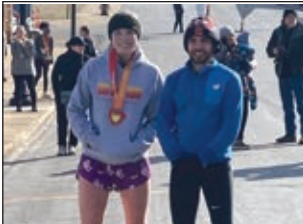




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Half Marathon

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FFA Week
Celebrating youth
in agriculture

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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West Plains Bank continues support for cystic fibrosis research with \$1,000 donation



West Plains Bank and Trust Company continues a longstanding tradition of supporting research into cures and treatments for cystic fibrosis with a \$1,000 donation ahead of the March 16 Cystic Fibrosis Music Concert featuring Missouri native country musician Sara Evans. Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition affecting the respiratory and digestive systems, and there is no cure. Holding the check are Cystic Fibrosis volunteer Kaigan Barker, left, and West Plains Bank and Trust Human Resources Director Angie Temple. STAFF / KIMBERLY LANGSTON

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON,
KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

West Plains Bank and Trust Company has donated \$1,000 to the Cystic Fibrosis West Plains Chapter to support research into cures and treatments for cystic fibrosis, a genetic condition present at birth that affects the respiratory and digestive systems.

The disease requires lifelong treatment to improve the quality of life for sufferers and extend their lifespan, and there have been advances in both over the last several decades while progress is made towards a cure.

This spring's annual cystic fibrosis fundraising concert will feature country artist and native

Missourian Sara Evans. It will be held 7 p.m. March 16 at the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis Street. Ticket prices for adults are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door, and \$5 for children age 12 and younger whether purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets may be purchased at West Plains Bank in West Plains and Willow Springs, and may be charged by phone by calling the civic center at 417-256-8123, at Ticketmaster.com/Sara Evans, or by scanning a QR code on promotional posters that will take users to the Ticketmaster website.

The evening will include silent and live auctions and a local singing group,

See **DONATION**, Page A4

City of Mtn. View opts to wait until April election to fill vacant ward seat

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON,
KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Mtn. View City Council members declined to approve an appointment to fill an empty seat last week, opting instead to

leave it to voters in April, in part because some expressed a belief that it was pointless to have someone sit on the council for only two meetings before being replaced.

The unanimous “no” vote followed a suggestion by Mayor John Krasuski that Mary Lenz be appointed as East Ward Alderwoman, a seat held briefly by Judi Colter before her appointment to the seat previously held by Murray Anderson, who resigned in December, failed to be affirmed last month. Judi Colter is a cousin by marriage of West Ward Alderwoman Brenda Colter, and is running unopposed for the position on

April 2.

Additionally, there are two candidates for a one-year term now being filled by appointee Bud Vines, who replaced Steven Sills after his resignation in November. Vines has chosen not to run and Vicki Carr and David Bauer will be on the ballot.

West Ward Alderman Lindell Vandevort has also decided not run for re-election as a West Ward alderman, and Calvin Perry and Lucinda Burton are candidates for that two-year term.

Krasuski is running unopposed for a two-year term as mayor.

Buck Nelson Festival organizer Robin McCullough gave an



FILE

update on festivities and asked if a festival banner could be hung from the Mtn. View welcome sign, permission for which was granted by council members without the necessity of a vote.

She also asked if the Mtn. View Police Department could offer support during a planned nighttime 5K

glow run, suggesting officers might be able to monitor the race in order to keep participants safe.

She also confirmed that members of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) will be present at the festival, to be held the weekend and day of the April 8 total solar eclipse.

See **MTN. VIEW**, Page A4

Richards sets preschool, kindergarten screening dates

Richards School will offer an Early Childhood Preschool Program for 4-year-olds planning to attend the Richards Early Childhood Center for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Preschool Program will consist of full-day classes held Mondays through Fridays while school is in session.

In order to attend preschool classes children must be 4 years old prior to Aug. 1, and must live within the Richards School District.

Preschool screening will be held by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 30.

The school will also offer kindergarten screening for the upcoming school year, scheduled to be held from 8 a.m.

See **SCREENING**, Page A4

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W.P. Quill Daily

WS School Board renews administrative contracts

The Willow Springs School Board recently met in regular session, setting dates for summer school and renewing administrative contracts.

At the top of the Feb. 12 meeting, the consent agenda was presented for approval, including a financial update showing the school district's total balance is about \$3.83 million, up from about \$2.46 million in December. The balance was about \$6.99 million in February 2023. The resignation of high school art teacher Madyson Callahan was accepted and will take effect at the end of the school year. New hires approved included Emalee Layman and Jennifer Crowl as paraprofessionals and Landon Clinton as maintenance stuff, plus substitute teachers Tom Woelfershein and Amber Clinton.

Under informational items, the board discussed administrator's reports for the district

See **BOARD**, Page A4

11th annual BrewFest on Saturday to bring back old favorites, welcome new

BrewFest 2024 will showcase flavors provided by 19 purveyors of foods and beverages, including favorites old and new, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday in the arena and exhibit hall at the West Plains Civic Center. Doors will open promptly at 5:30.

Tasting glasses, sponsored by Southern Bank, will be available to the first 700 patrons. All attendees will be eligible for door prize giveaway items supplied by the vendors, which will include T-shirts, glasses, growlers and gift certificates.

Attendees will have the opportunity to sample craft beers, specialty drinks, coffees and special food offerings organizers said.

Confirmed to be offering samples to drink are Great Rivers Distributing, whose samples will include Kansas City Bier Co., Arizona Hard Tea, Hoop Hard Tea, Nasty Beast Hard Tea, Log Boat Brewing and Anheuser Busch, and Grellner Sales & Service, whose

samples will include Yuengling Brewing, Sam Adams, Smirnoff, MillerCoors, White Claw and Shiner Bock. Craft breweries confirmed are Kansas City Bier Co. of Kansas City, Mother's Brewing of Springfield, Piney River Brewery of Bucyrus, Rapp's Barrett Brewing of Mtn. Home, Ark., Springfield Brewing of Springfield and West Plains' own Wages Brewing Company. Peace Valley Brewhouse will offer samples of home-brewed beer, and Pepsi has provided soft drinks and bottled water.

Food samples will be provided by Bootleggers BBQ of Alton, and Colton's Steak House & Grill, Jo Coffee Co., KC's Sports Bistro, Pizza Shack, Ruby Tuesday, Señor Valentin and The Grizzly Bite at the Grizzly Lofts, all of West Plains.

Local painter Garrett Melby will do a live

See **BREWFE**ST, Page A4

West Plains BREWFEST 2024

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Arena & Exhibit Hall

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FEB 24
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HOWELL COUNTY MARRIAGE LICENSES

Kendall Reed Denton, 27, Bakersfield, and Krystal Lynn Foster, 25, Bakersfield, married Jan. 25 in West Plains. Officiated by Cody Mayberry.
Tracey Allen Clark, 53, West Plains, and Tina Gail Bailey, 48, West Plains, married Jan. 26 in Branson. Officiated by Delroy Bender.
Raymond Leslie Price, Jr. 54, West Plains, and Stacey Christine Friedline, 46, Poplar Bluff, married Feb. 3 in West Plains. Officiated by Larry Moore.
Nicholas David Robertson, 30, West Plains, and Michaela Kathryn Marshall, 25, West Plains, married Feb. 3 in West Plains. Officiated by Maurice Chukwukere.
Gaylon Eugene Foster, 61, Mtn. View, and Carla Gay Pekarek, 55, Mtn. View, married Feb. 4 in West Plains. Officiated by Ralph E. Hood, Jr.
Forrest Christopher Ogden, 29, West Plains, and Ashton Brooke Bonham, 29, West Plains, married Feb. 4 in West Plains. Officiated by Nathan Ogden.

Two area residents hurt in recent crashes

An Ava resident suffered moderate injuries in a crash at 2:16 p.m. Friday, according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol.
Tpr. K.H. Hogan, Troop G of the patrol, Willow Springs, reported a northbound 2007 Dodge Ram driven by Joshua Swainston, 44, ran off the road and struck a tree 2 miles north of Ava. Geographical coordinates included in the report show the accident happened on Douglas County Road 76-205.
Swainston was not wearing a seat belt and was transported by Cox Ambulance to Cox South Medical Center in Springfield for treatment, the report shows.
Hogan was assisted at the scene by Cpl. D.J. Johnson.
Janessa K. Teague, 19, Winona, suffered minor injuries when her vehicle struck a deer at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday on east U.S. 60, 2 miles west of Winona in Shannon County.

WILLOW SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

TICKETS

Derick Jay Cook, Summersville, was ticketed at 1:10 p.m. Feb. 8 on a charge of speeding by 11-15 mph over. Officer Jim Hedlesten.
Yosten Eliel Garza Maldonado, Carthage, was ticketed at 3:50 p.m. Feb. 8 on a charge of speeding by 11-15 mph over. Officer Hedlesten.
George E. Ray, Rayton, was ticketed at 9:54 a.m. Feb. 10 on a charge of speeding by 16-19 mph over. Officer Hedlesten.
Catrina Yvette Ray, Jonesboro, Ark., was ticketed at 10:01 a.m. Feb. 10 on a charge of speeding by 16-19 mph over. Officer Hedlesten.
Carson Ray Barker, Salem, was ticketed at 1:14 p.m. Feb. 10 on a charge of speeding by 11-15 mph over. Officer Hedlesten.
Dalton Cole Henley, West Plains, was ticketed at 4:40 p.m. Feb. 11 on a charge of driving a vehicle without maintaining financial responsibility. Officer Joe Barnhouse.

cal services with a medical call.
On Feb. 8, a reporting party called to alert police to an animal that had gone missing from Hill Street.
Officer Wade Bloomer responded to Highway 76 for a well-being check, requested by someone whose boyfriend had left their home on foot.
On Feb. 8, Officer Bloomer was dispatched to U.S. 60/63 for a traffic crash, but was not able to find one. However, he did find a phone, which was returned to its owner.
Officer Jake Cronin stopped a vehicle Feb. 9 on East Main Street. A child with special needs inside the vehicle was having an issue, but everything was fine.
On Feb. 9, Officers Hoopes and Cary Gates responded to an address on Highway 76 for a report of stolen jewelry.
A person reported on Feb. 9 an all-black Australian shepherd was running at large on Hill Street.
On Feb. 9, Officer Bloomer conducted a well-being check at a residence on Corn Avenue, but no one was home.
Officer Bloomer took a call on Feb. 9 from a person who reported a missing walker from East Sixth Street. It was a green Nova brand device.
On Feb. 9, the owner of a dog missing from Hill Street called. Officer Bloomer answered.
On Feb. 10, a dog was running loose behind Town & Country. Officer Hoopes contacted the dog's owner.
Officer David Hocking attempted on Feb. 11 to assist West Plains Police with serving an active warrant, but he was unable to make contact with the subject due to the subject having been evicted and no longer living at the address on file.
On Feb. 11, Officer Hocking was notified of a vehicle towed from a parking lot on East Main Street.
Officers Hedlesten and Hocking responded Feb. 11 to Sassafras Street to assist EMS with a medical call.
On Feb. 11, a resident of Hill Street requested extra police patrols during the overnight hours.

INCIDENT REPORTS

On Feb. 8, an elderly driver had a small child in the vehicle who was opening a door while the car was in motion. Officer Hedlesten stopped to assist the driver and help engage the child safety locks on the vehicle's door.
A person called police Feb. 8 to report an elderly woman who was possibly having a medical issue due to the contents of her car. Officer Joby Hoopes.
Officers Hoopes and Hedlesten responded on Feb. 8 to East Valley Street to assist emergency medi-

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MSU-Springfield announces fall graduates

Missouri State University awarded 1,417 degrees to students in fall 2023:

Mammoth Spring, Ark.: Rachel Haven Drake, Master of Arts in Teaching.

Ava: Miquia Marie Gillies, Bachelor of Science, Accounting.

Koshkonong: Karenza Hunsperger, Bachelor of Science in Education, Early Childhood Education, magna cum laude, and Mary Katherine Lenker, Bachelor of Science, Religious Studies, magna cum laude.

Mtn. View: Melodie Ann Haynes, Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education/Cross Categorical; Zachary Max Porter, Bachelor of Science, Management; and Tayler Jesslynn Michelle Randolph, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, magna cum laude.

Pottersville: Gail Dawn Harris, Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education/Cross Categorical.

