

MARIES
COUNTY

Advocate

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Visitation Inter-Parish School celebrates 100 days of learning. See Page 12.

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility expands

Demand continues to outpace supply

The news of expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility "is very exciting, and we are eagerly anticipating this next phase of response," the Phelps-Maries County Health Department stated Friday in a press release. However, this does not mean that vaccine is widely available yet. Demand continues to significantly outpace supply, the health department said.

The Phelps-Maries County Health Department has been approved to be a COVID-19 vaccination site, but it has no guarantee for when, or if, it will receive a shipment of vaccine. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services determines how the vaccine allocations from the federal government are distributed.

See **Eligibility** on Page 3



PHOTO BY JACOB WARDEN

Vichy accident ends in fatality

A Columbia man was killed in a one-vehicle accident on Friday evening on Highway 63 in Vichy.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol reported Travis L. Swearengin, 32, Columbia, lost his life in the accident and was pronounced dead at the scene at 6:35 p.m. by Maries County Coroner David Martin.

The accident occurred at 5:35 p.m.

on Highway 63 inside the Vichy city limits when a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Swearengin, was traveling northbound when it traveled off the right side of the road, struck two buildings and overturned. The vehicle then came to rest on its top in a driveway. Swearengin was not wearing a safety device, the patrol reported. His body was transported by the coroner to Birmingham-Martin Funeral

Home, Vienna.

The vehicle received extensive damage and was towed by DLH Auto.

The patrol was assisted at the accident scene by the Maries County Sheriff's Department and the Vichy Volunteer Fire Department.

This is the first fatal accident to occur in Maries County this year and Troop I's third fatality for 2021.

See **Audit** on Page 5

General elections set to take place on time

BY ROXIE MURPHY
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Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft on Jan. 28 told Missouri Press reporters that he believes local, state and federal elections should be run by states and not standardized across the nation.

"I am not in favor (of standard election rules)," Ashcroft said when asked if he would support a nationwide standard. "I think elections are generally run well by states."

Ashcroft clarified that he does believe the opportunity for the federal government to be involved is there.

"They should make sure states follow their laws during an election and aren't trying to change their rules right before the election," he said. "If we truly believe individuals of states are wise and should be listened to, we should be listening at the lowest level possible — state and local levels."

Ashcroft said his primary concern is

what the federal government thinks it can do during elections.

"The federal government had a lot of sway over the election, but it shouldn't be over voter registration," he said. "It is important we allow states to make their own decisions. States should be able to work with what works well for them."

Ashcroft also supports no-excuse absentee voting in Missouri and was asked why he maintains the stance when court challenges alleged fraud-free absentee voting in 2020.

"I understand service members may need it and there are other specific situations for people, with very good reasons, who can't get to the polls to vote," Ashcroft said.

Ashcroft said the word "convenience" should be associated with the grocery store not with voting. He was informed that according to the Cost of Voting Index, Missouri rates at the third hardest state to vote in.

"The process should be safe and secure with access to the polls," he said. "In No-

See **Elections** on Page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wolf Moon rose big, beautiful in January

BY LAURA SCHIERMEIER
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VIENNA — The people in this area of Missouri were among millions of others in the Northern Hemisphere to see and admire the Wolf Moon that rose in the evening sky on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

According to The Old Farmer's

Almanac, the name for January's full moon came to be known as the Wolf Moon because wolves were more often heard howling at this time of year. It traditionally was believed wolves howled due to hunger during winter, but it is now known wolves howl for many other reasons, such as when defining territory, locating pack members, coordinating hunting and more.

Another name for the Wolf Moon

is Center Moon because it refers to the moon that marks the middle of the winter season. Other traditional names for the January Moon emphasize the harsh coldness of the season, such as Cold Moon (Cree), Frost Exploding Moon (Cree), Freeze Up Moon (Algonquin), Severe Moon (Dakota), and Hard Moon (Dakota).

See **Wolf Moon** on Page 3

Commission approves 2021 budget with total expenditures over \$4.7 million

Commissioner Stratman compliments employees for their good work

BY LAURA SCHIERMEIER
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VIENNA — The annual budget hearing for the 2021 budget was held at last Thursday's Maries County Commission meeting. No one appeared for the public hearing. Presiding Commissioner Victor Stratman said the budget came together pretty well.

He complimented the county officials, saying they are good elected officials who did not ask for too much. The CARES Act money was helpful this year in that it was used to buy some computers and also the big ticket item of the GIS System, which Assessor Dana Simmons has been saving money for over a period of several years.

In her budget message, Rodgers provided a brief recap of 2020 finances. There was a slight increase in sales tax and a significant increase in the local use tax. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic with people doing their basic shopping locally. The increase in use tax is from online purchases, which saw a big jump.

Road One had a 2020 cash balance of \$67,172

and estimated revenue for 2021 of \$1,015,262, which includes an estimated \$400,000 for construction of a new bridge on MCR 608 using the BRO Program. Estimated expenditures in the budget for Road One are \$1,021,189.

Road Two had an ending balance from 2020 of \$60,339 and estimated 2021 revenue of \$425,240 for total revenue available of \$485,579. Total budgeted expenditures for Road Two for 2021 are estimated at \$424,789, with an estimated ending cash balance of \$60,790.

The assessment fund has total revenues of \$246,070 and estimated expenditures of \$202,244.

Budgets under control of the sheriff's office have total budgeted expenditures of \$1,265,652. The budgets include emergency management expenditures of \$17,447, 911 fund \$174,448, special sheriff's fund

\$16,400, citizen's safety fund \$1,008,997, inmate security fund \$33,850, sheriff's revolving fund \$5,400, deputy sheriff's supplemental fund \$1,785, law enforcement training \$12,725, and Belle Protection Fund expenditures \$198,646.

Some of the improvements and upgrades the county was able to do in 2020 was putting white rock on many county roads. Also, three vehicles were purchased for the sheriff's department. Surveillance cameras were added to the outside of the courthouse. There were upgrades made to the basement bathroom which now includes a decontamination shower. New flooring put in the basement hallway due to drainage problems.

The CARES Act money enabled the county to purchase laptops for some elected officials and employees

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MOAD to require physicals from crew members

See Page 3

R-2 president addresses board conduct

See Page 5



Mass vaccination for Phelps, Maries residents Feb. 4-5

See Page 9

"A strong, positive self-image is the best possible preparation for success." — JOYCE BROTHERS

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A NEW ADVENTURE

A different set of rules for the ruling class

Many politicians have become addicted to power that their positions have given them. And it shows. They love to tell the working class what to do.

They are the ruling class. They believe they know best, that they are above us in every way. We are treated like young children who must obey their elders. Of course, the ruling class considers themselves above the law.

The United States Congress flaunts this by excluding themselves in many of the laws they have passed. Federal laws that do not apply to Congress include Title VI of the 1964 Act prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Interestingly, while witnesses in congressional hearings who make false statements under oath can be prosecuted for perjury, members of Congress are given an absolute privilege to lie with impunity in the House or Senate, by the Speech or Debate Clause in Article I, Section 6 of the U.S. Constitution.

Case in point, Adam Schiff, D-Calif., lied about the Trump-Russian collusion on the floor of Congress — and to the media — for three years.

Nowhere has the ruling class shown their true colors more than their hypocrisy concerning the

by DENNIS
WARDEN



COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a short list to remind you.

- Denver Mayor Michael Hancock boarded a plane to Mississippi less than an hour after telling his citizens not to travel for the holidays.

- Steve Adler, mayor of Austin, Texas recorded a video in a timeshare in Cabo, Mexico telling people to stay home because of COVID-19. He flew to Mexico in a private jet.

- California Gov. Gavin Newsom was caught dining at an upscale restaurant with lobbyists the same week he warned against Thanksgiving gatherings.

- The mayor of San Francisco, London Breed attended a birthday party at the same restaurant as Newsom three days before she banned all indoor dining in her city.

• House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was caught unmasked at a hair salon that was supposed to be closed because of the coronavirus after she chided President Donald Trump for his reluctance to wear a mask.

- Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had her hair done, while beauty parlors were closed.

- Washington DC's Mayor Muriel Bowser demanded everyone self-quarantine after traveling to high-risk states. The rule apparently didn't apply to her when she traveled to Delaware to celebrate Joe Biden's victory.

- President Biden declared that masks must be worn on all government property. Hours later he and his family broke that rule at the Lincoln Memorial.

Are you seeing a pattern here? They are part of the ruling class who think they are better and that the rules don't apply to them.

If you want more The Heritage Foundation has a list of over 50 examples — some of them Republicans. Kansas City's mayor is the lone example from Missouri.

The ruling classes' hypocrisy doesn't end with COVID-19. It has been on display for years when it comes to climate change.

In 2019 Google held a camp at a seaside resort in Sicily on the climate crises which was attended

by the rich and famous — including Barack Obama and Leonardo DiCapri. Many arrived in private jets and mega yachts.

President Biden recently chose John Kerry as his Special Envoy for Climate. Former Kerry campaign staffer Zach Friend said Kerry "will 'hit the ground running' as Climate Czar and Biden's climate plans will send a 'strong message' internationally."

He literally needs to hit the ground and stop traveling in his family's private jet. It is estimated that his jet emitted 116 metric tons of carbon last year. In comparison, a typical passenger vehicle, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon per year.

What are the odds that the Biden Administration eliminates the use of private jets and luxury yachts in the effort to cut carbon emissions?

I wish Biden had asked me for my recommendations for his new Climate Czar. I have two friends who 'practice what they preach.'

One has solar panels on the roof of his house and drives an electric car. The other used to run his diesel car on used oil from McDonald's. Neither of these two Democrats is rich and powerful, nor are they part of the ruling class. But, either would put a better face on climate change than Kerry.

They would be believable.

REPORT FROM THE 62ND DISTRICT

Legislation filed requiring death certificates be forwarded to county election authorities

BY STATE REP. BRUCE SASSMANN

Missouri's 62nd District

On the 10th day of our 101st Legislative Session, I filed House Bill 883 requiring the state health department to regularly provide death certificate information to local election authorities.

It is a relatively simple bill that tasks the health department with collecting the county of voter registration on a death certificate and then forwarding the certificate to the county election authority. I hope in some small way, this bill will add another layer of confidence to our elections.

The names of deceased individuals on our voter registration list have always caused some concern regarding election integrity. Counting votes from the grave yard doesn't win voter confidence in the election process.

Adding the county where a deceased

person is registered to vote on the death certificate is a simple and painless task. Requiring the Health Department to send the certificate to the county election authorities could be as easy as pushing a button.

Matching voter registration information with the information on the death certificate insures the election authority the best information available to maintain accurate voter records.

I have asked the Speaker of the House to assign the bill to the Elections Committee. The chairman of the Election Committee was copied on the request and has indicated he would be anxious to hold a hearing and move House Bill 883 forward.

There are still a lot of procedural obstacles to overcome but I am hopeful we can continue to make Missouri's election system even better.

On the 12th day of session I filed

HB994. It is the latest version of a bill that has been moving through the House and Senate for the last few years.

A version of the bill would have likely passed last year had COVID not interrupted the legislative schedule. HB994 makes completing a certified copy of the death certificate easier and more quickly available to bereaving families. I have been assisted with this bill by the Missouri Funeral Directors Association.

I continue to work with research to explore other issues important to the district and I look to other legislators for opportunities to co-sponsor common sense legislation.

I am humbled and honored to work for you in our State's Capitol. The very best way to contact us is my email. My address is Bruce.Sassmann@house.mo.gov.

I will look forward to hearing from you.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

The path forward

BY LEE H. HAMILTON

pled, practical, and pragmatic leaders.

