

THE GAZETTE



"Your Hometown Newspaper"
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"Serving the Fort Osage and Wellington/Napoleon School districts"

Volume 20,

Number 6

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Buckner Elementary School celebrates Career Day!

Buckner Elementary School invited businesses in the Buckner area to participate in Career Day. Each business was asked to bring a company vehicle with their name on it, park in the circle drive in front of the school and visit with the students and tell them about their business.

K-4th grade participated in this event and the children were well behaved and very inquisitive. They asked many questions about our businesses and seemed very interested.

We were privileged to participate in the Career Day Event and really enjoyed the children and their questions.

Many were really interested in the "silk" flower arrangement we brought. Most of the older children asked if they were fake flowers.



Pictured above is The Gazette Newspaper and Village Florals vehicle, complete with flowers, papers and mascot!

I explained the difference between "fake" and "fresh" or as they called them "real flowers." They also really enjoyed our Basset Hound Daisy May.

Every age group loved the fire department, police, Matt Fords cool mustang, Safelite Auto Glass, and Blystone Cabinets.

Thanks Buckner School for a GREAT Day with some awesome kids



Pictured above are some students visiting with several of the business owners. More pictures on page 8

One Arm bandit strikes in Levasy

This past week, a person or persons took the railroad crossing arm at the crossing in Levasy, MO. on Main Street. There are two arms at the crossing but the one on the south side of the tracks was dismantled, leaving only one crossing arm.

Since this is dangerous, especially for individuals heading north in Levasy, the railroad had to close the tracks coming through Levasy, which affected Buckner and other cities to the east and west of Levasy. Shutting down the tracks for any length of time is very costly and the new arm was quickly put into place, with train traffic resuming in a very timely manner.



By Jim Hisle

October 21st will mark the milestone date of 150 years since the Battle of the Little Blue. Described as a minor battle in the history of the American Civil War, the battle none the less left its mark on our area. The setting for the Battle occurred in 1864 as Major General Sterling Price, in command of the Confederate Army of Missouri, was marching through Missouri with 10,000 soldiers. Price's attack would turn out to be the last large Confederate foray in Missouri and was known as Price's Missouri Expedition. The Lexington-Independence road (US 24 Highway) was the pathway for the battles that occurred that October in Jackson County.

The area was known as "Fire Creek Prairie" as Buckner and Levasy did not exist. In General Price's report filed in December of 1864 he wrote, "On the morning of the 20th I moved west in the same direction as before to Fire Creek Prairie, a distance of twenty two miles, where I encamped. Information reached



More Pictures and story continued on page 4

Tractor Pull-an awesome event!

For the past two years a tractor pull has taken place in Sibley, MO. on BB highway, across from Heart of God Church.

It gets bigger each year and there were approximately 405 pulls this year.

Young and older individuals participate in different classes. Tractors and semi's pulled different size weights and the vehicle pulling the most weight wins!

It's lots of fun and the crowds are very enthusiastic.

We will have a list of the winners in the next edition of The Gazette.

A big thanks to Trish and Ken Summers and their girls!



More pictures on page 8

150th Anniversary of the Civil War Battle of the Little Blue

me that the enemy had fallen back to the Little Blue." * Let us imagine such an encampment: thousands of men, dozens of wagons, hundreds of horses, and the sizable herd of captured cattle they had amassed as they made their way through Missouri.

The day before, October 19th, the 2,000 Union troops defending Lexington led by Major General James Blunt, were chased by Price out of Lexington. Blunt's task was to slow down the Confederate's advance as long as possible and allow Union forces on the Kansas border to move into place for a defense of the Westport and Kansas border area. Price's Army had started at the Arkansas border with plans to take St. Louis. St. Louis was a headquarters and shipping point for the Union, with warehouses and arsenals of supplies and arms. Price found however that the Union forces would probably be too great to overcome at St. Louis. He decided to turn westward to Westport, also a strongpoint for the Union, that did not seem to be as well defended.

