

THE GAZETTE



"Your Hometown Newspaper"
for 22 years
"Special Fall Edition"



"Serving the Fort Osage and Wellington/Napoleon School districts"

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Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Harvest Time is here!

After a long winter, working long hours, the crops are ready to harvest! A BIG THANK YOU to ALL farmers and farm families for ensuring the consumer a great crop and providing everyone with delicious foods!

Farming is not an easy occupation, it is very demanding, long hours, adverse weather conditions, dealing with early and late frost, too much or too little rain, drought, are just a few things farmers have to endure. Without our farmers and their farm families, we would not have the necessary food to take care of our families.

So, the next time you sit down to a delicious meal with fresh meat and vegetables, be sure to take time to thank those who provided you with food.



Pictured above are combines and tractors harvesting their carefully planted fields.

Union Pacific Steam locomotive No. 844 travels through Buckner and Levasy



Pictured above is Gerald Friedrich's building in Levasy, Mo. as Union Pacific steam locomotive NO.844 passes through on October 17, 2016. Story on p. 3

The Eastern Independence Rotary Club is kicking off a new Rotary year by honoring two members with the club's top awards.

Cindy Miller, Campus Director for Columbia College Kansas City, was presented with the "Service Above Self Award Randy High Memorial". Miller was honored with this award for her outstanding commitment to service and giving back to the community. The award was established in memory of club member Randy High, who passed away in 2014. The award was established soon after Randy's death and Cindy is only the second recipient of the award. Mark Simcosky received the award in 2014-2015.

Stephanie Smith, Director of Public Relations at the Fort Osage School District, was presented with "Rotarian of the Year Bob Jones Memorial Award". This award, which was named for Bob Jones, a club member who passed away in 2008, was established the following year and is presented annually to the club member who most exemplifies the values of Rotary. These members will have taken leadership positions, displaying high ethical standards, showing a dedication to fostering new ideas, and embracing opportunities to be of service on community and global projects. Past honorees include Julie Vest, Cindy Miller, Jenni Mann, Randy High, Jodi Krantz, and Lori Harp.

Also honored were the incoming board members for the club for the 2016-2017 Rotary year:

Cathi Hughes, President Stephanie Smith, President-Elect Sonci Bleckenger, Secretary Eric Knipp, Treasurer Dave Kyle, Sargent At Arms Lori Harp, Membership Rhonda Dolan & Jessica Houston, Service Projects Gerry McReynolds, Foundation Susan Wray, Programs Stephanie Smith, Communication/PR Scott King, Giving Committee Jodi Krantz, Fundraising/Winefest Michael Banks, Past-President



Pictured above is Stephanie Smith (Fort Osage School District) receiving her "Rotarian of the Year Bob Jones Memorial Award".

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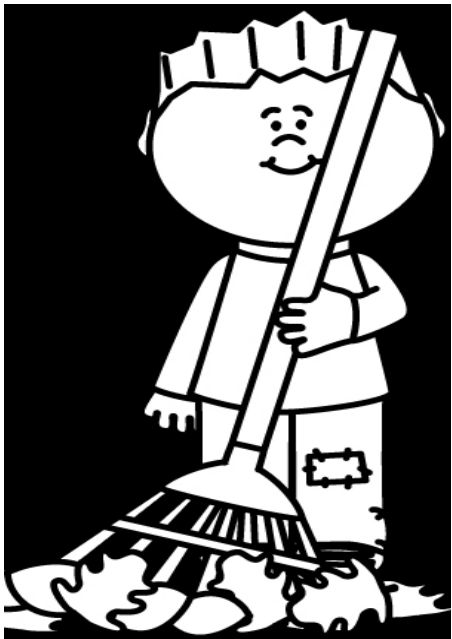
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Looking forward to working with all of you in many years in the future!

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Fall is here! Please enjoy the beautiful fall colors!



Obituaries

John Carl Gross

John Gross, age 80, of Sibley, MO passed away on September 3, 2016. Visitation was held from 6-8 pm Thursday, September 8, 2016 at Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Levasy, MO. Funeral services were at 10 am Friday, September 9, 2016 at the church. Burial took place in Ebenezer Church Cemetery.