West Plains: Mara Iris Anselm, Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders, magna cum laude; Bryce D. Banta, Bachelor of Science, Criminology and Criminal Justice; Moriah E. Combs, Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education/Cross Categorical; Clara Marie DuMontelle, Bachelor of Arts, English; Autumn Nichole Galiher, Master of Science in Education, Educational Technology; Alexandra Graham, Master of Arts, Writing; Alyssa Dyan Heath, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Logan Ross Herring, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, magna cum laude; Taylor Ann Moffis, Bachelor of Science, Hospitality Leadership; Jacquie Renee Sands, Doctor of Nursing Practice; Evan Tony Stewart, Bachelor of Science, Sports Medicine, cum laude; Amelia Leigh Towell, Bachelor of Science in Education, Middle School Education; Lindsey Kay Hicks, Master of Professional Studies; Chloe Elisabeth Howell, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, cum laude; Kidane Gabriel Howell, Bachelor of Science, General Business; Lisa Ann Inlow, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, summa cum laude; Emily Nicole McKenzie, Master of Occupational Therapy; Courtney Elizabeth Melvin, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, magna cum laude; Taylor Ann Moffis, Bachelor of Science, Hospitality Leadership; Jacquie Renee Sands, Doctor of Nursing Practice; Evan Tony Stewart, Bachelor of Science, Sports Medicine, cum laude; Amelia Leigh Towell, Bachelor of Science, Criminology and Criminal Justice and Psychology, cum laude; Darian Lee Williams, Bachelor of Science, General Business, summa cum laude; and Trace Winfrey, Bachelor of Applied Science, General Agriculture.

Willow Springs: Amanda Jean Hamilton, Bachelor of Science, Natural Resources and Environmental Plant Science/Horticulture, cum laude, and Brody Dale McKee, Bachelor of Science, Natural Resources.

Alton: Carlissa Brianne Holman, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education.

Thayer: Samantha Jo Irene Broyles, Master of Arts in Teaching.

Caulfield: Brianna A. Bentley, Master of Occupational Therapy.

Dora: Abigail E. Kelley, Bachelor of Science, Public Relations; Keeli Lauren Land, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, cum laude; and Kylie Jo Smith, Bachelor of Science, Entertainment Management.

Birch Tree: Emmalee Jean Layman, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, magna cum laude.

Eminence: Brandon L. Nash, Bachelor of Science, Information Technology.

Winona: Kristopher B. Lawson, Bachelor of Science, Biology, and Jessie Elizabeth Plunk, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Bucyrus: Emily Ann Roberts, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education.

Cabool: Cheyenne Mae Stout, Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education/Cross Categorical, magna cum laude.

Houston: Sara E. Anderson, Master of Science, Counseling, and Krista Lee Cockrum, Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Conservation and Management.

Licking: Ashley Creek, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, summa cum laude, and Elijah Troy Keeney, Bachelor of Science, Marketing.

Mtn. Grove: Stephanie Rae Moore, Bachelor of Science in Education, Special Education/Cross Categorical, cum laude.

Norwood: Jalen David Drake, Bachelor of Science in Education, Middle School Education, summa cum laude.

March 2 DAR program to feature folk art, Americana

At the Ozark Spring, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution monthly meeting planned for 1 p.m. March 2, Valerie Wilson Coleman of Taneycomo will give a presentation on the American Folk Art exhibit displayed at the DAR Museum in Washington, D.C.

Coleman is the recording secretary for the Taneycomo DAR chapter, as well as Conservation Committee chair and corresponding docent-in-training. Her presentation will focus on the 126 objects on display in the exhibit.

For those unfamiliar with the DAR Museum, in addition to its vast archive holdings of historical documents and genealogical library collections, the museum hosts a collection of decorative arts objects made or used in America from the colonial period through the early 20th century. It includes objects on display in the Museum Gallery, Study Gallery, Yochim Gallery, and period rooms as well as items in storage.

According to Coleman, the Folk Art program “will look at functional as well as decorative objects made by the American people for the average citizen. These objects are known as folk art and most of the 19th century objects featured will provide a glimpse into how Americans lived their day-to-day lives during a century of great change.”

The Ozark Spring chapter meetings are held at the American Legion Hall, 1401 Bill Virdon Blvd., West Plains, and educational programs are free and open to the public. All meetings open with general meeting protocol. The March 2024 meeting hostesses are Cindy Pirch and Connie Weber.

ASU announces fall dean’s, chancellor’s list students

Students on the honors lists for fall 2023 at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro have been announced. The lists recognize undergraduate students who achieved the highest grade-point averages while enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours of study at A-State.

The dean’s list includes students with a GPA of 3.6 to 3.99. The chancellor’s list includes students who earned a perfect GPA of 4.0.

DEAN’S LIST

Baxter County, Ark: Sherri Powell, Gassville; Sayde Baker, Midway; Joseph Arnold, Kiah Beard, Amanda Brown, Mason Cruse, Celinie Flowers, Isabella Hall, Hannah Langhammer, Laney Stout, Kevin Von Bergmann, Carley Wallace, Alexis Watts, Olivia Wham and Nicole Young, Mtn. Home; and Kinley Stowers, Norfork.

Fulton County, Ark: Ashley Aguirre, Ash Flat; Zoie Deckard, Cherokee Village; Samantha Mills, Hardy; Shelby Vanginhoven, Mammoth Spring; Shae Bassham, Hank Guiltner, Kelsey Humphries, and Paul Smith, Salem; and Lindon Marberry, Viola.

Izard County, Ark.: Kesley Pearson, Brockwell; and Ashton Cowan, Amanda Engelhardt and Steven McDaniel, Melbourne.

Sharp County, Ark.: Desiree Sawyer, Ash Flat; Caitlan Boyce, Christina Conforth, Madison Gentry and Abigail Sutton, Cherokee Village; Kori Dunlap, Hardy; Dani Jordan, Highland; and Lily Ann Morris, Williford.

Oregon County: Julia Montague, Koshkonong, and Katherine Pounders, Jurnee Rolen, Thayer.

Harcourt, Quinn Hodges, Samuel Hoskins, Payton Huskey, Cassie Jones, Stephanie Kanatzar, Merick King, Katelyn McLean, Michael Mormile, Kaitlyn Richard, Victoria Robb, Zeke Sanders, Mandelyn Smeltzer, Abby Taylor and Gianna Taylor, Mtn. Home; and Delaney Faulkner and Skylar Jensen, Norfork.

Fulton County: Hannah Gibson, John Taylor and Allison Webber, Ash Flat; Laken Bailey, Rachel Davis, Zackery Flynn, Madyson Hufst-edler, Cole Larson and Kelli Young, Mammoth Spring; Luke Keen, Jaiden Strong, Jaycie Strong, Rory Walling, Amber Yates and Sarah Young, Salem; and Destiny Drouin and Samantha McCandlis, Viola.

Izard County: Jewell Beckwith, Allie Gardner and Kirsten Sherrill, Calico Rock; Allan Densford, Horse-shoe Bend; Chase Duncan, Addie Harris, Chris Mosley and Thomas Wren, Melbourne; and Macey McSpadden, Sage.

Sharp County: Harlee Deloach, Ash Flat; Karisa Phelps and Jeannette Strano, Cherokee Village; and Lela Massey and Kara Wiles, Highland.

Howell County: Ramsey Brower and Landry Pitts, West Plains.

Oregon County: Laina Richardson, Alton, and Hannah Carr and Brittany Hirsch, Thayer.

Ozark County, Taylor Suter, Gainesville.

CHANCELLOR’S LIST

Baxter County: Jamie Benefiel and Nicholas Taylor, Cotter; Alexis Kincade, Rebecca Martin, Kaylie Ott, Addison Ray, Gracie Uchtman and Kendra Wallace, Gassville; Jasmine Allen, Mattie Belk, Olivia Brewer, Kelly Broad, Lisa Brown-ing, Christopher Burkhart, Mikayla Carlton, Emery Davis, Lauren Dewey, Gracie Dover, Laura Feltz, Olivia

All Saints to host weekly fish fry through Lent


All Saints Church will host a fish fry at 6 p.m. each Friday during Lent, through March 22, with “all the fixins.”

Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the meal.

The church is located at 107 South Curry St., across East Main Street from the West Plains Civic Center.

WPRAS

Pet of the Week



“This big guy has lots of love to give,” says West Plains Regional Animal Shelter volunteer Trish Hammen of this orange tabby cat. “We named him Rocky because he looks tough but he is a marshmallow. Rocky was found near a car wash here in West Plains.” The cat is estimated to be between 3 and 4 years old, and is neutered and vaccinated. The fee to adopt a cat is \$45. Hammen also has updates regarding construction of the new shelter facility on the grounds at 1486 BB Highway: “The new shelter building is coming along and hopefully will be ready in the spring. We are still needing donations to make sure we get everything we need. The price of building materials has doubled from last year. Thank you to all who have already donated.” To learn more about adopting or donating, drop by the shelter between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays or call 417-256-8438. COURTESY / WPRAS

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Lincoln School kicks off Black History Month with lesson



The Lincoln School's educational programs and events kicked off Black History Month on Feb. 6 with a history lesson from Dr. Marlin C. Barber, senior history instructor at Missouri State University, left. According to Barber's bio, he has been at MSU since 2012 and his specialty is in 19th century Black American history and slavery. The next Black History Month program at the Lincoln School, 1400 E. Pony Thomas St. in West Plains, is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday. The featured speaker will be associate history professor Dr. Jason McCollom, MSU-West Plains. The monthlong events will round out by screening the classic film, "The Wiz," an adaptation of "The Wizard of Oz" featuring an all-star cast of African American artists including Michael Jackson, Diana Ross and Nipsey Russell, at 5 p.m. Feb. 29. For more information, to participate in future educational programs and events or to book a program at the Lincoln School, contact Crockett Oaks III at info@lincolnschools.com or 281-706-3420. With Barber, from left, are Ozark Spring Chapter members of the Daughters of the American Revolution Rebekah McKinney, Bethany Cowen, Lois Frazier and Jessica Joice-Frazier, and Oaks. COURTESY / DAR

West Plains woman charged with murder after fentanyl overdose

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON, KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

A West Plains woman with a lengthy criminal history involving drugs and felony theft was on probation when she allegedly sold drugs laced with fentanyl to a person, leading to an overdose death in September 2020, court records show.

Carrie J. Braun, 37, is currently serving a sentence in Chillicothe Correctional Center and is now charged with second-degree murder, levied in cases in which a person dies during the perpetration of a felony crime. The charge was filed Dec. 13 by grand jury indictment and a warrant with a \$100,000 bond was issued at that time and served to her in prison on Feb. 7, court records show.

She has waived arraignment and entered a not-guilty plea, and a counsel status hearing was held Tuesday before Presiding 37th Circuit Judge Steven Privette. Updates regarding that hearing were not available in public court records as of press time. Records show she is represented by Public Defender Thomas Flack.

The murder investiga-

tion began after officers responded on Sept. 3, 2020, to a home on Westway Drive after a report of a suspected overdose death. Officers found the victim in the house and emergency medical services workers pronounced death about eight minutes later at the scene, a probable cause statement submitted by law enforcement shows.

A consent search of the scene by law enforcement turned up what appeared to be drug paraphernalia and a white substance that was seized and tested positive for fentanyl and methamphetamine by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab.

About two weeks after the death, a Howell County Sheriff's Office investigator was contacted by a confidential source naming Braun and Thomas M. Bennett, 47, as two people known to have supplied drugs to the victim, and added that Facebook Messenger was used to conduct drug transactions.

That same day, a preservation request was placed regarding the victim's Facebook account and a search warrant was granted for the account two days later, court records show.

The investigation showed messages that allegedly detailed drug transactions, and toxicology reports provided to investigators on Oct. 20, 2020, showed the victim died of "acute fentanyl, buprenorphine and ethanol intoxication."

In July or August 2022, an investigator spoke with Braun about the victim's death during a casual conversation and Braun reportedly said the victim had come to her house and bought heroin the evening of the fatal overdose.

The following month, the investigator reviewed Facebook messages sent between the victim, Braun and Bennett, allegedly showing five drug transactions between Aug. 21, 2020, up to about five hours before the victim's death, and under Bennett's Facebook account.

Withdrawals from the victim's bank account correlating with the alleged transactions totaled \$1,180 over that time frame.

On Sept. 7, 2022, the investigator conducted a formal interview with Braun, but she declined to give a statement regarding the investigation and requested a lawyer. During a law enforcement interview

13 days later, Bennett allegedly admitted to selling drugs to the victim and stated he and Braun had sold drugs to the victim for about two years, and to his knowledge, he and Braun were the only people that supplied the victim with fentanyl, including on the night the victim overdosed.

The probable cause statement adds Bennett said he heard the victim had overdosed and attempted to call the deceased through Facebook Messenger, then deleted his own Facebook account when the victim did not answer.

Court records show Braun pleaded guilty to felony possession of a controlled substance in February 2022 and was handed a three-year suspended sentence and three years of supervised probation.