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Obituaries

Denise Lynn (Brown) Davis

Denise Lynn (Brown) Davis, age 63 of Buckner, MO passed away from pneumonia August 24th after years of battling cancer. Services were at 10:00 a.m., with a O.E.S. service by the Buckner Chapter #280 O.E.S. with the funeral service which immediately followed on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at the Speaks Buckner Chapel with burial in Buckner Hill Cemetery. The family greeted friends from 6 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday evening at the Buckner Congregation of the Community of Christ. Donations may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Denise "Dee" was a lifelong resident of Buckner and graduated from Fort Osage High School in 1969. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star Buckner Chapter #280, an active member of the Community of Christ Buckner Congregation and a longtime employee of GEHA. Dee leaves a host of family and friends. She was a devoted wife to her husband of 31 years, Earl "Bud" Davis of the home,

a loving mother to her son, S. "Eric" Davis of North Carolina, and daughter, Kendra Harris and her husband Steve of Independence. Dee was a close sister to Danielle Mallett of Osceola, MO, Ina Hess and her husband John of Liberty, MO, and Ila Duvall and her husband Roger of Independence, MO and three sisters-in-law Linda Brown and her husband Mike, Nancy Stricker and her husband Jim, and Debbie Nicholson and her husband Tim. Dee was preceded in death by her parents, Emerson and Rowena Brown of Independence, MO and the early departure of her brother, Owen Brown, also of Independence. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren, nieces and nephews and extended family. Denise's life has always been dedicated to and centered around the closeness of family. We will miss her. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Buckner Chapel (816) 650-5555.

Karen Diane (Stringer) Barksdale

Karen Diane (Stringer) Barksdale, age 59, of Buckner, MO, passed away Tuesday morning, September 9, 2014 at her residence following a lengthy battle with cancer. Cremation is planned, with a memorial service with to be held at 2:00 p.m., October 4, 2014 at the Speaks Buckner Chapel, 300 Adams St., Buckner, MO 64016. The family will greet friends from 1:00 until service time Saturday at the chapel. Donations may be made to Continua Hospice Foundation, 13002 State Line Rd, Leawood, KS 66209. Karen was born April 24, 1955 in Kansas City, MO to Joseph and Mary Ann (Munson) Stringer and has been a longtime Buckner resident. She graduated from Cassville High School in 1973. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her family. She had worked

as manager for the Casey's General Store in Higginsville. She is survived by: her loving husband, Bob of the home; 2 sons, Billy Barksdale and his wife Laura of Independence, MO and Robert S. Barksdale of Sibley, MO; her father Joseph Stringer; 3 sisters, Joann Peck, Gail Stringer and Nancy Nichols and husband Steve Hudanish; 4 brothers, Kenneth "Bub" Stringer and wife Angie, Randy Stringer and wife Cheri, Phillip Stringer and wife Kim and Tony Stringer and wife Sandy; 5 grandchildren (Katrina, Kayla, Kaleb, Vincent and Lucas) and one great-grandchild (Avril-Anne). She was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Ann Stringer and a brother, Ronny Stringer. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Buckner Chapel (816) 650-5555)

Obituary Policy

The Gazette Newspaper publishes obituaries at No charge. This includes the Obituary, sent from the funeral home and a picture if one is enclosed. All obituaries must be emailed to editor@gazetteweekly.com and will be published in the current edition in which they are sent.

If you have any questions, please email us at editor@gazetteweekly.com



Pictured above is one of the tractors at the Tractor Pull on Saturday, September 13, 2014.

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Union Pacific Railroad Urges Professional Photographers to Stay Safe, Stay Away From Train Tracks

Omaha, Neb., September 15, 2014 – As fall weather arrives, Union Pacific Railroad is urging professional photographers to refrain from taking photographs of sports teams, high school seniors, wedding parties and other subjects on or near train tracks or trestles.

Last year, more than 900 people were injured or killed while trespassing on railroad property in the U.S., according to Federal Railroad Administration statistics.

Union Pacific is committed to public safety through various channels such as community events, media outreach, law enforcement partnerships, employee resource groups and Operation Lifesaver. The UP CARES (Union Pacific Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety) public safety initiative brings together communities in a collaborative and caring effort to promote railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety.

