

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Closing the year and hopefully not the door

It has been another crazy year hasn't it? Between the election hype, the extended warm weather, and what's happening around the world it is amazing anyone can keep their head on straight.

As I write this, the weather is beginning to get wetter (we needed the rain) and it looks like the bottom is going to drop out soon. I say that and the weather will make a liar out of me. The last time I remember it being this warm in late November was in 1983 when it was unseasonably warm on Thanksgiving and by the New Year it was 10 below. So, we just never know, do we?

I am blessed because I only have myself to worry about feeding. I grocery shop a lot. Maybe because I love to eat. But we all get tired of eating the same routine dinners don't we? In the summer we live on BBQ and fresh vegetables. In the winter we shift to cooking in the oven to help heat the house. To that end, my friend Lorraine sends me really great new recipes - the last few are for casseroles. With grocery prices so staggering, these casseroles are easy to make, using ingredients most of us have in our pantries. So that helps me corral my fixed income spending at the store and we get to experiment and enjoy some yummy, and some not so yummy meals.

We all have challenges to face. We at the paper are facing the challenge of keeping this 100 year old paper alive. Yes, we went through this early last year but have managed to keep going with some of us making up the shortfall. Recently a couple of other residents have stepped forward to help offset the monthly shortfall. Yet, a few of us cannot sustain this for the long run. As this is a community paper, it befuddles me how many businesses in Ferguson do not step up and support the paper through advertising.

If we close our doors, it is because those who profit from the community do not care enough about the community to offer their support.

We are fortunate to have our long time advertisers and I applaud them for their dedication and support. Thank you!

I want to thank all of our contributors for their dedication to this paper. Although I have not met most of you personally; you are appreciated. We will be losing our crossword so if there are any puzzlers out there, please let us know.

It has been suggested we ask for subscriptions. Personally, I would think that would be a nightmare to manage and put more work on a small volunteer staff. It also defeats the purpose of having a "free" newspaper available to ALL residents regardless of economic status.

Another suggestion is to go strictly on-line. Again, we are forced to go on-line for almost everything now-a-days. Besides, this would limit our readership and would not be a value for our advertisers who are the ones supporting the paper. And what about those who do not go on-line for anything?

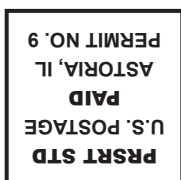
Please read Phil Berwick's article on page 3. He has a good suggestion with asking for people to become monthly supporters.

Regardless of our challenges, I want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Be safe.

Papa Deau

On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSM



312 Calverton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63135

The Power of Your Prayers

In a powerful moment for our community, Officer Travis Brown has taken a critical step forward in his recovery, recently transferring to a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta Georgia. His progress is a testament to his strength, the dedication of his medical team, and, without question, the power of prayer. Our community's support has been unwavering, and I want to express my deepest gratitude to every person who has kept Travis and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

This journey has been challenging, but Travis has faced it with remarkable courage, uplifted by the encouragement and kindness shown by friends, neighbors, and supporters across Ferguson. From heartfelt messages to generous acts of support, our community has rallied behind him in ways that truly define the spirit of Ferguson. This support has not only strengthened Travis but has also brought our department closer together, reinforcing the bonds that keep us grounded in our mission to serve and protect.

As Travis begins this next phase of his recovery in rehab, we must remain strong and continue to stand together as a community. Our journey isn't over, and the road to full recovery is still ahead, but with the resilience of the people of Ferguson, we believe he'll emerge even stronger.

Please keep Officer Brown in your prayers, and let's continue to show the strength of Ferguson in our actions, our words, and our hope for a brighter tomorrow. Together, we are resilient. Together, we are strong.

Thank you,
Chief Troy Doyle

December News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

For more information, please contact the library at 314-521-4820 or visit us online at fergusonlibrary.net

Children and Teen Events		
<p><i>Stories and Songs for Little Ones</i> Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. Wednesdays at 10 am</p>	<p><i>Teen Makers</i> Make some DIY gifts! Register at bit.ly/fmplmakers24. Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6 pm</p>	<p><i>Lego Club</i> Drop in and build! Ages 6-11. Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2 pm</p>
Adult Events		
<p><i>Dealing with Debt Workshop</i> Learn how to get debt under control. Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6 pm</p>	<p><i>Readings on Race Book Club</i> <i>The Racism of People Who Love You</i> by Samira K. Mehta Monday, Dec. 9 at 6 pm</p>	<p><i>Conversations and Coffee</i> Enjoy discussing the news over snacks! Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6 pm</p>
All Ages Events		
<p><i>Winter Reading Challenge</i> Get rewarded for reading this winter just by tracking your reading! December 2 - January 31</p>	<p><i>Cultural Cuisine</i> • Dec. 4 at 6 pm: Healthy Side Dishes • Dec. 18 at 6 pm: Fabulous Fruitcake</p>	
<p><i>FLIERS Trinket Sale</i> Find the perfect gift and support the library! • Dec. 6: 9-5:30 pm • Dec. 7: 9-3 pm</p>	<p><i>Fiber Arts Social Club</i> Socialize with other crafters while working on your own project! Dec. 12 at 6 pm</p>	
<p><i>Winter Family Bingo</i> Let's play BINGO! Play for small prizes and treats at our family-friendly event. Dec. 14 from 1-3 pm</p>	<p><i>Family Holiday Movie</i> Join us as we watch The Muppet Christmas Carol (G) with treats and crafts! Dec. 20 from 2-4 pm</p>	
<p><i>December Craft Kits</i> • Dec. 9-14: Snow Globe Ornaments • Dec. 23-28: Clay Pot Penguin</p>	<p><i>The library will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas, and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Year.</i></p>	