In February 2020, court records show, she was handed a five year suspended sentence, also with five years of supervised probation, after entering an Alford plea to a felony charge of stealing \$25,000 or more. The charge was related to the theft of an ultrasound machine and laptop from Midwest Mo-



BRAUN

bile Imaging in September 2019 and a later attempt by Braun and another suspect to sell the machine to Talburt Animal Clinic. Probation on both of those cases was revoked in July 2022 after Braun pleaded guilty to felony second-degree drug trafficking in Howell County and was sentenced to 10 years in prison, the sentence to run concurrent with the other two cases.

Court records also show Braun pleaded guilty in

September 2022 to a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance filed in Phelps County in August 2020. She was sentenced to two years in that case.

Bennett pleaded guilty to two charges of delivery of a controlled substance in December 2021, in two separate cases filed in August 2019 in Howell County, and was sentenced to five years in prison, according to court records, the sentences running concurrently.

Police search Maple Street house for drugs, trafficking charge filed

By KIMBERLY LANGSTON, KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

A West Plains man is held on a \$250,000 bond after West Plains Police executed a drug raid at a home on West Maple Street.

Christopher A. Wright, 41, is one of three people arrested, according to a press release issued by police, and is charged with second-degree drug trafficking, keeping or maintaining a public nuisance and possession of a controlled substance, all felonies. A second person was arrested on an outstanding warrant and a third was taken into custody on a pending charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

A probable cause statement filed by Officer Jacob Brixey shows the warrant was served at about 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14, and included all vehicles and outbuildings at the residence.

A perimeter was set up at the house and officers knocked and announced their presence, then ordered all occupants to come to the door.

Brixey reported contact was immediately made with eight individuals, and the ninth person, Wright, was seen soon after, coming from a bathroom in the line of sight of the main door. Everyone was ordered out of the house and



A search carried out Feb. 14 evening at a home on the 300 block of West Maple Street in West Plains reportedly turned up \$738 in cash, multiple pipes with burnt residue, five glass smoking devices with a burnt crystalline residue, and eight used syringes. Materials indicative of an intent to sell and distribute drugs were also found, police reported. COURTESY / WPPD

placed in hand restraints, Brixey added.

Evidence photos were taken of the residence before the search began, and items of evidence were photographed as they were found, the statement said. The search turned up a total of \$738 in cash, \$500 of which was in a plastic bag, \$198 in Wright's wallet, and \$40 on him.

Drug paraphernalia reportedly found included

multiple pipes with burnt residue, five glass smoking devices with a burnt crystalline residue, and eight used syringes.

Additionally, in Wright's bedroom officers allegedly found multiple clear plastic baggies apparently intended for the sale and distribution of narcotics, a scale and a clear plastic bag of seven pills stamped with a mark that identified them as acetaminophen/hydrocodone.

In the bathroom, Brixey reported, officers found two clear plastic bags containing a white crystalline substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine and another that had a white residue. The two bags of white crystalline substance had a combined weight of about 35.89 grams, including bag weight, Brixey added. That is about 1.27 ounces. The pills and suspected meth will be sent to the Missouri State Highway

Patrol Crime Lab for further testing.

Brixey requested the money seized be forfeited under the Criminal Activity Forfeiture Act (CAFA), where cash or other property used or acquired through criminal activity is held by the state through a CAFA proceeding.

Brixey said in public court documents that, on Sept. 16, officers responded to a suspected narcotics overdose where a woman was found dead. A weekly press report disseminated by the police department on Sept. 17 shows that the overdose death occurred at the same house. A later toxicology report showed her death as associated with fentanyl overdose and methamphetamine toxicity.

The probable cause statement pertaining to Feb. 14's search also said that on Jan. 10, officers served a search warrant at the house and located

several pills that were controlled substances and over 30 grams of methamphetamine. Wright reportedly made a statement following that incident that he had "bought and sold meth to thousands of people."

In that case, Wright was charged with second-degree drug trafficking, unlawful use of a weapon by having a weapon and a felony controlled substance, and keeping or maintaining a public nuisance, all felonies.

He was released on a \$100,000 bond two days

after that arrest, court records show, and his attorney is Public Defender Larry Burton.

Court records show Wright was formally arraigned Tuesday, entered a plea of not guilty and informed Judge Ray that Burton would also be representing him in the Feb. 14 case.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Howell County Prosecutor Mike Hutchings and Assistant Prosecutor Jodi Wake. Wright has yet to have a future court date in the latest case.

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Know of an event not listed here? Email submissions by noon Fridays to news@wpdailyquill.net with “CALENDAR” in the subject line. Three sentence maximum must include event description, date, time, location, cost and source for more information. Weekly events will be printed for no more than a month at a time unless renewed by the host. Call the Quill, 417-256-9191 with questions. Unless otherwise noted, events are in West Plains.

ONGOING

Through Feb. 23 (by appointment) All are invited to receive a free heart health screening at Ozark Healthcare Family Medicine clinics, including a lipid panel, glucose, A1C and blood pressure check. To schedule, call the respective clinic: Alton, 100 Medical Drive, 417-778-7227; Gainesville, 37 Medical Drive, 417-679-4613; Mammoth Spring, 260 Main St., 870-625-3228; Mtn. Grove, 500 E. 19th St., 417-926-6563; Mtn. View, 220 N. Elm St., 417-934-2273; Thayer, 1375 Nettleton Ave., 417-265-7136; West Plains Family Medicine, 181 N. Kentucky Ave., Suite 100, 417-257-4911; West Plains Family Care, 1307 Porter Wagoner Blvd., 417-255-8645; Winona, 9104 Highway 19, 573-325-4237.

Through Feb. 29: Senior Age and the West Plains Senior Center, 416 E. Main St., offer free income tax assistance, including filing for property tax and rent rebates, to seniors. Appointments are being scheduled through February, but will continue through tax season based on interest and need. Call 417-256-4055 to schedule an appointment.

Through March 14: The West Plains Council on the Arts will display an Ozark Women Photo Exhibit by photographer Joyce McMurtrey in the Mezzanine at the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St.

Through March 15 (9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays) The West Plains Council on the Arts and West Plains Public Library partner to showcase art from students in the West Plains R-7 School District at the library, 750 W. Broadway.

Through March 31 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays), the works of local artist Janey Hale will be on display on the first floor of OzSBI, 408 Washington Ave.

Through March 31: The Ozarks Heritage Research Center inside the Garnet Library, 304 W. Trish Knight St. on the MSU-WP campus, will host an exhibit about the African American experience in the Ozarks to commemorate Black History Month in February. “African American Heritage in the Ozarks” is a traveling exhibit curated by the State Historical Society of Missouri. For more information contact Rebekah McKinney, 417-255-7949 or rebekahmckinney@missouristate.edu.

Through April (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays) Dennis Crider Photography Exhibit, “39” Retro Photos from his days at the West Plains Daily Quill, OzSBI’s second floor, 408 Washington Ave.

TODAY

Feb. 21, 28; March 6 (9:30-11 a.m.) Ozarks

Healthcare offers a weekly Breastfeeding Support Group held in the Women’s Center Education Room, 1100 Kentucky Ave.

THURSDAY

Feb. 22 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare’s Mobile Mammography Unit will be at West Plains Bank and Trust Company North Branch, 1601 Porter Wagoner Blvd. Women wishing to have a mammogram must be at least 40, have not had a mammogram in the past year, not be pregnant or breastfeeding, have no implants, have no cancer diagnosis past or present and no issues such as breast discharge, lumps, pain or discoloration. Limited appointments are available; call 417-257-5912.

Feb. 22 (6-7 p.m.) Twin Pines Conservation Education Center in Winona offers Nature Art: Pine Needlers, a 12-month program running through May that meets monthly to learn embroidery techniques and explore Missouri’s native trees. A virtual session will be held from 4-5 p.m. for those who cannot attend in person. Sign up online by going to mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com, selecting “Shannon” in the drop-down menu labeled “County,” and clicking search to scroll and find the event listed.

Feb. 22-24 (7 p.m.); Feb. 18 & 25 (3 p.m.) Alice in Wonderland presented by West Plains Playhouse, West Plains Civic Center theater, 110 St. Louis St.

FRIDAY

Feb. 23 (by appointment) West Plains R-7 School District will be offered a heart health screening at Ozark Healthcare Zizzer Clinic, including a lipid panel, glucose, A1C and blood pressure check. To schedule an appointment at the clinic, 1013 College St., call 417-505-7123.

Feb. 23 (noon to 1 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare will sponsor a Community Education Luncheon at Riverbend Restaurant, 80 Main St. in Mammoth Spring, Ark. Cardiologist Dr. A.K. George will discuss heart care. The lunch is free but reservations are required. Call 417-256-9111, ext. 6735.

Feb. 23-Mar. 24 (noon-4 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays) Annual High School Art Show Competition and Youth Art Showcase, Harlin Museum, 405 Worcester Ave.

Feb. 23 (noon to 6 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare and the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks will host a blood drive in the Willard Hunter Classroom in Parkway Center, 1211 Porter Wagoner Blvd. Schedule an appointment by calling 417-227-5006 or visiting www.cbco.org/donate-blood. Donors must bring a photo ID.

Feb. 23 (12:30-4:30 p.m.) The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the West Plains Senior Center, 110 St. Louis St. Successful donors are eligible to receive an Amazon \$20 e-gift card by mail. To sign up, go to 800-Red Cross and follow the prompts, or go to www.redcrossblood.org and follow the prompts. Donors must bring a photo ID.

SATURDAY

Feb. 24 (noon to 2 p.m.) Randi McCallian will kick off her campaign for to run as a Democratic candidate for Missouri’s 8th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives with an

event at Piney River Brewery, 15194 Walnut Grove Drive, Bucyrus, Texas County. Activist and “Dirt Road Democrat” podcast host Jess Piper will be guest speaker.

Feb. 24 (2-5 p.m.) S&S Skateland, 1649 U.S. 160, will host a Family Skate Night. The first 50 youths under 17 will be admitted free of charge. The event is sponsored by Ozarks Summit Ministries.

Feb. 24 (5 p.m.) A benefit auction and chili supper will be held to benefit the family of Toby Turnbull, who died of injuries suffered in a work accident in December, leaving behind a wife and five sons. The event will be held in the Dora School cafeteria and gym and includes a live auction by Billy Sexton. Donations of food and auction items are being accepted. For more information call 417-712-1443 or 417-712-1205.

Feb. 24 (5-8 p.m.) Foster Adopt Connect will host the Tall & Small Ball at the Candler Venue, 200 N. Main St. in Mtn. Grove. Tickets are \$40 per adult and \$20 per child and include games, cotton candy, a photo booth, a special guest for the children, and catering by Leslie’s Catering. Attendees are invited to dress as their favorite superheroes or wear semi-formal attire. Purchase tickets online at www.fosteradopt.org/event/mountain-grove-tall-and-small-ball.

Feb. 24 (5:30-8 p.m.) The 11th annual BrewFest will take place in the arena and exhibit hall of the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Lewis Street. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. Must be 21 or older to attend. Sample craft beers, kombuchas, specialty drinks, coffees and special food offerings. Proceeds benefit West Plains Council on the Arts.

MONDAY

Feb. 26 (1:30-3:40 p.m.) Missouri State University Systems presidential candidate Dr. John Jasinski will be hosted in an open forum in Fowler Lecture Hall in Looney Hall, followed by a community reception at 2:45 p.m. in the Kellett Hall parlor. All who are interested in meeting the candidates to replace retiring President Clif Smart are welcome.

TUESDAY

Feb. 27 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare’s Mobile Mammography Unit will be at West Plains Bank and Trust Company Liberty Branch, 607 N. Elm St. in Mtn. View. Women wishing to have a mammogram must be at least 40, have not had a mammogram in the past year, not be pregnant or breastfeeding, have no implants, have no cancer diagnosis past or present and no issues such as breast discharge, lumps, pain or discoloration. Limited appointments are available; call 417-257-5912.

Feb. 27 (noon) The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 695 of West Plains will meet at Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant, 1449 Preacher Roe Blvd. A presentation by Lynne Johnson will focus on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and what it offers. All active and retired federal employees and spouses are welcome.

Feb. 27 (5-7 p.m.) The Willow Springs School District will host a Community Showcase and Elementary Family Fun Night. In addition to classroom highlights and showcases by teachers and students, food trucks will be set up on the campus.