"As part of our UP CARES initiative, we want to remind photographers that walking on or near railroad tracks is extremely dangerous because you never know when a train will come along," said Lawrence Wenko, Union Pacific director – Public Safety. "We urge professional and amateur photographers alike to set the right example for others by adhering to the safety guidelines."

Recently a Nebraska high school volleyball team thought it would be unique to have their team photo taken on nearby railroad tracks. The double track main line they chose for their photograph sees more than 50 trains a day. As they were beginning to get in position for their photograph on the railroad tracks, a railroad employee saw the team and contacted the train dispatcher in time to avoid disaster – the crew of an approaching train applied the emergency brakes to avoid hitting the students. There were no injuries.

In 2012, a teacher who taught art and photography, was struck and killed by a train while taking photos on the tracks. In response to tragic and preventable incidents like this, Union Pacific is working with Professional Photographers of America on rail safety education outreach to the professional photography community.

The UP CARES public safety initiative promotes pedestrian and driver safety through a variety of outreach channels:

Grade crossing education and enforcement, during which motorists violating rail crossing signage and laws are educated about the dangers of such actions. Related "positive enforcement" initiatives reward drivers who operate safely at grade crossings.

Safety trains, hosting local law enforcement, media and public officials and providing them the opportunity to ride in the locomotive cab and see traffic violations from a locomotive engineer's point of view. This also allows Union Pacific to connect with community leaders and help them better understand the railroad's safety focus.

Communication blitzes, which educate the public via community events, media outreach and paid advertising. Media outreach coincides with safety trains in UP communities.

Drop off locations for The Gazette

- *Heating and Cooling Co. downtown Buckner
- *Wellington/Napoleon School
- *Metcalf Bank
- *Buckner Thriftway
- *Buckner Public Library
- *Buckner Elementary School
- *Levasy City Hall
- *Misty's
- *Laundromat in downtown Buckner
- *Paper box in 24 highway shopping center
- *Paper box on corner of S. Hudson and Washington street in downtown Buckner
- *Senior Center
- *Nadler's Meats-Wellington, Mo.
- *Rookies Bar & Grill-24 highway, Buckner, MO.
- *Law Firm-24 highway, Buckner, Mo.

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From the Editor

This is the first year in our 20 years of publication that The Gazette did not make it to the festival. We had very good intentions, but things happen. Chuck ended up at the doctors office at 9:30 am Saturday morning with his entire chest area bright red and swollen. Verdict, allergic reaction to something, and after several hours and 3 prescriptions, we were good to go. Unfortunately the parade was over.

I had asked a friend to take pictures of the parade, and she did, but we couldn't seem to get together for the pictures.

Another very good friend of mine, took some for me in downtown Buckner, but that evening she ended up in the emergency room with heart

problems. They were in no way related to the festival. I am happy to report, as of print time, Liz is doing better and we pray for a fast and speedy recovery. Chuck is slowly turning back to his normal color and feeling less cranky.

So, as you can see, we really tried but did not succeed. We will have festival and parade pictures in the next issue of The Gazette.

The pictures below are of downtown Buckner looking north on Hudson Street and the bungee ride at the North end of Hudson Street. We were able to get these two photos on Saturday afternoon.

Have a GREAT week! As I always say, 'life is an adventure.'



Pictured above is the new Multipurpose building, a work in progress.

The Grand Festival of Chez les Canses at Fort Osage National Historic Landmark

Jackson County Parks + Rec invites you to the Grand Festival of "Chez les Canses" or "Village of the Kansa", a phrase attributed to Pierre Chouteau in describing the early European settlement which would eventually become Kansas City. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience how colonial people lived, dressed and forged a life on the early frontier. Featured activities will include hand sewing, cooking, tanning, woodworking, and historic gardening. Authentic late 18th century music will be presented by Tracy Smith at 10 am, and Common Way at 2 pm on Saturday. Several artisans will have their handcrafted wares available for purchase, and a public auction will be held at 3 pm.