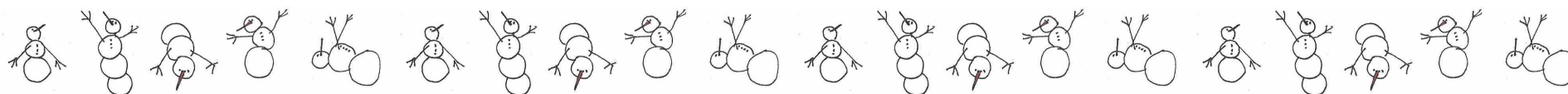


December Celebration Shout-outs

- 11 Happy Birthday Henry Bowes
- 20 Happy Birthday Betty Vogt
- 20 Happy Birthday "Elite" Pete Nadeau
- 22 Happy Birthday Patty Thomeczek
- 23 Happy Birthday Sr Cathy Doherty
- 30 Happy Birthday De' Aris Weber



Email Shout-outs to asroc873@charter.net - deadline is the 15th of each month



December at a Glance

- 3 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont Dr.
- 6 FLIERS Trinket and Treasures Sale 9 AM - 5 PM
- 7 FLIERS Trinket and Treasures Sale 9 AM - 3 PM
- 7 Holiday Open House 10 AM - 4 PM History House
- 9 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
Ferguson Community Center 1050 Smith Ave.
- 12 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
First Baptist Church of Ferguson 333 N. Florissant Rd.
- 19 West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 19 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Tour in Ferguson
(see ad this page)
- 20 Winter Wonderland 5 - 8 PM
Ferguson Community Center
- 21 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10 AM
- 21 Holiday Winter Farmers Market 9 Am - Noon
St. Stephens's - 33 N. Clay
- 23 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Hannukah (First Day)
- 26 Kwansaa
- 26 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 26 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr.
- 31 New Years Eve

FERGUSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY DECEMBER EVENTS!



Dec 7th - Holiday Open House

10am-4pm at the History House. Join us for history, light refreshments, and enter a free drawing for a basket filled with items donated by historic sites all around St. Louis! FREE

Dec 19 - 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Tour in Ferguson:

6:00pm - Meet at the History House for light refreshments. Jolley Trolley will pick us up at 6:30pm for a tour of Ferguson holiday lights and interesting holiday stories.

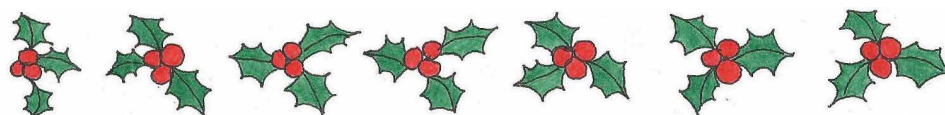
\$15. For tickets, pay through Venmo or Cash App below.

OR email ferghistoricalsociety@gmail.com to arrange to pay by check or cash.

Venmo



Cash App



FLIERS (The Friends of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library) Trinkets & Treasures Sale

Featuring vintage goods, gift-quality items, jewelry, and more!

Friday, December 6: 9:00AM-5:30PM
Saturday, December 7: 9:00AM-3:00PM

Ferguson Municipal Public Library
35 N. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO 63135

For info, call (314) 521-4663

Editors Note:

I failed to give credit to Rev. Larry A. Brown for his article on November's front page titled: "Why Vote".

My sincere apologies to you sir.
Gary Nadeau

The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
email: asroc873@charter.net
Like us on Facebook @fergusonneighborhoodnews
On-line edition fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

This paper is made possible through volunteers and advertisers

Advertise with the paper

Copy for ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's paper.
Please send all ads to Gary: asroc873@charter.net

Volunteer with the paper

- Info Gathering
- City Meetings - attend and summarize City Council Meetings
- Other Meetings - assure all city-wide events summaries gathered
- Neighborhood groups
- Diversity Meetings
- Business Spotlight

Donate to the paper

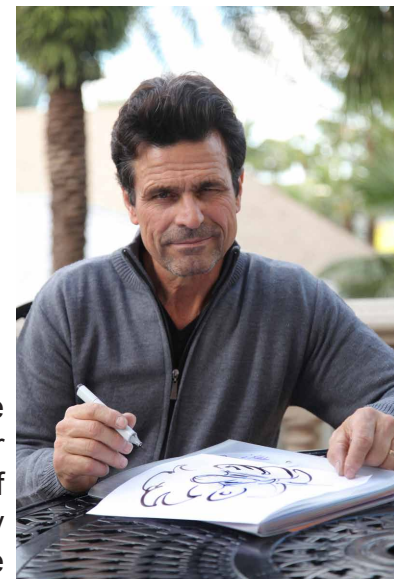
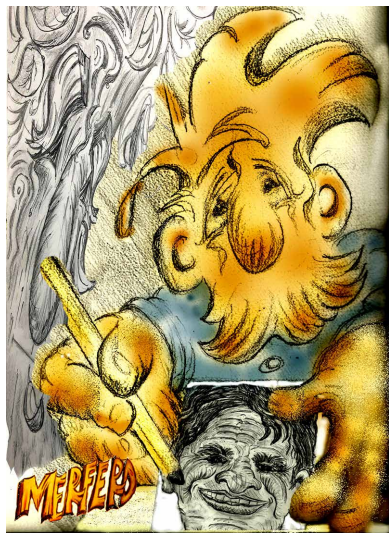
Ferguson Newspaper Group
312 Calverton Road
St. Louis, Mo. 63135

Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5

PRAY FOR PEACE

Please continue to keep officer Travis Brown and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

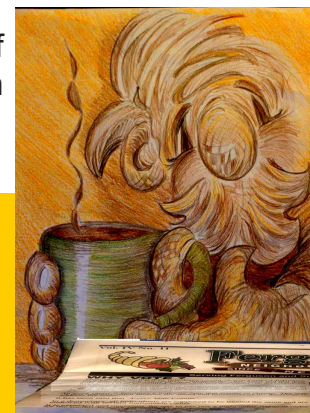
EXTRA EXTRA!! Read All About it! Who wants to help save this paper?