Feb. 27 (6 p.m.) The response of Missouri college presidents to desegregation in 1950 will be the topic of a Black History Month presentation by Larry Gragg of Missouri

S&T in Rolla, hosted by Ozarks Heritage Research Center in the Garnett Library, 304 W. Trish Knight St. on the MSU-WP campus. The program is free and refreshments will be provided. For more information about the presentation, contact Rebekah McKinney at 417-255-7949 or RebekahMcKinney@MissouriState.edu.

NEXT WEEK

Feb. 28 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare’s Mobile Mammography Unit will be at West Plains Bank and Trust Company Houston Branch, 1473 Sam Houston Blvd. Women wishing to have a mammogram must be at least 40, have not had a mammogram in the past year, not be pregnant or breastfeeding, have no implants, have no cancer diagnosis past or present and no issues such as breast discharge, lumps, pain or discoloration. Limited appointments are available; call 417-257-5912.

Feb. 29 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare’s Mobile Mammography Unit will be at West Plains Bank and Trust Company Willow Springs Branch, 708 E. Main St. Women wishing to have a mammogram must be at least 40, have not had a mammogram in the past year, not be pregnant or breastfeeding, have no implants, have no cancer diagnosis past or present and no issues such as breast discharge, lumps, pain or discoloration. Limited appointments are available; call 417-257-5912.

Feb. 29 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) MSU-WP will host a free career fair at the Student Recreation Center, 323 W. Trish Knight St. Employers wishing to reserve a booth should call 417-255-7230 or email wpcareer@missouristate.edu before Feb. 22.

Feb. 29 (1:30-3:40 p.m.) Missouri State University Systems presidential candidate Dr. Roger Thompson will be hosted in an open forum in Fowler Lecture Hall in Looney Hall, followed by a community reception at 2:45 p.m. in the Kellett Hall parlor. All who are interested in meeting the candidates to replace retiring President Clif Smart are welcome.

March 1 (10 a.m.) The Spring River Gem & Mineral Club will host a solar presentation by NASA Ambassador Dr. David Thomas during its monthly meeting at Thunderbird Center, 62 N. Lakeshore Road in Cherokee Village, Ark. The presentation is free and open to the public.

March 1 (3-8 p.m.) and 2 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) The 32nd annual Southern Missouri Builders Association Home & Garden Show will be held at the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St. A two-day pass may be purchased for \$5 per person and children 12 and younger are admitted free of charge. Call 417-256-2422 for more information.

March 2 (10 a.m.) The Howell County Republican Caucus will be held at the National Guard Armory, 1315 Webster Ave. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; attendees must be in line to register by 10 a.m. to participate. The caucus will replace the normal presidential primary, and is the process for sending delegates to the Republican National Convention. Voters must be a registered Howell County voter and must bring a valid government-issued photo ID. For more information and to preregister, visit Missouri.gop.

March 2 (2-4 p.m.) A reception for photographer Joyce McMurtrey, whose works “Ozark Women” are on display, will be hosted by the West Plains Council on the Arts in the gallery on the mezzanine in the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St.

March

Mar. 8 (7 p.m.) Stars Foundation Irish Dance Performance, civic center theater.

March 9 (7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) The Salem (Ark.) High School Beta Club will hold its 13th annual Beta Bass Tournament on Lake Norfolk at Henderson, Ark. Fishing begins at 7:30 and return time is 3:30. Registration opens at 6 a.m. the day of the event, with an entry fee of \$100 per boat and an optional \$10 trash fit pot. Cash prizes of between \$200 and \$1,000 will be awarded for big bass and the top three placers. Sponsors welcome. For more information call 870-895-5929 or 870-750-1039 and ask for Kim.

March 9 (8 a.m.) Ozarks Healthcare offer single-session Prepared Childbirth classes recommended for parents in the second semester of pregnancy. Covered are breathing techniques, relaxation methods, support strategies and insights into labor, delivery and C-sections. Classes are held in the Women’s Center Education Room, 1100 Kentucky Ave. No charge for those planning to deliver at OZH; for those planning to deliver elsewhere, there is a one-time \$75 charge to attend one or all new parent classes offered.

March 12 (8-11 a.m.) Ozarks Healthcare will offer low-cost lab screenings including those for blood sugar levels, cholesterol, thyroid function, calcium levels, diabetes, prostate cancer and vitamin D levels. The cost per screening ranges from between \$15 to \$35, cash or check only. Visit the Alton, Gainesville, Mtn. Grove, Mtn. View, Thayer or Winona clinics, or the West Plains walk-in clinic at 181 Kentucky Ave., or OZH Lab Services at 1100 Kentucky Ave.

March 12 (6-8 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare offer single-session Preparing for Breastfeeding classes recommended for expectant mothers. Classes are held in the Women’s Center Education Room, 1100 Kentucky Ave. No charge for those planning to deliver at OZH; for those planning to deliver elsewhere, there is a one-time \$75 charge to attend one or all new parent classes offered.

March 12 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Tara Shahan will lead a workshop, hosted by the West Plains Council on the Arts, to create a bee-themed porch leaner. Cost is \$50 and includes all supplies for the class, which will be held in the Dogwood Rooms of the West Plains Civic Center, 110 St. Louis St. Reserve a spot through the “Bee Porch Learning” event on Eventbrite.com, or text Paula at 417-293-2325.

March 14-April 18 (4 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare’s Behavioral Health Center is launching a new six-week Social Skills Group for children ages 8 through 12. Class will meet weekly Thursdays at 23 Parkway Center, 1211 Porter Wagoner Blvd. and are designed to enhance children’s social abilities through fun, engaging activities. To schedule a required intake assessment and learn more about enrolling, call 417-257-6762.

March 19 (5:30-8 p.m.) Ozarks Small Business Incubator, MSU-WP, the Missouri Small Business Development Center and other partners will host a South Central Missouri Early-Stage Business Boot Camp eight-series workshop. Sessions will be held Tuesday evenings through May 7. Sign up and get more information online at efactory.missouristate.edu/bootcamp.

March 19 (6-8 p.m.) Ozarks Healthcare offer single-session Heart Saver

Infant CPR classes recommended for new parents in the third semester of pregnancy up to a year after birth. Covered are basic resuscitation skills for use on an infant. Classes are held in the Women’s Center Education Room, 1100 Kentucky Ave. No charge for those planning to deliver at OZH; for those planning to deliver elsewhere, there is a one-time \$75 charge to attend one or all new parent classes offered.

March 20 (by appointment) Junction Hill School will hold preschool and kindergarten screenings for children residing within the school district who will be 4 and 5 respectively by Aug. 1. Call 417-256-4265 to request an appointment; spots will be filled on first-come, first-serve basis. Bring the child’s birth certificate, shot records and proof of residency within the Junction Hill School District to the appointment. Screenings are expected to take about an hour to complete.

March 21-23: The West Plains Citywide Yardsale. The \$1 yard sale permit fee is waived for these three days.

March 21 (1:30-3:30 p.m.) The West Plains Senior Center, 416 E. Main St., will host a town hall meeting, “Let’s Talk About Social Issues,” in partnership with Senior Age Area Agency on Aging. Topics of discussion will include health, transportation, safety, security and daily life. The event is free and open to the public. Call 417-256-4055 for more information.

March 22 (by appointment) Fairview School will hold preschool and kindergarten screenings for children residing within the school district who will be 4 and 5 respectively by Aug. 1. Call 417-256-3868 to request an appointment. Bring the child’s Social Security number, birth certificate, shot records and proof of residency to the appointment.

March 25-29: West Plains Spring Cleanup Week. Extra items will be picked up on customers’ normal trash day. Categories to be picked up include regular trash; furniture and mattresses, wrapped; appliances with special conditions for fridges and freezers; yard waste, excepting brush; and recyclables. Tire pickup may be arranged for a fee. Call 417-255-2330 or visit westplains.gov for more information.

April

April 5-8: Party in the Path, a four-day festival celebrating the total solar eclipse’s path with just over three minutes of totality in West Plains, will feature live music, a mural painting, self-guided tours, a 5K, vendors, “Cosmic Carnival” for kids, duck races, a Neon Parade, dice run, Hot Air Balloon Glow, fireworks and food trucks. Details are still coming together. Watch explore-westplains.com/tse or follow [@eclipsewestplains](https://www.facebook.com/eclipsewestplains) on Facebook for updates.

April 5 (7 p.m.) 38 Special will perform a concert at the West Plains Civic Center, with the Ozark Mountain Daredevils. Purchase tickets by calling 417-256-8087 or go online to ticketmaster.com. This event is part of the Party on the Path eclipse festivities.

April 6 (7:30 p.m.) Save the date for the Neon Parade in downtown West Plains. This event is part of the Party on the Path eclipse festivities. Volunteers are needed.

April 8: All Ozarka College campuses will be closed due to the solar eclipse and anticipated influx of visitors. The Paul Miller Fitness Center in Melbourne will also be closed.



National FFA WEEK

February 17-24



From left, JD Hughes, Kaleb Myers, Austin Anderson, Rylee Barton, Jake Myers, Caeson Basham and Levi Townsend make up the Alton FFA Trap Team.



Alton FFA members, from left, Allison Conner, Kaylynn Nash, Kagen Hollis and Layni Warren participate in a food science class.



From left, FFA members Logan Kennedy, Kaleb Myers, Rylee Barton, Kaylee McEntire, Erica Bell, Alee Willard, Jaylee Reese and Katie Smith attended the Area 16 Fall Speaking Contest.

The Alton FFA Grasslands Team consists of, from left, Emma Trantham, Chaney Janes, Jorja King and Emily Sisco.



The Alton FFA chapter held its annual Barnwarming event on Dec. 1, 2023.



Alton FFA members are, in no particular order, Seth Trantham, Trevor Cunningham, Trenton Cunningham, Chayton Croslow, Sawyer Roberts, Xavier Carson, Jerome Hughes, Landon Ray, Kayden Ray, Chaney Janes, Jorja King, Austin Anderson, John Corporal, Cole German, Brexton Weyland, Thomas Bettis, Ethan Connor, James Wilson, Kaleb Myers, Dylan Green, Tucker Combs, Dillon Weyland, Mckilie Biggs, Elektra Briggs, Emily Sisco, Keisha Briggs, Erica Bell, Abby Wilson, Aiden Muller, Emma Trantham, Kaylee Latham, Christopher Smith, Lane Medlin, Jaylee Reese, Katie Smith, Alee Willard, Callie Steele, Layni Warren, Riley Nelson, Dylan Joyce, Logan Kennedy and Shelby Ledgerwoo. They are joined by Adviser Byron Rikard, front row, right. Kelsie Orr is also an adviser. COURTESY PHOTOS / ALTON FFA

DORA FFA



Dora High School FFA members, front row from left: President Chloe Barton, Vice President Wilson Masters, Secretary Lathan Smith and Treasurer Jace Turner. Second row: Reporter Nicole Turnbull, Alexander Newman, Blaine Watkins, Addison Simpson, Haley Perkins and Historian Serena Housely. Third row: Bratin Wright, Marcus Lasley, Clyde Coble, Levi Wichman, Charli Howard and Nikki Enos. Fourth row: Kaleb Herring, Clayton Collins, Connor Lovan and Trenton Rogers. Back row: Emma Matney, John Kinder, Bryan Smith and Hanna Bunch. COURTESY / DORA FFA

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OBITUARIES

Juanita Crawford
Feb. 16, 1933 – Feb. 16, 2024



Graveside services for Juanita Faye Crawford, 91, West Plains, Mo., will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at Howell Memorial Park Cemetery, under the direction of Robertson-Drago Funeral Home.

Mrs. Crawford went to be with her Heavenly Father on her birthday, Feb. 16, 2024, at Brooke Haven Healthcare. What a way to celebrate a birthday — being greeted by Jesus.

She was the daughter of the late James F. and Ruth (Murfin) Roberts.

Juanita was a 1958 graduate of Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Mo., with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She did her student teaching at Greenwood Laboratory School Missouri State, Springfield. Juanita did graduate work at Drury College, Springfield, and University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. She had a life time teaching certificate for all elementary grades and also a life time certificate in

remedial reading.

In the fall of 1952, she started teaching. Juanita taught for four years in Hartshorn, Mo., one year in Licking, Mo., and 28 years in Summersville, Mo. She retired in 1985 after 33 years of teaching. Juanita was a devoted teacher and held each student dear to her. She wanted to do everything she could to ensure each student would be a successful adult.

On Dec. 25, 1957, she was married in Houston, Mo., to Robert F. Crawford, who preceded her in death on Nov. 29, 2020.

Juanita was a member of First Baptist Church, Summersville. Until moving to West Plains, she served in the capacity of Sunday School teacher, WMU director and director of visitation at Mtn. View Health Care.

She was a member of The Order of Eastern Star, having earned her 50-year pin. Mrs. Crawford was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority since March 1959.

