

MARIES
COUNTY

Advocate

Eagles, Tigers win Stoutland Tournament openers. See sports page 7.



Aldermen approve water infrastructure grant app. submission, city continues to experience main breaks

BY ROXIE MURPHY
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BELLE — Belle aldermen on March 1 voted 3-0 to apply for a 50/50 percent DNR grant due at the end of the day that will hopefully be used to upgrade the city's water infrastructure. It would also require the passage of a bond issue.

Aldermen met with the city's engineer Terris Cates of Integrity Engineering to discuss applying for a grant. Cates along with Public Works Director Tony Baretich explained to the board why the city needs the 50/50 percent grant to purchase a new water tower, replace pipes throughout the infrastructure, and fix the distribution problem. The topic was not listed in the special meeting notice that explained the board was meeting for lunch, sexual harassment training and budget review.

"Of all the projects we've done with the city, the water is the most dire," Cates said. "You've got some of the best-tasting water in the state."

Cates said working with Nathan Abel and now Tony Baretich, the city's operators have been great in keeping up with the city's water.

Cates said he has designed many water operations to be the best for each city.

"In our city, well one and tower one was put in 1937," he said. "That tower is 86 years old and the well is 86 years old."

He said well one is burned out and companies don't want to touch it because it is so old. It produces 140 gallons a minute.

Well three, replaced in 2021, replaces 500 gallons a minute.

"According to state regulations, you are supposed to have another well that can back up your main well," Cates said. "Well one can't."

Cates said the city has grown about 10 percent since 2020, and there is not enough storage. The 50,000-gallon well (and water tower) next to the Lonnie

See **Water grant** on Page 5

MOAD board meets with COMM-Unity Ambulance board president

BY COLIN WILLARD
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VIENNA — DJ Schroeder, president of the COMM-Unity Ambulance board, attended the March 15 meeting of the Maries-Osage Ambulance District (MOAD) board to discuss the service's closure and the steps that need to happen for MOAD to annex the COMM-Unity Ambulance service area.

The MOAD board started by telling Schroeder about the petition that voters in the COMM-Unity Ambulance service area will need to file if they want to join MOAD's service area. Because the affected area includes pieces of both Maries County and Osage County, each county will need its own petition to its

own commissioners. Voters south of Volmert Lane in Osage County will need to petition the Maries County commission because MOAD would annex that section of Osage County. Once the petitions reach either 50 registered voters or 10 percent of registered voters in the affected areas, they may submit the petitions to the commissioners of their respective counties.

When the commissioners receive the petitions, they will have public hearings. Then, they may put the annexation on ballots in their counties for the following election.

Schroeder said he was not aware of the petition process because he thought it was up to the county commissioners to find coverage. He asked the MOAD board to pass along the step by step breakdown of the process. MOAD administrator Carla Butler said she could connect him with Monte Olsen, the executive

director of National Association of Emergency and Fire Officials, who helped guide the MOAD board through the annexation process at the February meeting.

"Maries County is anxious to help you out," board member Victor Stratman said.

"But we have to do it the right way," board president Don Lanning said.

"I appreciate it," Schroeder said. "Everyone is thankful that you guys are stepping up and willing to do this."

Schroeder said he would let the COMM-Unity Ambulance board know about the process at their next meeting. He also told the board that he would have no trouble helping to gather signatures for the petitions.



VVFD fundraiser

The Vichy Vounteer Fire Department (VVFD) held a pie supper fundraiser on March 18 at the firehouse. About 150 attended the event, which included a performance by Jerry Rosa and the Rosa String Works Band and the Vichy mayoral elections. In the days leading up to the fundraiser, "voters" made donations to VVFD in support for their chosen mayor candidates. Once the cash was counted, six-month old puppy Harper Maddox (owned by Melissa Maddox) was declared the winner of a one-year term as Vichy's mayor.

PHOTOS BY JACOB WARDEN

GFL Environ. discontinues waste pick-up services after March 31

BY ROXIE MURPHY
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BLAND — GFL Environmental Inc. customers in Bland received a letter over the weekend that the Springfield company will pull services out of the area by March 31, and collect all containers.

The company that took over from WCA in July 2021 said they are pulling services because of operational costs.

"We are continually monitoring our operational costs to ensure that we can offer our customers a premium service at a fair charge," the letter, signed GFL Environmental, Inc., read. "Recently, GFL has completed route audits of the service area you are within and find we can no longer support the cost of providing these services at a reasonable charge. This decision takes into consideration the increase in costs of providing service as well as the density, or number of accounts, we serve."

GFL asks customers to consider the letter their two weeks (or less) notice that they will discontinue providing

See **GLF** on Page 5

Commissioners talk with solar company president

BY COLIN WILLARD
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VIENNA — At the March 16 Maries County commission meeting, the commissioners had a phone conference with two representatives from the St. Louis-based solar energy development company Azimuth Renewables. In the last few months, the company has sent two letters to the commissioners that asked them to verify that Maries County has no planning and zoning restrictions. After the commissioners decided not to return the letters, the company gave them a call.

Developer Tom Chiles was the first to speak. He told the commissioners that the name of the project is Jade Solar and the company is developing it along Route BB near Dixon. The commissioners seemed to learn that it was not about the project the compa-

ny has been working on north of Vichy.

Then, Chiles introduced the commissioners to the president of Azimuth Renewables, David Bunge. Eastern District Commissioner Doug Drewel asked him how much land the project near Dixon encompassed.

Bunge said it was about 850 acres. He also said that the company was considering leasing from more landowners in the area for the project.

"It's very early stage," he said. "We're probably in year one of a six-year process at this point."

Drewel asked how much land the company leased in the Vichy area. Bunge said it was about 1,200 acres.

Presiding Commissioner Victor Stratman asked if the company was actively seeking more land in the Vichy area.

"That is my understanding," Bunge said. "We're working on a development partner with that one."

Stratman also asked how far out the company is

from completing the Vichy project because it began a couple of years ago.

"These processes take some time," Bunge said.

He told Stratman that the company was waiting on some estimates of interconnection costs before moving forward on that project. The estimated timeline that Bunge said for construction to begin was about three or four years.

The commissioners realized during the conversation that Azimuth Renewables' solar projects are independent of the project that the company Invenergy is developing in Maries County. Bunge clarified that the companies are not related.

Stratman said the commissioners' first concern about the solar projects was for the people of Maries County.

"Our concern is that we don't want you messing with our citizens," he said. "(We) want to make sure they're treated fairly."

"We definitely negotiate mutually agreeable

contracts with the landowners that we work with," Bunge said.

Stratman also told Bunge about the commissioners' frustration because of a lack of communication and transparency from Azimuth Renewables.

"We don't really appreciate that because we're charged with taking care of the county," Stratman said. "We would like to know what's going on."

Bunge said he appreciated the feedback and he would like to increase the frequency of communication between the company and the county. He said that the reality up to this point had been that there was not much to report because the projects are in the early stages and the company is doing a lot of waiting.

"I'll try to put the process in place to have some more regular touch-points with the commission," Bunge said.

See **COMMISSION** on Page 11

R-1 board approves base pay increases

See Page 3

VHS students learn about stock market

See Page 3



Phelps Health joins BJC Collaborative

See Page 9

A NEW ADVENTURE

My favorite John Wayne movie

Before Star Trek and Star Wars, before science fiction movies, before Marvel movies with Captain America, the Hulk, Iron Man and Thor, there were westerns, and of course, John Wayne, the Duke.

According to what I found on the Internet, the Duke appeared in over 250 movies, from The Big Trail in 1930 to The Shootist in 1976. That's over five movies a year, 84 were westerns.

Growing up in the 60s and 70s, I watched many John Wayne movies, primarily westerns. I have my favorites; I bet you have your's too.

My dad's favorite Wayne movie, The Quiet Man, is the only one in my top ten that is not a western. In that movie, Wayne is paired up with possibly his favorite leading lady, Maureen O'Hara. Playing a retired American boxer, he returns to the village of his birth in Ireland to escape his past, where he finds love.

A great movie. I try to watch it at least once a year. Around St. Patrick's Day is the perfect time.

My favorite John Wayne movie is Big Jake. It has to be. You see, my nickname when I was growing up was Jake. My closest friends still call me that. When I die and go to heaven (God willing), my grandma will be there and call me Jake. I don't remember her ever calling me anything else.

by **DENNIS WARDEN**



When I was a young lad, a gate was strategically placed to keep me from leaving the yard. When I wanted to go through the gate I asked mom or dad to open it. But my pronunciation was a little off. I asked them to open the "jake," the name stuck.

Long before Connie and I met, I knew the name of my firstborn son. There would be no discussion. He would be named Jacob. That was a condition of our marriage.

Big Jake is a classic John Wayne movie. Set in 1909, John Fain's gang (played by Richard Boone) kidnaps Big Jake McCandles' grandson (also named Jacob) and holds him for ransom. Big Jake sets out to rescue the boy.

This was the final film in which John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara worked together. Two of

Wayne's sons were also part of this movie. Ethan Wayne played Big Jake's grandson, and Patrick Wayne was one of three of Big Jake's sons.

In this movie, John Wayne's character works with a dog, named Dog. The animal was one an offspring of Lassie.

This movie includes my favorite line from one of John Wayne's characters. When asked if the sight of blood bothers him he replies "only my own."

I must have seen close to 40 of his movies. The list of my top ten movies by the Duke are (in order of the year they were released):

3 Godfathers
The Quiet Man
Rio Bravo
The Sons of Katie Elder
True Grit
The Undefeated
Big Jake
The Cowboys
Rooster Cogburn
The Shootist

One thing I remember about John Wayne movies is that he often fought for the underdog. Also, many of his films included prominent roles for Indians, and I don't mean as his enemy. In Big Jake,

his guide and partner in his grandson's rescue was an Indian. In The Undefeated he has an adopted Indian son.

Here is some more trivia about the Duke.

When asked about his fellow actor Rock Hudson in The Undefeated, Wayne replied, "Who the hell cares if he's queer? The man plays great chess."

He even had a connection to the newspaper business. Wayne was born in Iowa but went to Glendale Union High School in California, where he played for the football team. Most fans know this. But did you know he was also a member of its newspaper staff and wrote sports reports under the byline 'M.M.M'.

Born Marion Robert Morrison, the Duke holds the record with the most leading parts — 142. In all but 11 films he played the leading role.

In a YouTube video, I found this line from an unnamed John Wayne movie that pretty well sums it up — "There's right and there's wrong. You got-ta do one or the other. Do the one and you're living. Do the other and you may be walking around but you're dead as a beaver hat."

John Wayne movies made you proud, proud to be an American. That is something we need more of.

MAIL BAG

City of Belle responds to acquisitions

To the Editor:

We were asked many times to respond to the acquisitions that were made by Joe Turnbough against the mayor and council members of the City of Belle. We feel that the best option is to simply state the facts, give an honest review and publish in the newspaper for all the citizens of Belle.

From the beginning of the Maries County policing contract, it was always the plan to bring back our police force. We greatly appreciate the dedication and service provided to the city by Maries County Sheriff's Department. During that time, the city paid close to \$200,000 a year for their services. Maries County is a large county, and while they did everything they could, many time our city was left unprotected. After much discussion, it was determined by the council that for the safety of our citizens and city, we would re-establish the police department. Therefore, the Belle Police Department was re-established, and it was voted to rehire Joe Turnbough as police chief. There was a lot of support and concerns voiced from community members. The mayor and council appreciated the support and understood the concerns, and at that time, promised a review before election. Joe has a big heart and is a good

friend to many people in the community, including the council members.

The council voted to increase the pay for the position to \$25.00 an hour to be competitive and allow Joe to focus on our community. It was with the understanding that he would be working with us to rebuild the force and would be starting from the ground up on minimal budget. Almost immediately, he could not adjust to answering to the council. He promised people positions and spent city funds without council approval. Joe was allowed to be the supervisor and create a schedule for his department. However, the mayor's office had to step in and re-instate a schedule. Our reasoning behind this decision was because he would leave up to 3-day gaps without coverage, show up late, and leave town while on duty. He often referred to this schedule as "terrible and unrealistic," however, it was the same schedule he had previously used as Marshall. He didn't want to work any nights or weekends, which is unrealistic for the head of a department with a limited police force.