The confluence of the Kansa and Missouri Rivers presented a natural crossroads and meeting area of both early European explorers and traders and Native Americans. The area was alternately claimed by both Spain and France until purchased by the United States from the French in 1803 opening a vast area to exploration and settlement. Fort Osage was established in 1808 by William Clark following the famed Lewis & Clark Expedition and played a pivotal role in the exploration of the western American frontier.

EVENT: The Grand Festival of Chez les Canses

DATE: September 27, 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FEE: Adults: \$7.00; Youth (5-13) \$4.00; and Seniors (62+) \$3.00; Children 4 and under free.

LOCATION: Fort Osage Education Center, 107 Osage St. Sibley MO 64088

Fort Osage is located in Sibley, MO on the Missouri River, 14 miles northeast of Independence.

WEBSITE: www.jacksongov.org/fortosage

Fort Osage Craft Fair with a Special Touch

The Fort Osage High School Art Department is hosting an Arts and Craft Fair on Saturday, September 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fort Osage High School.

Proceeds from the fair directly support students attending the Youth Educational Series at Disney, allowing students the opportunity to take Educational Leadership classes along with visiting Art Colleges on the East Coast. Fort Osage High School is the only district in the area providing this opportunity for our students.

The Arts and Crafts Fair will feature multiple local artists and crafters

including garden statues, scarves, jewelry, baby items, doll clothes, artwork and prints, kitchen items, rugs, blankets, quilts, carved wood items, and more.

As a special feature, the National Art Honor Society will be taking orders for personalized painted canvas shoes that will be delivered at Christmas time filled with candy. Purchase for someone special or sponsor a pair of shoes to be delivered to a student in need in the Fort Osage School District.

For more details, contact Kim Meneses at kmeneses@fortosage.net.

150th Anniversary of the Civil War Battle of the Little Blue

Story and pictures by Jim Hisle
(continued from page 1)

The morning of October 21st started with the Confederate's on the move to the Little Blue River. The Union troops were left with a skeleton force of 600 troops and a handful of artillery pieces. Once again their orders were to delay the advance. The Union troopers, though just a fraction of the force opposing them, were dug in. Secure behind stone fences and rocky outcroppings overlooking the Little Blue, the Union soldiers seemed to be a much larger force. With flanking maneuvers the Confederate forces pushed the Union troops from the heights back towards Independence. The losses on both sides were described as light. The official Confederate itinerary log reported a loss of "40 to 50" at the engagement. The senior Union official on the scene Colonel Thomas Moonlight of the 11th Kansas Cavalry did not report the Union's losses, though he did highlight a few individuals lost or wounded in his report. In the context of the Battle of Westport occurring on October 23rd, the engagement at the Little Blue was just a precursor. The total loss was estimated at 3,000 killed or wounded at the Battle of Westport

What can we see of the Battle's location today? While much of the battlefield remains undeveloped. The extension of the Little Blue Parkway currently ending at US 24 Highway has bisected a large area of the site. Three battle field commemorative markers describe important aspects of the battle. The markers are located at: west bound US 24 just east of the Little Blue River (though very visible from US 24, it is inaccessible due to highway improvements and there is no public turnout), Jackson County bike and hike trail stop at the end of Old Lexington Road which is a right