John was born June 29, 2016 in Levasy, Mo to Carl and Hulda (Twiehaus) Gross, and raised on the family farm. After graduating from Fort Osage in 1954, John attended Missouri University where he graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in 1958. After college he taught school in Wellington for 2 years. He retired form the National Starch & Chemical Company after many years of service. John was a life long member of the Ebenezer United Church of Christ, and it was through church functions that he met the love of his life, Dorothy Dickmeyer. They were united in marriage on August 15, 1964.

John enjoyed gardening, farming, cattle, and horses. His greatest joy was family camping trips, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. Survivors include; wife Dorothy Gross, sons Glen Gross (Karen), Alan Gross (Melanie), and Aaron Gross (Jennifer); daughter Karen Johnson (Tracy); sister Mildred Harden; grandchildren: Logan Johnson, Lauren Twyman, Wade Johnson, Wyatt Gross, Carl Gross, Rebecca Gross, Amber Gross, Allison Gross, and Heather Gross; many friends, and a large extended family. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Ebenezer United Church of Christ. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Buckner Chapel 816-650-5555).

Obituary Policy

The Gazette Weekly Newspaper publishes obituaries sent to us via email from Funeral Homes. We ask that the funeral home email us at www.gazetteweekly.com with the obituary with the families consent. A picture may be included with the obituary via email. There is No charge for this service. Thank You

Weddings, engagements and birth announcement policies

The Gazette Weekly is happy to include your wedding, engagement and birth announcements. These announcements need to be sent to us via email, at www.gazetteweekly.com, with the consent of the individuals emailing these announcements to The Gazette. You may include a picture via email. There is no charge for this service. Thank You.

Nancy Kay Jackson Lewis

Nancy Lewis, age 74, of Blue Springs, MO, slipped away from her loving family on October, 12, 2016. Visitation was from 6-8pm Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at Speaks Suburban Chapel. Funeral services were held at 10am Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at the chapel. Burial took place in Buckner Hill Cemetery. Nancy was born on August 12, 1942 in Independence, MO to James Leonard and Doris (Watkins) Jackson. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, the PEO, the MSTA, the Mary Paxton Study Class, and the Church of the Resurrection in Blue Springs. A huge Mizzou football fan, she was a season ticket holder for many years. Nancy loved to shop, participate in clubs with friends, go out to lunch with friends and family, and keep up with her grandchildren’s activities. Along with her husband, she enjoyed spending weekends at their cabin on Truman Lake.

Nancy was a lifelong educator and had an accomplished career. She graduated from the University of Missouri in Columbia and earned her Master's Degree from Webster University in St. Louis. Throughout her teaching career in the Independence School District, she specialized in American History and Missouri History.

Nancy was a People to People Ambassador to Central Europe. The National Council of the Social Studies awarded her the National Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1999. The Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution awarded her with Social Studies Teacher of the year. For several years, the Independence School District appointed her as exchange teacher to Oregon where she gave many programs on Independence and the Trails. She was a Missouri Humanities speaker for ten years and was a speaker for the four state Changed Lives Humanities Speaker Series for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. She was a speaker for the State Historical Society's Speakers' Bureau. As a member of the Whistle Stop Project in conjunction with the Truman Library, Nancy presented numerous programs for teachers and students throughout the state. Survivors include; her loving husband of 51 years, Don Lewis, son Kevin Lewis, daughter Stacy Daher and her husband Dominic; grandchildren Nicholas Lewis, Gracee Lewis, Amelia Lewis, Doris Daher, Dominic Daher, and Joseph Daher; a large circle of friends and extended family. She is preceded in death by her parents, 2 sisters, and daughter in law Julie Lewis. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com (Arrangements: Speaks Suburban Chapel 816-373-3600).

Free Clothes Closet at First Baptist Church, Buckner, MO.