An example of this is the accident in town that involved four young men from our community in which one was trapped in the vehicle. Even though the Maries County Sheriff's Department and the Missouri State

Highway Patrol worked the accident, several citizens expressed concerns as to why Belle Police Department did not respond. When questions, Joe stated that he was off duty. However, the reality is he had left town to go camping for four days without informing anyone of his planned trip. Also, Joe purchased equipment for vehicles we did not have or even plan to purchase. Joe stated he entered into an agreement with Chief Deputy Scott John to share patrol duties with Maries County and they would charge 50% of their contract price. Joe did not have the authority to negotiate the terms of any contract. The city approved a budget that terminated the contract, and it was our job to make it work. He demonstrated a total disregard toward the city.

Next, I would like to briefly address the letter written by Joe and published on Facebook. During his employment, Joe and Kayla spent several days driving together to set up dispatching for the police department. As mayor, I was getting upset. The city was promised coverage and our car and officer were out of town. This left the community unprotected, and I felt (it) could have been handled with a phone call or email. This occurred at a time when the city was under pres-

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REPORT FROM THE 143RD DISTRICT

Annual performance reports

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently released the statewide Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for the 2021-22 school year. APRs demonstrate the progress local education agencies and their individual buildings are making toward meeting the Standards and Indicators in the sixth version of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP 6).

MSIP is the state's system for reviewing and accrediting/classifying local education agencies. It outlines expectations for school practices and student outcomes, with the goal of each student graduating ready for success in college, career, and life.

Key changes in MSIP 6 include:

- Differentiating the performance of public schools and local education agencies along a continuum
- Providing accessible and actionable information about schools and local education agencies
- Empowering local boards of education to improve and innovate by adding a Continuous Improvement component
- Emphasizing the importance of academic performance by holding public schools equally accountable for status and growth
- Focusing on the preparation and well-being of each student at all levels

APR data can be viewed in two ways — a more visual representation of the data or the standard tabular/spreadsheet version. View the APR section on the MSIP 6 webpage located at <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/mo-school-improvement-program>.

Missouri Joins 46 State Coalition Asking Court to Order TikTok to Comply with Investigation

Missouri recently joined 45 other states and the District of Columbia to ask a state court to order social media company TikTok, Inc. to fully comply with an ongoing investigation into whether the company violated consumer protection laws. Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey said the state joined the coalition in an effort to enforce the laws as written and protect children.

As part of the multistate investigation, the state attorney general seeks to review internal TikTok communications to determine whether the company engaged in deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable conduct that harmed the mental health of TikTok users, particularly children and teens.

As Missourians scramble to file their



by **Bennie Cook**
State Representative
143rd District

taxes by the April 18 deadline, the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) is encouraging income tax filers to review important individual income tax changes effective for the 2022 tax year. Before filing, filers may refer to the DOR's website for details on changes to the Missouri standard deduction, the new deductions and credits available and more. Missourians can visit <https://dor.mo.gov/taxation/individual/tax-types/income/year-changes/> for more information.

At the same time filers focus on their 2022 returns, DOR is urging Missourians to plan ahead for the next year as well. Thanks to legislation approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Parson last year, Missourians will pay at a lower tax rate in 2023.

Senate Bills 3 & 5 made several changes to income tax laws in the state of Missouri, including:

Reducing the top individual income tax rate from 5.2 to 4.95%;

Eliminating the bottom income tax bracket, allowing Missourians to earn their first \$1,000 tax free;

Allowing an additional 0.15% top income tax rate reduction to 4.8% when net general revenues increase by \$175 million;

Eliminating income taxes for individuals making less than \$13,000 a year and couples making less than \$26,000; and

Allowing three additional 0.1% top income tax rate reductions in future years when net general revenue increases by \$200 million, adjusted for inflation.

Missouri's revenue department strongly encourages employees earning wages in Missouri to review their federal and state withholdings annually and whenever a major life change has occurred to determine if their employer is withholding their preferred amount from their paycheck. Missouri wage earners may review their Employee's Withholding Certificate (Form MO W-4) by completing a "Paycheck Checkup" using the DOR's withholding calculator, which can be accessed by visiting <https://mytax.mo.gov/>.

Employees interested in updating their MO W-4 can request the form from their employer or print one from the DOR website. Employees can then simply submit their updated form to their employer. Following up to confirm the updates are in effect is always a good idea, as is reviewing the form at least once a year

See **COOK** on Page 3

Former Belle Marshal explains actions

It is time I explain my actions over the past few months.

I am sorry things become so volatile that the previous council felt the best measure was to disband the Marshal's Office and contract the Maries County Sheriff's Office in February 2020. I attempted to still be effective that first year of my remaining two terms. Eventually felt I was being unfair to the taxpayers and resigned in April 2021, with one year left in my elected term.

I am 100 percent committed to seeing Belle have a functional, safe, proactive, and qualified Marshal's Office, not a police department. It is my dream and goal to become your elected Marshal and retire here in Belle. Thank you for your open mind and consideration of my candidacy.

When asked if I was interested in coming back as the Belle Police Chief, I was hesitant. It was going to be a monumental undertaking, but I was prepared to work. I wasn't prepared for how I was treated.

Before I accepted the position, I laid out my expectations at my "interview." We discussed the position's pay, the pay of any officers hired, when I was expected to be seen around town, and if I could build the Marshal's Office from the ground up. I told them I could, especially with Maries County responsible for handling services in town while we were preparing to take over at the end of their contract. That key agreement was overlooked by Mayor White. I requested \$20/hour for the officers, \$25/hour for my position (they were calling a police chief), and that I be allowed to rehire Jerry Coborn. I emphasized that we must all agree to work together, or it would never work. I received a call from White before I got out of my car in my driveway. I was super excited to "be back!"

The next day after I was hired, Councilwoman Kayla Bray immediately volunteered to assist me to create a list, prioritizing items, and completing them. She was a huge part of getting everything completed, without any thanks from Mayor White. I'll try to summarize. We were able to get the old Impala in patrol condition. It needed radios, electronics programming, maintenance, decals, and numerous items for patrol duties. We both were questioned by White on why things were costing so much and what was taking so long to begin writing tickets. I don't believe he did any homework. He believed we could get into a car, grab a radio, and go write some tickets.

Radios were not operational as the tower radio repeater had been given to the fire dept. MOSWIN radios was way too expensive. We didn't even have an agreement with a dispatch center, uniforms, or a report-writing system as our Crimestar had not been maintained and required expensive software updates to re-activate it. None of which were well received by Mayor White.

While Bray and I were trying to rebuild White hounded us, most times in a very condescending and critical way. We were trying to be problem solvers. I reached out to the Sheriff's Chief Deputy, Scott John, and asked what equipment they would be able to sell us. They gave us a very fair deal on a like-new radar unit, some less lethal equipment, ammunition, and a used MOSWIN radio. We were able to convince our installers to fit us in (usually 2-3 week wait) and had a patrol car with an operational radar and radio a few days later. White still wasn't happy. When he received

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AREA OBITUARIES

Norma Helton
1937-2023

Norma Jean (Reeves) Helton, 86, of Dixon, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

She was born on Feb. 27, 1937, to Marion Monroe “Roe” Reeves and Reba Marie Reeves in Buick.

Norma Jean operated Video Sensations in Vienna, and had been a dietary worker at Sally’s Restaurant in Vienna and Dixon Health and Rehab; but she was a homemaker for most of her working life.

She was preceded in death by father, Roe in 1974; mother, Reba in 1996; sisters, Maxine Ryerson in 2001, Jackie Giddens in 2012, and Betty Siebert in 2015; brothers, John Reeves in 1986, Eldon Reeves in 2002, and Cletus Reeves in 2007; and son-in-law, Larry Rollins in 2019.

She is survived by son, Daniel Cramer of Brinktown; daughters, Alice Wiles and husband Randy and Joanne Rollins all of Dixon; sister, Patty Blankenship and husband Clarence of Hermann; brother-in-law, Robert Giddens, Sr. of St. Clair; grandchildren, Teri Crutsinger and husband Jody, Kimberley Hance and husband Landon, Daniel Cramer and wife Sarah, Lacey Rollins, Shawn Cramer, Jimmy Wiles and wife Courtney, and Julie Kinkad and husband Tyler; great-grandchildren, Cassidy Holman and husband Charlie, Clayton Wells, Caden Crutsinger, Trenton Hance, Easton Hance, Ty Filley, Everly Kloeppel, Paisley Wiles and James Wiles; and great-great-grandchildren, Abigail Holman and D.J. Holman.

Graveside services for Norma Jean Helton were held Saturday, March 18, at the Vienna Public Cemetery with Landon Hance officiating.

Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.

All arrangements are under the direction of the Null and Son Funeral Home of Rolla.

Ernest Railey
1936-2023

Ernest “Ernie” Edward Railey, 86, of High Gate, formerly of Houston, Texas and Riverside, Calif., passed away Thursday, March 9, 2023 at his home.

He was born Nov. 24, 1936, to Forrest B. and Faye (Gibson) Railey, in Houston, Texas.

Ernie served in the U.S. Army in the Korean conflict. As a young man in California, he drove race cars on a figure 8 track; having his car in the classic movie Herbie the Love Bug. He was a semi truck driver for many years and owned his own trucking company Mr Express. After moving to Missouri, Ernest managed Hocker Oil best known as Gas Plus in Belle, before taking full retirement. Ernest loved and was loved by family and friends.

Ernie loved fishing, playing poker and camping at his property in Anza, Calif., where he practiced shooting his guns and taught his children to shoot. Ernest loved being around his family!

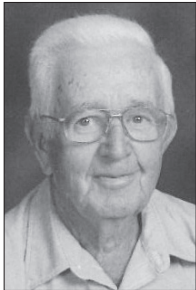
He is preceded in death by parents, Forrest and Faye; wife, Barbara Railey; brother, Larry Clayton Railey; sisters, Elsie Lynn, Beryl Railey, Audrey Manues and Mary Helen Story; brothers-in-law Henry Lynn and Richard Manues; and son in-law James Christeson.

Ernie is survived by sons, Brian Railey and Michael Railey both of High Gate, and David Miller of Hayburn, Idaho; daughters, Virginia Railey and Susan Christeson both of High Gate, and Barbara Jean Garcia of Rupert, Idaho; and brother, Gerald Railey and wife Robin of LaPine, Ore.

Memorial services with full military honors will be Monday, April 3, at 1 p.m. at Jones Funeral Home in St. James.

Arrangements entrusted to Jones Funeral Home in St. James.

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. There is also a charge to process a photo that is to run with an obituary.

Herbert Rowden
1926-2023

Herbert Vance Rowden, 96, of Vienna, passed away Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Phelps Health, Rolla.

He was born Nov. 6, 1926, to Clarence Ovid and Jessie Jewel (McKee) Rowden at Maries County.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1945–46, when he was honorably discharged at the rank of Tech Corporal (TEC 5).

Herbert was united in marriage to Eugenia “Jane” Marie Veasman, July 3, 1947, at St. Louis.

He was a member of the Holy Guardian Angels Catholic Church and American Legion Post 354, both in Brinktown.

Herbert and Jane came back to Maries County in 1951, and purchased their family farm outside of Brinktown, and he started his farming career. While farming, he was also employed with the Brown Shoe Company, Dixon, for 30 plus years.

He was preceded in death by parents, Ovid and Jessie; wife of sixty-one years, Jane; sons, Michael Rowden and Bruce Rowden; grandsons, Timothy Lee Rowden and Travis Perkins; granddaughter, Melissa Kay Slone; daughter-in-law, Alice Rowden; son-in-law, Harold Blackwell; brother, Harold Rowden; sisters, Dorris Finn and Jean Vaughan; brothers-in-law, Victor Vaughan, Joe Finn, John Veasman and wife Mildred, Albin Veasman and wife Mae, Claude Veasman and Arthur Wilson; and sister-in-law, Launa Rowden.