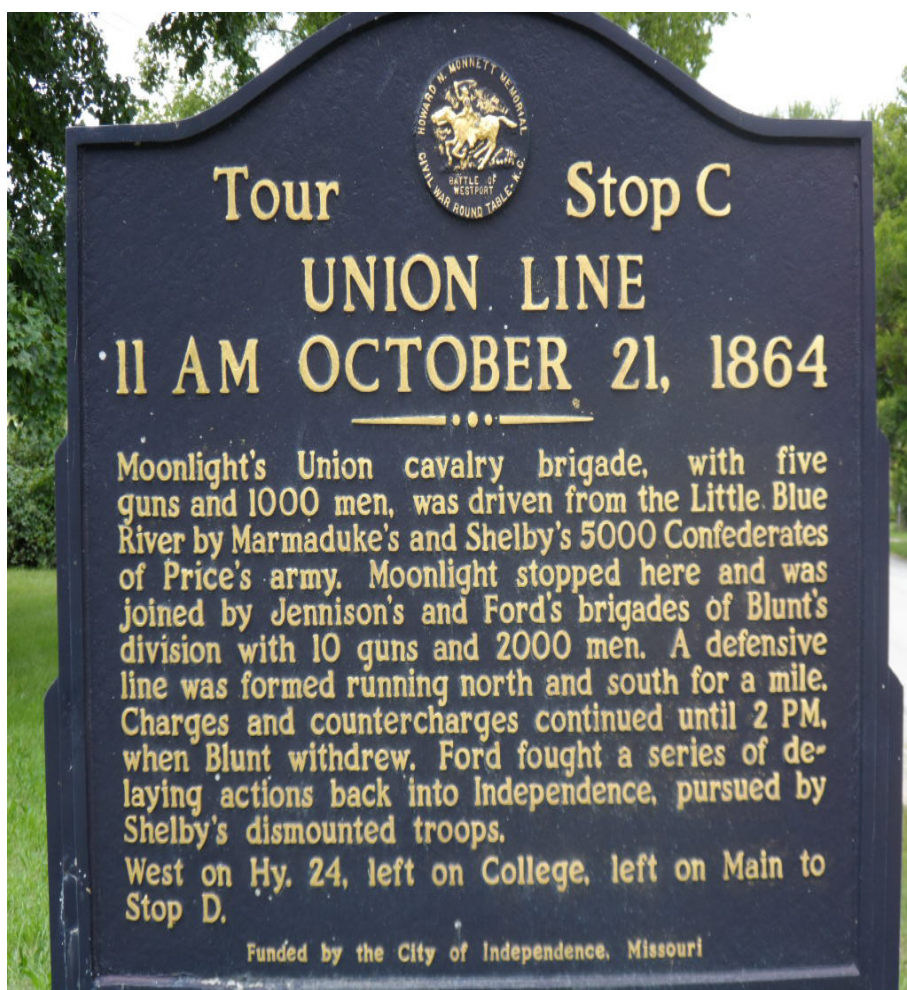
turn from the east bound lanes of US 24 just west of the Little Blue River and railroad overpasses, and the third marker is located on a frontage road accessed by turning north from US 24 on to Blue Mills Road and making an immediate left turn to get on the frontage road running parallel to US 24.

One of the few houses to predate and survive the Civil War in this part of Jackson County is the Lawson Moore house. Built in 1858 the Moore house was in the middle of most of the action at the Little Blue and was used by both sides as an ad hoc headquarters and field hospital. The house is visible from Blue Mills Road about 1 mile north of US 24. The home is privately owned.

If you are interested in more Civil War history there will be a 150th Commemoration and Reenactment of the Battle of Westport Saturday October 25th, 2014 at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum in Swope Park. For a full itinerary please check out the web link at: <http://www.battleofwestport150.org>

There is also a group known as the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, which has ongoing activities and presentations on local, regional and national aspects of Civil War history. <http://www.cwrtwm.org/>

* The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Published and Compiled by the United States War Department Volume XLI - in Four Parts. 1893. (Vol. 41, Chap. 53) Chapter LIII - Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories. July 1-December 31, 1864.



A Big Thank You to Jim Hisle for sending us this wonderful story and very interesting and unique pictures. It is a wonderful history lesson for young and old alike. Our communities are rich in history and anyone who would like to send stories, pictures, etc., please email us at editor@gazetteweekly.com Again Thank You Jim!

Fort Osage School District News

Fort Osage Press Release: Board passes resolution against Amendment 3

Amendment 3

The Fort Osage Board of Education passed a resolution opposing Amendment 3 to the Missouri Constitution at their September 9 meeting. Amendment 3 will appear on the November 2014 election ballot.

“Simply put, Amendment 3 would change the face of public education, and not for the better. This is why it is being opposed by every major educational organization in the state,” said Dr. Mark Enderle, Superintendent of Schools.

Amendment 3 proposes the following:

Require teachers to be evaluated by a standards-based performance evaluation system for which each local school district must receive state approval to continue receiving state and local funding;
Require teachers to be dismissed, retained, demoted, promoted, and paid primarily using quantifiable student performance data as part of the evaluation system;
Require teachers to enter into contracts of three years or fewer with public school districts; and
Prohibit teachers from organizing or collectively bargaining regarding the design and implementation of the teacher evaluation system.