Our clothes closet if very full and with the fall and winter months coming we would love to see some of these summer clothes go to some good homes. We do have fall and winter clothes as well. We have received several items that have tags on them still. These would be great for starting school. We have newborn to adults. Please call and make sure someone is there to go thru them, It is open to everyone no requirements. First Baptist Church - Buckner 816-650-5632

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Wellington/Napoleon School News



Greg Tang, spent a full day with our teachers and students.

Recently Wellington-Napoleon R-IX Elementary had a very special guest. Harvard educated, nationally known math coach and author, Greg Tang, spent a full day with our teachers and students. We have been a part of the Making Math Matter grant for three years and this visit was part of the grant. Mr. Tang's teaching and strategies correlate well with our new math series, which meets the expectations of the Missouri Learning Standards. Our teachers and students alike, received great praise from our visitor. Mr. Tang said, "Your school has no reason not to succeed in Math. You have great potential because of three things... well disciplined students, a rigorous math resource, and an awesome staff." Along with visits from people like Greg Tang our teachers also get to attend many quality workshops throughout the year to assist them in reaching for higher standards in Math for our students. We are also a part of the Stuck on Science grant which allows us to do similar things in the subject of Science.



Mr. Greg Tang working with
Madison Hamer, first grade student

Mrs. Heather Layman, first grade teacher, had this to say about the visit..

"For the past three years I have had the privilege of working with Greg Tang through the Making Math Matter Grant. Although I have learned very vital strategies and mathematical methods to apply in my classroom from the grant and Mr. Tang, it was even more valuable to get to work alongside him in my classroom with my students. Seeing him apply what is presented during training was phenomenal. The students were highly engaged and after he left the room, were wanting to do math the rest of the day. It was definitely an experience that will not be forgotten."

We feel very fortunate to have been included with this grant by the Blue Springs School District. We hope to continue the great relationship with the district and hope to continue to be a part of the grant. It's a great day to be a tiger!



Mrs. Layman's first grade class

Thank You

Wellington/Napoleon School District

*for all
the
Stories, pictures and Press releases you send to The
Gazette
You are very much appreciated!*



New Preschool and Daycare opening in Buckner

First Baptist Church, Buckner is excited to announce the opening of SonShine Preschool and Daycare and Club K4. Construction has begun on our brand new facility at 131 S Hudson. The preschool and Daycare will provide services for children 8 weeks old through PreK age. Club K4 is a before and after school childcare program for children Kindergarten through 4th grade.

The new classrooms and equipment are just a small part of the excellent program that will be SonShine Preschool and Daycare. The curriculum will be academic based, with a Biblical world view, and include social play, music, art, science, language arts, games, field trips and visiting activity special programs.

Program hours will be 6:00am-

6:00pm. The preschool hours are 8:30am-3:30pm with options for half day or full day. The before and after school programs, which include both preschool and Club K4, are 6:00am-8:30am and 3:30pm-6:00pm.

Enrollment is open now for our January 4, 2017 opening. We are currently taking applications for teachers now. Enrollment forms and teacher applications on website.

Specific information about tuition rates, fee, classes, hours, and more on our website at www.fbcuckner.org or by calling us at 816-650-5632 or email preschool@fbcuckner.org.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Bonnie Loper

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Fort Osage School District News

Elm Grove Students Exercise their Right to Mock Vote

On Friday, October 7, 2016 360 students at Elm Grove Elementary School in the Fort Osage School District, conducted a mock election. All students HAD the chance to use a real voting booth and walk through the process of having to cast a ballot. Kindergarten through 4th grade voted on who they would like for President of the United States. 2nd Grade also have the opportunity to cast a vote for which law they would like to present to the community. Students are taking part in voting as part of the Problem Based Learning Unit at Elm Grove.

“I am excited to be able to bring social studies to life for our students. Giving them the real opportunity to cast a ballot is a great way to model the importance of having your voice heard,” said Pam Fore, principal at Elm Grove Elementary School.

Students will voted throughout the day starting at 10:00 a.m. and finishing up at 1:00 p.m. Elm Grove is located at 18000 E. Kentucky Road, Independence, MO 64058.