He is survived by sons, Ronnie “Ron” Rowden and wife Elizabeth of Vienna, Donald “Donnie” Rowden and wife Peggy of Dixon, Dennis Rowden and wife Dot of Vienna, Bryan Rowden and wife Wilma of Meta, Doug Rowden and wife Rose Mary of Brinktown, and Roger Rowden and wife Amy of Vienna; daughters, Marilyn Blackwell of Pocahontas, Ark., Judy Slone and husband Mike of Dixon, and Brenda Rollins of Dixon; 23 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and three more expected in 2023; brother, Wilburn Rowden of Holts Summit; sister, Carol Ann Miller and husband Lewis of Dixon; brother-in-law, Donley Veasman and wife Charlotte of Dixon; and sisters-in-law, Lois Rowden of Meta, Bernice Veasman of Brinktown, and Agnes Wilson of St. Louis.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, March 18, in Holy Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Brinktown, with Rev. Basil Tigga as the celebrant and Deacon Michael Brooks assisting. Interment with full military honors was in Holy Guardian Angels Cemetery.

Memorials suggested for Masses, the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, Md. 21741, or to the Holy Guardian Angels Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

Arrangements entrusted to Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home, Vienna.

Gerhard Welschmeyer
1936-2023

Gerhard “Jerry” Welschmeyer, 86, of Columbia, formerly of Freeburg, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at Parkside Manor in Columbia.

He was born April 2, 1936, to Anton and Mary (Lauberth) Welschmeyer in Freeburg.

Jerry graduated from Holy Family Catholic School, was employed at Quaker Windows and was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church all in Freeburg.

He was preceded in death parents, Anton and Mary; sisters, twin sister Betty Mueller, Lorine Deeken, Thersia Evers and Mildred Hopkins; brother, Paul Welschmeyer; and brothers-in-law, Joe Evers and John Deeken.

Jerry is survived by sister, Helen Grellner and husband Bob of Rich Fountain.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, March 18, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Freeburg with Fr. William Debo as the celebrant. Interment was at Holy Family Parish Cemetery in Freeburg.

Arrangements entrusted to Morton Chapel, Linn.

Courtney Lynn Lindermann, St. James, pleaded guilty to failure to equip passenger vehicle with two sets of front seat safety belts (motor bus excluded); fine.

Joseph Anthony Madrigal, Jefferson City, pleaded guilty to speeding (16-19 over); fine and court cost.

Fred Jay McKinney, Russellville, pleaded guilty to one count of failure to drive on right half of roadway when roadway was of sufficient width (fine) and failure to equip passenger vehicle with two sets of front seat safety belts (motor bus excluded)(fine).

Balaea Jan Miller, Vienna, pleaded guilty to displaying/possessing motor vehicle/trailer plates of another person; fine and court cost.

Carolynn Ann Mitchell, Independence, pleaded guilty to failure to register motor vehicle; fine and court cost.

Jessie N. Ridenhour, Owensville, pleaded guilty to assault; fine.

Levi Harlie Robertson, Rolla, pleaded guilty to failure to wear a seatbelt; fine.

Lois F. Shockley, Vienna, pleaded guilty to failure to wear a seatbelt; fine.

Marty Elaine Stephenson, Columbia, pleaded guilty to speeding (11-15 over); fine.

Katherine Ann Terry, St. Louis, pleaded guilty to failure to display plates on motor vehicle/trailer; fine and court cost.

Phillip Wade Thomas, Arnold, pleaded guilty to failure to equip passenger vehicle with two sets of front seat safety belts (motor bus excluded); fine.

CIVIL CASES

Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC v. Shane Robert Boyer, Belle, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$1,521.82.

Republic Finance LLC v. Pamella Clark, Vienna, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$15,471.14.

LVNV Funding, LLC v. Krista Crismon, Dixon, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$1,224.25.

World Acceptance Corporation of M v. Gracie R. Price, Belle, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$1,987.78.

World Acceptance Corporation of M v. Johna Spencer, Dixon, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$2,218.28.

Onemain Financial Group LLC v. Jonathan R. Woolley, Vichy, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$16,470.77.

Vivian Ridenhour
1940-2023

Vivian Louise Ridenhour, 82, of St. James, passed away Friday, March 17, 2023, at Silverstone Nursing Home in Rolla.

She was born Sept. 23, 1940, to John and Beulah (Jones) Carter in Safe.

She was united in marriage to Nolan Malone, Feb. 10, 1962, he passed away June 13, 1973. Vivian was then united in marriage to Charles “Lindy” Ridenhour, Feb. 21, 1976; Lindy passed away June 14, 1996. She then had a long-time companion of 23 years, Cornell Licklider. Cornell passed away Feb. 1, 2020.

Vivian worked at the Tourist Information Center and the City Hall for many years. She was a member of High Gate Baptist Church for 20 plus years and the St. James First Baptist Church prior to that.

She is preceded in death by parents John and Beulah; husband Nolan Malone; husband Charles “Lindy” Ridenhour; longtime companion Cornell Licklider; sisters, DeLores Lange, Mona “Wanda” Asher, Maude “Louise” Meadows and Patsy Morelock; and granddaughter, Kelly Hays.

She is survived by sons, Les Ridenhour and wife Linda and Kyle Ridenhour and wife Loni all of St. James; daughters, Sharon Clements and Anita Dixon and husband Walter all of Erin, Tenn.; step-son, Kyle Ridenhour; brother-in-law, Jr. Meadows of St. James; 10 grandchildren and great and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held Thursday, March 23, at 1–2 p.m. at the Jones Funeral Home in St. James with memorial services following at 2 p.m. with Doug Williams officiating. Burial will be at the Asher Cemetery following her memorial service.

Memorials suggested to the High Gate Baptist Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Jones Funeral Home of St. James.

Robert Rogers
1939-2023

Robert Joe Rogers, 84, of Dixon, passed away Saturday, March 18, 2023, at his residence.

He was born on June 5, 1939, to Leman Steven and Zedna Louise (Long) Rogers in St. Louis.

He was united in marriage to Kathryn Eleanor Geisel, Aug. 28, 1966, in St. Louis.

Robert worked as a roofer for over 35 years.

He was preceded in death by parents, Leman and Zedna; wife, Kathryn; and brother, Gary Rogers.

He is survived by children, Richard Ramage of Branson, Chad (Christina) Rogers of Laquey, Barbara “Barbie” (Jerry) Braun, and Autumn Bower all of Dixon; 13 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; and brother, Lloyd Rogers of St. Louis.

The family elected cremation and will host a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Long-Kloeppel Funeral and Cremation Services, Dixon.

R-1 • from page 3

as we can amongst the various professionals we have,” Novak said.

After discussion, the board voted to increase salaries for all non-certified positions by 10 percent starting next school year. The board also planned to revisit the idea of separating some of the non-certified positions into their own salary schedule group.

Later, the board discussed administrator salaries. Board members voted to approve \$61,000 as the new base salary for the special education director. The board also voted to eliminate the separate salary schedule for the elementary school principal and instead tie it into the same salary schedule as the high school principal.

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Skaggs
Cemetery
Notice

Ground flower
decorations will be
removed at the end of
March/first of April to
prepare for the new
mowing season. If you
have any questions
call 573-202-8545.

News Briefs

MARCH FOOD PANTRY REQUEST — The Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry during March is requesting local donations of dry pinto beans, 1 lb. Donations can be dropped off at local churches.

To make a monetary donation, send a check to Treasurer Kay Wieberg, 32541 MCR 213, Vienna, Mo. 65582.

The food pantry distributes food on the first Wednesday and second Thursday of each month.

MARIES R-2 TITLE I, II, and IV programs’ annual evaluation meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 at Belle Elementary in the Multipurpose Room.

THE MARIES COUNTY ADVOCATE will be hosting a Meet the Candidates Forum and moderating questions from the community at 6:30 p.m. on March 22 in the Belle High School gym.

THE CITY OF BELLE posted a notice of possible quorum for Wednesday, March 22 during a Meet the Candidates Forum at 6:30 p.m. in the Belle High School gym. They are also hosting two special meetings on March 23 — both at the Lonnie Feeler Memorial Building.

The first meeting is at 12:30 p.m. to discuss Workman’s Compensation renewal quotes and quotes on “equipment needed.” No items are listed for closed session.

The second meeting is at 1 p.m. with Meramec Regional Planning Commission to discuss the Active Living Plan. No items are listed for closed session.

THE MARIES COUNTY R-2 BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, at the Administration Building.

BELLE ELEMENTARY School Spring Pictures will be taken on March 29.

MARIES COUNTY R-2 STUDENTS will be in session on Monday, April 3, because of the Easter Holiday. Preschool and kindergarten students will not have classes on April 3 due to kindergarten enrollment. All students will be out of school on Friday, April 7 for Good Friday.

BELLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will host Kindergarten Round-Up from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 3 for all students who will be 5 years old before Aug. 1, 2023. Appointments must be made in advance by emailing sbuechter@maries2.org or calling 573-859-3800 Ext. 3 with Ms. Buechter. Parents should allow 30-45 minutes per child and bring a birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency.

GFL • from page 1

the service to businesses or residences.

“We do apologize for this inconvenience and, should you have a credit or prepayment on your account, refunds will be processed as quickly as possible.”

March bills were due on the 15th and customers on the company’s automatic payment system have confirmed that the full amount was pulled.

When contacted on Tuesday, a representative for the company said that the services would not be reinstated as the Rolla location, where operations are conducted, is closing.

Water grant • from page 1

Feeler Memorial Building needs to come down and is offline now due to problems it was causing.

“We need a new tower, another \$300,000, to handle our fire flow,” Cates said. “For a city the size of Belle we need about 1,360 gallons per minute for fire flow. We have a real problem. Out of 67 fire hydrants we only have six that we can use. As far as the fire department being able to pull water, we have to go to the 300,000-gallon tower, the fire hydrant on Bellair, that is where we pull out our water and distribute.”

Cates said with the 67 hydrants, he was working with former public works director Abel and now Baretich.

“You can’t turn a fire hydrant on without people losing water in their homes,” Cates said. “It is a massive problem.”

Cates said they have 44,000 feet of four-inch castiron and 28,000 feet of two-inch line.

“We need to replace that four-inch castiron, it is a real problem,” Cates said. “Even though you’ve got the best-tasting water, we don’t have good fire safety for our people.”

Cates said the city needs to change the four-inch and two-inch service laterals as well and replace them with plastics. There are meters in basements that need to be moved to yards and about seven commercial meters that need to be brought out. So we need a new well, a new tower and a distribution piping change.”

Cates said there is no commitment to the grant he was asking the board to apply for and submit that same day. He was prepared to present at the Feb. 14 meeting but was not informed of the meeting being changed to Feb. 13 due to Valentine’s Day. He informed the board he was not charging them to attend the March 1 meeting either.

“This is more of an informational meeting and it is the last day to turn in this application, March 1 is the deadline,” Cates said. “We have time to get it in this afternoon if the board wants to do it. I am not saying that to pressure you, that is just where we are in the schedule.”

He presented the board with an application that needed the mayor’s signature if the city wanted to participate.

“I have got the cost broken out on page two to show what it would be,” Cates continued.

He listed the well, generator, and tower, and reworking the distribution system with functioning eight-inch line hydrants. It also included the design of the tower, inspection, and cost to work on the bond issue.

“There is no commitment,” Cates said. “If you sign it, if the board chooses, then you are on the planning list for the state. If you don’t, then we are not going to be able to do this for another year.”

Cates reiterated that submitting the application only put the city on a planning list, it did not obligate funds.

“Nothing is going to happen until you pass a bond issue,” Cates said. “It doesn’t have to happen right away, but with a bond issue, you would be eligible for a 50 percent grant. Commercial interest rates right now are around seven percent, but they are 1.5 percent through DNR. So you would get a low-interest loan and a 50 percent grant.”