I found out that one of the principal partners of this paper has been covering the over run costs. This issue was going to possibly be the last. I offered to cover half of the shortage this month, by buying and using this page to make a plea. If we had just a hundred folks pledge \$10 a month it would really help. And if fifty could pledge \$25 per month, it would be clear sailing, and delivery could continue to every Ferguson home of the jewel of this FREE PRESS, the Ferguson Neighborhood News.

When a town has it's own **HARDWARE STORE, BICYCLE SHOP and PAPER**, it's Americana at it's best. Two of them are no more. It won't take much to keep the good news newspaper of our city rolling, but will be too much of a burden for only Bob McGartland, Gary Nadeau, and myself to handle the printing and mailing

We are grateful for the advertisers, because otherwise, the tradition carried on by Dorothy Seiter, and handed off to the editors mentioned above, would have been a dream of yester-year. Here is a last thought about the beauty of having our community happenings spread open on our dining room table; We can spill our coffee, tea or drink on the paper and life moves on. We dare not spill it on our phone.

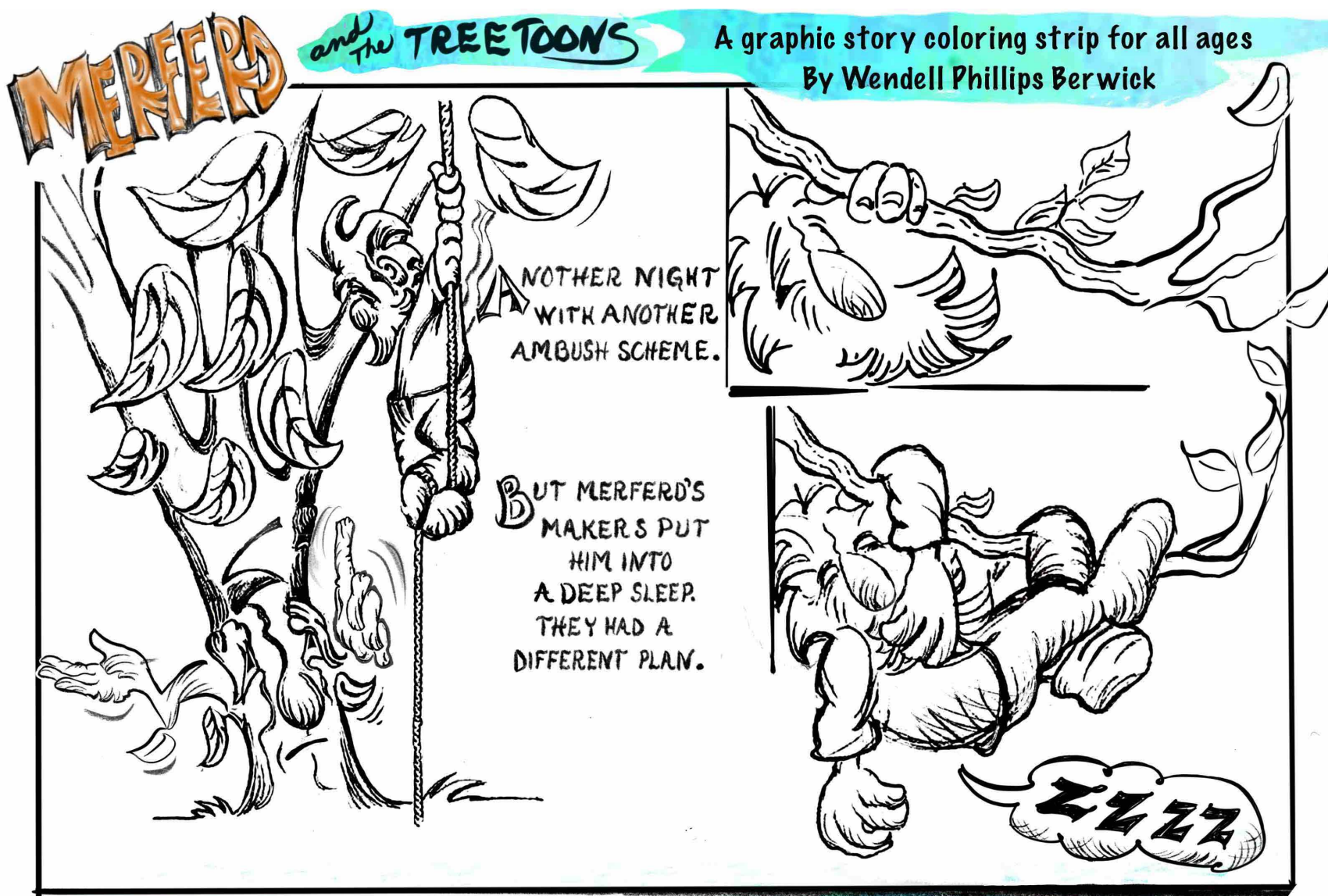


To help save this paper, become a monthly donor. For electronic payments call 314-524-3440 and ask for Danielle, or mail checks to Ferguson Newspaper Group 312 Calverton Road St Louis Mo 63135

The Author/Artist is an Arborist & Abolitionist, freeing kids in Pakistan from bonded labor. See FreedomCry.Life

Wendell Phillips 'Phil' Berwick 'Phil' 314-568-8367

The Morganford Merferd, covered over a 'Low Downs' graffiti gang tag that gave off bad vibes close to my daughter Alyssa's home. After this, the 'LD'S' went to war against Merferd and me. We won the war. See the YouTube doc., "The Man Behind the Merferds" by Ferguson filmmaker, Joshua Herum.