I have had the privilege in my time in politics of watching hundreds (if not thousands) of elected officials and their staff commit to making the U.S. a better country. This is our historic norm, and I want to see it function again — with a return to the business of governing.

We want our representatives to disagree on policy grounds — not because of where they went to school or where they live or what they look like — and then negotiate, legislate, and find a way forward. You don't always get results if you're involved in public life, but you should strive to reach them. And if you fail the first time, it should be the norm that you move on and come back another day to try again or to correct what went wrong.

The truth is, we cannot solve our problems without talking to each other — and talking and talking and talking. That is why we need leaders who are pragmatic about what they can achieve and are skilled and experienced in the arts of compromise and consensus building. And we need citizens who expect their elected representatives — and the media they consume — to level with them, tell them uncomfortable truths, explain the facts, repudiate conspiracy theories, and put forward workable policies for a complex, ever-changing country.

We face tough problems. And while Americans do not expect miracles, they do expect their leaders to work together to solve them. That is how we move forward.

The Jan. 6 insurrection was a very dark moment in our history. We have a long way to go to move past it, but we have a chance to revitalize our democracy by showing that it can work to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their beliefs.

We have done it in the past. We can do it again.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He is a distinguished scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies and a professor at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years. For more information about IU educational programs, visit the university's website at <https://corg.indiana.edu>.

TIMELY COMMENTARY

January Sisters Day

I remember when I went from Visitation grade school into Maries R-1 in 1965. There was a whole big room for the library. At Visitation we had a shelf in each classroom with books on them. In the library they had a book titled 1975. This book talked about how the world would be in 1975. Computers and robots and things that seemed so new and way different than what 1965 had to offer. And I remember thinking how far in the future that was. Well, it came and went and now we wear computers on our wrists or carry them in our pockets. But 1975 doesn't feel that long ago. A lady I worked with explained it to me. She said, "When you're 5 a year is one-fifth of your life which is a pretty big piece. When you're 60 a year is one 60th which is a much smaller part of your life and that's why time goes by faster as you age." This sounds like as good an explanation as any.

It is also the first Sisters Day of a new year. We gathered at Shirley Huffman's home. Since I am still laid up Lucy came by to pick me up. It's really nice to have a sister so close. Those present today were Lucy Branson, Mary Jo Crider, Shirley Huffman our hostess, Linda Crider, Pam Hale and Susie Kleffner. Betty West is in Arizona for a visit with her daughter but she was present in our hearts.

Speaking of breakfast just wait until you hear. We had hot biscuits fresh from the oven, sausage patties, pecan pie muffins, cream cheese croissants, pear honey, strawberry jam, coffee and tea. Need I say more. It was easy to say what was best right up to the time you tried the next thing. We are so blessed to have so many great cooks in the family. I guess we have Mom, Anna Crider,

to thank for teaching us all to cook. She was a good cook too.

Of course, no meal would be complete without the conversation. Since Lucy moved, she was going to change banks so she went to the one I use in Wardsville. She has banked in Vienna for many years so she was not prepared for all the changes in the banking world. Like, having to have a computer to make use of all the wonderful features offered today. If you don't have a computer your just S.O.L. You want a paper copy of your bank statement you're also S.O.L. Or you pay extra, etc.

Some of the sisters have signed up to get the Covid vaccine when it becomes available. I haven't yet. As with everything else to do with covid, there are all kinds of stories going around about it. People who have not had the virus get the shot and then get it. A perfectly healthy 34-year-old health care worker took the vaccine and in three days was dead. They just forgot to put in their story that he died from some underlying condition he didn't even know he had. Lucy's granddaughter read that on social media and immediately called Lucy and made her promise not to get the shot.

From there we moved on to the new rules about getting citizenship in this country. Currently it takes about eight years to get citizenship. Soon they will be given it automatically upon request. Needless to say, this is not setting to well with the people who have been working to become citizens. Another little fact is that 90% of the people born in this country could not pass the test.

See **Sisters** on Page 3

opening testing locations and distributing millions of pieces of PPE across the state. Beyond COVID-19, the governor also highlighted the success of Missouri's workforce development programs in strengthening our state's economy.

Already, nearly 100,000 Missourians have received training through the Missouri One Start program, and the

governor hopes that by the end of his administration, all 114 Missouri counties will be certified work ready communities.

The governor also addressed the continued need to invest in our state's critical infrastructure. He has proposed \$6.3 million for projects at Missouri's ports and \$25 million to fulfill a transportation cost-share program. Additionally, the

governor is calling for full funding for the state's elementary and secondary education formula, as well as a pay increase for state workers.

I was pleased with much of what I heard during the governor's address. I'm especially glad to hear that he is supportive of a pay

See **6th District** page 3

REPORT FROM THE 6TH DISTRICT

Moving Missouri forward

BY STATE SEN. MIKE BERNSKOETTER

Missouri's 6th District

On Jan. 27, lawmakers had the opportunity to hear from the governor on his

plans to move Missouri forward in the year ahead.

During his annual State of the State Address, the governor discussed our state's efforts to fight COVID-19, including

opening testing locations and distributing millions of pieces of PPE across the state. Beyond COVID-19, the governor also highlighted the success of Missouri's workforce development programs in strengthening our state's economy.

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MOAD to require DOT physicals for crew members

BY LAURA SCHIERMEIER
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VIENNA — The Maries-Osage Ambulance District (MOAD) has approved requiring new hires to get a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical.

At the January board meeting, MOAD Administrator Brian Opoka told the board that in conversation with a representative of the workers compensation office, it was suggested MOAD require the DOT physical for new hires and have staff get the physical annually. The reason, Opoka explained, is that there are different levels of medical disability. If an employee is injured and they then participate in a rehabilitation program, because of a medical disability, they may not be able to achieve 100 percent through rehab. If there is a claim, workers comp tries to get those injured back to 100 percent and it may not be possible. The physical is not required but it is suggested.

Board member Laura Stratman asked who would pay for the DOT physical. Opoka said if they decide to require the physical, it will cost about \$1,820 a year. The DOT physical is more stringent and may be difficult for people who are on CPAP machines or are overweight. To get the DOT medical card, those getting the physical have to bring a complete list of their medications, including the dosage regimen and dosages. Opoka said persons who use a CPAP have to bring it with them to ensure they are wearing it the way they are supposed to. The card will be good for one year. A young person who is healthy can get a card to last two years.

Opoka said the advantage of the physical to MOAD is it will help with the district's workers compensation claims. The disadvantage is some of the district's workers may not be able to pass the physical. Opoka said MOAD does not want big worker's compensation claims and wants to know if its employees are taking their medication properly and are in good health.

If all of the ambulance crew members get the DOT physical, it will cost \$1,820 annually

as the individual physical is \$70 per person. Board member Victor Stratman said if MOAD is going to require it, then the district will have to pay for it.

Board Vice President Steve Maxwell said he thinks it will help protect the district. Laura Stratman said it will help establish a baseline. Opoka said the board can choose to do "whatever we want."

Office Manager Carla Butler said she's heard other districts have their employees pay for the physical and when they receive the DOT medical card, they are reimbursed by the district.

The board approved requiring the DOT physical and the district will pay for it. Opoka suggested all employees currently on the roster have the physical done by the end of the first quarter of the year.

In other business at the MOAD Board's January meeting:

- Opoka said last month there was the treat of bedbugs at the Freeburg base. They sprayed and found one dead bedbug and one alive bedbug. He said he thinks the district is okay.

- MOAD is acquiring COVID-19 kits from the Bureau of EMS. They contain sanitizer and testing kits. The tests are to test staff members and results are known within about 15 minutes. Opoka will put together a protocol for the testing. The people who administer the test will need training and any testing MOAD does has to be reported within a couple of days. Opoka said he's in favor of this and thinks it might expand into the larger community.

Victor Stratman asked if people would come to the ambulance base to get tested for COVID-19 and Opoka said it is possible, as he's "looking down the road."

Opoka said the tests are 94 percent accurate. He uses them at his other job and it works well for people who are symptomatic. There are a lot of false negative tests if people are tested too early. He doesn't think it will cost anything to get a kit. However, the EMS Bureau will pick and choose and that's why MOAD needs protocols about licensing and training. Opoka talked to two MOAD employees who are willing

to be trained to give the tests. The kits have to be secured, there is identification on the kits and everything has to match and it must be well monitored. There is no cost and the training is a very simple process.

The board gave its approval for the testing kits.

- Long-time board member Wilma Stephen has resigned from the MOAD Board due to health reasons and a replacement is needed for Subdistrict 1, which is the Dry Creek area. Her term would have ended in 2022 so it would be a two-year term at the beginning.

- Board member Eileen Smith of Subdistrict 3 has filed for another term on the board. Victor Stratman said he planned to file for another term representing Subdistrict 6.

- In the end of the year 2020 financial report, Opoka reported budgeted revenue of \$671,500 and actual revenue of \$707,167 for a positive variance of \$35,667. Budgeted expenses were \$671,500 and actual expenses were \$683,188, for a negative variance of \$11,688. Revenue over expenses was a positive \$23,998.

- Opoka reported they had another worker's compensation claim in December, a back injury. He should know in mid-January if MOAD received a grant through the Gary Sinise Foundation to purchase power cot lift systems for the ambulances. The grant request was for \$57,000.

- In the financial report, December income was \$99,405.89 and expenses were \$45,396.36 for a positive net income of \$54,009.53.

Of the income \$17,600.19 was Maries County taxes, \$9,671.30 was Osage County taxes, \$52,418.86 was from service fees, \$19,690.48 was sales tax income, and \$25.06 was interest income.

Opoka commented about November's negative net income of \$13,000 saying it was because they missed a deposit by a couple of days because of the holidays.

- Opoka reported response times for the month at an average of 7.8 minutes to get to the scene, 24 minutes on the scene, which he said it a little long because they had a couple of standbys, and average arrive time at the hospital with patient 43 minutes.

Sisters • from page 2

We discussed family issues and how they are being affected

by the conditions of the world today. People from your own neighborhood find out your house is empty they come in and try to take your stuff. Especially if they find out their neighbor has died. Then there is shooting right on your street some times two or three houses down from you. It is hard to see these things in your own neighborhood.

The breakfast table was cleared and Shirley came in carrying a stack of papers and a fist full of pens. She handed them out. The paper was a picture word puzzle. It was hard but fun. We fussed and studied and exchanged answers. We did a lot of "moaning" and "of coursing" when Shirley read the answers.

Shirley left and came back with a box full of devotional books, bookmarks, poems, refrigerator magnets and pray cards. Take what you want. It was all things that came with solicitations that come in the mail. Looking through it all was as much fun as selecting what we could use.

Once that chore was complete the table was cleared and set for lunch. Shirley set out a big, and I mean "BIG" pot of Shipwreck Stew. In the pot was hamburger, red beans, potatoes, celery, corn, diced tomatoes and broth. Oh my gosh, what a delight. Then she set a big Stromboli on the table. That's yeast dough layered with Italian sausage, pepperoni, different cheeses and anything else you want to add. It rolled then baked to a golden brown and was just as tasty as the stew.

As if that wasn't enough, we had peach pie and No Kidding Cake. Just roll me under the table and wake me for breakfast.

We talked about pictures on our phones. There are pictures of ice storms and grandkids and animals in the yard or on the desk. Plus, the many beautiful pictures you can find on the internet. Everything from outer space to ancient artifacts and oh so many of the wonders of nature.

We also talked about how many things you can clean with denture tablets besides your teeth.

Shirley cleaned her coffee pot by dropping in several tablets and letting it set for about an hour then she wiped it out, clean as new. Someone said a few tablets in the toilet bowl will clean it too.