Cates said this year they had surplus money and were giving out 75 percent grants.

“There is a possibility that could happen next year, but for sure a 50 percent grant next year,” he said. “With the bond issue, DNR looks at a 5,000 gallon per month user as the standard. I think it is around \$28 a month (base rate). With a 50 percent grant and a low-interest loan, we have 700 connections, but because of the large water users, like the school, restaurants, and laundry — 46 percent of the water we use and sell are by our large water users.”



BELLE PUBLIC Works employees on March 20 were called to a water main break on the corner of Third Street and Alvarado Avenue. What started as a small leak turned into a big problem. The pipeline, estimated to be about 100 years old, disintegrated when employees attempted repairs. The pipe burst and left many residents without water.

PHOTO BY ROXIE MURPHY

Cates said it isn’t right that they pay what everyone else pays since they use more water.

“They need to pay more of the base rate, which comes out to about 202 home equivalents,” Cates said. “So even though we have about 700 connections, with home-equivalents you are looking at about 902 connections that would be paying this off. School is a larger share, laundry is a larger share and so forth.”

He said the bond issue could be done in projects. It would raise the base rate from \$28 to \$35 a month, which Cates said is still cheap. He suggested raising rates gradually by 25 cents at a time.

“It is not massive amounts of dollars, but I think everyone would like better quality of life and good fire protection,” Cates said. “I checked with Tony, and he said the fire chief said our ISO is seven, which is about the lowest you can get. With our new tower, new well and changing all two and four-inch lines to six and eight-inch lines like it needs to be, I am confident we would go up to an ISO of six, possibly five if we can work with the fire department.”

Cates said that rating would decrease the city’s insurance.

“For the city’s sake, this really needs to happen,” Cates finished. “Once people realize how bad the situation is, and pass a bond issue with rates that will be raised over time, then you have to design and construct, you are easily looking at three to five years.”

He asked the board if they had questions. Alderman Jeanette Struempf asked how many homes could be added to the system if it were updated.

Cates said growth wouldn’t be an issue, they could possibly add another 50 percent of the existing housing. It would, however, be an issue if the city chooses not to upgrade.

He said fire safety is a big deal and there have been 95 water main breaks since Baretich began working for the city in 2020. A water main break at the corner of Third Street and Alvarado Avenue on March 20 cut off the water supply to the school campus.

“That is always a health hazard,” Cates said.

He commended the city for keeping the system going but said it is way past the design life.

“What is the potential if we don’t do this that the state comes in, says we are not in compliance, and starts to force feed us to do these things?” Struempf asked.

Cates said they will be ding-ed and written up for not being in compliance. They will tell the city they are out of compliance and telling them they are out of compliance.

Baretich speculated that the next step would be forced chlorination because they would continue to have main beaks and boil advisories.

“To avoid that would be huge,” Baretich said. “We are one of the few in the state of Missouri that do not have to chlorinate our drinking water.”

Struempf asked if this was the same project that was introduced to the board about five years ago. Cates said it was.

“This problem is not new,” Cates said. “Back then we had an

80/20 percent grant approved by the city and DNR.”

Cates said if the city chooses to proceed with the grant and bond issue, Integrity Engineering can assist them with the informational brochure.

“It has to be done, it is just how it is going to be paid,” Cates said. “You’ve got to do it. If you don’t pass a bond issue then the city has to go lease purchase and pay market rates with no grant. Rates are going to double versus passing the bond issue, getting a low-interest loan with grant money and only raising rates to \$35.”

Cates said the 80/20 percent grants are no longer available. It could be 75/25 percent like it was this year, but it will most likely be a 50/50 grant.

Alderman Pud Mitchell asked if they have to tear down the old tower if they proceed. Cates said the city needs to tear it down since they can’t use it.

“You really shouldn’t be using it unless you are going to go in there and sandblast it and bring it up to code,” Cates said. “Honestly, it is like an old car, how long do you keep putting money in?”

Baretich said the tower can’t be left empty. It would either need to be filled with water or sand.

Mayor Daryl White, Jr., said he understands the need, but felt it should have been done during the regular board meeting.

“We are talking about raising water rates, passing a bond issue, spending \$2 million dollars —,” White said.

Struempf argued that it is the future of the town and if they don’t start now they are not going to have anything.

“I hate that we are doing it in a special, day meeting,” White said, adding he would have liked to have it before the February meeting. “Last month at the council meeting I was assured we would have plenty of water if there was a fire. I have never heard this in my life that we have six out of 67 fire hydrants working.”

Baretich said the fire department doesn’t pull for hydrants in town, they drop a tank and shuttles the water from the tower on Bellair.

“Why did we neglect upkeep until we were 60 behind,” White asked.

Baretich said he doesn’t know, it predates him.

“It is cheaper to put one or two in than it is 60,” White said.

Mitchell asked if the 61 hydrants don’t work at all. Baretich said he was instructed not to use the hydrants with black paint on them.

“Another problem is when you turn on a fire hydrant that people start running out of water,” Cates said. “There is just not enough water transmission happening.”

Cates said the issue will go before the public regardless of the board’s submission to the program.

“A bond issue has to pass,” he said. “All you are doing is letting DNR know you would like to be on a planning list. They are going to say fine, nothing happens until a bond issue passes. You will need to go before the public for that. It is not something that is going to be happening behind

the scenes. We will be wanting to educate them and let them know what is going on.”

Struempf said the bond issue increase still would be a small price to pay compared to other cities.

Cates said he had many discussions with the former mayor about the water issues.

“This is not new information, mayor,” Cates said. “Even though it is new to you.”

“I think it is new,” White countered. “I have lived in this town all my life and I have never heard anyone say there are 61 out of 67 fire hydrants we can’t hook to. I am not trying to be hateful, but I think this is information that should have been out.”

Mitchell asked why the city allowed it to pile up.

“For the same reason we are doing our irrigation field that was installed in the 1980s,” Baretich said.

Mitchell asked why they wouldn’t have replaced four at a time even.

“It was easier to shut them down than ask the public for money to fix them,” said Struempf who has been on the board for about 10 years.

White said he agrees. “But that has been hid,” White said. “No one ever said to the public that we are shutting down. That is the problem I have with it.”

Mitchell said even if it does pass, the issue wouldn’t be fixed for five years. Cates said it is a process, but they have to start somewhere.

“The problem is not going away,” Struempf said. “We did see a big problem last year.”

White said they needed to make a decision on whether they were going to approve it.

“It needs to be signed,” White said. “But it is going to be portrayed that we are trying to hide something from the public.”

White said he declined to sign the grant application after it was introduced at the February meeting because the board had not approved it.

Alderman Adam Padgett asked why bigger users such as the school will pay more of the share if a bond issue were to pass.

“All high users would pay more, including schools and commercial users,” Cates said, adding that the base rate would be determined by usage. Baretich said the city does not currently differentiate between residential and commercial users, so everyone has the same low base rate.

The school uses roughly 121,000 gallons a month and churches and the park don’t pay at all.

Mitchell said there are between seven and eight churches in town.

“One stool sticks open and runs continuously for six days is a lot of water,” Mitchell said.

Baretich said a toilet stool can use up to 60,000 gallons of water a day.

Struempf added that many churches meet more than once a week as well, so they are using water much more than the 52 Sundays a year, especially if they meet two to three times a week.

“Ultimately, if we decided to sign this today, it is a mute issue if (citizens) don’t pass the bond issue,” Padgett said. “They are the ones who are going to decide if they want the update or don’t want the update.”

White argued that the information they were given during

See **Water grant** on Page 11

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VVFD pie supper fundraiser

The Vichy Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD) raised about \$10,600 for the department, which VVFD president Bonnie Prigge said that it was the organization's best single-event fundraiser in its history. "I just want to say thank you to everyone who helped in any way," Prigge said. "The auctioneers, the band, those who donated items and desserts, our board members and firefighters, and especially those who so generously opened their wallet and made purchases for the benefit of the fire department. The quilt was a huge donation, and we appreciate the generosity of the quilters who made it and the Dennis Tipton family for purchasing it. It was a great to see old friends and meet some new families in the Vichy area. Everyone had a chance to laugh, reminisce and enjoy each other's company," Prigge said the money raised will go toward upgrading equipment from hydraulic to battery-powered and adding a pump to the tanker.

PHOTOS BY JACOB WARDEN



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SPORTS BRIEFS

PLAYERSANDCOACH-ES that faced Belle High School and Vienna High School are highlighted in italics in the list of Central Missouri Media All-District Basketball Teams in Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

BLAND LADY BEAR volleyball scheduled for last night (Tuesday) at home against Viburnum's Lady Blue Jays was canceled due to a scheduling conflict and will not be made up.

MEGAN FISHER'S Belle Lady Tiger soccer team saw their road match Monday night at Crocker canceled due to injuries and players not having enough practices to be eligible.

CORY NICHOLSON'S Vienna Eagle baseball team saw their Saturday road game at Calvary Lutheran canceled due to a scheduling conflict with the Lions. A make up date remains undetermined as of press time.

BHSTRACK'S scheduled track meet last night (Tuesday) at St. James High School was canceled due to forecasted inclement weather. A make-up date was being worked on at press time.

VIENNA MIDDLE School's home track and field meet scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday) has been postponed due to forecasted inclement weather and rescheduled for Monday, April 3 at 3 p.m.

PARENT NIGHT for Bland Middle School volleyball will take place tomorrow (Thursday) night prior to the 'A' team match against Eugene's Lady Eagles at Bland Middle School. Action will start at 5:30 p.m., with the 'B' team match.

GOOD LUCK Bears, Eagles and Tigers.

2022-23 Central Media All-District Basketball Team

CLASS 1 Boys First team

Jordan Fuemmeler, jr., Glasgow
Logan Gallamore, sr., Macks Creek
Kyle Hagemeyer, sr., Calvary Lutheran
Edris Hamilton, sr., Glasgow
Hayden Harms, sr., NW: Mendon
Kwesi Hall, sr., Calvary Lutheran
Jaxon Hudson, jr., Higbee
Colby Jenkins, soph., Brunswick
Jace Kesel, sr., St. Elizabeth
Gavin Killion, jr., NW: Hughesville
Isaac Neiters, sr., NW: Hughesville
Derek Rockett, jr., Higbee
Beau Walker, soph., Pilot Grove
Tyler Wilson, soph., Jamestown
Landon Winn, jr., NW: Mendon

Second team

Bentley Boggs, jr., Tuscumbia
Layne Brandes, jr., Prairie Home/
Bunceton
Brayden Eads, soph., Otterville
Logan Goehman, jr., Pilot Grove
Josh Griffith, 6-0, Climax Springs
Caleb Keilholz, soph., Chamois
Austin Krause, jr., Otterville
Caleb Oligschlaeger, sr., St. Elizabeth
Jackson Pitts, soph., PH/Bunceton
Trey Stockwell, sr., NW: Mendon
Will Spilman, jr., Higbee
Lain Tichenor, sr., NW: Hughesville
Chase Whitworth, sr., Macks Creek
Gavin Williams, soph., St. Elizabeth
Tory Zeilstra, soph., Brunswick
COY – Caleb Heckemeyer, St. Elizabeth

CLASS 2 Boys First team

Chase Allen-Jackman, sr., Fayette
Isaac Busch, soph., Eugene
Tanner Damlo, sr., Sedalia Sacred
Heart
Gage Fleschute, sr., Laquey
Cooper Francis, jr., Salisbury
Logan Head, sr., Northeast: Cairo
Langden Kitchen, sr., Westran
Kyle Eckhoff, sr., Lincoln
Will Morrow, soph., Stoutland
Adam Newton, soph., Crocker
Colten Pound, jr., Newburg
Brandon Terrill, soph., Slater
Clayton Wilmsmeyer, sr., New Franklin
Drew Woodruff, soph., Plato
Braden Wyatt, sr., Harrisburg