Based on a true story of Merferd at war with the "Low Downs" graffiti gang. feedomcryinfo@gmail.com / www.freedomcry.life

Catch up with the back issues Of the story at www.Merferd.Com

CROSSWORD

“One for My Baby”

By Robin Shively

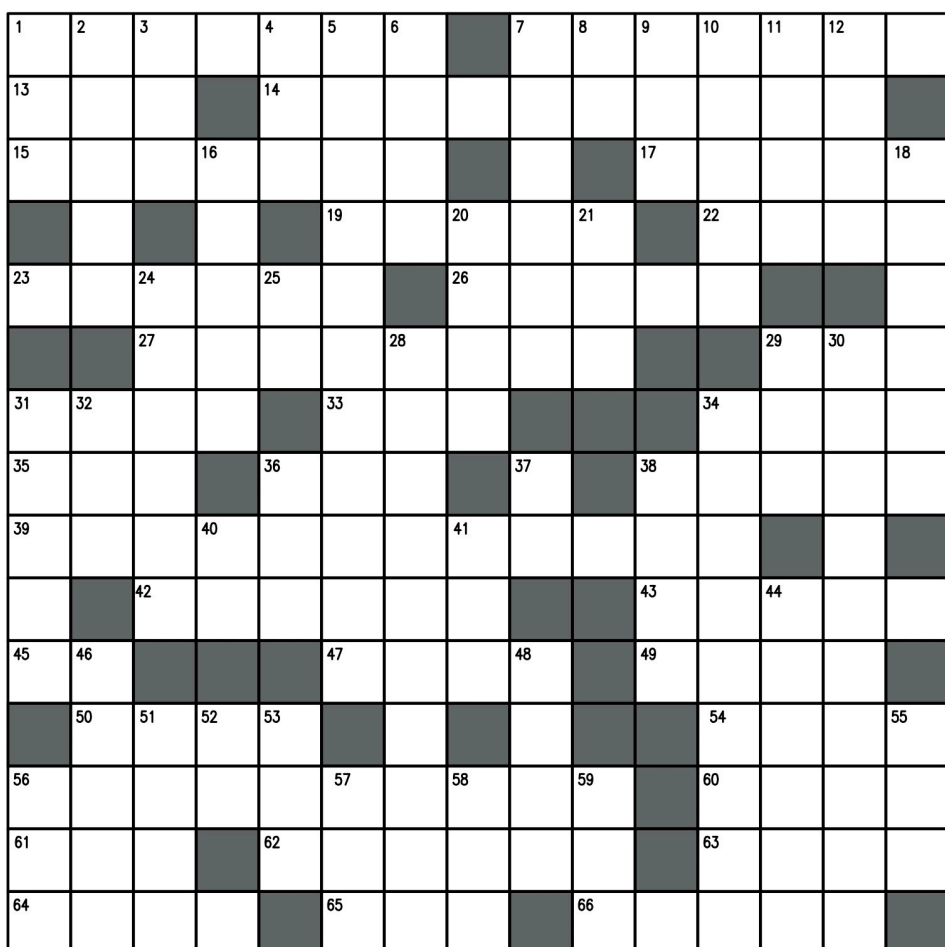
ACROSS

1. Elderly witches
7. Latin rock guitarist
13. Taro dish
14. Clem Kaddidlehopper topper
15. Harley accessory
17. Big horns
19. Blue’s buddy
22. Scandalous Marquis
23. Formerly named the Colt 45s
26. Adventurous tales
27. Not a strike
29. Shikoku sash
31. American Gigolo actor
33. Former
34. Rat locale?
35. Insurance company mascot
36. Military address
38. Daniel or Willem
39. Publication with a pioneering 1972 centerfold
42. Home of the Mud Hens
43. Mary Tyler Moore Show spin-off
45. Meditative syllable
47. O’Neal or Reynolds
49. ‘__ Like Sunday Morning’
50. College in Berkshire
54. Person of the Year periodical
56. Tommy James & The Shondells hit
60. Urban transit
61. Inuit Knife
62. Optic covering
63. Broadcasts
64. Data unit
65. Change color or color changer
66. Viola

DOWN

1. Black __
2. Something to gird
3. Performed
4. Jackson Five tune
5. Caine’s nickname
6. Classify
7. Whimper and whine
8. Spot on the TV
9. Take-home
10. Julia did it to geese and turkeys
11. Waterloo group
12. Movie or nymph
16. Strange
18. Doddering
20. “Yikes!”
21. Immigrant’s subj.
24. Launch-pad force
25. ‘The Last __’ (comedy series)
28. First ruling queen of England
29. Blundering fool
30. Sanguineous drink?
31. Insurance company mascot
32. Hairstyle or music genre
34. Wall Street borough
36. “You’ve got mail” co.
37. 3.14159
38. Take the risk
40. Perp’s pattern
41. Mauna __
44. Egyptian counterpart of Hades
46. __-mouthed (insincere)
48. Zap
51. Letter-shaped hardware piece
52. Corral where a showdown occurred
53. The big apple
55. Myanmar has two
56. Center
57. Okra unit
58. A secondary intercardinal compass point
59. Small dog sound

Solution on page 13

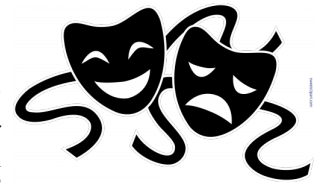


Editors note:

Robin is retiring from creating the crossword. We are looking for someone to take over the crossword puzzle. If you are interested, please contact me at asroc873@charter.net. Thanks Robin for your years of dedicated work. We will miss you.