I started my physical therapy and have high hopes I'll be back to normal, whatever that is, before too long.

Thought: A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, need less, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are.

Advice from an old farmer: Sometimes you get and sometimes you get got.

Eligibility • from page 1

uted to vaccination sites each week.

While some local public health agencies and rural hospitals in Missouri have received small amounts of vaccine, the majority of vaccine continues to be sent to larger hospital and pharmacy systems.

In addition to the department's efforts to secure vaccine locally, there is a tentative plan for a National Guard Mass Vaccination Site to be held in Phelps County in early February. More information is coming soon.

Registration will be online. If you are aware of family members or friends that do not have access to the internet, please consider registering

for them. The health department is hopeful to have a call center to assist Phelps and Maries County residents with registration for the National Guard event.

There continue to be opportunities to get vaccinated throughout the State of Missouri, and the health department encourages residents to take advantage of those opportunities if they are able to safely travel. The health department said it wants to be transparent in this process and will continue to keep the public informed of what it knows.

Wolf Moon • from page 1

According to earthsky.org, the Wolf Moon doesn't appear on the lists of American Indian moon names compiled by a NASA researcher. But, the Sioux name for the January moon was Wolves Run Together Moon. The Algonquin called it Sun Has Not Strength to

Thaw.

The moon names also depend on the latitude of where the Indians lived. To the Haida in Alaska the January moon was the Bear-Hunting Moon. The Hopi in southwest Arizona called it Moon of Life at Its Height. In the Pacific Northwest the

moon was called Stay Inside Moon. Further south the Choctaw's word means Winter's Little Brother, as opposed to December's moon of Big Winter.

As it rose in the sky last Thursday night on the eastern horizon it was orange in color. As it rose

higher into it turned a pale yellow color before becoming the bright, white orb we normally associate with a full moon, according to Google.

6th District • from page 2

increase for our hardworking state employees. I believe we must keep state wages competitive if we hope to attract and retain high-quality state workers.

Altogether, I believe the governor's agenda is preparing Missouri for the future and will help ensure we come out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

As the governor laid out his objectives for the current year, the Missouri General Assembly continues to move forward with its legislative duties.

This week, I presented four of my sponsored bills to Senate committees. • Senate Bill 36 establishes a tax credit program to help fund restoration projects for historic buildings throughout downtown Jefferson City.

• Senate Bill 37 streamlines the monitoring of anhydrous ammonia to remove needless duplication and promote regulatory efficiency.

• Senate Bill 38 seeks to align Missouri with federal standards regarding electric bicycles.

• Senate Bill 114 clarifies the reorganization of certain state departments.

I appreciate the committees' consideration on these bills and look forward to seeing them head to the Senate floor in the near future.

It is an honor to serve the 6th Senatorial District. If my office can be service to you, please feel free to contact us at (573) 751-2076.

For information about my committee assignments or sponsored legislation, please visit my official Missouri Senate website at senate.mo.gov/Bernskoetter.

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Sunday, February 7th | 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Argyle KC Hall

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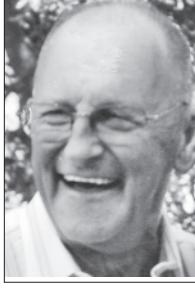
St. James | St. Robert | Vichy | Vienna

Weekly Record

MCA ■ WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 2021 ■ PAGE 4

AREA OBITUARIES

James Bacon 1936-2021



James Edward Bacon, 84, Rolla, passed away Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021.

He was born Aug. 10, 1936, to James and Dola (West) Bacon, in Dixon.

He was first united in marriage to Marge (Atkins) Bacon. She preceded him in death. He was later united in marriage to Mary (Glenn) Colvin Bacon, July 1, 2010.

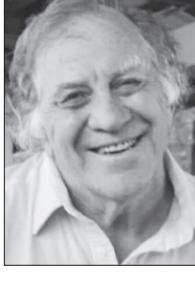
James was employed as a mechanic at Diehl Montgomery Ford in Rolla for many years before beginning a 30-year career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1963, until his retirement as sergeant. He was a longtime member of Vichy Community Church, serving as Sunday school teacher, board member, as well as other roles.

He was also preceded in death by parents, James and Dola; son, Randall Bacon; sisters-in-law, Helen and Fay Bacon; and stepson, Donald Colvin.

He is survived by wife, Mary; sons, David Bacon and wife Christine and Stephen Bacon and wife Beth, all of Dixon; stepsons, Darrell Colvin and wife Jeri of Hallsville, Texas, Paul Colvin of Rolla and Gary Colvin and wife Beth of Buffalo; stepdaughters, Linda Sue Gaddy and Karen Turner and husband Ray, all of Rolla; brother, Jerry Bacon of Dixon; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held (today) Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. at Null and Son Funeral Home in Rolla, followed by funeral services at 1 p.m. and interment in Ozark Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Memorial contributions suggested to M.A.S.T.E.R.S. (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society) or Clifty Cemetery.

David Grubbs 1945-2021



David Allen Grubbs, 75, Belle, formerly of St. Louis, passed away Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, at Phelps Health Hospital in Rolla.

He was born Feb. 16, 1945, in Hayti, a son to the late Alvia and Mellie (Wilkerson) Grubbs.

He was united in marriage to Suzanne Valentine, Oct. 31, 1987, at the Tabernacle Baptist church in St. Louis by his father who was the preacher at that time. Suzanne and their granddaughters Hannah McKinney and Allyson Bartner survives of their home in Belle.

David retired from American National Can in St. Louis and Pevely after 25 years of service. David moved his family to the Belle area in 1995 from St. Louis. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Belle where he was active and sang in the choir.

David enjoyed gardening, mowing grass and doing ancestry research, which took him to many places and states. He loved to sing and was a self-taught guitar and piano player. David had a wonderful voice and sang with a trio from the church as well as a country-western group when he lived in St. Louis called the Gold Rush Band. He was a man that never knew a stranger and had made many friends through the years. He will be missed greatly by his family, friends and anyone who knew and loved him.

He is survived by: his wife of 33 years, Suzanne; four daughters, Catherine Scott of Belle, Lorrie Stagner and her husband Matthew of Washington, Sherri Bartner of Ft. Madison, Iowa, and Deborah Faulkner and her husband Rudy of St. Charles; one son, Bill Page and his wife Michelle of St. Charles; 15 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; three sisters, Emma Turner of Melber, Ky., Mary Wood and her husband Tom of Belle and Wanda Whitener and her husband Terry of Cornersville, Tenn.; five brothers, Rev. Larry Grubbs and his wife Deborah of Conway, Ark., Phillip Grubbs and his wife Denise of Pearland, Texas, Jerry Grubbs of Belle, Jackie Grubbs of Knoxville, Tenn., and Billy Grubbs of Seattle, Wash.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by four brothers, Alvia Grubbs Jr., James L. Grubbs, Tony Grubbs and Gary Grubbs; two sisters, Catherine Grubbs and Martha Reynolds; one son, Stephen Page; one grandson, Phillip Faulkner; one nephew, Dewayne Grubbs; and one niece, Sheila Landing.

Private family services had been planned and a memorial service for David will take place at a later date.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the First Baptist Church or to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Patricia Hendee 1952-2021



Patricia Ann "Pat" Hendee, 68, Iberia, passed away Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, as result of an explosion and fire at her residence.

She was born March 31, 1952, to Edward Charles and Mildred Louise (Nunn) Hendee, at Kansas City.

Pat was a lifelong member of Faith Temple Church in Kansas City, Kan. She was a 1971 high school graduate and a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by parents, Edward and Mildred.

She is survived by sister, Sharon Landess and husband John of Shawnee Mission, Kan.

Visitation will be Saturday, Feb. 6, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home, Dixon, with funeral services following with Rev. Randall A. Hoffman officiating.

MARIES COUNTY ASSOCIATE COURT

HON. JUDGE KERRY ROWDEN, PRESIDING

Rocky Hayes, 28, Jefferson City, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanors of operate vehicle on highway without a valid license, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia and was sentenced to 10 days in jail on each charge and was given credit for time already served. His case review is set for April 6.

Ronald Rollins, 41, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor driving while revoked/suspended first offense and was fined \$300 and court cost.

Cammi Fulliam, 18, Cuba, pleaded guilty to

the misdemeanor of operate a motor vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner and was granted a suspended imposition of sentence (SIS) and placed on unsupervised probation for two years and pay court cost. She is paid in full.

Douglas Dennis, 27, Rolla, failed to appear and warrant ordered with bond set at \$250 cash. He is charged with the misdemeanors of speeding, exceeded by 20 to 25 mph, operate motor vehicle owned by another knowing owner of vehicle has not maintained financial responsibility, and

David Kemp 1949-2021



David F. Kemp, 71, Bland, passed away Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021.

He was born Nov. 29, 1949, to Francis Elmo and Ruby Myrtle (Frey) Kemp, in Fulton.

He was united in marriage to Linda L. Niederer, May 8, 1971, at Immaculate Conception Church in Owensville.

David was an active member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Owensville.

He was preceded in death by parents, Francis and Ruby; parents-in-law, Joe and Violet (Twelkemeier) Niederer; brothers, Wallace, Harry "DD", Richard Wayne, Francis and Leslie Kemp; sisters, Velma "Sissy" Durham and Kay Love; brothers-in-law, Claude Durham, Larry Love, Charles Creason, Coy Vaughn, Joel "Bob" Niederer and Rich Niederer; and sisters-in-law, Ruth Ann Kemp and Betty Niederer.

He is survived by wife, Linda; sons, David "Chip" Kemp and wife Nicky of Auxvasse, Brad Kemp and wife Sara of Owensville and Todd Kemp and wife Angie of Kingdom City; brothers, Joe Kemp of Fulton and James "J.C." Kemp and wife Mary Kay of New Bloomfield; sisters, Wilma Wall and Danny of Holts Summit, Teresa Jett and husband Wayne of Fulton, Renee Harrison and Jim of Fulton, Tammy Ernst and husband Joe of Madison, Ala., and Stephanie Mahnen and husband Patrick of Fulton; and five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held (today) Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Owensville with Fr. Wayne Boyer as celebrant. Burial will be at Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery in Owensville.

Arrangements entrusted to Gottenstroeter Funeral Home, Owensville.

Kitsy McKinnon 1954-2021



Kitsy Jane McKinnon, 66, Dixon, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, in Lake Side Meadows, Osage Beach.

She was born Oct. 28, 1954, to Junior Ralph and Sally Lou (Casey) Jones, in Phelps County.

She was united in marriage to Freddy Lee McKinnon, June 1, 1975, in the Gasconade Baptist Church near Dixon.

Kitsy was a member of Gasconade Baptist Church near Dixon. She was a 1973 graduate of Dixon High School and later attended SW Baptist College in Bollivar. She retired in 2016 after 33 years as chief of the administrative services division for the director of military personnel. She was a member of the Pulaski County Sheltered Workshop Board and had served as president from 2011-19, also receiving the Emeritus Award Status.

She was preceded in death by husband, Freddy; and parents, Junior and Sally.

She is survived by children, Casey McKinnon and wife Brandy, Aleesha McKinnon and Jacob McKinnon, all of Dixon; brother, Mark Jones and wife Jamie of Dixon; sister, Penny Sisco and husband Rick of Dixon; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 1, in the Long-Kloepel Funeral Chapel, Dixon, with pastors Lawrence Chatman, Scott Ballard and Jack Caple officiating. Interment was in Sheppard Cemetery near Dixon. Memorial contributions suggested to Sheppard Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

Jennifer Poulson 1971-2021



Jennifer Lynn (Ruppel) Poulson, 49, Round Rock, Texas, passed away Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, in St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, Round Rock, Texas.