Second team

Luke Ash, sr., Stoutland
Jackson Bailey, jr., Tipton
Drake Clark, jr., New Franklin
Ashden Dale, sr., Westran
Connor Lynde, sr., Lincoln
Ethan Hamilton, sr., Salisbury
Mackson Hesse, sr., Lincoln
Jack Moon, sr., Tipton
Brayden Ott, sr., Harrisburg
Tanner Patterson, soph., Iberia
Hayven Samuels, jr., Harrisburg
Jacob Sharp, sr., Eugene
Cash Stricklan, jr., Vienna
Ryan Tracy, sr., Northeast: Cairo
Hayden Wooldridge, jr., Salisbury
COY – Kenny Wyatt, Salisbury

CLASS 3 Boys First team

Parker Anderson, sr., Hermann
Blaine Broderson, sr., Stover
Josh Burns, sr., Bourbon
Keyton Cook, jr., Licking
Zach Dodson, sr., Linn
Tayber Gray, jr., South Callaway
Noah Hall, jr., Linn
Charlie Miller, sr., Russellville
Landon Mabe, sr., Steelville
Carson Mullen, jr., Steelville
Ethan Shearer, sr., Cole Camp
Baylar Smith, jr., Belle
Matthew Weber, sr., North Callaway
Drake Young, sr., Dixon

Second team

Johnny Brice, sr., Steelville
Conner Coffey, sr., Hermann
Isiah Craighead, jr., North Callaway
Conner Diaz, sr., Steelville
Gentry Dieckman, jr., Cole Camp
Landon Edinger, jr., Stover
Nathan Fuhrman, jr., New Bloomfield
Reid Harrison, jr., Cole Camp
Austin James, jr., Licking
Ashton Keilholz, jr., Linn
Ryan Lepper, jr., South Callaway
Adam Loucks, jr., South Callaway
Cole Loughridge, sr., Belle
Sam Pezold, jr., North Callaway
COY – Kevin Shearer, Cole Camp

CLASS 4 Boys First team

Evens Appolon, sr., Father Tolton
Dylan Beal, sr., Cuba
Nate Brandt, sr., Fatima

Brady Dapkus, fr., Southern Boone
Kolton Garner, sr., Hallsville
Walker Gohring, sr., Fulton
Hunter Hees, jr., Eldon
Zach Henry, sr., Blair Oaks
Jackson Johns, sr., Boonville
Colby Lancaster, sr., Fulton
Will Lauth, sr., Owensville
James Lee, sr., Father Tolton
Levi Robinson, jr., Fatima
Ryder Williams, jr., Versailles
Exavier Wilson, soph., Father Tolton

Second team

Cullen Bennett, jr., Centralia
Hunter Berendzen, sr., California
Aidan Bukowsky, sr., So. Boone
Ayden Bryant, jr., California
Stephen Caviness, jr., Marshall
Dayne Depee, sr., Osage
Peyton Gruver, sr., St. James
Dylan Hair, sr., Blair Oaks
Cooper Kleffner, sr., Fatima
Gunnar Konkel, sr., Salem
Reese Murdock, soph., Versailles
Izaak Porter, sr., Father Tolton
Austin Rush, sr., Eldon
Isaac Stinson, soph., Hallsville
Donovan Weigel, sr., Fulton
COY – Jeremy Osborne, Father Tolton

CLASS 1 Girls First team

Madison Brown, sr., PH/Bunceton
Daphne Butterfield, soph., Climax Springs

Halle Fuemmeler, fr., Glasgow
Marci Lammers, sr., Pilot Grove
Tori Kemna, sr., St. Elizabeth
Ella Lucas, jr., St. Elizabeth
Gabby Meyer, fr., NW: Hughesville
Kadence Meyer, soph., Brunswick
Sydney Morris, jr., Calvary Lutheran
Addison Ratliff, soph., Macks Creek
Emma Sleeper, jr., Pilot Grove
Lauren Spilman, fr., Higbee
Ronnie Welch, soph., Higbee
India Willis, soph., Macks Creek

Second team

Jordyn Alpers, fr., PH/Bunceton
Brooklyn Duggan, soph., Macks Creek
Sydney Derendinger, fr., Jamestown
Allie Mitchell, jr., Higbee
Addie Oligschlaeger, sr., St. Elizabeth
Macie Parks, sr., Glasgow
Addi Rogers, sr., Tuscumbia
Karli Smith, jr., NW: Hughesville

Jolene Sorrells, jr., Jamestown
Maddy Sprengel, soph., Calvary Lutheran
Emma Stowers, jr., Brunswick
Reagan Wobbe, jr., St. Elizabeth
Ava Wolfe, jr., Climax Springs
Kendra Zeilstra, sr., Brunswick
COY – Quentin Voss, St. Elizabeth

CLASS 2 Girls First team

Olivia Angerer, sr., Eugene
Meghan Campise, sr., Crocker
Akaela Caquelin, soph., Newburg
Lillian Chitwood, fr., New Franklin
Myra Claas, sr., Tipton
Briar Cox, sr., Tipton
Brenna Couch, jr., Plato
Carly Dorson, sr., New Franklin
Carli Ellis, sr., Harrisburg
LANEY HALLEY, sr., Iberia
Macie Harman, soph., NE: Cairo
Reagan Henry, soph., Stoutland
Katie McKinney, sr., Sedalia Sacred
Heart/Otterville
Tori Ricketts, soph., Salisbury
Alexis Shelton, jr., Laquey

Second team

Charlee Bailey, soph., Tipton
Taylor Brookshire, jr., Newburg
Joslynn Brown, fr., Salisbury
Gracie Brumley, sr., NE: Cairo
Courtney Edwards, jr., Tipton
Gracyn Eifert, sr., Lincoln
Kenna Lemmon, jr., Slater
Scona Looney, soph., Stoutland
Aubrey Oehrke, sr., Sedalia Sacred
Heart/Otterville
Dylan Perry, sr., Westran
Alexa Rowden, soph., Iberia
Aubrey Schwartz, fr., Vienna
Julia Sloan, soph., Salisbury
Kay Sullivan, jr., Fayette
Brecca Thornhill, sr., Harrisburg
COY – Jason Culpepper, Tipton

CLASS 3 Girls First team

Rayna Claus, soph., Bourbon
Camie Grayson, sr., Russellville
Kyla Harms, sr., Cole Camp
Aushara Hostetler, sr., Linn
Kiana Hostetler, soph., Linn
Ava Hughes, soph., Hermann
Anastyn Lansford, fr., Belle
Regan Martin, sr., Steelville

Hannah Medlock, jr., Licking
Tobi Pennock, sr., Steelville
Ashlyn Pinzke, soph., Stover
Natalie Shyrock, soph., No. Callaway
Abbie Sullins, sr., Licking

Second team

Reagan Arrowood, soph., So. Callaway
Autumn Baker, sr., Linn
Riley Blevins, jr., North Callaway
Kaida Cook, sr., Licking
Holly Heldt, sr., Hermann
Tanna Howe, 5-4, fr., Warsaw
Neveah Kinsey, jr., Belle
Sandalyn Morris, sr., Stover
Avery Nichols, sr., New Bloomfield
Daylan Pryor, sr., Steelville
Sadie Sexauer, soph., Father Tolton
Hallee Stewart, jr., Russellville
Tierra Stark, sr., Stover
Ella Volkart, jr., Russellville
COY – Zach Kennedy, Steelville

CLASS 4 Girls First team

Lauren Bartlett, jr., Osage
Autumn Bax, jr., Blair Oaks
Jozelynn Bostick, sr., Centralia
Ashton Bowers, sr., Salem
Chloe Bukowsky, jr., Southern Boone
Kendall Costoplos, jr., St. James
Emma Daniels, jr., Owensville
Emilee DeHaas, sr., Southern Boone
Lauren Friedrich, sr., California
Tyra Haffer, jr., Cuba
Sydney Halderman, jr., Eldon
Haley Henderson, sr., Eldon
Emily Recker, jr., St. James
Alli Robertson, jr., Fatima
Emma Wolken, sr., Blair Oaks

Second team

Vivian Bax, soph., Fatima
Emma Bower, sr., Fatima
Braylin Brunkhorst, fr., Centralia
Alison Daniels, soph., Owensville
Zoe Davis, jr., Boonville
MaJayla Dudley, sr., Southern Boone
Livi Hagan, sr., Hallsville
Livi Herron, sr., St. James
Kristen Jones, sr., Hallsville
Savannah Manthey, sr., Salem
Alyssa Newberry, sr., Osage
Kierra O'Rourke, sr., Versailles
Diamond Payne, sr., Cuba
Hailey Rademan, soph., California
Kylee Richey, soph., Versailles
COY – Damon Wren, Southern Boone

BHS SPORTS THIS WEEK

Tiger Baseball

3/22-24 BHS V at Stoutland
Spring Classic TBA
3/25 BHS at Iberia 5 p.m.

Lady Tiger Soccer

Season canceled due to low
numbers and injuries

Tiger Golf

3/23 BHS at Waynesville 4 p.m.
3/29 BHS at Russellville
Tournament 8:30 a.m.

BHS Track and Field

3/23 BHS at Hermann 4 p.m.
(Meet rescheduled to 4/21)

BMS Track and Field

3/20 BMS at Vienna 3 p.m.
(Meet rescheduled to 4/3)
3/28 BMS at Fatima 3 p.m.

Lady Bear Volleyball

3/24 BMS vs. Eugene 5:30
p.m. (Parent Night)
3/25 BMS 'A' Tournament
at Belle High School 9 a.m.

VHS SPORTS THIS WEEK

Eagle Baseball

3/22-24 VHS V at Stoutland
Tournament TBD
3/27 VHS at St. E 5 p.m.

VMS Track

3/23 VMS at Osage 3:30 p.m.
3/28 VMS at Fatima 3 p.m.

VHS Track

3/24 VHS at Osage 4 p.m.
3/28 VHS at Eugene 3 p.m.

Bland Lady Bears to host inaugural 'A' team volleyball tournament

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

wjohnson@wardpub.com

Saturday morning will see four area middle school volleyball team invade Belle High School for the inaugural Bland 'A' Team Volleyball Tournament.

Teams competing along with the host Lady Bears will include Chamois' Lady Pirates, Hermann's Lady Bearcats and Dixon's Lady Bulldogs.

Bland and Chamois will kick the round-robin style tournament off at 9 a.m., followed by Hermann and Dixon at 9:45 a.m.

Action will continue at 10:30

a.m., with a quasi Gasconade County showdown between Bland and Hermann followed at 11:15 a.m., by Dixon and Chamois.

Afternoon volleyball will kick off at noon with a Highway 100 showdown between Chamois and Hermann before Bland and Dixon cap round-robin play off at 12:45 p.m., with a Highway 28 match up.

The teams with the two best records will play for the tournament championship at 2:15 p.m., after the other two teams play for third place at 1:30 p.m.

Round-robin matches will start at 5-5 with a 25-point cap in each set.

Places matches will be best two out of three sets.

**CANAAN**
Auction Center

10,000 SQ. FT.
AUCTION SPACE

Saturday, March 25, 2023 • 4:00PM
MORE MERCHANDISE ARRIVING DAILY!!

Collectibles; Furniture; Tools; Antiques; Gumball Machines; Funko Pops; Household Items; LEGOS; Action Figures; Comics; Vintage Books; **Antique Soda Fountain Stools & Bar**; Fossil; Building Supplies; Diecast Cars; Antique Toy Dolls; Hot Wheels; Trading Cards; **GE Washer & Dryer**; **Pro Trax Multi Angle Saw Table**; Commercial Steel Sprinkler System Pipe; and MORE!



This is just a small preview of the items at sale - 10,000-SqFt Building...Something for Everyone!

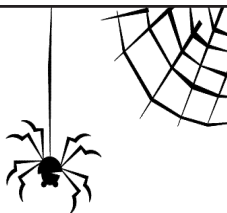
For more information call **Scott at 573-502-9087**
Auctioneer: Drew Busch Auction Zip ID#52135

FOOD & DRINKS SERVED AT SALE

Terms: Cash, (Credit & Debit cards will be charged a convenience fee!) Check w/proper ID, all checks over \$2,000 must be accompanied by an original irrevocable bank letter of guarantee (no copies), unless pre-approved by auction company. All announcements day of sale supersede printed material.