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson



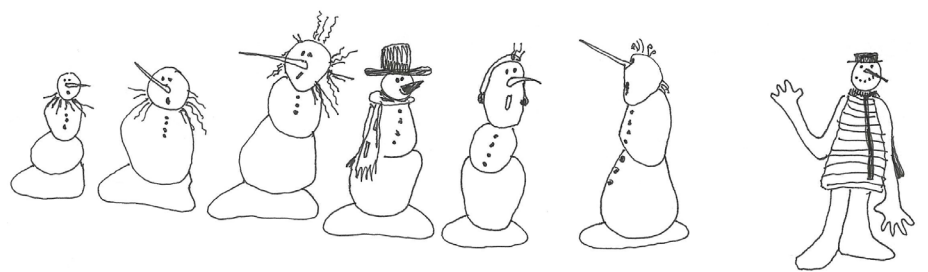
The Repertory Theatre St. Louis is celebrating the holiday season all month long Dec 4-22, 2024 with the Million Dollar Quartet! They’ll be singing traditional holiday hits in the stylings of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis! Showtime and ticket costs vary. The venue is the Mainstage: Loretto-Hilton Center at 130 Edgar Rd, Webster Groves, MO 63119. Check www.repstl.org for more info.

Hazelwood Central High School Thespian Troupe 3300 presents “The Boys Next Door” Dec. 6 & 7 at 7pm. This touching comedy follows and shares the perspective of four disabled men who live in a group home under the supervision of a burned out social worker. Hazelwood Central High School is located at 15875 New Halls Ferry Rd, Florissant, MO 63031.

The Touhill Performing Arts Center is holding a Candlelight Concert of Holiday Special tunes featuring the Nutcracker. This incredible string quartet performance surrounded by candlelight offers a unique and romantic multisensory experience unlike no other! Dec. 20 at 6:30pm and 8:45pm; tickets start at \$32. The concert takes place at E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, Touhill Circle, St. Louis, 63121.

The Florissant Performing Arts Center is hosting “Christmas with the St. Louis Brass Band” alongside the award winning STLBB Academy Band and STLBB Youth Band at the James J. Eagan Center. This will be a fun holiday kickoff event with music of the season! The show is Dec. 22 at 6pm. Tickets are \$20. (Students/Seniors are \$15). The Eagan Center is located at 1 James J Eagan Dr, Florissant, MO 63033.

The highly anticipated annual “moSTLY Holidays” event is back from the STL Rhythm Collaborative. Featuring moSTLY TAP and moSTLY JAZZ putting on holiday performances for the whole family to enjoy, this event features live music, singing, and tap dancing! Tickets range from \$15-30 and there is a free hot chocolate reception before every show! Dates are Dec. 13 at 7pm, Dec. 14 at 7pm, and Dec. 15 at 2:30pm. All shows take place at Pillsbury Chapel & Dale Williams Fine Arts Center located at 1 College Park Drive Creve Coeur, MO 63141.



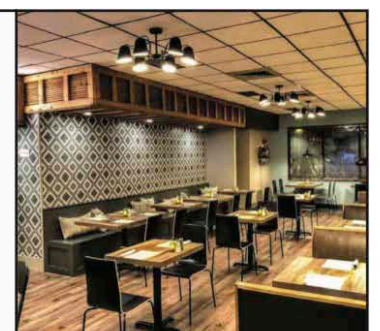
Drake's Place Restaurant & BBQ Smokehouse

BE OUR GUEST

- Must Try:
- Smoked Brisket & Ribs
 - Atlantic Salmon
 - Famous Fried Shrimp
 - Fried Catfish
 - Bri's Pasta
 - Drake's Texas Burger
 - Buffalo Cauliflower
 - Salads w/our homemade Drake's House Dressing

Cocktails Available

@drakes_place drakesplacestl.com 314-736-1140
 Drakes Place Restaurant American Cuisine



701 S. FLORISSANT RD
 FERGUSON, MO
 63135



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

This is Sparky. Marian is taking the month off, so, I am going to share my story with you.

I know that I have been mentioned in her articles in the past but there is so much more of my story to share.

I am Marian's favorite dog. Please do not tell the Boston Terrier, Ernie, he thinks he is the favorite. I know because I have spoken with Ernie here in Heaven. Yes, all dogs go to Heaven. Heaven is the absolute best dog park. We run. We play ball. God and the Angels take turns throwing the ball for us and we happily bring them back to be thrown again. We do not get tired. Our joints do not hurt like they did when we grew old on Earth. There are swimming pools for those crazy dogs who like to get wet. My eyesight is perfect here in heaven. Anyway, Ernie and I are best friends because we loved Marian so much.