She was born June 8, 1971, to Ronald and Lois Elaine (Warnol) Ruppel, in St. Louis.

She was united in marriage to Kent Alan Poulson, March 9, 1996, in Boca Raton, Fla.

Jennifer was confirmed into the Presbyterian faith. She was a graduate of the University of Florida, where she obtained a degree in information management systems and was a sorority member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She was later a member of the Parent-Teacher Association where her sons attended school and served as president of their homeowners association.

She was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Cecil Louis and Lou Fern (Hughes) Warnol; and paternal grandparents, Robert and Thelma (Dawson) Ruppel.

She is survived by husband, Kent, of the home; sons, Trevor, Carter, Riley, Morgan and Sawyer, all of Round Rock, Texas; parents, Ronald and Elaine; brother, Craig Ruppel and wife Corrie; and sister, Terri Ann Gore and husband Tim.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 30, in Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home Chapel, Dixon, with Rev. Jack Caple, First Baptist Church, Dixon, officiating. Interment was in the Pisgah Cemetery, near Dixon. Memorial contributions suggested to MD Anderson Cancer Center or the Point High School Baseball Booster Club (sptigerbaseball.com).

NOTICE

Obituaries that are published in the Maries County Advocate are formatted according to our style and are run free of charge. When specific information is asked to be included in an obituary, a charge will then occur.

Arthur Sinden 1949-2021



Arthur Edward Sinden Sr., 71, Iberia, passed away Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, in the University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia from injuries suffered from an explosion and fire at his residence the previous day.

He was born Sept. 28, 1949, to Roy Elmo and Dora (Thompson) Sinden, at Dixon.

Arthur was a member of the Iberia Masonic Lodge No. 410 A.F. & A.M. During most of his working life, he worked in various types of construction, and at the time of his passing, was employed at the Miller County Care and Rehabilitation Center, Tuscmobia, as maintenance supervisor.

He was preceded in death by son, Edward Roy Euel Sinden; parents, Roy and Dora; brothers, Dallas, James, William and Roy Wayne Sinden, as well as one brother in infancy; and three sisters, Martha Anderson, Alma Bowen and Betty Gardowski.

He is survived by children, Arthur E. Sinden Jr. of Holts Summit and Anna Schneiders of Iberia; siblings, Beulah Sanders of Kansas City, Kan., Mabel Jane Evans of Mexico, Elva Sinden and wife Fay of Dixon, Richard Sinden and wife Cathey of St. Peters, John Sinden and wife Vickie of Lake Ozark, Charles Sinden and wife Gladys of Fulton, Mary Adkins and husband Dennis of Meta, Alice Howard of Vienna, Curtis Sinden and wife Beth of Dixon, Shirley Barnes and husband Bud of Dixon and Rocky Sinden of Jefferson City; and two grandchildren.

Visitation will be Saturday, Feb. 6, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home, Dixon, where funeral services will follow with Rev. Randell A. Hoffman officiating.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CORNER

The effect of the Bible on man

Man's 'religious nature' is as real as his intellectual nature. Even in parts of the world where people do know about the one-true God of the Bible, they still worship something. In the absence of the Bible, man will worship in some way; usually in a disgusting, heathenish manner in-order to satisfy their 'religious' need and desire. Man's religious nature, when directed by the Bible, leads him to the greatest heights ever achievable by a human being and eventually to an eternal home with God.

The Bible inspires men to a better life when read and studied. There is no other book that can produce such a life changing effect. It is the only book in the world that works so well to reform and change the lives of mankind. But, it must be studied, (2 Timothy 2:15). The Psalmist recorded in Psalm 119:11, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee".

In the same chapter, it is recorded, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," (verse 105). Solomon, through inspiration, penned these words speaking of the Word of God, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life..." (Proverbs 6:23); and in Proverbs 30:5, "Every Word of God is pure..." The inspired writer of the book of Hebrews has this to say, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," (Hebrews 4:12).

We ought to value the Bible as much as these inspired writers. Become a daily Bible reader!

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," (verse 105). Solomon, through inspiration, penned these words speaking of the Word of God, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life..." (Proverbs 6:23); and in Proverbs 30:5, "Every Word of God is pure..." The inspired writer of the book of Hebrews has this to say, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," (Hebrews 4:12).

We ought to value the Bible as much as these inspired writers. Become a daily Bible reader!

COLLEGE CLIPS

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN HONORS

Park University

Tracy Marie Ray of Dixon is a fall 2020 graduate of Park University.

Kansas State University

Connor Gorrell of Bland has earned fall 2020 semester honors at Kansas State University.



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1/19/21

failure to register motor vehicle.

Travis Weed, 26, Dixon, waived his preliminary hearing and was bound over to circuit court, Judge Hickle's court, and is set for arraignment Feb. 1 on the felonies of unlawful use of weapon and possession

Audit

• from page 1

the 2018-2019 audit," Basham said. "The district's long-time bookkeeper retired in September 2018. Beginning at that time, there were issues with how expenses and revenues in September 2018 to June 2019 were coded in the financial software system that was being used. We have worked in-house since it was discovered in December 2019 but cannot follow the procedures that were used during that time to reconcile the cash balance. We believe that bringing an internal auditor in to review those accounts will correct the issue."

Despite being unable to give an opinion, Basham said there were things that came out of the audit that was good.

"For the past year in 2019-20, our financing on our leases are good, we are down to \$855,000 for the funding on loans; \$91,000 left on the energy efficiency loans for the air conditioning units; \$73,000 on the property, the 10 acres out there; and have made contributions to our teacher's retirement; our payroll looks good; or taxes look good; transportation looks good, lunch reports look good. We just need to fix the 2018-19 issue so we can verify our numbers," Basham said. "They did say there is no evidence of fraud, no embezzlement, it's just poor record-keeping."



MARIES R-2 Board of Education met last Tuesday, Jan. 26, in the Belle Elementary School cafeteria. Board members admired the newly implemented Big Fans.

PHOTO BY ROXIE MURPHY

During the 2018-19 audit report, auditors warned that there were possible repercussions from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that could have included them withholding funding from the district.

"I have talked to DESE and they do not think it will impact our funding," Basham said. "We just go under another level of (risk). They do not seem as concerned about it as I think we are."

Board President Joey Butler II asked about working with the contracted auditors at Graves & Associates.

The district currently has two more years in its contract with Graves & Associates. Board Vice

President Dawn Hicks said they made it very clear that they are still under contract when she attempted to call and speak with them.

"I think that once we get this rectified and decide that we want to, we can have our lawyers look at our contract and see about the removal of us from their services looks like," Basham said. "But I would like to get this cleaned up before we do that."

Butler asked for a motion to accept the results of the audit. Director Tom Kinsey made a motion and Hicks seconded. It passed with a 7-0 vote.

Basham added that she would like to put out bids for an accountant to help rectify the situation.

"We need someone to help and get advice from," Basham said. "We need an internal audit to fix the problem in an auditable manner."

Kinsey asked if they could get a CPA with experience working with school districts. Basham agreed that it would have to be someone who already has that kind of knowledge.

"We have come a long way since the spring of 2019 and Sarah (Rehmet, treasurer and board clerk) has done a remarkable job looking at last year and getting things where they are supposed to be. But we need an accountant to tell the auditor 'this is what is going on' and be on the same page," Basham said.

Hicks agreed, adding that when she spoke with Graves & Associates, they told her the school needed to "bring in the big guns."

Basham said the system stopped working in September 2019 and they need to go back to June 2019, while the software program only allows the user to go back one month.

The board voted 7-0 to send out bids for an accountant.

Basham said Monday that the sent the bids out for an internal audit.

"The bids received will be reviewed at the February board of education meeting," Basham said.



A DISCUSSION about whether or not the school district should require wearing of face masks became heated at the December meeting of Maries R-2 Board of Education. Board members (above) and meeting attendants shared views on the mandate.

PHOTO BY ROXIE MURPHY

R-2 board president addresses members about conduct during meetings

BY ROXIE MURPHY
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
rmurphy@wardpub.com

Maries County R-2 Board of Education President Joey Butler II last Tuesday told fellow members that he would not allow the conduct that took place during the December mask mandate discussion to happen again during a meeting.

"I want to take the time to remind everyone, visitors and us as well, especially during the comments to visitors time and during discussion items, we need to — not just everyone be talking at once," Butler began. "That is my fault at the last meeting. We had a lot of side conversations and a little bit of talking over. We can't have that. We have to be respectful of each other. We don't need to be, you're talkin', I'm

talkin', he's yellin'. Anything like that. We have a responsibility to our kids, to our community, to act professionally and respectfully to one another. I take responsibility for the last meeting, but moving forward we will stay on track and on schedule. Just be aware of it."

Butler ran the remainder of the meeting as smoothly as usual.

Maries R-2 closer to one Chromebook per student

Maries R-2 Superintendent Dr. Lenice Basham said Jan. 26 that two sets of backordered Chromebooks, one ordered in September 2020 with a \$50,000 donation from Party Trust, and a second round ordered in October 2020 from CARES Act funds, began arriving the second week of January.

"Because of the high demand by every school district in the nation, Chromebooks were on backorder for months," Basham said. "Mr. Benson has been working since then to get the Chromebooks registered and ready for student use."

During the meeting, she added that the new Chromebook additions will allow students at the high and middle schools to have one device assigned per student.

"The elementary was one to one prior to the start of the school

year (with some exceptions)," Basham said.

The district's goal is for every student to be able to check out a Chromebook if they need to work from home.

Board Director Tom Kinsey asked Basham how they keep track of the numbers and which devices go home with which student. Basham said they do keep track of the Chromebooks by number, and if they have enough devices to assign one to every student for the year, then it eliminates the question of which Chromebook went home with who.

Basham added that the board should expect to receive a copy

Board President Joey Butler II asked Basham if the four-day school districts would be exempt from the late start requirement this year.

"Not this year," Basham said.

Districts will be required to start after Aug. 24 to help encourage an extra week of tourism in Missouri.

Basham updated the board on their order from Big Ass Fans Company. They were able to use CARES Act funding to purchase and install large industrial fans in the gyms and cafeteria to help circulate the air in hopes of adding an additional COVID-19 related precaution.

"The fans are in, and the controls will be locked up so students can't turn them on and off," Basham said.

The cafeteria fan hangs lower than they expected.

"We have put in a request that they come back and take out the extension so the fan does not hang so low," Basham said.

Elections • from page 1

ember, people in Missouri knew who had won or lost by 10 p.m. There were no ballots being counted the next morning that made a difference. There was a great sense of certainty. People want to vote in person."

He maintained that voting in person makes elections more secure, and people more sure of the process.

"When you vote in-person, and the scanner sends it back, you have a chance to fix it," he said. "But not when you mail it in."

In regards to the Cost of Voting Index that rated Missouri as the third hardest state to vote in, Ashcroft said he doesn't know what scale the system uses.

"I think it is very easy to vote in Missouri," he began. "We have seen great turnouts, better than ever with the presidential election. Great even with the primary turnout, a third greater than 2018. From what I see, if people wanted

to vote, they could and it was easy."

COVID-19 brought many new challenges to the elections last year and will greatly affect how elections are conducted moving forward. Last minute changes in election rules, as well as an increase in mail-in ballots and concerns about election fraud have called the integrity of elections into account.

Ashcroft was asked how the state plans to improve the trust and integrity in the elections after the doubt cast last year.

"I talk about transparency," Ashcroft said. "Make people understand how they can be poll watchers and challengers. Make sure we have accountability if someone doesn't follow the law and their needs to finality. There needs to be a deadline. It is there for a reason and should not be moved back. It's simple...set the rules and let people see it is being done."