TOTAL SALE MANAGEMENT:
Construction/Farm/Shop Equipment
Real Estate ~ Household
Liquidations ~ Antiques

“The spider looks for a merchant
who doesn’t advertise so he can
spin a web across his door and lead
a life of undisturbed peace.”



— MARK TWAIN

THANK YOU

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Maries County, Inc. Thanks You All!

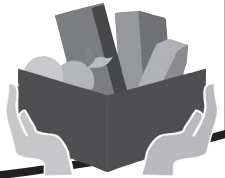
The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry wishes to thank all those who made a donation during this past year and especially during the holiday season. The majority of the food that we distribute comes from The Food Bank in Columbia. However, without the support of the local people, churches, and businesses, our ability to help the hungry would be further limited. In 2022 we served a monthly average of 104 Maries County families (239 people). The number of Maries Co. families who used the vouchers for extra food was 132.

Those who donated in 2022 were as follows:

- Argyle Knights of Columbus • Alice Holmes • Anonymous • Argyle K of C Ladies Auxillary
- Argyle VFW • BFR Investments • Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home
- Broadway Church • Campground Christian Church • Carole Wagner • City of Vienna
- Dan & Susan Whitcomb • Diana James • Dave & Kay Swarthout • Don & Wanda Swarthout
- Doris Ragan • Dwayne & Connie Elrod • Edie Preston • EFSP/FEMA • Festival of Sharing
- Fick Distributing • Frank Peterson • G & W Foods • Gary & Beth Clinkenbeard
- Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church • Greg & Becky Steffen • Guardian Angels Catholic Church
- Harold & Katherine Patterson • Henderson Tax Service • Herb & Debby Adkins
- Honse Implement • Ins. Compliance Analytics • James & Mary Mealer • Jamie & Sarah Falter
- J.C. Walmart (Stadium Blvd) • John Clayton • John & Therese Robertson • Johnnie & Barbie Hollis • Karen Logan • Kelcie Bethune • Kent & Cathy Love • Kenner Church of God
- Lambeth Church • Larry & Cindy Hollis • Larry & Ronda Sorrells • Leada Hadley
- Mace's Grocery • Maries Co. Farm Bureau • Maries R-I School Nat. Honor Society
- Mark & Patty Pottorff • Mason Ridge Church • MG Retired Teachers • Mid America Bank
- Mike & Eleanor Terry • Norma Feeler Memorial • Pork for the Pantry (Ole Dogz Enterprises - Profits Point, FAB Farms, Don & Dan Brandt, Ron Hardeke, Charles Henderson, Steve Berhorst, & Larry Sestak) • Rader United Methodist Church • Richard & Joyce Jarvis • Richard Laubert
- Rita Messersmith • Robert & Sharon Wulff • Rock Eddy Bluff • Ron & Liz Rowden
- Sharon & Rodney Bramlett • Shelter Ins, Courtney Jeremy • St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Argyle
- St. Boniface Catholic Church, Koeltztown • Stratman Trucking • Strope Custom Meat Processing
- Terry & Diane Sanderson • The Maries County Bank • The Food Bank, Columbia
- Tom & Anna Elrod • Tom Coffey Trust • Union Hill Baptist Church • Vienna Auto Supply
- Vienna First Baptist • Vienna MFA • Vienna Quik Spot • Vienna Lions Club
- Vienna United Methodist Church • Vienna Vet. Clinic, Dr. Loyal Henderson
- Visitation Catholic Church & School

We especially wish to thank all the many volunteers who helped us throughout the year. Without your help, there is no way we could serve all these families.

LOAVES and FISHES FOOD PANTRY BOARD
~ ad paid for by The Maries County Bank



Phelps Health joins BJC Collaborative

ROLLA — Phelps Health has joined the BJC Collaborative, a group of independent healthcare systems throughout Illinois and Missouri.

Phelps Health is the eighth health system to join the group, which includes BJC Health-Care (St. Louis, Missouri), Saint Luke’s Health System (Kansas City, Missouri), CoxHealth (Springfield, Missouri), Blessing Health System

(Quincy, Illinois), Memorial Health (Springfield, Illinois), Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System (Mattoon, Illinois), and Southern Illinois Health-care (Carbondale, Illinois).

While remaining independent health systems, members of the BJC Collaborative work together to achieve savings, implement clinical programs to improve access to and quality of healthcare for patients, lower healthcare costs and create additional efficiencies that will benefit patients and communities.

Phelps Health President and CEO Jason Shenefield said, “A benefit of the BJC Collaborative is to have the opportunity to network with leaders from other health systems throughout

Missouri and Illinois. In addition, we will be able to combine our purchasing power when we need to replace expensive equipment, which will help us to reduce expenses.”

Currently, the Collaborative comprises 47 hospitals, 7,345 hospital beds, 76,720 employees and 9,040 employed and affiliated physicians across their adjacent service areas. Phelps Health is licensed for 242 beds and has over 100 medical staff members and 1,950 employees.

The Collaborative allows Phelps Health the opportunity to participate in multiple existing initiatives to the benefit of the communities it serves. Those initiatives include the following:

Collaborative members are currently pursu-

ing joint work efforts in the following areas:

- Oncology collaborations
- Achieving savings through group purchasing
- System-to-system initiatives
- Committee participation and sharing best practices in cybersecurity, government relations, virtual care, human resources, legal, clinical engineering and quality

“We are excited to be a part of the BJC Collaborative and look forward to working with the other members to address some of the challenges and opportunities many health systems face in today’s healthcare industry,” Shenefield said.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a General Municipal Election will be held in Maries County, Missouri on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS	
To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice, like this  . Use the marking device provided.	
CANDIDATES: Complete the oval next to the name of the Candidate for whom you wish to vote.	
PROPOSITIONS: If you are in FAVOR of the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word YES. If you are OPPOSED to the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word NO.	
WRITE-IN: To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided for such purposes and complete the oval next to the space provided.	

COUNTY SALES TAX	
Shall Maries County, Missouri impose a countywide sales tax of three percent (3%) on all tangible personal property retail sales of adult use marijuana sold in Maries County, Missouri for the purpose of using toward expenses -1% in the General Fund and 2% in Roads 1 and 2 (45%/55%).	
YES	☐
NO	☐

MARIES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 (VOTE FOR 3)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three (3) years each.	
AMY K. KISO	☐
GARRET BIALCZYK	☐
ASHLEY MARQUART-HARRIS	☐
BRENT STRATMAN	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF BELLE FOR MAYOR ONE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
DARYL WHITE JR.	☐
KAYLA BRAY	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF BELLE FOR MARSHALL THREE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
JERRY COBORN	☐
JOE TURNBOUGH	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF BELLE FOR ALDERMAN WARD 1 TWO YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
ELIZABETH SUE HOWARTH	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF BELLE FOR ALDERMAN WARD 2 ONE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
JOHN ALLEN GREEN	☐
ADAM PADGETT	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF BELLE FOR ALDERMAN WARD 2 ONE YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
JAMES (PUDD) MITCHELL	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

DIXON R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PULASKI COUNTY (VOTE FOR 3)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three (3) years each.	
MATTHEW S. McCRAY	☐
TRAVIN SHELTON	☐
L. BRANDON OVERSHON	☐
SHANNON PERRY	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

DIXON R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PULASKI (VOTE FOR 1)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot one (1) director who shall serve as member of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of one (1) year.	
MATTHEW FORD	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

ROLLA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31 (VOTE FOR 3)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three (3) years each.	
SUSAN EUDALY	☐
AMANDA SAUERWEIN	☐
MARK SELLS	☐
SCOTT GLASCOCK	☐
CARLA CLAYTON	☐
SARAH A. CRUTCHER	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

PROPOSITION N	
Shall Rolla School District No. 31 of Phelps County, Missouri borrow money in the amount of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of constructing, renovating, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and facilities, including (1) installation of safety and security upgrades throughout district facilities, (2) upgrade and replacement of HVAC systems throughout district facilities, (3) upgrade lighting systems throughout district facilities, and (4) additions and renovations of district facilities, and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain at the current rate of \$0.5850 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.	
YES	☐
NO	☐

--	--

ST. ELIZABETH R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MILLER COUNTY (VOTE FOR 3)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three (3) years each.	
DOUGLAS R. HOLTMEYER	☐
JAMES WIEBERG	☐
ANGIE HECKEMEYER	☐
NATALIE KEMNA	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

ST. JAMES R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHELPS COUNTY (VOTE FOR 3)	
Proposition 1: To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three (3) years each.	
JONATHAN (JON) RAPP	☐
MELANIE DAVIS	☐
JON (WES) GAHR	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

PROPOSITION TIGERS (TODAY'S INVESTMENT GETS EDUCATIONAL RESULTS FOR STUDENTS)	
Shall the Board of Education of the St. James R-1 School District, Missouri, be authorized to increase the operating tax levy by \$0.6500 to \$3.4000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purposes of attracting and retaining quality certified and support staff, maintaining current facilities, implementing safety updates, and meeting additional operating expenses?	
(If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating tax levy of the District is estimated to increase by \$0.6500 from \$2.7500, currently, to \$3.4000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and will be applied to the assessed valuation in Tax Year 2023 and each year thereafter.)	
YES	☐
NO	☐

CITY OF VIENNA FOR MAYOR 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF VIENNA FOR ALDERMAN NORTH WARD 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
REVA HUTCHISON	☐
(WRITE-IN)	☐

CITY OF VIENNA FOR ALDERMAN SOUTH WARD 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	
(WRITE-IN)	☐

QUESTION	
Shall the City of Vienna impose a citywide sales tax at a rate of three (3%) of commercial, retail sales of marijuana, marijuana infused products and related paraphernalia used to consume marijuana products sold inside the city?	
The additional revenue that may be generated from the proposed sales tax for use by the City of Vienna is unknown. There are no known additional costs to the City of Vienna.	
YES	☐
NO	☐

NO ELECTION AS PER RSMO. 115.124	
If the number of candidates who have filed for a particular office is equal to the number of positions in that office to be filled by the election, no election shall be held for such office, and the candidates shall assume the responsibilities of their offices at the same time and in the same manner as if they had been elected. The following contains the names of the candidates that shall assume the responsibilities of office under this section.	

Ozark Central Ambulance	Meta Fire & Rescue Protection District Board Members
Dixon Ambulance District Board Member	Tony Durkum
Allan Kuehl	Cole Schroeder
Stephen Sinden	Iberia Rural Fire Protection District
Jessie Halle	Bland Fire Protection District
Maries Osage Ambulance District Board Member	St. Elizabeth Fire District
Sub-District #2 – Donald Lanning	Rolla Rural Fire Protection District
St. James Ambulance District Board Member	Dixon Rural Fire Protection District
Sub-District #3 – Tammy Yamnitz	Board Member
Maries R-1 School Board of Directors	Tim Simmons
Matthew Novak	Belle Fire Protection District
Denise Wilkinson	St. James Fire Protection District
Kayla Wansing	Vienna Fire Protection District
	Village of Argyle

NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION ACCESSIBILITY

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that at least one-half of the sites provided for voter registration shall be accessible to handicapped persons (RSMo 115.140). In addition, a disabled or elderly citizen may register to vote by alternative means including registration by mail, and curbside registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND VOTING: Persons may contact their local election authority by telephone at 573-422-3388 or by mail at P.O. Box 205, Vienna, MO 65582.

The Missouri Secretary of State's Office provides a toll free number for persons with hearing impairments who have access to a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD users may call 800-669-8683 to obtain information on voter registration, polling place location and accessibility, absentee balloting, and other election-related services available in their local jurisdictions and from the State of Missouri.