Juanita was the second of nine children. She was a “little mother” to all eight of her siblings. She was a loving Christian, a devoted wife and a loving, caring and compassionate individual. She loved to read, sew and spend time with her family. God and family were

always her priority.

She is survived by one brother Robert W. Roberts and wife Bonnye, Springfield; three sisters, Donna Zwiener, Huntsville, Ala., Brenda Collins and husband Bruce, and Linda Gould and husband, Ron, both of West Plains; three sisters-in-law Ruth Roberts and Carolee Roberts, both of Springfield, and Evelyn Gant, St. Louis; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Her parents; husband; four brothers George, James Jr., Dean and William C. Roberts; two sisters-in-law Verna and Gloria Roberts; one brother-in-law James Zwiener; and two nephews Christopher Collins and James F. Roberts III preceded her in death.

A very special thank you to Dr. Swift and Brooke Haven Healthcare and their staff for the loving care shown and provided to our precious sister, Juanita, these past few years.

Visitation services will be held from 1 until 2 p.m. Friday at Robertson-Drago Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer’s Association 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.

Dixie Carter
Jan. 25, 1942 – Jan. 18, 2024

Dixie Jean Carter, born Jan. 25, 1942, in Des Moines, Iowa, peacefully passed away at the age of 81 in the Vici Nursing Home in Vici, Okla. She was the second child of Willard and Vivian (Bickle) Hotze. In 1944, the family relocated to Oakland, Calif., and later settled in Hayward, Calif.

In 1957, Dixie embarked on the journey of marriage with Richard Cooper, and together they welcomed a daughter named

Maryann in 1958. In 1960, she found love again with Walter Daugherty, leading to the birth of a son, Ricky, in 1961, and a daughter, Janice, in 1967. In 1974, Dixie entered into a lifelong commitment with Leonard Carter.

Dixie was a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 1991, finding solace and community in her faith. Her life was marked by love, commitment and the joy of family.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Leonard Carter, daughter and son-in-law Janice Hansen and George, her parents Willard and Vivian Hotze, stepmother Johanna Hotze and brothers Arne Hotze and Danny Hotze.

Dixie leaves behind a legacy of love through her surviving children: Mary Ann LaMear and Bud of Spokane, Wash., and Ricky Daugherty and Linda of

Atascadero, Calif. She is also remembered by her sister Delores Ross of Fremont, Calif.

Dixie’s memory lives on through her cherished grandchildren: Misty Lachelle and Terry LaMear of Spokane; Ricky, Amber, Mindy, Courtney, and Chris Daugherty of Atascadero; and Christopher Carter, Charlene Petrea, Nicole Petrea and Robert Cervantes of West Plains, Mo., and Karissa Gordon of Elk City, Okla.

In celebrating Dixie’s life, let us remember the warmth of her love, the strength of her spirit and the enduring legacy she leaves behind. May she rest in peace, surrounded by the love she shared with her family and friends.

Burial was Sunnyside Cemetery on Jan. 24, 2024. Condolences may be made to the family at shawfuneralhome.net. Shaw Funeral Home of Vici, Okla.

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.

Services offered by funeral homes explained



(Metro Creative) The period surrounding the death of a loved one can be difficult to navigate. Mourning a recently deceased family member or friend can dominate individuals’ thoughts, compromising their ability to devote much time and energy to anything else.

Some people decide to preplan their funerals in an effort to ensure their wishes are honored upon their death. Preplanning also can afford survivors more time to grieve and ensure they won’t need to make hard decisions at a difficult time in their lives.

When a deceased individual makes no such plans, family members are tasked with planning the funeral, a process that can be simplified with the help of experienced staff at a nearby funeral home. Funeral homes offer an array of services that can ensure ceremonies honor the life of the deceased and take some of the pressure off that person’s surviving family members.

- Honor the deceased: No two people are the same, so there’s no one-size-fits-all template for a funeral service. Funeral home staff recognize that and can often help families identify unique traits about the deceased that can be conveyed during the ceremony. Whether it’s playing a favorite song or choosing an especially meaningful passage from a religious text or a favorite book, funeral home staff will work with families to personalize the ceremony as

- much as loved ones desire.
- Establish the desired ambiance: Funerals tend to be somber, but they also can be celebratory. Funeral home staff can help families establish the desired tone of the service by showcasing how the viewing space can be decorated and prepared for visitations.
- Organize the ceremony: Funeral home staff also can help grieving families organize the ceremony, including contacting clergy to preside over the service. Funeral staff also may reach out to extended family members who immediate family may want to perform certain functions in the ceremony, such as reading passages and serving as pallbearers. Funeral directors also may request military honors for the ceremony if the deceased is a veteran.
- Burial details: If the deceased is being buried, funeral staff can contact local cemetery officials and get the details on the purchase of a plot if no plot has been purchased previously. Funeral staff also can help families choose a casket and burial liner and organize additional details that grieving relatives may know little about. If the deceased is being cremated, funeral home staff can coordinate the cremation process and help family members choose an appropriate urn.

Funeral homes provide an array of invaluable services to families mourning the loss of a loved one.

Explore resources for caregivers

Caregivers are called on to step in for any number of reasons. Some serve as companions to the elderly, while others assist those with debilitating diseases like cancer. While many caregivers are professionals hired for their services, a good number of caregivers are informal — meaning they are family members or friends assisting loved ones.

Even though they are trying to help others, caregivers often must confront a form of stress known as caregiver burnout. The Cleveland Clinic states this stress is marked physical, emotional and mental exhaustion that occurs in caregivers. This burnout may lead to fatigue, anxiety and depression.

While there may not be a way to completely eliminate all caregiving stress, there are some ways to prevent burnout. Utilizing various resources can be a start. Here’s a look at some available caregiver resources.

- Trusted friend: Find someone you trust with whom you can discuss your feelings, including any frustration you may feel. This can be a neighbor or a coworker with whom you feel comfortable sharing personal details.
- Support groups: Support groups can provide safe spaces to vent with others who are in the same boat. Houses of worship may host support groups, or you can find out about meetings through hospitals or from personal doctors. The National Family Caregiver Support Program was established in 2000 and provides grants to states and territories to fund a range of sup-



port that assists family and informal caregivers to care for their loved ones at home for as long as possible. Other groups include Caregiver Action Network and Family Caregiver Alliance.

- Respite care services: Respite care services provide temporary breaks for caregivers by enabling the sick, elderly or injured to stay in care facilities for anywhere from a couple of hours to a few days. Some respite care services will provide short-

- term, in-home care as well.
- Professional therapist: Many therapists are trained to counsel individuals who have particular issues. Some may specialize in grief or even caregiver needs. Utilize their services if speaking with a confidante is not enough.

Caregivers often put the needs of others before their own. But they may need a little help along the way, which is where caregiver resources can come into play.

DEATH NOTICES

Charles Sconce

Charles Duane Sconce, 87, Nixa. Died at 8:22 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at his home. Yarber Mortuary, Winona.

Kay Kenaga

Kay Kenaga, 60, West Plains. Died Friday, Feb. 15, 2024, at her home. Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, West Plains.

David Cole

David Morris Cole, 77, West Plains. Died at 10:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at his home. Robertson-Drago Funeral Home, West Plains.

Sheryl Sandhaus

Sheryl Rose Sandhaus, 64, Mtn. View. Died at 7:10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at her home. Yarber Mortuary, Mtn. View.

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TCMH offers free colon cancer screening kits

The American Cancer Society designates March as colorectal cancer awareness month. In observance, Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston offers free colorectal cancer screenings in March.

Area residents may contact TCMH for a free colon cancer screening kit through March 29. The screening includes a fecal occult blood test kit for those who are older than 50 or for those who are younger if they have risk factors for colorectal cancer. The kit and information about colorectal cancer will be mailed to participants. Instructions will be included with the kit.

Colorectal cancer is the number fourth most common type of cancer killer in Missouri and the third leading cause of cancer death in the U.S., officials note.

However, the American College of Gastroenterolo-

gists calls colorectal cancer one of the most preventable and curable types of cancer when detected early. One way to detect colorectal cancer early is to be screened using the fecal occult blood test.

The American Cancer Society recommends that people 45 and older who are at average risk follow these screening guidelines for colon cancer: yearly fecal occult blood test, flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, double contrast barium enema every five years and colonoscopy every 10 years. A person who has a family history or a personal history of colorectal cancer, polyps, or inflammatory bowel disease may begin colorectal cancer screening at an earlier age as directed by a physician.

There are several symptoms of colorectal cancer. Symptoms may include a change in bowel habits such as diarrhea,

constipation or narrowing of the stool that lasts for more than a few days; a feeling of needing to have a bowel movement that is not relieved by doing so; rectal bleeding or blood in the stool; cramping or steady abdominal pain or weakness and fatigue.

Other health conditions may also cause these symptoms. Only a physician can determine the cause of suspicious symptoms. Individuals should discuss any symptoms with their physician as early as possible.

To request a free kit or more information about colon cancer, contact Jason Mayberry, education director at TCMH, by calling 866-967-3311 or 417-967-1340, or emailing Mayberry@tcmh.org. Leave a name, address and phone number when calling or emailing for a kit.

All kits must be returned to TCMH by April 15 for processing.

Food recalls, explained

By Justin Frazier, Specialist,
Environmental Public Health,
Howell County Health Department

A recall is a tool used by a company to remove products from sale that may be defective or harmful. Most recalls are voluntary actions taken by a company.

When food recalls are announced, the appropriate governmental agency reviews that announcement and assigns a classification based on the reason for the recall. Some recalls may have illness outbreaks or injury reports related to them. Others have tested positive for undeclared al-

lergens or pathogens.

The recall announcement is reviewed by either the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Consumers can find the recall announcements posted on these agencies' web pages.

In an effort to better serve Missouri citizens, the Department of Health and Senior Services receives these announcements and reviews them to see how Missouri citizens are affected by the recall. Companies that issue recall notifications that list products that may have been distributed to Missouri or neighboring states are contacted by the department to determine distribution. Recalls specific to Missouri are posted to the department's recall web page.

When a recalled product is available at retail food establishments in Missouri, the information on distribution is shared with local public health agencies. With this distribution information, food safety inspectors across the state assure that the recalled products have been removed from sale.

Find information on recalls at the following site: www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts. People can also visit health.mo.gov/safety/foodrecalls.



FOR YOUR HEALTH:

Looking after heart health reduces cancer risk, too

By Dr. Graham A. Colditz,
Siteman Cancer Center

The month of Valentine's Day, February is also American Heart Month – both highlighting matters of the heart.

And while Heart Month might arrive with fewer candies and flowers than Valentine's Day, it doesn't lack for importance when it comes to overall health.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of men and women in the U.S., causing nearly 700,000 deaths each year. More positively, there are ways to reduce your risk, and your family's. Eighty percent or more of heart disease cases could be avoided with healthy lifestyle changes and preventive health care. And most steps may already be familiar, including making healthy food choices and being more physically active.

drinking is best.

- Getting screening tests for certain cancers and heart disease risk factors. Talk with a doctor about which apply to you.

As important as these healthy behaviors are, it can still take some effort to put them in place, and making a plan can improve our chances of making it happen.

“Choosing a behavior that can be integrated into everyday life is key,” said Erika Waters, a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis who specializes in behavior change research. “Then, make a small goal for change.”

This approach helps set the stage for success that we can then build on. Being detailed about a goal helps even more.

“Specify what, when, where and for how long,” added Waters.



American Heart Month, and the healthy behaviors it focuses on, is a great way to think about steps we can take to lower our risk of heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases.

“Changing behavior isn't always easy,” Waters concluded. “But having better health and well-being will make it worthwhile!”

It's your health. Take control.

For more ways to improve overall health, visit 8ways.wustl.edu.

Dr. Graham A. Colditz, associate director of prevention and control at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is an internationally recognized leader in cancer prevention and the creator of the free prevention tool YourDiseaseRisk.com.

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Ava License Office contract up for bid

The Missouri Department of Revenue has announced a request for proposals (RFP) for the license office located at 301 S. Spurlock St., Suite B, in Ava. Bids will be accepted starting March 6, and must be submitted by March 19.

For a list of bid opportunities and bid response instructions, visit Missouri's statewide electronic procurement system, MissouriBUYS, at missouribuy.com. Interested groups or individuals who wish to bid to operate the Mtn. View License Office must have an active Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) and must submit the proposal under the legal entity name for which the FEIN was assigned.

The Missouri Department of Revenue, through the Office of Administration, is posting an RFP for the Ava License Office contract, since the current contract is close to expiring. Interested bidders have about 10 business days to submit their proposal for the operation of the license office in the competitive bid process, as outlined in the RFP. A scheduled tour of the current location may be requested by emailing the procurement contact listed on MissouriBUYS.