While the state works to bring integrity back

into the elections, Ashcroft says they still expect the April 6, 2021, General Municipal Elections to take place as usual.

"I do not have any authority over the date of the election," Ashcroft said. "Under Missouri law, local election authorities can go to their appellate court that runs them and request a change. I do not see any movement from local election authorities to do that and I am not pushing for that. If it is going to be done, local election authorities will do it."

Missouri Governor Mike L. Parson was also asked if he planned to issue a second executive order to move the state's General Election in April.

"I'd assume they are on schedule," Parson said. "I think we are going to start moving forward. We have a lot of great people on the county level working on elections. The Missouri election process worked well, but I do think we want to get back to normal elections."

News Briefs

LOAVES & FISHES food pantry in Vienna during the month of January is requesting local donations of 10 ounce cans of chicken or vegetable soup. Donations can be left at local churches. The food pantry distributes food on the first Wednesday and second Thursday of each month.

ARGYLE/KOELTZ-TOWN VOLUNTEER Fire Department is hosting a drive-through breakfast Sunday, Feb. 7, from 7:30-11:30 a.m. at the Argyle Knights of Columbus Hall. They will be serving sausage, scrambled eggs and hashbrowns for \$8 per plate.

RETURN STRONG VIRTUAL JOB FAIR will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Virtual Job Fair allows exhibitors to interact with potential candidates in a digital environment. For more information, interested parties should visit cwgregion.com/virtualjobfair.

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PHOTOS BY JACOB WARDEN AND ROXIE MURPHY

Young couple seeks assistance replacing belongings lost in apartment fire

BY ROXIE MURPHY
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
rmurphy@wardpub.com

BELLE — Tenants at 506 E. Fifth Street Apartments, Belle, were moving out Jan. 29 when they said they smelled burning, noticed smoke coming out of the vents and called 911.

Corbin Forsee and his girlfriend Alexis Mayer had been removing their belongings from the apartment since the previous day and had just finished loading another truck when they said they smelled burning coming from the vents.

"I thought it might have been the furnace, so I turned off the furnace," Forsee said. "No sooner than I turned the furnace off, smoke started rolling out of the vents. I called the police as soon as I saw the smoke."

The couple had shut their dogs in the back bedroom while they waited for the emergency services to arrive.

"When we opened the back door after the police got here, they came running out, and the cop ducked down and saw everything on fire," Forsee said. "We still don't know what caused it. They are saying something in the wall might have caused it."

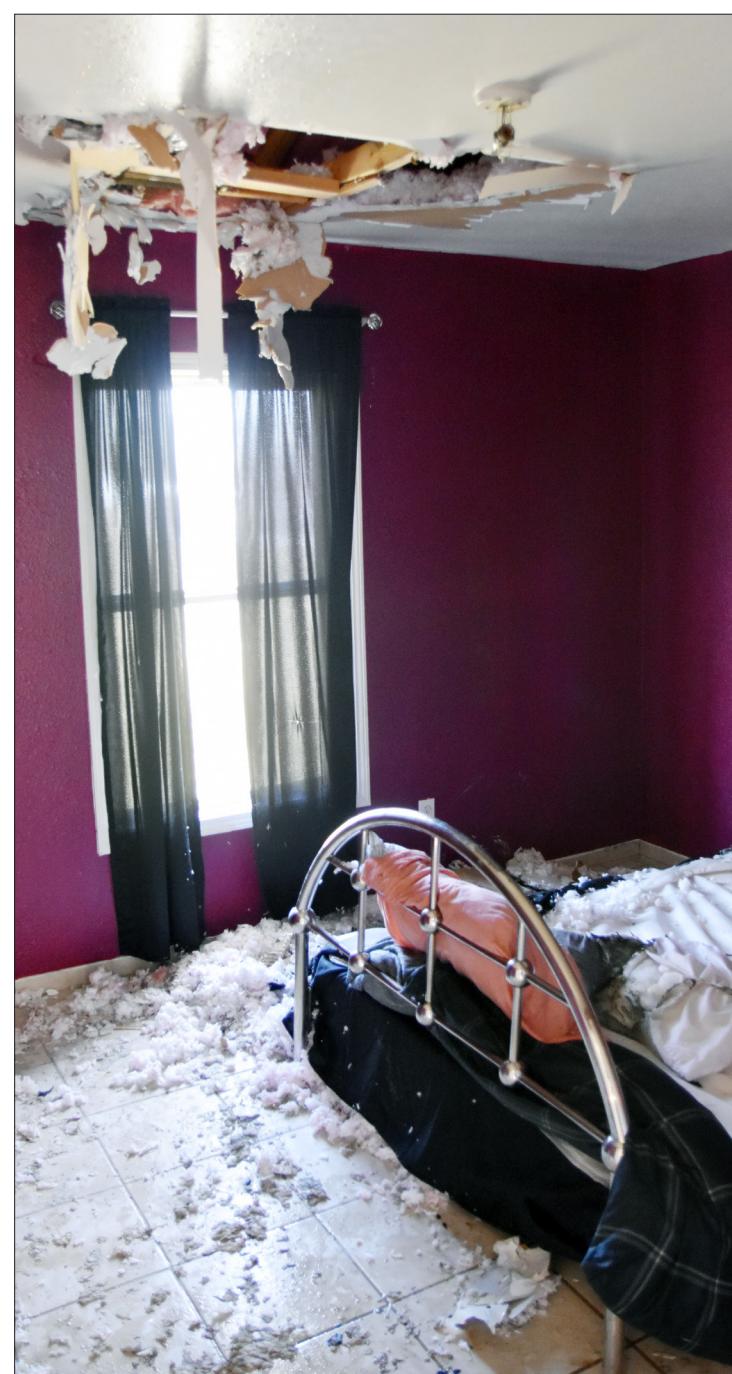
Forsee said Mayer had been napping on the bed about 15 minutes prior to them making the call to emergency services. He added that neither one of them smokes, and since they were nearly moved out, there was nothing plugged into the walls.

"Everything was already packed up and moved out," Forsee said. "It sucks, 'cause if it just would have waited another hour, everything would have been out."

Belle Volunteer Fire Chief Dwight Francis said the fire originated on the mattress. Some speculation was made that a hot ember from a dirty furnace in the apartment next door could have blown onto the mattress and set it alight, but was not confirmed.

Forsee said he and Mayer did not have renter's insurance on the apartment and would appreciate the community's assistance in helping to replace furniture (bed and night stand) and clothes for Mayer, which were still in the bedroom that caught fire. Mayer wears women's medium tops and ladies pants size eight and nine. She also wears size eight shoes.

If anyone has something they would like to give, they can contact Forsee at corbinforsee17@gmail.com or by cell phone at 636-234-7351.



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THOMAS BREWER



KEATON HUNT



ALEX PHILIPPS

Three Academy graduates represent county

BY CHRISTINE YEARWOOD
ADVOCATE STAFF
cyearwood@wardpub.com

MARIES COUNTY — Members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 110th Recruit Class reported to the Law Enforcement Academy Aug. 3, 2020, and graduated Wednesday, Jan. 20. Of the 31 graduates, one is an area native and two others will cover Maries County.

Graduate Thomas "Tom" Brewer has been assigned to Troop C, Zone 3, covering Jefferson County.

A Belle native, Brewer is the son of Rhonda Brewer Rodgers and husband Adam of Belle, and Mike and Tricia Brewer of Jefferson City. He is the grandson of Ronnie Terrill of Bland and the late Sharon

Terrill, and Charles and Maureen Brewer of Bland.

Brewer's mother, Rhonda, is active with the YaYa's of Belle and serves as Belle Fair Board's secretary/treasurer and as county clerk. His father, Mike, worked as a Maries County Sheriff's Deputy.

Brewer is a member of the Belle High School Class of 2016 where he participated in basketball and was also part of the back-to-back 2013 and 2014 District Champions Baseball team. Upon graduation, he received 11 scholarships, including the Donielle Schwartze Family Scholarship, Maries County R-2 PTO Scholarship, Kaeding-Winter Scholarship, Belle-Bland Booster Club Scholarship, Belle Fair Scholarship, Continuing Athletic Scholarship, The Last Chance

Scholarship, A+ Scholarship and Maries County R-2 Foundation Scholarship as well as Culver Stockton College's Hilltop and basketball scholarships.

He is a spring 2020 graduate of Culver-Stockton College, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Criminal Justice. During his academic career, he earned placement on the college's dean's and president's lists.

Keaton Hunt of Rolla and Alex Philipps of Jackson are new members of Troop I. Hunt has been assigned to Zone 1, covering Phelps and Maries counties. Philipps will cover Pulaski and Maries counties as part of his assignment to Zone 4.

The new troopers will report to duty in their assigned troops Tuesday, Feb. 16.



WINGS convenes

WINGS Youth Group in Vienna gathered Thursday, Jan. 28. WINGS will meet again Thursday, Feb. 25.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

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VIENNA LADY EAGLE defenders (above, from left) Kadence George, Jada Kleffner and Karissa Feeler look to stay between their girl and the basket during the consolation championship game at the Russellville Girls Basketball Tournament Saturday afternoon. **HALLE SMITH** (below, center) attacks the basket for two of her 22 points during Saturday's third-place game against Eugene at Russellville.

PHOTOS BY WILL JOHNSON

County girls basketball teams denied hardware

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR
wjohson@wardpub.com

RUSSELLVILLE — Playing their way into the final day of the Russellville Girls Basketball Tournament Saturday, Vienna's Lady Eagles and Belle's Lady Tigers looked to each bring consolation and third-place hardware respectively back to Maries County.

Up first was Jason Kampeter's Vienna Lady Eagles taking on Tuscumbia's Lady Lions.

Vienna was looking to avenge a 51-33 loss to Tuscumbia from back on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Leading 47-44 with 4:50 left, Vienna saw the Lady Lions end the game on an 11-1 run leaving them on the wrong end of a 58-48 final score.

Seeing seven lead changes and one tie in the first quarter, Vienna wound up trailing Tuscumbia 12-11 after eight minutes of

basketball.

Karissa Feeler led the Lady Eagles with four first-quarter points.

Similar to the first quarter, the second quarter had three ties and five lead changes.

Trailing 17-12 with 5:38 until halftime, a pair of Marsie Messersmith free throws started an 8-0 run that was capped by a Kadence George 3-pointer that gave the Lady Eagles a 20-17 lead with 3:45 for the first half.

Down 25-24 in the closing seconds of the half, Terra Huffman hit a 3-pointer with :07 ticks left giving Vienna a 27-25 halftime lead.

Already with a thin bench, Vienna began the second half without the services of Messersmith after she sustained an injury to her hand in the second quarter.

Third-quarter action saw three ties and five lead changes duplicating those numbers from the second quarter.

Down 39-35 with just over a minute left in the third quarter, a Huffman basket and a

George 3-pointer put Vienna back in front 40-39 with :11 ticks left.

Tuscumbia's Kylene Ash beat the third quarter buzzer leaving the Lady Eagles trailing the Lady Lions 41-40 going into the fourth quarter.

Held to one point over the last 4:50, Vienna ended their week at Russellville with a win and two losses.

Huffman led Vienna finishing with a double double of 14 points and 10 rebounds in addition to two assists.

George also finished in double figures scoring 10 points to go along with six rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Before leaving the game with an injured hand, Messersmith finished with nine points and five rebounds.

Jada Kleffner and Feeler each added six points while Hollis rounded out the Vienna scoring against Tuscumbia with

See **County girls** on Page 8



SAM WILLIS (above, left) gets a shot off in spite of being closely guarded by a Richland Bear during varsity boys basketball action Friday night at Belle High School. Unable to overcome an eight-point second quarter and a nine-point third quarter, Belle's varsity Tigers fell to Richland 59-50.