Rhonda Rodgers
(S) Maries County Clerk

Classified Ads: \$8.00 for first 10 words, extra words 10¢ each. Reruns 50¢ less. Classified display ads \$5.25 per col. inch

Call: 573-859-3323 or 573-422-6323

FREE LINE ADS TO SUBSCRIBERS! Some exclusions apply; real estate listings, business and help wanted ads are not eligible. Call for details. FREE LINE ADS TO SUBSCRIBERS!



GUN SHOWS

WORLDS LARGEST GUN SHOW ~ April 1 & 2 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANEMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com

FARM EQUIPMENT

OWN RURAL LAND? Earn \$5,000+ Every Year From Hunting Leases. Upfront payments from our hunters. Reduce risk with FREE \$5M liability insurance. Call for a free quote (888) 871-1982 - Base Camp Leasing

HEALTH/BEAUTY

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-510-0095 www.dental50plus.com/ Missouri #6258

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-866-686-8347

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-904-3857

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-713-4600

SENIOR LIVING

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-732-0966

Get paid to care for your loved ones at home. Medicaid Required. 314-375-6602 helpfulhandsinhomecare.com

TV / INTERNET / PHONE

GetDIRECTVfor\$84.99/mofor24months with CHOICE Package. NEW 2 YEAR PRICE GUARANTEE. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-844-547-3631

First Impressions are important! Call 573-437-2323 and let us design a Business Card that reflects your business!

LEGALS

1 Administrator's Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARIES COUNTY, MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION
Estate Number: 22MS-PR00029
In the Matter of JEROME REINKE-MEYER, Deceased.

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION
To All Persons Interested In The Estate of JEROME REINKEMEYER, Deceased.

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representatives will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in interest to the personal/real property of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Maries County, Missouri, on March 22, 2023, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

LINDA MEBRUER
Personal Representative
3602 Highway U
Linn, MO 65051
and **CAROL KRIEG**
Personal Representative
803 County Road 625
Linn, MO 65051
AMANDA L. GRELLNER,
Attorney at Law,
1014 East Marn Street,
P.O. Box 828
Linn, MO 65051
Phone: (573) 897-3609
Fax: (844) 837-3517

For publication in the Maries County Advocate on: March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22, 2023.

4t-030123 mca

1 Administrator's Notices

In the Estate of **STANLEY SMITH, PUBLIC NOTICE**
(Small Estate)

To all persons interested in the Estate of: STANLEY SMITH.

Stanley J Smith, formerly of Brinktown MO, any relative of his or anyone who has claim to 150 ft of property at 37098 Hwy N, please call (636) 266 1082.

For publication in the Maries County Advocate on: March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2023.

4t-030823 mca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

0070 No Hunting or Fishing

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

NO TRESPASSING, HUNTING or FISHING without owner permission on the properties of 10687 and 10935 Maries County Road #611.

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 OR HUNTING without owner permission on the property of Robert & Sally Rainey Farm at 16682 Hwy. A, Vichy, MO.

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PUBLIC NOTICE...

EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS

The Maries County Clerk's Office will be open extended hours for Absentee Voting on **Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 8:00AM-5:00PM.** Anyone can also vote absentee during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00AM- 12NOON and 1:00PM - 4:00PM.

Rhonda Rodgers

Maries County Clerk/Election Authority

City of Belle, Missouri
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at **5:45PM, on Tuesday, April 11, 2023**, at the Lonnie Feeler Memorial Building located at 104 East Third Street, Belle, Missouri at which time citizens may be heard.

The public hearing is for individuals to voice their opinions regarding the following two items:

1 — The Rezoning of 203 Lehnhoff Dr. in the City of Belle, Maries County, Missouri. The proposed rezoning would be from Residential (R-1) to Business (B-1). All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

2 — The Vacating of the undeveloped portions of Tenth and Eleventh Street(s), off Johnson Ave.

For more information, or if you require special accommodations at the hearing, please contact City Clerk, Frankie Horstman by email at cityclerk@cityofbellemo.org or by calling the office at 573-859-3513.

City Clerk, Frankie Horstman

City Hall | 200 E. Third St. | Belle, MO 65013 | 573/859-3513

OFFICIAL POLLING LOCATIONS
MARIES COUNTY MUNICIPAL ELECTION
April 4, 2023

PRECINCT	LOCATIONS	ADDRESS
Belle	St. Alexander's Catholic Church	402 W. Third Street, Belle
Brinktown	Guardian Angels Parish Hall	37515 Hwy. N, Brinktown
Hayden Heights	Kenner Church.....	17996 Maries Road 505, Dixon
Hodgeville	Vichy Firehouse.....	14812 Hwy. 63 S, Vichy
Mason Ridge	Mason Ridge Community Church	10784 Hwy. 133, Meta
Safe	Broadway Baptist Church	15570 MO 68, Vichy
Santee	Santee Church	20174 Hwy. 133, Dixon
Vichy	Vichy Firehouse.....	14812 Hwy. 63 S, Vichy
Vienna	Knights of Columbus Hall	206 6th Street, Vienna

The polling places will be open from the hours of 6:00AM until 7:00PM during which time any person properly registered to vote in the county/city will be given the opportunity to cast his or her ballot. Further notice is given that in the event of an emergency, a centralized polling place will be located at the Maries County Courthouse.

Done by order of the County Clerk of the County of Maries, this 15th day of March, 2023.

/s/ Rhonda Rodgers

Maries Co Clerk~Election Authority

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4t-030123 mca

Water grant • from page 5

the meeting had never been given to the public. “No, but we have heard it before,” Struemph agreed. Baretich said town hall meetings will be beneficial to get the word out. Struemph said they have to educate the people so they realize where the money is going.

City Clerk Frankie Horstman said the information will need to be taken to the public, especially if the city is asking for a bond issue to be passed. White said what they talked about at the board meeting on Feb. 13 and the discussion on March 1 was different. “We didn’t have to take the other water tower offline, we voted to take it offline,” White said. “We could still be using that water tower, we have no proof the Belle water tower is contaminated. No proof it isn’t useable. Outdated, sure. Last council meeting we said we have more than enough water now today we are hearing we can’t fight a fire,” White said. “We’ve got to quit double talking to the people.” Baretich said when he took the question about how much water the city has on hand, he meant there was plenty of water the tower and available to fight a fire. “We didn’t discuss the distribution side of that,” Baretich said. “As far as having 300,000 gallons, daily usage amounts and such. It does meet what we’re doing it is just not the most efficient or ideal.”

Cates assured White that the city has enough water to fight a fire, it is the distribution system that needs to be revamped. They need to

Turnbough • from page 2

the invoices for the equipment purchase and installation he was irate and said, “not another damn dime goes into the police department until some tickets start getting wrote.” We were still contracting Maries County to perform policing duties. From that point on, almost every conversation with White was about saving money. While I understand there is a budget, it appeared as if White jumped into a major decision without anything other than an emotional desire to see Maries County leave Belle. Because White was so persistent with his complaints about expenses, I approached John again to see what we could do. The most logical decision was to share patrol duties with Maries County and schedule opposite of one another. John agreed to let Jerry and I cover two shifts while Maries County continued to cover the opposite two shifts. In exchange, Maries County would pull two of the four deputies into county coverage and reduce our contract expense by 50 percent! I thought Mayor White would be ecstatic. Instead, I was scolded for “conspiring with the enemy” and ordered to stop meeting with John and that he was trying to “get rid of Maries County” and I was working with them to extend the contract. There was absolutely no conversation about extending the contract, only cutting the cost. When it comes to Maries County, Mayor White sees

nothing but red. Things really went downhill after four young men from Belle rolled a truck over, trapping one, in a tragic accident. I was off that night and Jerry had been on duty that day, but completed his 12-hour shift and went home. Maries County was on duty and responded as contracted but White was beside himself because social media questioned “where was Belle PD.” At that point, White started making a schedule and demanding Coborn and I follow it. It was designed around being seen in public and ignored officer safety. It required numerous days in a row then would change from days to nights and back to days. It wasn’t too long after the accident White ordered me to park the Charger because it wasn’t insured and hadn’t been for two weeks unbeknownst to me. It sat idly at the City Hall for three weeks, waiting to go to Jefferson City for equipment installation, while the bank paperwork and insurance went through. White purchased the Charger without following state-mandated purchasing guidelines. It is a civilian model vehicle without the much-needed police package such as oversized brakes to prevent overheating and an oversized alternator to handle all the electronic demands. It was not purchased from the awarded state bid list nor did he secure competitive bids. He showed up one day and asked if I liked the Chargers. I told him I did

and he said “good, I just bought you one.” I was not comfortable being named “Police Chief” of a department not following state guidelines. Not only did I feel White was not adhering to purchasing guidelines or Sunshine Law, the constant belittling what Bray and I were doing, the decisions White was making, and the stress of working shifts on little sleep while conducting administrative tasks while “off duty” was more than I could stand. Bray and I put in countless hours without compensation. Then we were asked in a closed session if we were having an affair because of the amount of time we were spending together. White did not call the behavior outrageously unprofessional and inappropriate but wanted an answer to the question. I could not please him nor could I be a part of the dictatorship of a police department. He made it clear I was Police Chief in title only and that he held all decisions. The citizens of Belle have voted numerous times to NOT have a police chief who answers to the mayor and have repeatedly said they desire to have a marshal that answers to the people only. That is why I resigned and THAT is what I promise to bring back to you if I am elected. Respectfully, Joe Turnbough, candidate for Belle Marshal

City of Belle • from page 2

sure to prove we could provide police coverage for ourselves. He rarely informed us of his intention to be gone, until we received a call from someone needing assistance. After the resignation of Joe and Kayla, Jerry and I were able to establish a dispatching contract with Gasconade County in one afternoon. In response to the purchase of the car, he is correct in that it does not have the police package included. However, I made sure the care met all required specifications. This included but not limited to the bigger breaks, heat slotted rotors and speed rated tires. When we purchased the Dodge Charger, there was 4–6 month wait for a standard police vehicle. Jim Butler Motors, in Linn, Mo., was able to locate this car and provide a competitive price, have it shipped and delivered within one week. We felt the need for a reliable police vehicle was crucial to the growing of our police force, the safety of our officers, and the betterment of our community. We strive to better the department every opportunity we have. The parking of the new police car, was for a number of reasons, not just insurance. Getting all required documents to the insurance and adding it to the policy took a few days, however the car was not marked and did not have any emergency equipment installed at that time. We were also working with Maries County Bank to secure the loan. All this takes time, and while the car was in the city’s possession, it was not yet purchased. To add clarification, the city council nor the mayor did not accuse Joe Turnbough or Kayla Bray of having an affair. However, the council expressed concerns that the perception of them spending so much time together alone in the car did not present a positive image and could lead to rumors.