Proposals will be evaluated on items as outlined in the RFP. All of the proposals will be evaluated by a review team at the Department of Revenue, and the proposal that scores best in the areas outlined in the RFP will be selected to operate the office.

Resources to Help Guide Potential Bidders:

- Missouri License Office Locations — dor.mo.gov/license-office-locator
- Estimated Transactions and Processing Fees Collected at Missouri License Offices FY22 — dor.mo.gov/contact/documents/FY2022MVandDLEstimatedTransactionsandProcessingFeesSummary.pdf
- Recent Evaluations of Awarded Bids — dor.mo.gov/resources/purchasing

License offices are operated by independent contractors and are overseen by the Missouri Department of Revenue. All license office contracts in Missouri are awarded through a competitive bid process.

FNBC hires SBA business development officer

Nelson Lively has been hired by FNBC Bank, the \$800 million asset community bank headquartered in Ash Flat, Ark., as business development officer for its U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Lending Division.

"I am excited to have Nelson join our growing team of SBA lending experts," said Edward Haddock, senior vice president for small business lending. "I have known and worked with Nelson in the past and am confident his immense SBA knowledge will serve FNBC and its clients well."

Lively brings more than 20 years of banking and business development experience, most recently working as an SBA broker, said bank officials. In this new role, they explained, he will be responsible for developing growth strategies that increase FNBC's production of govern-

ment-guaranteed SBA 7(a) loans, as well as actively prospecting and cultivating a network of strategic partnerships that generate new business opportunities for FNBC's SBA Lending Division.

He will serve prospects and clients throughout FNBC's Arkansas and Missouri footprint and beyond.

"Helping small businesses succeed is my passion," said Nelson. "I am looking forward to working with Edward and all of the SBA team at FNBC to continue to foster new relationships and grow the SBA portfolio."

Nelson, and his wife Kate reside in Cabot, a suburb of Little Rock, Ark., and have two children and five grandchildren. He is an active member of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

FNBC, which has 14 offices throughout north central and northeast Arkansas,



Nelson Lively

and south-central Missouri, formed its Small Business Division in 2018 and became an SBA Preferred Lender by the U.S. Small Business Administration later that same year.

Kim Worlow to return to OzSBI

The Ozarks Small Business Incubator has two workshops planned with Kim Worlow in February and March: The Five Dysfunctions of a Team and Creating Influence Through Communication Styles.

Worlow is a leadership development coach and trainer who conducts professional leadership development oppor-

tunities for managers, supervisors and individuals seeking to achieve their best personally and professionally.

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team is a full-day workshop on common dysfunctions of teams and how they can be overcome to create a functional and cohesive unit. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 28 at OzSBI,

408 Washington Ave.

Creating Influence Through Communication Styles is another full-day workshop on becoming an effective communicator and leader. It will be held from 9 to 4 p.m. March 27, also at OzSBI.

The cost for each is \$220 for the public and \$175 for OzSBI members, including lunch.

For more information or to register, call 417-256-9724 or go to ozsbi.com/events.

Willow Springs chamber updates

Ozarks Family YMCA, Everything Longer and Jasper Engines & Transmissions.

Chamber board members and officers elected for the 2024 year are President Tammy Schulz, Ozark Marketing; Vice President Mary Aye, Simmons Bank; Treasurer Robert Hollis,

Shelter Insurance; John Bailey, Bailey Chevrolet; Dr. Ann Hines, Mainstreet Wellness Center; Melody Lien, Blue Buck Flower Farm; and ex-officio member Kim Fredrick, West Plains Bank and Trust Company-Willow Springs Branch.



WEST PLAINS AREA

Business Directory

Local business owner named to Who's Who

By **KIMBERLY LANGSTON**, KIMBERLYL@WPDAILYQUILL.NET

Chad Collins, owner of Triple C Cycle West Plains for over 15 years, has been recognized for more than 28 years in the motorcycle service industry by induction into the Marquis Who's Who biographical registry.

Triple C Cycle was located for many years off of Broadway in West Plains, but outgrew that footprint and is now located just west of town at 4961 W. U.S. 160. He has a staff of three, including sons Caden, who is in charge

of retail operations, and Chad, who is a mechanic along with Richie Sharp.

His wife, JoBeth, is also involved in keeping the business financial records.

The registry notes he is a graduate of the American Motorcycle Institute in Daytona Beach, Fla., and has had a passion for Harley Davidson motorcycles since childhood, and Triple C Cycle specializes in the brand as an independent dealer, retailer of brand items and accessories, and as a repair shop.

Marquis Whos' Who noted Collins emphasizes his family's involvement in the independently-owned business and keeps a focus on maintaining personal relationships with his clients, and commented that many have been customers since Collins started repairing motorcycles at age 20.

His custom motorcycle builds have been featured in magazine articles in Biker in July 2005, The Ride in 2003 and The Cycle Source in July 2023.

As for the future, Collins plans to continue spending quality time with his family and more time going on scenic motorcycle rides, including scenic excursions through the Smoky Mountains and the Rockies, "embracing the freedom and adventure that riding offers," Marquis Who's Who added, concluding that "Mr. Collins stands as a distinguished figure in the motorcycle industry and an exemplary member of Marquis Who's Who."



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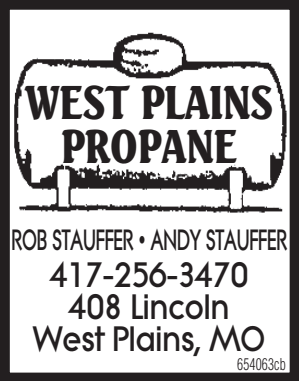
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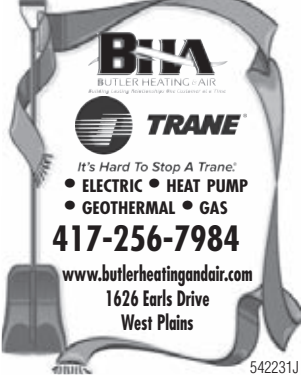
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ed, concluding that "Mr. Collins stands as a distinguished figure in the motorcycle industry and an exemplary member of Marquis Who's Who."

The publication was established in 1899 and includes biographies of individuals showing high achievement in many fields, including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment.

Follow Triple C Cycle @ChadMCollins on Facebook or call 417-256-8200 for more information.



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Triple C Cycle owner Chad Collins has been recognized in the Marquis Who's Who collection for more than 28 years in the motorcycle service industry. Triple C Cycle is located at 4961 W. U.S. 160 just west of West Plains. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. COURTESY



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Embrace the Flame:

Cedar plank salmon and revolutionary sweet potatoes

By Chris Herbolsheimer

Hello fellow food lovers, and welcome back to my kitchen. Today we'll dive into an exceptionally detailed and exciting recipe for Cedar Plank Salmon, complemented by a unique and flavorful preparation of sweet potatoes. This combination is not just a meal; it's an adventure for your taste buds, a journey through textures and aromas that promise to elevate your dining experience to new heights.

The Main Attraction: Cedar Plank Salmon

- Ingredients:
- 1 large cedar plank (at least as long as your salmon fillet and preferably untreated)
 - 2 lbs of wild-caught salmon fillet, skin on
 - 2 tablespoons of olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons of fresh dill, finely chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 lemon, thinly sliced
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
 - 1 tablespoon of honey
 - 1 tablespoon of Dijon mustard

Cedar Plank Preparation:

Soak Your Cedar Plank: Start by immersing your cedar plank in water for at least 4 hours, or even better, overnight. This is crucial to prevent it from catching fire. For an added twist, consider soaking it in apple cider, beer, or wine to infuse your salmon with additional flavors.

Salmon Preparation:

Marinate the Salmon: In a small bowl, mix olive oil, dill, minced garlic, a pinch of salt, and black pepper. Spread this mixture over

the salmon fillet. Cover and let it marinate in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.

Preheat Your Grill: Aim for a medium-high heat. If using an oven, preheat it to 375°F (190°C).

Prepare the Plank: Remove the plank from the soaking liquid and place it on the grill for about 3 minutes per side to dry it out slightly and enhance its smoky aroma.

Cook the Salmon: Place the salmon skin-side down on the plank. Arrange the lemon slices over the top. Mix honey and Dijon mustard, and drizzle it over the salmon. Close the grill lid or place in the oven, and cook for 12-15 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillet.

Check for Doneness: The salmon is done when it flakes easily with a fork but is still moist inside. Avoid overcooking to maintain its delicate texture.

The Side Show: Sweet Potatoes Like Never Before

- Ingredients:
- 4 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 - 2 tablespoons of olive oil
 - 2 teaspoons of smoked paprika
 - 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
 - 1/2 teaspoon of cayenne pepper (adjust to taste)
 - Salt to taste
 - 1/4 cup of maple syrup
 - 1/4 cup of chopped pecans
 - 2 tablespoons of fresh rosemary, finely chopped

Preparation:

Preheat the Oven: Set your oven to 400°F (200°C).

Season the Sweet Potatoes: In a large bowl, toss the sweet potato cubes with olive oil, smoked paprika, cinnamon, cayenne pepper, and a generous

pinch of salt until well coated.

Roast: Spread the sweet potatoes in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Roast for 20 minutes.

Add Maple and Pecans: Remove the sweet potatoes from the oven. Drizzle with maple syrup and sprinkle with chopped pecans. Toss to combine.

Final Roast: Return to the oven and roast for an additional 10-15 minutes, or until the sweet potatoes are tender and the edges are caramelized.

Finish with Rosemary: Once out of the oven, sprinkle the sweet potatoes with fresh rosemary. The heat will release its aroma, adding a final layer of flavor.

Plating Your Masterpiece

Arrange the cedar plank salmon on a large serving platter. The rich, smoky aroma of cedar mingled with the succulent, flavorful salmon will be the centerpiece. On the side, serve a generous helping of the sweet potatoes, their sweetness and spice perfectly balancing the salmon's richness.

This meal is not just food; it's an experience. The cedar plank imparts a smoky flavor that is both subtle and enchanting, perfectly complementing the natural richness of the salmon. The sweet potatoes, with their complex blend of spices, sweetness, and a hint of heat, stand as a testament to the power of side dishes to elevate a meal from great to unforgettable.

As you savor each bite, let the flavors transport you. This isn't just dinner; it's a journey—a celebration of the fusion of textures, tastes, and aromas that only the most passionate of culinary adventures can provide. Happy eating!

“GO FARM” FARMERS MARKET



Shane and Sally Little.

Our Saturday morning markets continue to be in full swing with so many great local goods for the whole family!

To keep you healthy and well we have Elderberry Tonic from Farmer Little's booth, ginger shots in various flavors from Rons' Microgreens, kombucha and fermented foods from Falling Springs Farm and raw local honey from Ozark Fruit Company/Three Oaks Farm.

Morrison Family Farms are providing the market with their grass-fed beef and pork. Their locally raised animals are not given any antibiotics or hormones, and they have nitrate and nitrite free sausage products available.

Shrimp Runner will have his Louisiana Boil and fresh Gulf shrimp, fish, crawfish and more! Finn's Farm has whole smoked chickens.

Do your grocery shopping with us with all local products! Our vendors are bringing farm fresh eggs, pickled veggies, sauces including hot sauces, pickles, Dim Sum, pot stickers, meats, whole smoked chickens, jams, syrups, gourmet baked goods, microgreens, freeze dried candies and treats, bread, Artisan Crafters and more.

Jason Kemper will be at the market every Saturday (when it's not raining) selling mixed grass and hybrid Bermuda hay; great for cattle, horses, sheep and goats. Small bale size 14x18x36.

Our Pop-up Market at 410 Washington Ave regular hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, the last day we will be there is next Feb. 29. Vendors have beef, pork, chicken, Elderberry Tonic, tinctures and



Farmer Little's Elderberry Tonic.

salves, kombucha, honey, fermented foods, eggs, gourmet baked goods, jams, syrups, pickles, sauces, freeze dried treats, dog treats, t-shirts, wood-working and more!

All updated information will be on our social media pages Friday afternoon. You can call 417-293-0590 for updates if you do not have a computer or social media. We are in the Endurance Church parking lot next to Hirsch, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, weather permitting, text/call 417-293-0590 if in doubt. Check our Facebook page for the latest updates at "Go Farm" Farmers Market of West Plains. EBT, cash, credit, and debit are all accepted.