PHOTO BY JACOB WARDEN

Belle's Tigers fall to Richland, Houston

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR
wjohson@wardpub.com

led Belle with six first-half points.

Edged 10-9 to open the second half, the Tigers went into the fourth quarter trailing Richland 38-28.

Gentry Dunn hit a 3-pointer to lead Belle in the third quarter to go along with two points each from Lane Feeler and the Lingo brothers.

In a high-scoring fourth quarter, both teams combined for 43 points with the Tigers edging the Bears 22-21.

Seeing points from six different Tigers in the final eight minutes, Jace Gieck led Belle with six fourth-quarter points.

For the game, Thomas and Justin Lingo shared team-high scoring honors for Belle with 11 points each.

Feeler finished with nine points scoring seven of those in the second half.

Gieck and Dunn ended up with eight points apiece while Sam Willis added three fourth-quarter free throws for three points rounding out the Belle scoring against Richland.

In a two-quarter junior varsity game, Belle's JV Tigers edged the Richland JV

See **Belle's Tigers** on Page 8



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NATHAN KLEFFNER (above, right) decides whether to attack the basket, shoot the ball or pass the ball against Iberia earlier in the season at the Iberia Tournament.

PHOTO BY WILL JOHNSON



GENTRY DUNN (above, center) attacks the basket against Richland's Bears Friday night during Belle's 59-50 loss to the visitors from Pulaski County. Belle will host Stoutland tomorrow (Thursday) for senior night beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Belle High School.

PHOTO BY JACOB WARDEN

Eagles score road wins at Russellville, Cuba

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

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Spending last week on the road, Vienna Eagle basketball took on Cuba's Wildcats Friday night and Russellville's Indians last Tuesday.

Opening Gasconade Valley Conference (GVC) play Friday night, Vienna raced out to a 32-13 halftime lead before handily defeating Cuba 70-27.

Bayrd VanScy led three Eagles

in double figures with 25 points followed by Trey Snodgrass and Aliah Mercer with 15 points each.

In the junior varsity game, Mike Shelton's Eagles turned a 20-15 halftime lead into a 53-29 victory on the road in Crawford County.

Danniel Casey led the JV Eagles with 18 points followed closely by Nic Collins with 16 points.

Last Tuesday in Cole County, Vienna outscored Russellville 16-3 in the first quarter before going on to a 67-52 victory over the Indians.

VanScy led the Eagles and all scorers with 23 points followed closely with 21 points from Snodgrass.

Returning from an earlier injury, Lane Hogshooter nearly made it three Eagles in double figures finishing with nine points.

Junior varsity action against Russellville saw the JV Eagles end a 16-14 first-quarter lead into a 68-47 victory over the Indians.

Collins led four JV Eagles in double figures with 16 points.

Bears 23-18.

Winning the first quarter 12-9, Belle's JV Tigers were led by Cole Loughridge with four points in the first seven minutes.

In a near carbon copy of the first quarter, Belle edged Richland 11-9 in the second quarter to get the win.

Loughridge matched his first-quarter scoring output giving him a game-high eight points for Belle.

Talton Lange and Willis each

added five points to go along with three points from Kameron Newton.

Kaiden Robertson rounded the scoring for Belle's JV against Richland with two points.

Last Tuesday night, Belle picked up a last-minute road game with Houston setting up a showdown of red and white Tigers.

Down 35-19 at halftime, Belle won the second half 40-37 but came up on the short end of a 72-59 final

score.

Dunn led three Belle scorers in double figures with 16 points including five 3-pointers.

Thomas Lingo also hit four 3-pointers helping him tally up 15 points while Feeler hit three 3-pointers giving him 10 points.

In the junior varsity game between Belle and Houston, the host Tigers defeated Belle 48-21 in spite of a team-high nine points from Loughridge.

County girls • frompage 7

three points.

Another familiar opponent awaited Vienna in the consolation semifinals at Russellville the night before.

Facing Versailles' Lady Tigers, Vienna looked for their second win over Versailles after defeating them 63-51 at home last Thursday.

Leading 34-21 at halftime, Vienna outscored Versailles 28-23 in the second half to post a 62-44 victory.

Taking a 20-12 lead after one quarter, Vienna hit five 3-point shots and five free throws to account for all of their first-quarter points.

George led the Lady Eagles with 11 first-quarter points.

Outscoring the Lady Tigers 14-9 to close the first half, Vienna went into the halftime intermission with a 34-21 lead.

George (15) and Messersmith (14) combined for 29 of Vienna's 32 points in the first half with the other three coming from Feeler.

Nearly doubling up Versailles 16-9 in the third quarter, the Lady Eagles went into the fourth quarter with a 50-30 lead over the Lady Tigers.

In spite of being outscored 14-12 in the fourth quarter, Vienna posted their second win over Versailles in an eight-day span.

Adding 12 points in the second half, George led Vienna and all scorers with a game-high 27 points.

Messersmith joined her in double figures finishing with 18 points.

Feeler just missed making it a trio of double-digit scoring ending up with eight points.

Huffman chipped in five points along with two points each from Kayla Hertz and Kleffner.

Drawing Eugene's Lady Eagles in first-round action last Monday, Vienna could not overcome a 34-12 halftime deficit before falling to Eugene, 59-19.

Messersmith led Vienna against Eugene with seven points followed by six each from Feeler and Huffman.

Belle Lady Tigers at RHS

Also competing in Russellville last week, Evin Farris' Belle Lady Tigers looked to make it three-for-three in bringing home tournament hardware.

Defeating Calvary Lutheran 66-



By Carolyn Mueller | Illustrated by Philip Goudeau

CHAPTER FOUR

The truck bounced along as Miles and his dad made their way to Philadelphia. Miles was thirsty and washed the sunflower seeds down with a cool drink from his canteen.

"Dad," Miles said. "What other stars did you and Grandpa see when you were traveling around to watch the Negro League?"

"Well, Miles," his dad answered. "Have you ever heard of a player named Martin Dihigo?"

"Dihigo?" Miles questioned. "That's sort of a funny sounding name."

"It's a Cuban name," his dad said. "Dihigo is from Cuba."

"Oh?" Miles asked. "Cuban players also play in the Negro League?"

"Sure do!" Miles' dad answered. "The Negro League has lots of players from Cuba and Latin America. In fact, there was a team called the Cuban Stars. Dihigo played for them when he first started, but he eventually played for the Homestead Grays, Hilldale Giants and New York Cubans too. Martin Dihigo is an incredible player and he practices all of the time. They say he plays year-round—summers in the US and winters in the Caribbean!"

"I bet he's good, with all of that practice!" Miles chimed in.

"Yeah, son, that's the way to get better, isn't it?" his dad said. "Practice, practice, practice. In fact, Martin Dihigo is a great example of that. He was always the best at hitting fastballs, but he struggled when pitchers threw him the curve. So, he told his practice pitchers to only throw him curveballs."

"So, he could practice!"

"Exactly. With all of that practice, he became one of the best curveball hitters in the league."

"So, he's the best at hitting fastballs and the best at hitting curveballs?"

"Yes indeed," his dad answered.

"So, he's just the best!" Miles said.

"You could say that, for sure," his dad chortled.

"Dad? Um, do you think we could stop in that town up there?" Miles asked, pointing to a sign that said the next town would be coming along in three miles. "I have to go to the bathroom." Miles' dad gripped the wheel and studied the sign, glancing down at his penciled map as he drove. Suddenly, his dad turned off the main road down a side road running through a patch of woods.



Defeating Calvary Lutheran 66-

Phelps, Maries COVID-19 mass vaccination event is Feb. 4-5

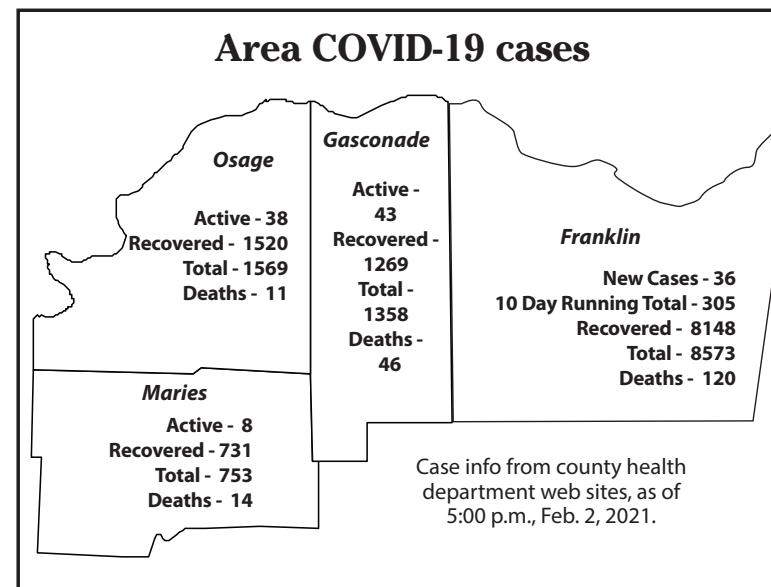
Phelps and Maries COVID-19 vaccination event Feb. 4 and 5

A COVID-19 mass vaccination event will be held in Rolla at Phelps Health for Phelps and Maries County residents in Phase 1A, 1B: Tiers 1 and 2 on Thursday, Feb. 4 and Friday, Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To receive the vaccination persons must register.

Jordan Valley Community Health Center, the Phelps-Maries County Health Department, and Phelps Health are working with the Missouri National Guard and the Department of Health and Senior Services to hold the mass vaccination for COVID-19 in Rolla. It will be a drive thru mass vaccination clinic at the Respiratory Screening Station, located in the Phelps Health and University of Science and Technology parking lot off of 10th Street in Rolla.

Persons must register to receive the first of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. The registration link is <https://bit.ly/3czQqSl>

It is important individuals return for the second dose to develop the highest level of immunity. Dates



for the second dose include Feb. 25 and Feb. 26. Registration is required for this event and attendees will be screened and approved according to the phases. Bring photo ID and wear a short-sleeved shirt.

For those who do not have access to the internet or email, the health department has activated their call center (888-779-4170) for assistance with registration. Persons who are able to register online should not call this number. Once all registration slots are filled, the call center will be activated.

Health Department Director Ashley Wann said 2,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be given during the two-day mass vaccination clin-

ic. She expected more clinics to follow each week but was uncertain of the specific details.

The persons who qualify for this mass vaccination event include first responders, emergency services and public health infrastructure workers. Also Phase 1B-Tier 2 individuals are those who are high risk. They are anyone aged 65 and older and adults with cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, heart conditions, weakened immune system due to organ transplant, severe obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, or individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome.

Active virus case count continues declining

Last week the Phelps-Maries County Health Department reported the number of active COVID-19 cases in both Phelps and Maries Counties are on the decline.

At the peak on Nov. 23, 2020, the health department said it was averaging 66 new cases reported each day. Currently the average is 15 new cases reported each day. With response efforts shifting to vaccination, the department urges citizens to continue to take appropriate precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the communities. This means continuing to wear masks, practice social distancing, and hand washing.

On Jan. 28, the department reported 14 active COVID-19 cases in Maries County, 720 persons released from isolation, and 14 deaths. Phelps County had 103 active cases, 3,987 released from isolation, and 115 deaths.

McMinn's celebrate 71-year union

BY LAURA SCHIERMEIER
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
lschiermeier@wardpub.com

A Vienna couple celebrated 71 years of marriage Friday, Jan. 29.