My story begins at the Humane Society in Ladue Missouri. I must admit I was a rambunctious pup, and I suppose I was just a little too much for the family who found it necessary to surrender me to a shelter. They thought I would be sweet, like Toto in The Wizard of Oz. This may sound sad to you; however, this may have been the best day of my life. My rescuer came to the Humane Society looking for a suitable companion for her Schnauzer. As she toured the shelter she noticed me. She reached into the cage patted my head and asked what kind of dog I was. "He is a Cairn Terrier, Ma'am, you know just like Toto." There is that reference to Toto again! What kind of super dog movie star was that dog? Anyway, the nice lady and I fell in love. I hopped into her little red station wagon and went home with her. I soon met my new family. Liz and Alex were the children in the household. Liz was almost grown, and Alex was a baby. Then I met my new best friend, Henry, the miniature Schnauzer. We hit it off immediately when Henry said, "Let's play!"

Oh, I am truly a Cairn Terrier. I look exactly like Toto from the Wizard of Oz. My breed is known for being sturdy, hardworking, and energetic. I am smart and eager to please and very needy when it comes to playtime and exercise.

Henry told me a little about Liz and Alex. Liz was a great playmate, but I should be wary of Alex. He was still a baby and liked to pull on ears and tails. Henry confided that more than a few times he wanted to bite Alex in retaliation but knew he would be sent away quickly and he really loved living there.

A few days after my adoption I went for a walk with my new mom to meet Marian. We met on the sidewalk that afternoon, made eye contact and we both melted. I knew I loved the woman who rescued me, but this was something else, much stronger. Henry nudged me, sensing my feelings toward this lady. He whispered, "Hey, no babies at her house, just a neurotic cat."

I had a plan. I immediately went home and showed my bad side to the two-year-old. I may have gently bitten that precious little boy. I admit nothing! That was all it took. My new mom said I could no longer stay there. There was also no way I was going to be taken back to the shelter. She called her cousin. "Hi, I am afraid Sparky is not the dog for this household after all. He bit Alex. I cannot take him back to the Humane Society. Can he stay with you until we find a new home for him?"

I walked up the street to the white house on the hill. I immediately garnered a big smile from Marian's husband Rich. I rolled over on my back to get a belly rub and my fate was determined. This was my new forever home. As time went on, I revealed my true personality. Yes, I was a rambunctious pup. I barked at and often tried to attack anything with wheels, including baby carriages, motorcycles, and cars. Airplanes did not escape my scrutiny either. I harassed the cat occasionally and may have been a bit over-protective when company visited. My family would scold me, I would promise to do better, and they always forgave me.

One day I finally saw the movie "The Wizard of Oz." So, this was the famous Toto of which I was the spitting image. I determined he was a coward. He should have bitten the wicked witch and captured one of those flying monkeys. I would have shaken one of those monkeys' silly! He did not lift his leg on the Tin Man or pull the stuffing out of the Scarecrow and that Lion was not a challenge either. Toto did not even try to chew up a Ruby Slipper. Toto could not be a real Cairn Terrier! I am happy I was named Sparky.

I stayed in my forever home until I was over 18 years old. My family loved me despite my poor eyesight and my occasional incontinence. One day I let them know that it was time to go. They sadly and reluctantly understood and sent me over the rainbow bridge where I am happy and once again that rambunctious Cairn Terrier.

Please let my mom know if you liked my story. Her email address is manhattanmarian@gmail.com. Thank you for letting me tell my story and giving Marian the month off.

I also want to thank Diane for her contribution to my story. She wrote a beautiful memoir of me.

Sparky



Earnie and Mw



Me and My Brother Tim, on my first day with my forever family



Mom's attempt to keep me from wandering off when she took me to work one day.

Digital Ferguson - Introduction to Privacy Badger

by David Pickens

Basically, on the Internet, without some specific action on your part, for USA citizens, there literally is no privacy, and our government has done nothing to assist us in this. This can be compared, in contrast, to citizens in the European Union, which has implemented the strictest privacy policies in the world, which among many other things, requires anyone doing business online to request permission to collect data on people. Consent to collect data in the EU must be “freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous.” Americans have no such legal protections, and every attempt to implement these through Congressional action has failed.

As a consequence of this, as might be expected without any restrictions, many Internet web sites, Internet Service Providers, email systems, and other businesses systematically track every click we make. In addition, a web site can detect and track every time you simply hover your mouse over over an item, and with special tracking techniques, many sites even track you as you navigate away to other web sites, to gain additional insight into your interests. The amount of information these information collectors have gathered on each one of us would probably take our breath away if we saw it.

Of course these data collectors use this information to help send you micro-targeted ads. You might have noticed this if you search for something on the web and suddenly you start seeing ads for exactly that or similar items. I remember when I was conducting a job search using Google’s Gmail and suddenly job ads for exactly the position I was applying for suddenly appeared in my Facebook feed, which told me quite clearly that Google was reading my emailed resumes and cover letters and selling (or trading) that information to Facebook. This really pissed me off, as I was employed at the time, looking for the same position somewhere else, and this information could certainly have had a negative impact upon my current employment situation. I have never used Gmail for any sort of personal communications in the two decades since.

Beyond ads, more nefarious uses of this information can include: Impacts on your credit rating, auto and home loans, and insurance rates. Since this data is basically sold to anyone who wants it and is willing to pay for it, law enforcement, health insurers, government, and political organizations are some of these data broker’s biggest customers. Some employers are even buying information on the web habits of their staff. Imagine your boss knowing you’re spending time on the Employment Opportunities section of a competitors web site, or lots of time on Indeed.com!

With this in mind, I have also been made aware through years that many people I discuss these issues with, don’t really care about it. “I don’t do anything illegal, so I don’t care who knows what I’m doing on the

Internet.” And to be sure, if anyone is planning or coordinating illegal things, using the Internet to do it is beyond dumb. You clearly haven’t been paying attention to Forensic Files. However these issues can effect your credit score, your ability to secure employment, and generally spread information about your personal activities that is simply no one’s business but your own. If more Americans cared about privacy, pressure would be sufficient to get the attention of our government enough to do something about giving us some privacy rights. If you are now interested in knowing, please visit the Electronic Frontier Foundation web site at eff.org. The EFF has been advocating for our rights to privacy, free speech, creativity, innovation, transparency, and security since 1990.