Double Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

I got bored the other day, finally cleaned out my recipe drawers, and found an old family favorite from decades ago. If you like peanut butter and who doesn't this recipe is a must to try and pass along. It's great for gatherings as it makes a cookie sheet size cake and keeps well for several days, but not in our house. It's recipes like this that take you back in time and those are the best food memories to savor. One day I will organize my recipes and hopefully compile a family cookbook so the memories and traditions can continue through the generations. Enjoy this blast from the past foodies, we sure will.

Double Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Frosting

- 2 sticks (1 cup) butter, softened
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 to 4 tablespoons milk
- 2 tablespoons instant vanilla pudding mix

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 10x15x1 inch jellyroll pan. I use a medium cookie sheet.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking soda, and salt.

Combine 1 1/2 sticks butter and 1 cup water in a medium saucepan and bring to a simmer. Stir to make sure all butter is melted.

Whisk 1/2 cup peanut butter and vegetable oil into butter mixture. Stir into flour mixture.

Whisk together eggs, buttermilk, and vanilla extract. Stir into flour mixture until well combined.

Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake for 22 to 26 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Let cool.

To make Frosting,

Use an electric mixer to beat butter and peanut butter together until smooth.

Add half of confectioners' sugar and half of milk and beat until smooth.

Add remaining confectioners' sugar, milk and the vanilla pudding mix and beat until smooth. Add a little more milk if necessary. Frost once cooled.

The health wonders of avocados

Avocados, often hailed as a superfood, are a unique and versatile fruit that has captured the attention and palates of health enthusiasts around the world. Packed with essential nutrients, avocados offer a myriad of health benefits that contribute to overall well-being. This article delves into the numerous health advantages of incorporating avocados into your diet.

Avocados are rich in vitamins and minerals, including Vitamin K, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, Potassium (which they contain more of than bananas), and B-vitamins. They are also a good source of fiber, which aids in digestion and helps maintain a healthy gut. Notably, avocados are low in sugar and high in monounsaturated fats, specifically oleic acid, which is known for its heart-healthy properties.

The monounsaturated fats in avocados can have a significant impact on heart health. These fats help reduce levels of bad LDL cholesterol while increasing the good HDL cholesterol, thereby reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke. Additionally, the potassium content in avocados helps control blood pressure levels, further supporting heart health.

Despite being high in fat, avocados can be a beneficial part of a weight management plan. The fiber and fat content can help you feel full and sat-

isfied, reducing the urge to overeat. Studies have shown that incorporating avocados into meals can increase feelings of satiety and reduce desire to eat for many hours, making it easier to manage calorie intake.

The antioxidants and vitamins in avocados, such as Vitamin E and Vitamin C, play a crucial role in skin health. They can help protect the skin from oxidative damage caused by the sun and environmental factors, contributing to a healthier and more youthful appearance. Additionally, avocados contain lutein and zeaxanthin, antioxidants that are beneficial for eye health and can reduce the risk of macular degeneration and cataracts.

Avocados contain compounds that have anti-inflammatory properties, such as polyphenols and flavonoids. Chronic inflammation is linked to a variety of health issues, including arthritis, heart disease, and cancer. By incorporating avocados into your diet, you may help reduce systemic inflammation and lower your risk of these diseases.

The fiber in avocados not only aids in weight management but also promotes healthy digestion. A diet high in fiber

can prevent constipation, maintain a healthy digestive tract, and reduce the risk of colon cancer. The fiber in avocados is also beneficial for maintaining stable blood sugar levels.

Avocados can enhance the body's ability to absorb nutrients from other foods. Fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K) and antioxidants (such as beta-carotene and lycopene) are absorbed more efficiently when consumed with foods high in healthy fats, like avocados. This means adding avocados to your salad or vegetable dish can significantly increase the nutritional value of your meal.

The health benefits of avocados are extensive, ranging from heart health and weight management to improved digestion and nutrient absorption. Their rich nutritional profile makes them an excellent addition to any diet. Whether sliced on toast, blended into a smoothie, or served as guacamole, avocados offer a delicious way to boost your health. With their creamy texture and versatile flavor, avocados are not just a superfood but a delightful culinary ingredient that can enhance a wide variety of dishes.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices

RECIPE OF THE WEEK


Hot Chocolate Cookies

Ingredients:
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1 cup white sugar
2/3 cups light brown sugar, packed
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
4 (1-oz packages) hot chocolate mix (not sugar-free; a total of about 1 cup of hot chocolate mix)
1-1/4 teaspoons salt
1-1/4 teaspoons baking soda
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 1/2 cups mini marshmallows, frozen (see note)
Instructions:
Cream butter and sugars until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla until combined.
In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, hot chocolate mix, salt and baking soda. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients slowly until incorporated. The dough will be thick.
Fold in the milk chocolate chips and semi-sweet chips. Chill the dough for an hour. Chilling the dough allows the ingredients to blend and also makes a thicker cookie.
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and line baking sheets with parchment.
Make cookie dough balls, around 1 1/2 tablespoons each, and place onto prepared baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Hand place the marshmallows in the cookies. Although I have a pic of folding them in, I've found this is the best way. Make sure to tuck the marshmallow inside the balls if you can so that you don't have marshmallows sticking to your pan. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until edges are golden brown. The cookies will still look soft. They will continue to cook on the cookie sheet as they cool. Let cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan. I love these warm. If your eating them after they have cooled you can warm them in the microwave for 10 seconds. Store in an airtight container.
Notes:
Some readers have found that freezing the marshmallows to help keep their shape and to not let them melt out of the cookies.

THE VALLEY SPRINGS School District is accepting School Choice Applications! If you want your student(s) to attend the Valley Springs School District for the 2024/2025 school year and you live outside the district, now is the time to complete the School Choice Application. Applications must be received by the district or postmarked by May 1, 2024. Applications may be found on the school website at valley.k12.ar.us or contact the superintendent's office at 870-302-3047.

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Notices



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Maintenance

CITY OF JASPER is hiring General Maintenance Supervisor

Job Location and/or City Dept. City of Jasper
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED; ability to communicate well with other employees and public; valid AR driver's license with good driving record and current insurance; ability to keep timely and correct records; ability to operate and maintain machinery, tractors, do hauling, maintenance, construction type duties, ETC. Good physical health and physical ability to perform required job duties listed below; Willingness to undergo background check and participate in City of Jasper's drug testing program. NOTE: IF two applicants are considered equally qualified for this position, the City of Jasper resident will be given priority.
General Responsibilities: This employee will work with the Sewer Supervisor as Operator in Training of the sewer system; will assist the Water Department Supervisor, The Street Supervisor and Park Supervisor as needed. He/She will work as maintenance during planned concerts or events at Bradley Park or throughout the city as needed.
The City of Jasper is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of Jasper does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital or veteran status, political status, disability status or other legally protected status. Accepting applications from February 21, 2024 until March 8th, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Applications are available at Jasper City Hall.

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WEDNESDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 40 Make amends
- 1 Serious
- 6 Theater failure
- 10 Rolling landscape
- 11 "My Fair Lady" lady

DOWN

- 12 To any extent
- 13 Labyrinth-building king
- 14 Blocks up
- 15 Gadget protector
- 16 Music's Yoko
- 17 Caterer's pot
- 18 Notice
- 19 Sign on a truck
- 22 Euro division
- 23 Final, e.g.
- 26 Byway
- 29 Towel word
- 32 Fuming
- 33 Use deceit
- 34 Nevertheless
- 36 Course activity
- 37 Stone unit
- 38 Marisa of movies
- 39 Kitchen need

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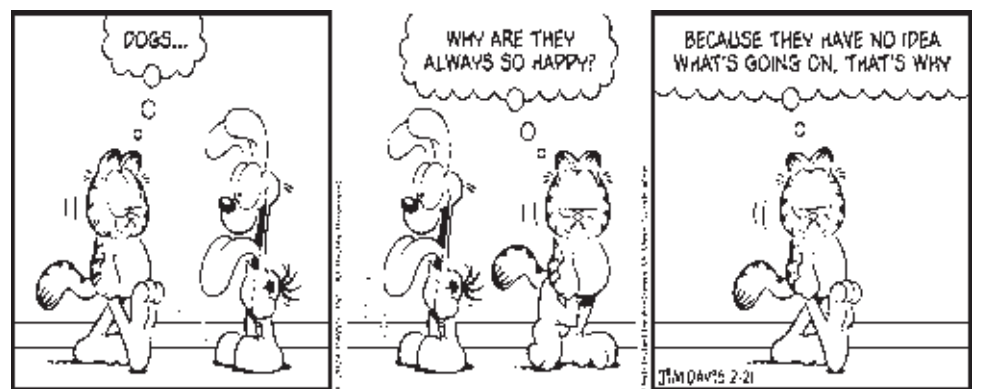
Yesterday's answer

- 9 Cut's counter-part
- 27 Week part
- 28 Stands up to
- 29 Bad writers
- 30 Laughable
- 31 Iraq neighbor
- 35 Float on the breeze
- 36 Attend
- 38 Bar bill
- 11 Came forth
- 15 Old hand
- 17 Last
- 20 USN rank
- 21 German article
- 24 Wise king
- 25 Concluding part

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
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2-21

Garfield by Jim Davis



Rhymes with Orange by Hilary Price



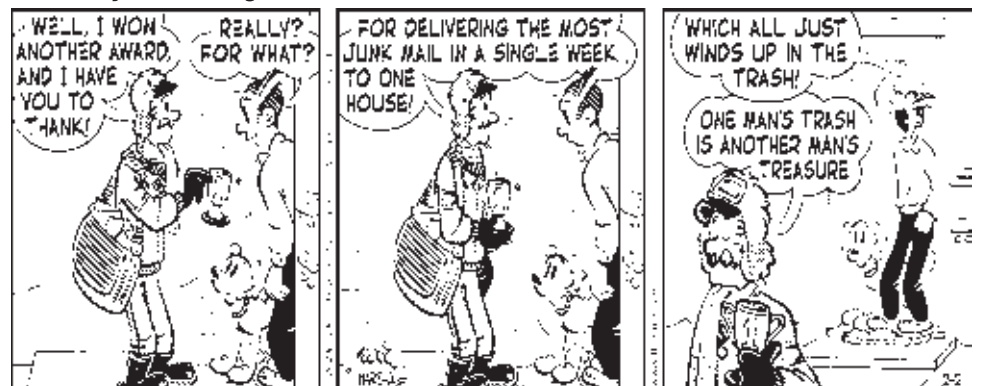
Pickles by Brian Crane



Zits by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



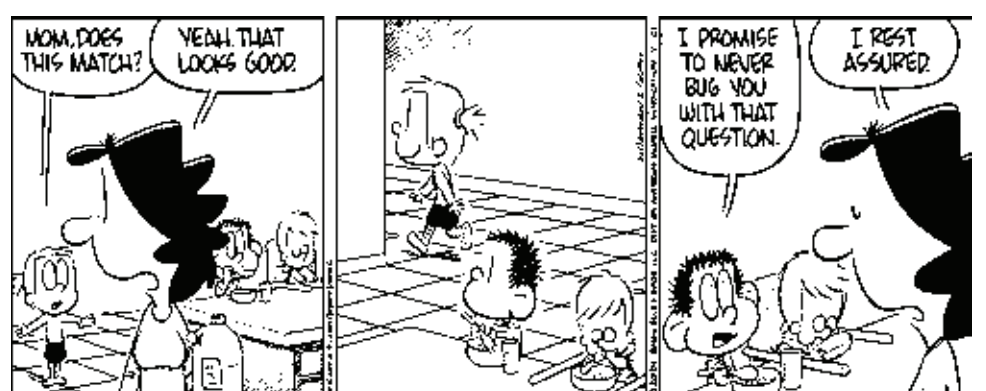
Blondie by Dean Young and Stan Drake



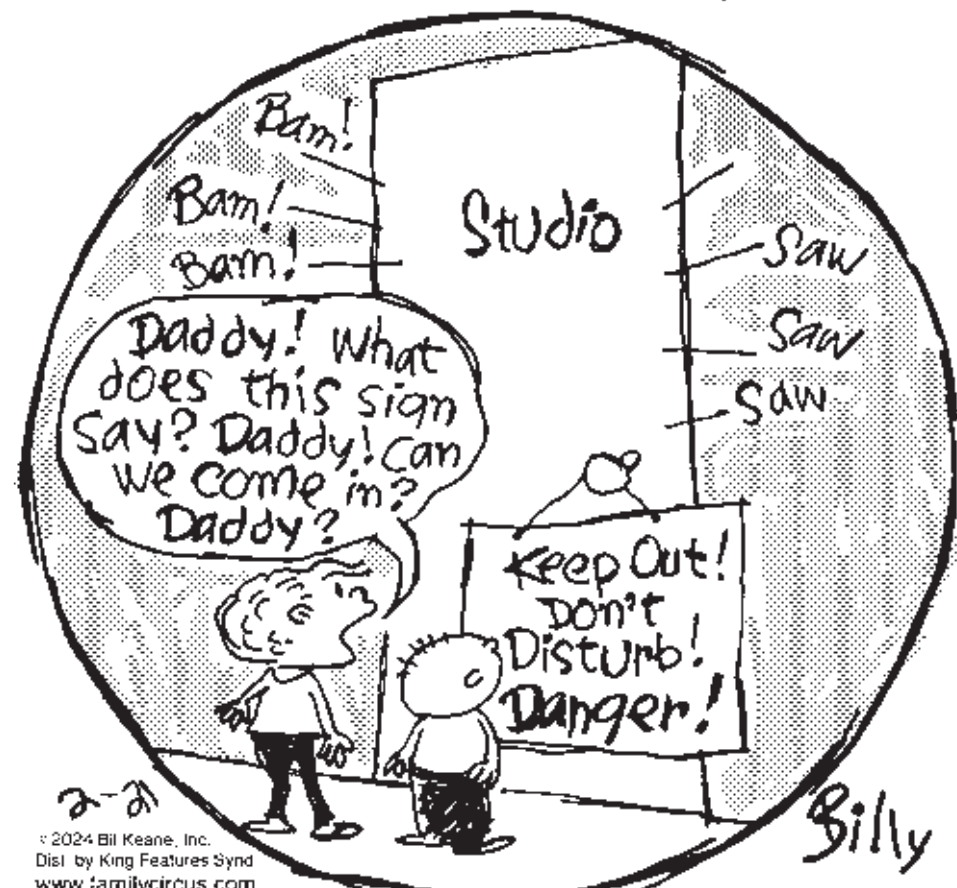
Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker



Baby Blues By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



The Family Circus by Bil Keane



While Daddy renovates his home studio, 7-year-old Billy draws this week's cartoons.

MONDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDIBAAXR
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.

2-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

FNEZQJ PVSS ZRK FRLJ VU PJ
PEVK URB GR LJ RKNJB CJBGRZ
RB GR LJ RKNJB KVLJ PJ EBJ
KNI RZIG PJ TJ XJ JZ PEVKVZQ

URB XEBEFD RXELE

Saturday's Cryptoquote: WHO NEEDS LOVE WHEN YOU'VE GOT LOX? THEY BOTH STINK, BUT ONLY ONE TASTES GOOD. -- "THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL"

TUESDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDIBAAXR
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.

2-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

Y PYIN XCV HC TDCP JNCH
XCV NJJA KAAD HNA OLIH
WUALZ CS ZX ICVO

MNUOAI WYMTADI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR SOME OTHER TIME. WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. -- BARACK OBAMA

WEDNESDAY

Cryptoquote

AXYDIBAAXR
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.

2-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q VPL DNX GI APIEPPQ QU
FBUQNND CQULSW CDFSR

DWPXUO LES JQKESU RLPEF

MDKJ JSWPXDK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE LAST DREAM OF MY SOUL. -- CHARLES DICKENS

MONDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

43 Solitary sort

1 Workshop gripper

6 Practice for a fight

10 Weather aid

11 Electrician, at times

13 Writer Jong

14 Battery end

15 Grow older

16 Male cat

18 Caterer's dispenser

19 California peak with an observatory

22 Bullfight cry

23 Simplicity

24 Frighten

27 Farm machine

28 Swiss peaks

29 For each

30 Canaveral's former name

35 Cassis cocktail

36 Nest sight

37 Tell tales

38 Ham it up

40 Sports setting

42 Whoop it up

DOWN

1 Coffee add-in

2 Slow tempo

3 French farewell

4 Brit's raincoat

5 Foolish talk

6 Wise teacher

7 Wrestling win

8 Stirring state

9 Token of love

12 Jeremy of "The Avengers"

17 Have debts

20 Like Loki

21 Get smart

24 Blitz participant

25 No longer up for grabs

26 Ratify

27 Cincinnati team

29 Coat rack part

31 Boat backbones

32 Justice Kagan

33 Casual eatery

34 Decade parts

39 Wallet bill

41 Go bad

Saturday's answer

2-19

TUESDAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

42 Train stop

1 Renowned

6 Sired

11 Find darling

12 Without aid

13 People of northeast Spain

15 Sense of self

16 Luggage ID

17 Attain

18 Real brats

20 Chopping tool

21 "— longa, vita brevis"

22 Layer

23 Stupid jerk

26 Breezes

27 Thunder sound

28 Golf position

29 Crater part

30 1984 Patrick Swayze film

34 French friend

35 Count start

36 Compete

37 People of southern Argentina and Chile

40 Piano piece

41 Decree

DOWN

1 Diamond side

2 Wise saying

3 Car part

4 Period of history

5 "The Shape of Water" director

6 Forehead hider

7 Quarterback Manning

8 Take another turn, in a game

9 Subjoined

10 Perfume counter

14 Rowing bottles

19 Stairs needs

22 Even, as a score

23 Slightly injured

24 Ecologist's concern

25 Chew the scenery

26 Made broader

28 TV's Jay

30 Thesaurus author

31 Be of use

32 Show pain

33 Bird abodes

38 Hoopla

39 Wedding words

Yesterday's answer

2-20

MONDAY

SUDOKU

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 out your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

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!

ANSWER:

TUESDAY

SUDOKU

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ANSWER:

WEDNESDAY

SUDOKU

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 out your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

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!

ANSWER:

MONDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYEDB

EWTS

BGOTEL

DUCOYL

Answer here:

ANSWERS tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: OMEGA AGILE FONDLY UTOPIA

Answer: Timex would become one of the most-enduring brands of wristwatches — ALL IN GOOD TIME

TUESDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIBSL

GROOF

LCUEBK

CTIGHL

TO

ANSWERS tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: DERBY SWEET GOBLET CLOUDY

Answer: The movie being filmed in Death Valley had a — LOW BUDGET

WEDNESDAY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MTDIA

WARND

CEETTD

LEORNL

Print answer here:

ANSWERS tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: BLISS FORGO BUCKLE GLITCH

Answer: The young clown replacing the retiring clown had — BIG SHOES TO FILL

Heart of the Ozarks Half Marathon

By Quill Staff

The 12th Annual Heart of the Ozarks Half Marathon, 10K, and Mindy's Run, held this past Saturday, marked another milestone in the event's illustrious history. Drawing around 275 registrants, the event showcased the enduring spirit and camaraderie of the Ozarks' running community, despite the chilly morning that greeted them. The occasion was not just a race but a vibrant tribute to individual perseverance, collective support, and the memory of loved ones, evidenced by the poignant "Hero signs" dotting the course, paying homage to those remembered and honored through Mindy's Run.

Mindy's Run, a cornerstone of the event, honors the memory of Zizzer Alumni Mindy Lahey Hughston, channeling the community's collective efforts to support local youth facing the daunting challenge of cancer. This year, the beneficiary of the heartfelt generosity was Connor Lair, a Zizzer Football and Track and Field Alum, embodying the event's deep-rooted commitment to uplifting members of its community in their time of need.

The orchestration of such an event speaks volumes of the dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Event Coordinators Wes and Alicia Gunter, deeply embedded in the fabric of West Plains both personally and professionally, extended their heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders involved. Their acknowledgment covered the gamut from participants to the legion of volunteers who braved the cold to ensure the event's smooth execution. The safety of runners was paramount, with Wes and Alicia specifically thanking local departments such as the City of West Plains Street Dept, Police Dept., Fire Dept., Howell Rural Fire Dept., MO State Highway Patrol, and South Co Ambulance Services. Their continuous support since the event's inception has been pivotal in its success.

The community's involvement extended beyond safety measures. Local businesses and individuals played a significant role, with contributions ranging from financial support to essential services. Julie Hart and Hart Family Eye Care, steadfast as the 10K Race Sponsor, alongside Steve Shipley with Hiland and Rhonda Blankenship of the Holiday Inn, provided invaluable support. The homemade post-race food, prepared by Ms. Dee Lewis and her team, became a highlight, echoing the warmth and hospitality synonymous with West Plains.

The Gunters' dream of fostering a sense of community and encouraging athletic participation among the youth has evidently come to fruition. Their personal journey from participants in the local athletics scene to cus-



Overall Female Half Marathon Zizzer Emily Ritter 1:36:56 and Tomas Chabrecec Overall Half Marathon in a New Course Record Time of 1:13:04.

todians of an event that has significantly contributed to local youth running events and Zizzer Cross Country is a testament to their dedication. Over the years, the event has raised approximately \$40,000 for these causes, with Mindy's Run further augmenting this philanthropic effort.

This year's race not only celebrated athletic excellence, with Tomas Chabrecec setting a new course record in the Half Marathon and the notable performances of Zizzer alumni Emily Ritter, Noah Cones, and Karlee Romans, but also underscored the deep connections within the community. The involvement of local media, the grant from West Plains tourism, and the participation of Ruby Hinds from the WPHS Concert Choir and Harlin Hutchinson of KKDY, all contributed to a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Looking to the future, the Gunters' vision for the Heart of the Ozarks Half Marathon, 10K, and Mindy's Run is clear. Their commitment to making it a longstanding event in West Plains, one that continues to give back to the community and foster a love for athletics among its youth, is unwavering. As they reflect on the past 12 years, their gratitude extends to every individual who has made their dream a reality, from the volunteers to the participants, and everyone in between. The success of this year's event is a collective triumph, a beacon of hope and resilience in the heart of the Ozarks.



Mason Harrill Mindy's Run, Isaac Talburt Mindy's Run, Ryken Gunter 10K, and Neal Laughary 10K.



Hunter Stanley, Carson King, and Kyler Gunter, all Zizzers.

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Tracey Jo
Msg Gal 5:4 & 6

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Lady Zizzers pick up three wins over Bolivar

By Quill Staff

Monday night marked a momentous occasion for the West Plains High School Lady Zizzers basketball team as they clinched a decisive victory against Bolivar, rounding off their regular season with a perfect 3-0 record against their rivals. The night was not only a celebration of their undefeated streak against Bolivar but also an emotional farewell to their two seniors, Allyssa Joyner and Olivia Lawson, whose contributions to the team have been invaluable.

The evening began with the “C” team laying down a solid foundation, securing a 27-14 win that set a positive tone for the rest of the night. This initial victory served as a testament to the depth and talent within the Lady Zizzers basketball program, showcasing the promising future of the team.

As the JV squad took to

the hardwood, they continued the winning momentum with an impressive 47-15 victory. Delani Wahome and Ashley Culton led the charge, each netting 15 points, demonstrating their skill and determination on the court. The team's cohesive play and strategic prowess were evident, as contributions came from all members, including Zoe Shrubbs with 7 points, Jewelia Willard with 5, Aubrey Tidwell with 3, and Brylie Osborn and Lydia Harris each adding a point to the tally.

The climax of the evening arrived as the varsity squad took center stage, with the anticipation and excitement palpable in the air. In a closely contested match, the Lady Zizzers emerged victorious with a final score of 50-45. Olivia Lawson and Allyssa Joyner, the celebrated seniors, led the scoring with 16 and 15 points respectively, highlighting their critical roles in the team's

success. Zoe Scharnhorst and Zoe Shrubbs also made significant contributions, scoring 10 and 9 points, underscoring the depth of talent within the team.

Under the guidance of Coach Scott Womack, the Lady Zizzers have developed into a formidable force, displaying resilience, skill, and teamwork throughout the season. Their journey is a reflection of hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of their coaches, families, and fans.

Looking ahead, the Lady Zizzers are set to embark on their District play at Marshfield, with their sights set on a first-round victory against Webb City at 7 p.m. on February 28. This upcoming challenge represents a new chapter in their season, as they aim to continue their winning streak and make a deep run in the postseason.

The Lady Zizzers' success against Bolivar and their overall performance

this season have not only solidified their status as a powerhouse in high school basketball but also served as a fitting tribute to their departing seniors. As they move forward to District play, the team carries with them the momentum, confidence, and unity that have defined their season so far.

The West Plains community stands behind the Lady Zizzers, proud of their achievements and eagerly anticipating their continued success in the postseason. With a perfect end to their regular season, the Lady Zizzers have set the stage for what promises to be an exciting and competitive District play, ready to face Webb City with determination and the collective dream of securing further victories in their quest for glory.



Lucy Hafer making a pass to the inside.



Zoe Shrubbs hits her first 3-pointer of the night.



Allyssa Joyner with the short jumper.



Zoey Scharnhorst with the layup.

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