The resolution passed by a 7-0 vote of the Board of Education. The resolution states:

"Whereas, Amendment 3 on the November ballot is a state mandate that shifts local control for education decisions away from parents, teachers, administrators and school boards; and

Whereas, Amendment 3 is poorly drafted and a deeply flawed proposal that has many unintended consequences for teachers, administrators and school boards; and

Whereas, Amendment 3 would prevent school boards from hiring, promoting, compensating or dismissing teachers in accordance with board policy; and
Whereas Amendment 3 would force taxpayers to pay for additional standardized tests at a time when our public schools remain significantly underfunded by the state; and

Whereas Amendment 3 significantly changes teacher evaluations away from a tool to improve teacher performance;

Therefore be it resolved, the Fort Osage R-1 Board of Education on the 9th Day of September, 2014, hereby opposed Amendment 3 on the November ballot.

"Stephanie Smith, APR"

Director of Public Relations
Fort Osage R-1 School District
Phone: 816-650-7019

P Farn's Adventures

I visited Buckner school for the first time this past month! It was great to see the kids eat chicken fried steak and homemade rolls. I was able to visit almost every room as a "visitor". It was great to see kids learning, teachers having fun with the kids and Mrs Hile busy around the school!

On the Buckner's first day of school I was fishing in Colorado. I caught a brown brook trout and a rainbow trout. Cooked them on the grill with lemon and butter. They were delicious!

While in Colorado Deann and I went on the Terror-daktl ride at Cave of the Winds. Swinging down and out across the canyon in just chairs with seat/shoulder strap belts was amazing, exciting and quite an adventurous ride, we did it twice! We bought a video if our first ride, it is very cool to see our expressions and our excitement.

We hiked and just hung around the cabins enjoying the time together in the quiet and relaxing in the middle of Pikes Peak National Forest at our family built cabins and 39 acres! No phones, no mail, no papers, no schedule it was loads of fun and very different for us in August, school-time.

Patrick Farnan

Ice Bucket Challenge



Principal Karen Hile and teachers from the Fort Osage School District, participating in the Ice Buckner Challenge

OCTOBER EVENTS AT THE MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Wednesday, October 1 through Saturday, October 4 -- The Buckner Branch will be closed as we upgrade our systems and enter into an exciting new age of information technology.

Thursday, October 2 – Storytime for Families – CANCELLED*

Saturday, October 4 -- Halloween Hoopla – CANCELLED

***Storytime for Families** – every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
All ages are welcome. Registration is not necessary.

Adult Book Group – Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.
October's book is Arranged by Catherine McKenzie. Copies are available at the branch. Adults.
Registration is not required.

Village Crafters – Wednesday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us for an hour of fun and conversation as we learn a new skill. Working on your own project? Please bring it in for help, inspiration, or for us to admire. Adults. Registration is suggested, but not required.

All About Archaeology – Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Archaeologist Gail Lundeen describes what archaeologists do and what they need to know. Participate in some activities to see how people lived in the past. Ages 6 and up. Registration is required.

Teen Creativity – Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Spark your imagination and express yourself through original print, video, audio, or visual works. Call the branch for more information. Teens. Registration is not required.

Attracting and Feeding Wild Birds – Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Bring song, color and life to your yard. Learn what types of feeders and food will attract wild birds to your yard and discover how to benefit birds, the environment, and you. Adults and Teens. Registration is required.

Create a New Look for Your Home – Thursday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Are you tired of the way your home looks, but can't afford to buy new furniture and accessories? Maybe it is time to "shop" your house and consider other ways to use your items and showcase your collections. By explaining the four elements of design, decorating consultant Lisa Holiman helps you enhance your surroundings using items you already have. Adults. Registration is required.

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PSA

The Gazette's policy on PSA's is we print them on a first come, first serve basis as space allows and they need to be submitted 2-3 weeks before the scheduled publication date. Some examples of PSA's are engagements, birth announcements and church and community events.

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