The first privacy tool created by the EFF is called Privacy Badger. You can install the tool on your web browser from PrivacyBadger.org. Unfortunately there are some exceptions to installation. For example, Privacy Badger doesn’t work at all at this time on an iphone. On Android it works on Firefox, but not on Chrome. On Windows and Linux desktops, it works on Chrome, Firefox, Opera, and Edge.

Once installed you will discover, perhaps to your great surprise, just how many systems are tracking you as you navigate the web. Privacy Badger shows on your toolbar how many trackers are active on your current web site, and you can even click and get more information as to exactly what these sites are. You can also selectively disable or enable these trackers manually, while Privacy Badger automatically selects the best privacy settings while still preserving some features you might need on particular sites. Some web sites have their advertisement system tied into their person tracking system, and some of these sites might interpret this as an ad blocker and prevent you from participating unless you turn Privacy Badger off for the site. You can always switch off Privacy Badger on a particular site if you are missing functionality due to its tracker blocking activities, and it will remember this setting until you change it.

In future articles I’ll be exploring some additional privacy tools to help you gain just a little bit more control over who is getting busy with your own personal business. Although this article was geared towards individual privacy, I feel amazed that more businesses are not concerned that these data brokers can know more about your business plans, problems, finances, and even personnel issues than your executive team. And they can sell that information to your competitors. I think once businesses catch on to this, there might be some action at the Federal level to begin to address it. Or I can dream on.

David has been in Information Technology in almost every role possible for such a long time it would take a supercomputer to calculate. The first computer someone let him play with was in an F4-E. His first PC was a Timex Sinclair because he could not afford a TRS-80. He is currently running a computer consulting practice. You can contact him at david@bigpurr.com.

★ JOIN US FOR A ★

TOY DRIVE

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF GIVING!

How can you help?

Donate toys for kids aged 1-15
November 1 - 30

DROP-OFF LOCATION Ferguson Community Center 1050 Smith Ave	OPERATING HOURS Monday-Friday 8 AM - 8 PM
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What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

October was an excellent time to visit Missouri Wine Country! The weather was perfect! I took the opportunity to visit one of my favorite Missouri Wineries, Mount Pleasant Estates. It's a short 45-50 minute drive from Ferguson. On the drive there, you really get to see the beauty of Missouri in Fall. Mount Pleasant is the oldest winery in the Augusta Appellation! Founded by the Muench brothers in 1859, limestone and wood cellars are still in use today to age Mount Pleasant's estate bottled wines and ports.



What does it mean when a wine or port is estate bottled? When a wine or port is estate bottled, it means (1) 100% of the grapes grown come from land owned or controlled by the winery (2) The wine is produced and aged at the winery (3) the wine is bottled at the winery. Regardless of the winery, estate bottled wines or ports can be some of the best! Now, you may be asking yourself, "Okay Raghib, we have been reading your column and we are starting to understand wine, but what in the world is a port?" Port is a fortified wine. Fortified wines are wines that have alcohol added during fermentation. The additional alcohol added during fermentation stops the fermentation process and kills the remaining yeast. The killing of the yeast leaves the residual sugar, resulting in a sweeter tasting wine with a higher alcohol content. Fortified wines tend to have an alcohol content of 18%-22% and a typical bottle of wine has an alcohol content of 12%-15%.



Without going into too much detail, port wines have their origin in Portugal. Some of the best ports are produced in Douro Valley in Northern Portugal. I have tasted a few ports from the Douro Valley and they are delicious! The price points can be a little high. However, if you want a solid port with a reasonable price point, look no further than Mount Pleasant Port. The 2013 Vintage Mount Pleasant Port is absolutely delicious and the price point is very reasonable at \$45. With hints of cocoa and dried fruit, it pairs well with your favorite cheese or chocolate. Hint: Chocolate from Aldi would be a great pairing. If you go to their website, you will find that Mount Pleasant has other award winning ports that are, in my opinion, some of the best in the world.



If you would like to try a port from Portugal at a very reasonable price point, I recommend the Noval Black Reserve from Portugal. For under \$30, this port is a treat. With hints of dark and dried fruit, cedar, and cocoa, this port is an excellent choice with cheese cake, ice cream, or any after dinner dessert. Happy tastings!



HOLIDAY WINTER FARMERS MARKET

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Let's Do Better

Dara Ashby, Ferguson Animal Coalition
 Dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org

Looking back over this past year as the new year is approaching quickly, I reflect on ways our community can do better with our resident dogs and cats this coming year.

Stop Backyard Breeding.

Since COVID, backyard breeders have exploded in our area and are popping out litters of puppies like crazy. This may not seem like a bad thing unless you know the inside scoop.

The facts are that every litter born takes away desperately needed homes from the staggering number of dogs, even puppies, sitting in our shelters, patiently waiting, yearning for a home. These puppies are typically unhealthy and under socialized. Sadly, there are many more dogs right now than there are homes. When there is no room at shelters, dogs end up getting dumped on the streets to fend for themselves. Many breeder moms and dads are chained outside to a tree or car, typically uncared for and discarded when they no longer serve a purpose. PLEASE STOP BREEDING! We must do better.

Spay and Neuter your pets.

