 18 Blocks
 - 20 Future embryos
 - 21 Emergency sound
 - 22 Was aware
 - 23 Silent assent
 - 24 Track act
 - 25 Crescent's tip
 - 27 Attire
 - 29 Wee worker
 - 30 Diner fixture
 - 32 Give the oath of office to
 - 34 Copying
 - 35 Vestige
 - 36 Occupied
 - 38 — alive!
- DOWN**
- 39 Used up
 - 40 Sibilant
 - 41 Calls on
 - 1 Gets up
 - 2 Prom chaper-ones, usually
 - 3 Chop-house choices
 - 4 Glutton
 - 5 Available
 - 6 Hotel offering
 - 7 June race
 - 8 Jacket part
 - 10 Dis-ordered
 - 12 Sipping aid
 - 17 Groan inducer
 - 19 Stage item
 - 22 Cutting
 - 24 Main impacts
 - 25 Throws
 - 26 Open, as a present
 - 27 — Hear a Waltz?"
 - 28 Moon goddess
 - 30 Family symbol
 - 31 Diatribes
 - 33 Good pair
 - 37 Clerk on "The Simpsons"

F	A	I	R		L	A	G	O	S			
A	D	D	U	P		A	L	O	N	E		
V	O	L	T	A		N	I	T	E	R		
O	R	E		R	E	D	T	A	P	E		
R	E	D	H	O	T		S	A	N			
				A	L	A	S		E	R	A	
				C	O	M	E		T	A	C	T
F	A	X		S	I	R	I					
A	M	I			R	E	D	S	E	A		
R	E	D	M	E	A	T		T	A	G		
A	L	I	E	N		C	L	O	S	E		
D	O	Z	E	D		H	A	V	E	N		
S	T	E	T	S				B	E	L	T	

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		
9				10		11				12
13						14				
15				16	17					
18			19					20		
	21					22				
		23				24				
25	26				27				28	
29				30						31
32			33					34		
35						36	37			
38						39				
	40							41		

2-16

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

SUDOKU

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

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

ANSWER:

SUDOKU

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

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

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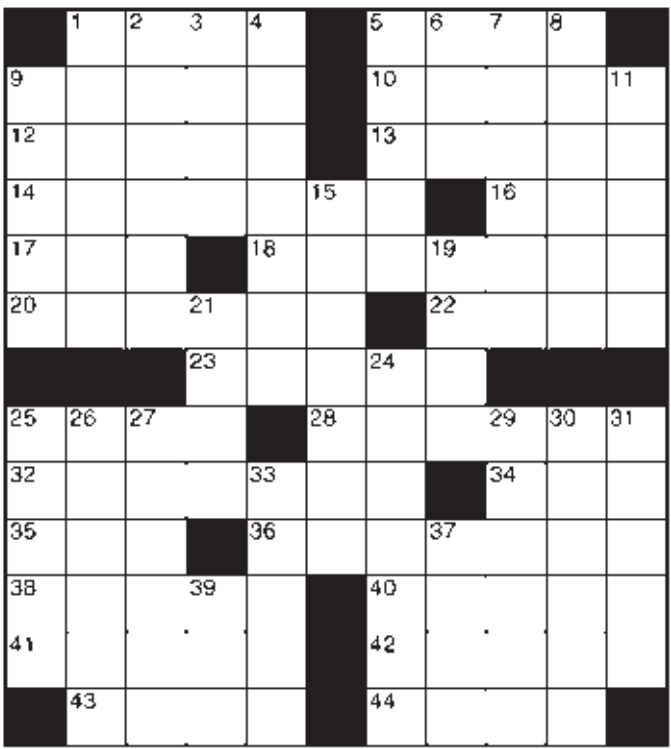
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Puzo subject
 - 1 Flight cost
 - 5 Best Picture winner in 2013
 - 9 Trivial
 - 10 Sentence subjects
 - 12 Painter Degas
 - 13 Racket
 - 14 Contemporary
 - 16 Box office sales, in Variety
 - 17 — Aviv
 - 18 Filing concern
 - 20 Clog
 - 22 Bauxite and galena
 - 23 Wrong
 - 25 Play start
 - 28 "Taken" star
 - 32 Not in time
 - 34 Stage signal
 - 35 Angled pipe
 - 36 Reason to get dressed up
 - 38 Similar
 - 40 — up (hid out)
- DOWN**
- 1 Act
 - 2 "Measure for Measure" role
 - 3 Wander
 - 4 Book typo
 - 5 Wing
 - 6 Aussie hopper
 - 7 Rock instrument
 - 8 Like some training
 - 9 Ham and lamb
 - 11 Perennial battlers
 - 15 Draw on
 - 19 Token of love
 - 21 Sandbox toy
 - 24 Is furious
 - 25 Top players
 - 26 Shirt part
 - 27 Popular toast
 - 29 Justice Antonin
 - 30 Beat in a hot dog contest
 - 31 Calls for
 - 33 In the lead
 - 37 Distribute
 - 39 Relatives



Yesterday's answer



2-17

Baby Blues

Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



BORN LOSER

BY ART & CHIP SANSOM



BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By THE NEAVE



CARPE DIEM

BY NIKLAS ERIKSSON



THURSDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLEAANR
KLONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
2-15 CRYPTOQUOTE
NAGKZO AI DG BI JZEP WSK
ZKZOGEB TQDAGV AT AG EI
JZEOK LAUKDO JSVD
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ONLY THING WE NEVER GET ENOUGH OF IS LOVE, AND THE ONLY THING WE NEVER GIVE ENOUGH OF IS LOVE. HENRY MILLER

FRIDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLEAANR
KLONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
2-16 CRYPTOQUOTE
DP ZA IROTYY OMRCA
LZDDFCB VPZJ RJOA RJPZC
MRQS PDSME RCE FMTOR
DSMJM FRJERJER EZAS
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WINTER IS ON MY HEAD, BUT ETERNAL SPRING IS IN MY HEART. VICTOR HUGO

SATURDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDLEAANR
KLONGFELLOW
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
2-17 CRYPTOQUOTE
IME NIGA BEPI LMX ZERPI
QEN BER' NMIZ SENM
ANYXW SRN EXR' EXI
NDANIA QERG' NMI
JUDLIBERA JDA JUYAIB
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO US, FAMILY MEANS PUTTING YOUR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER AND BEING THERE. BARBARA HUSH

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