John "Clinton" and Dorothy McMinn currently live at Victorian Place in Vienna. Due to the coronavirus, their family was unable to gather with them to celebrate the special day. Instead, the family provided a large, decorated cake to be shared with the other residents at Victorian Place.

Their daughter, Linda Hays of Vienna, said her dad, Clinton, was raised in the Hayden-Stickney area of Maries County. Her mom, Dorothy, was raised in the Anutt area of Phelps County.

Clinton worked in Rolla as an apprentice meat cutter. The story goes that Dorothy walked past the store on her way to her state secretarial job. Clinton told his boss, "I'm going to marry that long legged blonde." One rainy day Clinton asked if he could give her a ride home. She said yes and the rest is history.

Clinton served in the Korean War and after he came home the couple bought and moved to a farm located between Rolla and St. James. Clinton raised cattle and worked in Rolla at the A&P, Kroger, and IGA, where he became co-owner



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



until his retirement. Dorothy was a housewife and mom, always caring for their three daughters and raising a large garden to feed the family. Hays said her parents always helped family and friends in need.

Clinton and Dorothy's daughters are Patricia (Dennis) Harris of Rolla, Linda (Shorty) Hays of Vienna, and Janet-deceased (David) Thompson of Carson City, Nevada. They have six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

VCOC renewing, accepting new memberships

BY LAURA SCHIERMEIER
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
lschiermeier@wardpub.com

VIENNA—The Vienna Chamber of Commerce (VCOC) accomplished much in the year 2020, despite the COVID-19 coronavirus. The chamber hopes 2021 will also be a productive year.

The chamber is currently accepting new members and renewing chamber memberships for 2021.

VCOC Secretary Kelly Barnhart reported the chamber reorganized with a new slate of officers. They began by establishing and implementing a new set of by-laws. The members worked to promote the Vienna community and businesses through the www.viennamococ.com website, on a social media Facebook page, and in the county newspaper.

The chamber held a first-ever outdoor movie night, which was

well received. The chamber promoted and held the annual Trunk or Treat event.

Throughout the year the members held several ribbon cuttings to welcome new businesses. Through the chamber some businesses took advantage of obtaining health insurance to their employees.

With the Show-Me Scholars, the Vienna Chamber of Commerce raised funds to give scholarships to eight students and they have been raising funds for this year's seniors.

Barnhart said the chamber has laid the ground work for having a

welcome center for visitors to enter and grab a business brochure or city map with markers of VCOC businesses and points of interest. They hope to see this through in 2021.

In an email to members, a survey was sent along with the membership renewal for 2021. The survey asks chamber members if they have benefited from membership, asks for suggestions or comments, and asks for volunteers to help with upcoming events and projects.

VCOC officers are President Lisa Garro of Heartland Regional Library, Vice President Mark James

of Results Real Estate and Auction, Treasurer Peggy Simoneaux of The Maries County Crisis Center,

and Secretary Kelly Barnhart of Barnhart Dental.



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When specific criteria are met, the PPP loan funds are forgiven by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Phelps County Bank will assist you through the entire process – helping you calculate the amount your farm operation or small business can receive. Funds through this SBA program are limited. Use PCB's quick application and get additional information now at mpcb.com. Questions? Call at 800-667-5202 or e-mail ppp@mpcb.com.



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MENUSMaries County
R-2 SchoolsThursday, Feb. 4
Cheeseburger, Fries, Texas Pintos, Tuna Salad Wrap, Chicken Caesar Salad, Italian Bread, Mexican CornFriday, Feb. 5
Macaroni and Cheese, Focaccia Bread, Tomato Soup, Glazed Carrots, PB&J Sandwich, Cheese Stick, Popcorn Chicken Salad, Baby Carrots with Ranch DipTuesday, Feb. 9
Lasagna Roll-Up, Italian Bread, Steamed Broccoli, PB&J Sandwich, Cheese Stick, Popcorn Chicken Salad, Fruit Muffin, Baby CarrotsWednesday, Feb. 10
Chicken Patty on Bun, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Popcorn Chicken Wrap, Cobb Salad, Roll, Fresh CauliflowerThursday, Feb. 11
Chicken Nachos, White Queso, Refried Beans, Ham and Cheese Roll-Up, Chicken Bacon Ranch Salad, Fruit MuffinFriday, Feb. 12
Pizza, Roasted Vegetables, Turkey Club Sandwich, Taco Salad, Cornbread, Broccoli with Ranch Dip
*Garden Salad and Chilled Fruit served daily.Maries County
R-I SchoolsThursday, Feb. 4
Taco Salad, Refried Beans, OrangesFriday, Feb. 5
Pepperoni Pizza, Salad, PeachesMonday, Feb. 8
Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Breadstick, PeachesTuesday, Feb. 9
BBQ Rib Sandwich, Pickle Spear, Chips, Apple, CookieWednesday, Feb. 10
Frito Chili Pie, Carrot Sticks, Celery with Ranch Dressing, OrangeThursday, Feb. 11
Spaghetti, Green Beans, Breadstick, Mixed FruitFriday, Feb. 12
Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Corn, Applesauce, BreadVisitation Inter-
Parish SchoolThursday, Feb. 4
Pork on Bun, Chips, Baked Beans, Celery, PeachesFriday, Feb. 5
*Pizza Party LunchMonday, Feb. 8
Chicken Nuggets, Potato Smiles, Celery Sticks, Mixed FruitTuesday, Feb. 9
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Carrots, Pears, Cheese StickWednesday, Feb. 10
Tacos, Refried Beans, Peaches, NoodlesThursday, Feb. 11
Chili with Cheese, Crackers, Celery Sticks, Cherries, CookieFriday, Feb. 12
Hamburger, Chips, Baked Beans, Carrot Sticks, PineappleVienna Senior
Center Lunch210 Ball Park., Vienna
Phone (573) 422-3834Wednesday, Feb. 3
Tater Tot Casserole, Peas, Cauliflower, Fruit CocktailThursday, Feb. 4
Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cheesy Potato Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, ApplesauceFriday, Feb. 5
Battered Cod, Coleslaw, French Fries, PeachesMonday, Feb. 8
Hamburger Steak with Mushroom Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, PeachesTuesday, Feb. 9
Beef and Noodles, Green Beans, Tuscan Vegetables, Fruit CocktailWednesday, Feb. 10
Baked Chicken with Grilled Mushrooms and Onions, Garlic Herb Potatoes, Fruited JelloThursday, Feb. 11
Garlic Butter Pork Chops, Au Gratin Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Baked ApplesFriday, Feb. 12
Chicken Stir-Fry, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Pineapple, Fortune Cookies

Rowden • from page 4

preliminary hearing Feb. 2. Bond was set at \$100,000 cash or surety bond. The defendant is ordered

not to be in Maries County except traveling on Highway 42 or 63. He is charged with the felony of

first degree tampering with motor vehicle.

MARIES COUNTY 25TH CIRCUIT COURT

HON. JUDGE JOHN BEGER, PRESIDING

1/22/21

Ladonna Meek, 29, Perryville, is in federal custody. Her probation was suspended and the case was transferred to Judge Hickle with a probation violation hearing set for Feb. 1. She pleaded guilty in 2020 to first degree trafficking drugs or attempt and was sentenced to 12 years in the DOC and granted a suspended execution of sentence (SES) and placed on supervised probation for five years.**Bryan Smith**, 33, Owensville, appeared and pre-trial conference set for May 17 and jury trial set for June 10 and 11 on the felonies of unlawful use of weapon, first degree burglary, tampering with a witness in a felony prosecution, and third degree assault.**Christina Banderman**, 33, Cuba, appeared with counsel and pleaded guilty to felony first degree tampering with motor vehicle and was sentenced to

five years in the DOC and granted a SES and placed on supervised probation for five years with conditions to include shock incarceration at discretion of probation and parole.

Ronald Calzone v. Maries County Commission, the defendant allowed 20 days to respond to plaintiff's motion for summary judgment and plaintiff has until Feb. 18 to file answers. Case review set for Feb. 19.**Ladonna Meek**, 29, Perryville, is in federal custody. Her probation was suspended and probation violation hearing was reset to Feb. 1 and transferred to Hickle's court. In 2020 she pleaded guilty to felony escape or attempted escape from custody while under arrest for felony and was sentenced to four years in the DOC but granted a SES and placed on supervised probation for five years.

Commission • from page 1

to work from home. It also paid for the assessor's GIS System.

The commissioners and other budget officers were able to give all employees a raise. Hourly employees will receive a .50 cent per hour raise. Elected officials will receive a 2.5 percent COLA raise. Additionally, even though the premium increased for the year, the county will continue to pay for 80 percent of the employees' health insurance if they are on the county's program.

The 2021 budget also reflects two new vehicles for the sheriff's department. Carpeting in some office entrances will be replaced. The BRO bridge project in Road One is included in the budget. The commissioners made a transfer of \$100,000 into MMDA to the county's emergency fund, which had an ending balance of \$209,602 on Dec. 31, 2020. The new MMDA balance is \$310,202.

In the budget message, Rodgers detailed the county's existing sales taxes. The county has a half-cent sales tax established in April 1990, of which one-third goes to each of three funds—roads, general revenue, and citizen's safety.

The county has a half-cent sales tax established in April 2002, of which one-sixth goes to revenue, two-thirds to citizen's safety, and one-fifth to Road One and Road Two. This sales tax was renewed in 2016.

In April 2015, the county renewed a one-third of one-half cent sales tax for the purpose of providing more money for law enforcement. This tax revenue goes to the citizen's safety fund and has a ten-year sunset, meaning it will need to be approved by voters again in 2025 to retain it.

TWO INCHES OF RAIN

A big rain came into the area and on Monday, Jan. 23 and locals were reporting water over some highways. Commissioner Stratman said he had two inches of rainfall at his place, saying the Maries River was full.

Western District Commissioner Ed Fagre said there were some wash outs they were dealing with.

OWED MONEY

Stratman read an article in the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) publication, The County Record, which reported how much money the State of Missouri owes to Maries County for jail board of defendants found guilty of state charges. This is an on-going issue.

Maries County has not received reimbursement of these expenses for a long time. The state owes Maries County \$15,882.

There are some counties that have been paid and they include Worth, Shannon, Putnam, Ralls, Monroe, Mercer and Harrison. Other counties, such as St. Louis County, is owed over \$1 million.

Stratman said it's an issue the state is trying to solve. Because the state is not reimbursing the county, Maries County taxpayers are subsidizing the state by paying for all of the jail board.

HIGHWAY 63 ALLIANCE

Stratman attended a meeting of the Highway 63 Alliance the week before. He said the group has put together its bylaws and plan to file paperwork for incorporation. The next meeting is in March.

They anticipate having one board member from each of the

seven counties and at first they thought to also have a representative from one city in the county. The city has to be located along Highway 63. But, most of the people at the meeting thought each city along Highway 63 in the south central corridor should have a board member. This adds six or seven persons to the board, which may or may not cause a problem with obtaining a quorum.

For a quorum, one more than half of the group needs to be present. Stratman said there is only one incorporated city in Maries County along Highway 63 and that's Vienna. Highway 63 runs through Vichy, but Vichy is not incorporated. Adding all of the towns with the county board position brings the group from 18 to 25.

The alliance asked for \$1,000 from each of the counties this year to help with start up costs. Maries County did not approve the \$1,000 in the 2021 budget but Stratman said he plans to attend the meetings anyway.

The Highway 63 Alliance has a primary goal of assisting in making Highway 63 a four-lane highway throughout the seven-county corridor.