Seven Finalists Selected for 2016-17 Missouri Teacher of the Year

Finalists have been named for the 2016-17 Missouri Teacher of the Year award. Nominations for the award were submitted by school districts throughout the state, and the finalists were chosen by a selection committee appointed by the Department. The seven finalists were narrowed from a list of 31 regional teachers of the year.

The finalists for this year include:

- **Katherine Arens, Lindbergh Schools (English, Lindbergh High School)**
- **Jody Hilton, Camdenton R-III (social studies and English language arts, Oak Ridge Intermediate School)**
- **Sandy Humbyrd, Hollister R-V (mathematics, Hollister High School)**
- **Nancy Luebbers, University City (English, Barbara C. Jordan Elementary)**
- **Lindsay Thompson, Fort Osage R-I (English, Fort Osage High School)**
- **Michelle Uptegrove, Lee’s Summit (special education, Cedar Creek Elementary)**
- **Darbie Valenti, Savannah R-III (mathematics and Science, Minnie Cline Elementary)**

The selection committee, comprised of teachers, business leaders and education organization leaders, will choose the Missouri Teacher of the Year following interviews with each finalist on August 30. The winner and the finalists will be honored at a banquet on October 24 in Jefferson City. The new Missouri Teacher of the Year will serve as the state’s nominee for the National Teacher of the Year competition.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year program recognizes the efforts of effective teachers in providing a quality education to their students. Preparing, developing and supporting effective educators is a primary goal of the Department’s Top 10 by 20 initiative, Missouri’s effort to rank among the top 10 performing states in education in the nation by the year 2020.

Missouri’s current Teacher of the Year is Linda Glasgow, a third grade teacher at John Nowlin Elementary in Blue Springs.

The Department conducts the Missouri Teacher of the Year program with financial support provided by the Boeing Company and the Monsanto Fund.

Sam Graves Hosts Leadership Conference at William Jewell

Students from Across Jackson County Attend Event for Future Leaders in Our Communities

(Article submitted to the paper, thank you)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Sam Graves on Thursday hosted a Leadership Conference at William Jewell College in Liberty. Graves welcomed 215 students from 28 high schools across northern Missouri, including Oak Grove High School, to the event.

“The Leadership Conference is something I’ve hosted multiple times in the past, and something that I’ve always received really great feedback from attendees about,” Rep. Graves said. “I was thrilled to be able to hold the event again, thanks to the hospitality at William Jewell College. We had record attendance at the conference this year, and I want to thank the 215 students from high schools around Missouri for making the trip to Liberty”

The conference gave students an opportunity to meet with leaders in the community and discuss various issues facing the country and our economy. Among the topics of discussion were second amendment issues, immigration, and Internet freedom.

Colonel Ralph L. Schwader, the Commander of the 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph, was the keynote speaker at the event.



Pictured above are some students from Oak Grove high school who attended the event for Future Leaders in Our Communities



Pictured above is where the Leadership Conference at William Jewell was held

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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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Great

Week!*

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and military. Please call Aaron at 816-807-6907.



October

is

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Pictures of the Truck and Tractor Pull, October 8, 2016
Sibley, MO.



Trunk and Treat on Hudson Street!



Looking north down Hudson Street, location where Trunk and Treat will be held on October 31, 2016. All are welcome!

If you are looking for a safe, fun place to take your kids on October 31, 2016 for trick or treating, look no further.

From 5 pm-6:30 pm Hudson Street near downtown Buckner you will have an exciting, fun and safe place to take the kids for excellent treats and a fun and safe environment.

Individuals will open the trunks of their cars and some businesses, plus churches will offer great treats for the children.

You will have a great opportunity to take the kids for a fantastic evening.

Please bring sacks, baskets, bag, etc. to put your goodies in and wear a great costume.

It's a fun time for the kids and adults alike. They will get to see their classmates, enjoy looking at all the amazing costumes.

Please mark your calenders for October 31, 2016 at 5:00-6:30 pm. See you there!

Union Pacific Steam Engine NO. 844 passing through Levasy, Mo.
October 17, 2016



Photos taken by Jennifer Ison-The Gazette Newspaper