The Belle Police Department has grown and continues to show progress. We have three full time officers, and recently purchased an incredible police K-9. Since February, Kimmon, the police drug dog, has assisted officers on numerous occasions, and has taken illegal drugs off our streets. We have provided our officers with updated equipment and purchased new bullet proof vests. The city will never put cost above the safety of our officers. We have signed into a contract with Gasconade County, and they have provided our dispatch services since January 1st. We were able to make a smooth transition. We are grateful to have positive working relationships with our surrounding counties. The police budget is one track and exactly where it should be for this point in our fiscal year. Police Chief Jerry Coborn has done an excellent job communicating the departments needs. He has reported to us frequently, asks for approval before making purchases, and gets council input on major decisions. He works diligently to keep the city safe. Sargent Mark Morgan and Officer Erican Sugg have shown to be an asset to the city as well. We hope they continue to demonstrate positive skills and grow with us. The mayor nor the city council has any ill feelings toward the Maries County Sheriff or his department. I feel, Chief Deputy Scott John and I have a solid working relationship. As always, we will support their efforts at any time, and know they will provide the citizens of Belle the same respect. The mayor and council will gladly answer any questions or address concerns presented at the meeting being held March 22, 2023, at the Belle-Bland Community Center at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. From Belle Mayor Daryl White, Jr. Alderman Adam Padgett Alderman James “Pud” Mitchell Alderman Jeanette Struemph Alderman Barbara Howarth

Commission • from page 1

Stratman asked if Azimuth Renewables is better at keeping landowners informed than it is at keeping the county government informed. He also wanted to know if the people the company contacts get to talk with local representatives. Bunge said the company coordinates closely with landowners on the status of its projects, and it has representatives in Rolla. He said that the company has a focus on the Midwest. Right now, it has projects in Missouri and Illinois, and Bunge said the company is looking to expand into other states such as Indiana, Iowa and Arkansas. Drewel asked about the kind of work the company might need to do that would cross county roads and fall under hypothetical planning and zoning regulations. “We’re not at the point in the design process at this stage where we really have a good view of right of way or things like that we would want to use for the project,” Bunge said. “We’re not far enough along in the design to really even have a specific request around additional county resources.” Chiles said that once it was time to begin construction, Azimuth Renewables and the county would enter into a road use agreement that could help to ease the commissioners’ concerns about having no planning and zoning ordinances. Stratman asked if the ground used for the project would be barren once the solar panels were in place. Bunge said that Azimuth Renewables would reseed the land with a local seed mix as erosion control, to meet obligations with the Department of Natural Resources and for aesthetic purposes. Drewel asked if the commissioners could see a sample of the

contracts that the company signs with landowners. Bunge said he would get back to the commissioners about that. “I don’t see why it would hurt for the commissioners to see the same contract that you’re selling to the general public,” Drewel said. “I don’t necessarily see an issue,” Bunge said. “I just want to make sure we cross our t’s and dot our i’s.” As the conversation came to a conclusion, Stratman told the representatives from Azimuth Renewables that he did not want to sign the letter until he had more information such as sample contracts and road use agreements. “Let us put together some more information, and we’ll go from there,” Bunge said. “If they’re wanting to do it, they should come up and see us,” Western District Commissioner Ed Fagre told the other commissioners after the call. **ELECTION INTEGRITY** County Clerk Rhonda Rodgers said that she had heard reports from other county clerks about election-denying conspiracy theorists visiting county commissioners to request that they take away the money budgeted for elections. “The budget’s been approved, and as far as elections go, there is a statute that says that you have to have the money for the election,” she said. Rodgers also mentioned discussions in the state legislature about switching from machine-counted ballots to hand-counted ballots. “I just don’t understand,” she said. “How can that be accurate?” Stratman said. “I would think there would be potential for a huge amount of error. When you

go down (the ballot) and there are 15 people you can vote on and 10 amendments on each ballot...” “Think how long it would take to count them,” Rodgers said. “I’ve got complete confidence in our county that they’re doing it right,” Stratman said. “There’s no doubt in my mind,” Fagre said. “We test the machines before the election,” Rodgers said. “They vote. We test the machines before the canvass to make sure they’re still counting right. Then we run those ballots through and then hand-count them.” Rodgers said that the county had done recounts in her time as county clerk, but they had never changed the outcome of an election. Sometimes a few votes may change due to ballots with stray pen marks or incorrectly filled bubbles. **COMM-UNITY AMBULANCE** Rodgers said she had checked the list of registered voters in the Maries County portion of the COMM-Unity Ambulance service, and it was more than she previously thought. There are 140 registered voters in the area. If voters in the area wish for the Maries-Osage Ambulance District (MOAD) to annex the service area following COMM-Unity Ambulance’s dissolution in June, 10 percent, or 14 of them, will need to sign a petition for the commissioners. Once the commissioners received the petition, they would begin the process of putting a measure on the ballot for MOAD to annex the area. Rodgers said to ensure there were enough valid signatures, the petitioners should probably gather more than 14 signatures. Valid signatures must come from registered voters in Maries County who live in the potential annex-

ation area. **COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE** Stratman said Kevin Bullock with RSS Roofing Services & Solutions had been to the courthouse to look at a reported leak in the roof that was sending water into the women’s jail. He said Bullock had found the source of the leak and would be back to fix it. There was also an improperly patched hole that Stratman said they would repair. Another facility repair that Stratman said he would like to see completed was repairs to the caulking around the edges of the courthouse. “Remember, some time ago we were getting water in the meeting room down there?” he asked the other commissioners. “It (the caulking) is pulling away and giving that water a chance to get in.” Stratman said he would talk to Jim Hale, who has done some other repairs around the courthouse, about redoing the caulking.

The commissioners opened lawncare bids for the courthouse from Snodgrass Lawncare and Ash’s Lawncare. Snodgrass Lawncare placed the winning bid at \$40 per visit. **VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL** Stratman said the Vietnam War memorial outside the courthouse would be a stop on the 2023 Tour of Honor Motorcycle Ride. The program, which runs from April through October, encourages motorcyclists to hit the road and stop at a list of war memorials around the United States. The ride is self-directed, so riders could stop to visit the memorial at any time during that span. The Vietnam War memorial sits on the side of the courthouse facing Main Street alongside memorials for local people lost in combat during World War I and

World War II. Along with the Bible verse John 15:13, the Vietnam War memorial displays the names of two fallen soldiers from the area: Ralph A. Branson, Jr. and James S. Jordan. Heifer Replacement Program The University of Missouri Extension sponsors the Show-Me-Select Heifer Replacement Program, which works to improve heifer development pro-

grams, increase marketing opportunities and create reliable sources of quality replacement heifers based on management, reproduction and genetics. Stratman said that the program’s local sale this year would move from its usual Friday night spot to Saturday, May 20 at South Central Regional Stockyards.



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KAMERON NEWTON (above, far right) warms up before pitching the final six innings of Belle's 8-3 victory over Rolla's JV Bulldogs Monday night during opening-round action of the Stoutland Spring Classic at Vienna City Park. Weather and field conditions permitting, Belle is scheduled to square off against Vienna in tournament semifinal action at 7 p.m., in Vienna.

Tiger nine use two late long balls to turn back Rolla's JV Bulldogs

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR
wjohnson@wardpub.com

VIENNA — Better late than never.

That was the feeling late Monday night at Vienna City Park for Bryce Gehlert's Belle Tiger baseball team in the opening round of the Stoutland Spring Classic against Rolla's JV Bulldogs.

Nursing a 4-3 lead entering the bottom of the fifth inning, the Tigers turned to the long ball to add to their lead.

Zane Strunk hit a solo home run in the fifth before Carter Kinkead launched a three-run shot to left field in the bottom of the sixth giving relief pitcher Kameron Newton

more breathing room before the Tigers went on to an opening-round 8-3 victory.

Down 3-0 entering the bottom of the second inning, Belle was able to tie the game at 3-3 with the aid of only one base hit.

Newton started the frame with a leadoff walk before Garrett Gehlert walked and Isaiah Sullinger was hit by a pitch to load the bases for leadoff hitter Blake Henry.

In spite of Henry retired via the infield-fly rule, Newton scored on a Bulldog throwing error getting Belle on the board.

After a Kaiden Robertson strikeout, Clayton Shockley delivered a clutch two-out, two-RBI double scoring Gehlert and Sullinger to knot the game at 3-3 after two

innings.

Moving to the bottom of the third inning, Strunk was hit by a pitch with one out before later scoring on an error to put the Tigers in front for good by a 4-3 score after three frames from a cold Vienna City Park.

Following a scoreless fourth inning, Newton got an inning-ending double play in the top of the fifth helping him pitch around a pair of JV Bulldog singles.

Two pitches into the bottom of the fifth, Strunk deposited an 0-1 pitch over the right-field fence for a solo home run and a 5-3 lead.

During the bottom of the sixth inning, Rolla's JV Bulldogs found out the hard way that walks can come back to bite you.

Robertson and Shockley drew back-to-back free passes with one out setting up Kinkead looking to clean up the bases.

In the hole with a 1-2 count, Kinkead parked the very next pitch over the left-field fence for a three-run home run giving the Tigers their final margin of victory.

Newton earned the win pitching the final six innings in relief of starter Hank Stratman.

Allowing no runs on three hits over six innings, Newton only gave up one walk while striking out seven JV Bulldogs.

Following the Stoutland Tournament, Belle will open regular-season play on Tuesday, March 28 on the road in Iberia against the Rangers with a 5 p.m., first pitch.



MYLES BUTLER (above) putts his ball on the first green at Cuba Lakes Golf Course Monday afternoon during the Cuba Lakes Golf Classic for John Viehland's Belle Tigers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB VIEHMAN/CUBA FREE PRESS

Taylor leads Tiger golfers to second-place team finish in Cuba Lakes Golf Classic

BY WILL JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR
wjohnson@wardpub.com

Able to take advantage of dry weather to begin the week, John Viehland's Belle High School golf team competed in the season-opening Cuba Lakes Golf Classic at Cuba Lakes Golf Course.

Callen Taylor led the Tigers with a nine-hole round of 52 good for fourth place overall.

Avery Craigmiles shot a 55 to finish tied for sixth while Myles

Buter carded a 58 to place ninth.

Baylar Smith rounded out the top 10 with a round of 60.

Sam Willis rounded out Belle's contingency of golfers shooting a round of 61 placing him in a two-way tie for 12th place.

Cuba topped the team standings with a total score of 186 followed by the Tigers at 225.

Licking's Wildcats took third as a team with a score of 244 edging out Owensville's Dutchmen who took fourth place with a team score of 245.

Diamond Eagles • from page 7

just two runs on three hits, Veasman picked up the win for Vienna allowing four walks while striking out 12 Warhawks.

Helping his own cause at the plate, Veasman led the Eagle offense with two hits and three runs batted in.

Sam Rowden and Kloeppel also had two hits for Vienna.

Friday against Tuscumbia, Vienna scored six runs in the first and four in the second inning before going on to a 13-1 mercy-rule victory in five innings.

Veasman also earned the win

against the Lions pitching three innings of hitless, scoreless baseball while striking out five batters.

Bock led the Eagle offense against Tuscumbia with three runs scored, two walks, two RBIs and a base hit.

Wulff and Wilkinson recorded multi-hit games for the black and gold with two hits each.

Following the conclusion of the Stoutland Tournament, Nicholson's Eagles will open regular-season play on Monday, March 27 on the road in Miller County against St. Elizabeth's Hornets at 5 p.m.

Bland's Bears • from page 7

teammate Weston Doss placed second with a mark of 25.16m.

Placing third in the boys 4x200m relay was the Bear quartet of Connor LeRoux, Lathan Miller, Karsin Siefert and Barzee in a time of 2:11.91.

Robertson (4th, 6:11.74) and Frey (7th, 6:29.49) scored team points for the Bears in the boys 1600-meter run.

Bland's Lady Bears scored 62 points to place fourth as a team behind Trinity Lutheran (91), Russellville (75) and New Bloomfield (73).

Bland's Lady Bear quartet of Nolie Finnegan, Ellie Gray, Natalie Lansford and Piper Marsee won the girls 4x200m relay in a time of 2:07.49.

Finnegan also won the 800m run while placing second in the 1600m run.

Lansford added a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash and a second-place leap in the girls high jump to her leg of the girls 4x200m relay.

BMS Track will return to action on Tuesday, March 28 at Fatima starting at 2:30 p.m.



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*Example: On a 2/1/2023 financed amount of \$7,500, your down payment is \$0, no interest for 120 days and no payment for 150 days followed by 36 monthly payments of \$223.41 each. Interest rate is 3.49% [APR is 4.58%]. Note: The above financing programs are offered by Sheffield Financial, a division of Truist Bank. Member FDIC. Subject to credit approval. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Other financing offers are available. See your local dealer for details. Rate advertised is based on minimum bureau risk score of 700. Minimum amount financed \$2,500; Maximum amount financed \$75,000. Other qualifications and restrictions may apply. Offer effective on eligible and qualified units purchased from a participating dealer. See dealer for product eligibility and qualifications between 2/1/2023 and 4/30/2023. The advertised promotion includes an Origination Fee which has been added to the Amount Financed in the amount of \$125.00. Offer subject to change without notice.

**0% Financing for up to 60 months offer available to qualified buyers with approved credit. See dealer for details.