ABOUT PROPERTY

Russell and Joan Prenger came to the commission meeting to ask the county commission about selling them about three and a half acres along MCR 512 that joins their property. Fagre said he doesn't know if the county has a use for it. The commissioners had some questions about it. Fagre wondered if there was a cemetery there. The Prengers said there were no foundations or anything there and its all grown up with trees and brush and a high line goes through there.

Eastern District Commissioner Doug Drewel asked if they knew what they are willing to give for it and what a fair price would be. Stratman said to sell land, the county probably has to advertise and take bids. It likely will need to be handled by an attorney. The Prengers said they want to know what it will take to get it. It's in the county's name and they think it was donated to the county for a church or school. Fagre asked them to let the commissioners do some checking and hopefully they can figure something out.

Also, a title company approached the county with a case where heirs to the property owned by Marie Mayer in Vichy has a street on the documents that does not exist. They are asking the county to vacate the street as they want to sell the property. The land is located in "Vichy Heights" and in the property paperwork streets are named that were never built.

They are asking the county to vacate the street because Vichy is unincorporated and has no means to do it legally.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Stratman said he was in the courthouse mechanical room recently and it was well organized with nothing was inside the painted stripe. "It was as good as I've ever seen it," he said.

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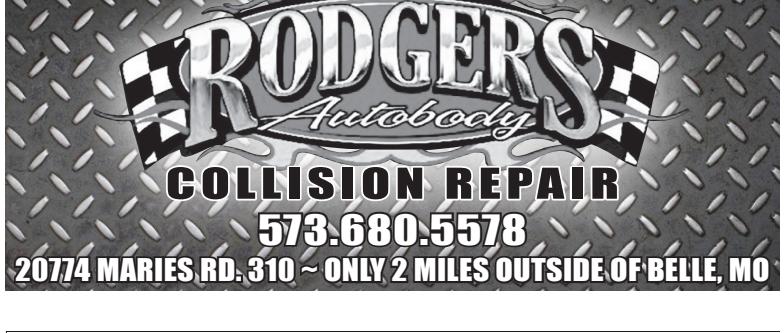
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LEGALS

1 Administrator's Notices

IN THE 25TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, MARIES COUNTY, MISSOURI

Judge or Division: PROBATE Case Number: 20MS-PR00042 In the Estate of ROGER R REDDEN, Deceased.

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of ROGER R REDDEN, Decedent:

On January 20, 2021, the following individuals were appointed the co-personal representatives of the estate of ROGER R REDDEN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Maries County, Missouri. The personal representatives' business address(es) and phone number(s) are:

STEVE NEWTON,
30402 Maries Road,
Belle, MO 65013

DENISE NEWTON,
30402 Maries Rd.,
Belle, MO 65013.

The personal representatives' attorney's name, business address(es) and phone number is:

AMANDA LYN GRELLNER,
P O Box 800,
Linn, MO 65051.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after the decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods.

Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 05-NOV-2020

Date of first publication: 27-JAN-2021

/s/ Angela Stricklan, Clerk

Publish in the Maries County Advocate newspaper on: January 27, February 3, February 10, and February 17, 2021.

4t-012721 mca

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Wednesday, February 3, 2021 • Page 11

MARIES COUNTY Advocate

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1 Administrator's Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARIES COUNTY, MISSOURI

Case No: 21MS-CCR00001
EMILY ROSETTA GAITHER, Petitioner,
vs. TRAVIS DANIEL GAITHER, Respondent.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: TRAVIS DANIEL GAITHER.

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced in the court named in the above caption, the object and general nature of which is a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage to EMILY ROSETTA GAITHER.

The name of the court in which this action is pending and the names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof. Petitioner is representing herself in this action.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading and serve the same on the Plaintiff or their attorney or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition by February 3, 2021 (date of the second and final publication of this notice), judgment by default will be rendered against you.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Maries County Advocate, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Maries, State of Missouri. Published in the Maries County Advocate newspaper on: January 27 and February 3, 2021.

2t-012721 mca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

0070 No Hunting or Fishing

NO HUNTING/TRESPASSING on the property of Stephan & Cynthia Puscan, 3951 Holt Road, Bland, MO 65014 by day or night without permission.

NO HUNTING/TRESPASSING on the property of Jacoby Farms: Scott & Cindy, 23177 Maries County Road 417, Belle by day or night without permission.

NO HUNTING/TRESPASSING on the Wagner Property: Deborah A. and Tim Stratman, located at 12216 Hwy. 63 South, Vienna by day or night without permission. Includes all property.

NO TRESPASSING, HUNTING OR FISHING on the properties of 13646 & 13650 MCR 516 without landowner permission.

NOTICE: If you would like to have your property listed in the **No Hunting/No Trespassing** section of the Gasconade County Republican for as little as \$60.00 per year, call 437-2323 for details.

0100 Miscellaneous

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0200 Miscellaneous

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— MARK TWAIN

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0450 Miscellaneous

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0454 Publisher's Notice

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0850 Miscellaneous

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You may email bids to blandmo@centurylink.net, mail them to: **P.O. Box 40 Bland, MO 65014**, or you can drop them off at **Bland City Hall located at 209 W Kansas City St. Bland, MO 65014**.

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THE VIENNA FFA Barnwarming Court for this year is (above) Junior Princess Reese Snodgrass, Junior Prince Jude Stricklan, Princess Elizabeth Veasman, Prince Ben Veasman, Queen Gabby Wilkinson and King Nathan Kleffner.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vienna FFA holds gigging tourney, Barnwarming

BY LILY WAGNER
VIENNA FFA REPORTER

VIENNA — Hello everyone, I hope you have been enjoying this beautiful winter weather. The Vienna FFA has been working hard and I would love to tell you all about it!

We had the Gigging tournament Jan. 2. There were six tournament teams and all the gigged fish will go towards our Supporters Fish Fry. Also on Jan. 2, we had the District Greenhand Conference, held in our high school gym at 9 a.m. State Officer Dakota Pemberton, along with our very own Area Officers Hannah Shanks and Emily Thompson, hosted the conference for our Greenhands.

There was no school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 18. That day there was a work day for anyone who was working on their American/ State Degrees, Proficiency awards, HYPE and HYMAX applications.

State Degree Screening was Jan. 26.

An officer meeting was held Jan. 29 at 7 a.m. in the Ag room, and 8th hour that day there was a Labor Auction/Scholarship Dinner Committee meeting where we discussed our meal and plans for that event.

We finally had our 2020-21 Barnwarming on Jan. 30. At 7 p.m., our chapter meeting began, with Barnwarming following that. During our chapter meeting we held the Greenhand and Chapter De-

gree Ceremony and pinned the recipients. Your Vienna FFA Barnwarming Royalty for this year is: Junior Princess Reese Snodgrass, Junior Prince Jude Stricklan, Princess Elizabeth Veasman, Prince Ben Veasman, Queen Gabby Wilkinson and King Nathan Kleffner. We had a blast dancing the night away and playing games.

American Degree applications were due Feb. 1. Best of luck to Jena Schwartze, Paige Breeding, Katie Tappel and Kaitlyn Nuebert, who all applied for their American FFA Degree.

State Degree and Proficiency award selection was Feb. 2. We all wished best of luck to Hannah Shanks, who competed at the State level with her Missouri Pork Speech.

State Choir/Talent and HYPE/HYMAX applications are due Feb. 5. During 8th hour, there will be a FFA Week Committee meeting that same day to discuss plans for FFA Week.

The Fish Fry Committee will meet Feb. 9 during 8th hour to plan for our Supporters Fish Fry.

There will be an officer meeting Feb. 10 at 6 p.m., with a chapter meeting at 7 p.m. that night. This meeting will be our Dinner meeting, so stay tuned for information for that meeting.

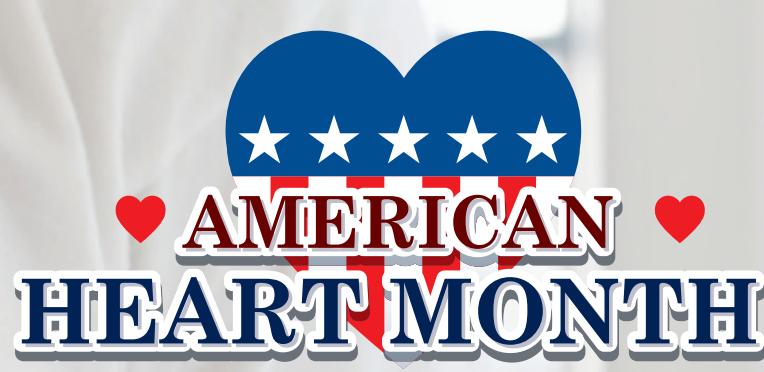
Lastly, Feb. 28 will begin our FFA Week. Closer to time we will have more information for that exciting week. Hope you had a great end to January and beginning of a new month!



VI-PS celebrates 100 days of learning by dressing up

Visitation Inter-Parish School celebrated being in school for 100 days on Tuesday, Jan. 26, by dressing up. Kindergartners and first graders dressed like 100-year-olds and second and third graders had special shirts made. They celebrated by thinking of items to use to count to 100 showing how many days they have already been in attendance for this school year.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



AHA ambassadors aim to inspire women to improve heart, brain health

By American Heart Association

February 1, 2021 — To kick off American Heart Month and raise awareness that cardiovascular disease is the leading killer of women, the American Heart Association, the leading global volunteer organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, today announced 22 heart disease and stroke survivors who are

boldly sharing their stories as part of the Association's Go Red for Women® movement. The time to act is now because losing even one more women to heart disease or stroke simply isn't an option.

Go Red for Women, nationally sponsored by CVS Health, is the American Heart Association's signature women's initiative to end heart disease and stroke in women. Go Red for Women is working in communities around the world to help women understand that cardiovascular disease is their greatest health threat and that they should take action to lower their risk.

The Real Women will serve as year-long national volunteers for the Association. Each of the Real Women selected for this year's class has a unique heart or brain health journey and, for the first time, the 2021 class includes two smaller groups of survivors focused on maternal health and congenital heart disease.

Heart disease remains the leading killer of women in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association's newly released 2021 Heart Disease & Stroke Statistics, killing one in three women every year. Research shows heart attacks are on the rise in younger women and new data from a recent study published in Circulation suggests younger generations of women, Gen Z and Millennials, along with Black and Hispanic women, are less likely to be aware of their greatest health threat, including knowing the warning signs of heart attacks and strokes. This year's class of women are the youngest class of women to date.

Following the birth of her daughter, 2021 Real Women Class Lead, 35-year-old Jaime Zeluck Hindlin of Los Angeles, was diagnosed with peripartum cardiomyopathy, a form of heart failure. Today, Jaime is passionate about raising awareness and being a champion for women to advocate

for their health.

"My shortness of breath and swollen feet were dismissed as symptoms of a normal pregnancy, but I had actually developed a rare form of heart failure that nearly killed me," said Hindlin, whose diagnosis was made four years ago on February 1. "As the 2021 class lead for the Go Red for Women Real Women, my message is this: If you have a feeling that something isn't right, get a second opinion. Don't wait. Listen to and trust your body."

The following women join Hindlin in the 2021 Real Women class:

Brittany Scheier, 29, of Houston, Texas, was in her last semester of law school when she suffered a hemorrhagic stroke.

An Army combat veteran, Dani Aylsworth's, 33, of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, battled PTSD, addiction and heart failure.

Under constant stress as a registered medical assistant, Melissa

Sloan-Williams, 39, of Fenton, developed Type 2 diabetes and had a heart attack in her early 30s.

Jessica Diede, 30, of Phoenix, Arizona, was 20 weeks pregnant with her second child when she was diagnosed with peripartum cardiomyopathy.

Learn more about the 2021 Go Red for Women Real Women at goredforwomen.org.

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