There are many health and behavioral benefits for spaying and neutering your dogs and cats. The elimination of ovarian, uterine, and mammary cancer for females is huge and so prolongs their life. Testicular cancer is the second leading source for tumors, and this risk can be eliminated by neutering males. A fixed pet is also much more easy-going and less cranky with both humans and other pets in the household, having a lower bite incident rate. A fixed pet is much less likely to roam the neighborhood with raging hormones, looking for a mate. Shelters and rescues are busting at the seams with perfectly healthy and adoptable dogs and cats, but homes are scarce. Having an accidental litter adds to the crisis that we are already in. Reach out for help if you can't afford to fix your pet. Many shelters are having to make difficult decisions to euthanize because there is no more room. PLEASE SPAY & NEUTER! We must do better.

Don't dump your dog.

Adding a dog or cat to your family should not be taken lightly and is a very serious commitment. Bringing in a new furry family member is not without challenges. They are living, breathing, feeling beings who require your time, attention, and a lot of patience. You should plan to spend an adequate amount of time working with Fido using lots of positive reinforcement, praise, and yummy training treats. Rewarding a pup with treats is just like you getting a paycheck for a job well done, when you go to work. Exercise is critical as well. And enrichment activities to exercise their mind can help keep them out of trouble. Dogs don't require much from us, but they do need these things in order to succeed.

It's likely that your new cute pup or even newly adopted adult dog will chew shoes, dig holes in the backyard, jump up on people, and maybe even hop over your fence. There are solutions to all of these challenges and you should seek out help. Please find solutions. Dumping your dog or returning to a shelter adds an incredible amount of stress and confusion to their lives. Each time an animal is returned to a shelter, the heavier the dogs baggage becomes and the more difficult it is for them to find another home. PLUS, shelters are over full and have zero room. Many dogs end up sitting in cold, lonely cages in an ear-piercing non-stop barking environment for

days, months and sometimes years, waiting for someone to pick them. Just please don't do it. DON'T DUMP YOUR DOG. We must do better.

Keep your pets contained.

Here in Ferguson, there are so many dogs and cats running loose in our neighborhoods. Sure, dogs escape periodically and that is understandable. A simple ID tag on their collar will get them back home quickly. Accidents happen, especially if you have a sneaky dog. But if your dog is a repeat offender, you need to figure out why and remedy the problem. Many dogs run up to people that are afraid of dogs. Many dogs and cats get hit by cars. Winter is here and your dogs and cats need to be inside with you, safe and warm.

And worse, if you haven't socialized your dog and have left him or her chained to a tree or stuck outside like an old lawn mower in your backyard in isolation, that dog may become aggressive due to lack of positive interaction with people, and end up harming a person. This is especially UNcool.

If you choose to have a dog, please find solutions to this problem. Keep them secure and safe and keep the public safe. And please don't treat your dog like an old lawn mower, left alone in isolation. Dogs are instinctively social beings and pack animals. They deserve to be inside with you. KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE INSIDE. We must do better.



Please Help Us!

So, with a fresh new year right around the corner, let's all work together to do better for our Ferguson 4-footed residents. If you need help, just send me an email and I can provide some guidance. There are many resources out there for low cost to FREE fixes, resources for training tips, fencing repair ideas, and so much more. And if you are one who is already aware of these things, educate a neighbor or friend who may be struggling.

TOGETHER, as a community, we can DO BETTER!



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The Ferguson Highlights

“Enriching Community”

by Teyuna T. Darris

After learning about the role of nonprofit organizations in transforming communities, I became intrigued by nonprofit leaders’ work. This interview with Erica Williams, founder and executive director of A Red Circle, offers a closer look at her mission to enrich North St. Louis County.

From Vision to Action

TTD: What inspired you to start your nonprofit organization?

EW: The worldwide response following the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., inspired me to explore how I could better serve North County.

TTD: How has being a nonprofit director impacted your life?

EW: I’ve met amazing people, learned new skills, and used my education to uplift my community. It’s rewarding to provide jobs to North County residents while creating meaningful programs.

TTD: What makes your organization unique?

EW: While I hesitate to call it “unique,” A Red Circle is the only organization I know of dedicated solely to North St. Louis County, addressing healthy food, education, and the arts holistically.

Transforming North County

TTD: Can you share specific examples of how your initiatives have impacted individuals and families?

EW: Our Good Food Fridays program has changed how families approach food. Miss Marilyn, for instance, shared how it transformed her cooking and eating habits. Children touring the farm learn about food growth and taste fresh produce they wouldn’t normally try.

In education, we’ve helped improve literacy skills and addressed behavioral challenges with restorative justice practices. For instance, one student labeled as “acting out” was actually bored and needed more challenging work, while another student received one-on-one help with reading.

Our arts programs bring joy and foster cultural awareness, from family outings to the Muny to collaborative art projects. For instance, one of our musicians preparing for our 2024 Kwanzaa celebration has embraced the holiday’s principles in his own life.

Overcoming Challenges

TTD: What challenges have you faced in implementing community programs?

EW: Funding is always a challenge. General operating support is often undervalued by funders, yet it’s crucial for fulfilling our mission. While grants help, they’re sometimes restrictive. We’ve adapted by hosting fundraisers and continuously sharing our story to encourage funders to rethink their approach.

Looking Ahead

TTD: What long-term impact do you envision your organization having on the region?

EW: We’re transforming a former strip mall into the North County Community Nexus—a grocery store, commercial kitchen, community hub, and small business incubator. This space will create jobs, generate tax revenue, and foster entrepreneurship. Our current initiatives will continue to improve health, literacy, and appreciation for the arts.

Personal Growth and Insights

TTD: What has surprised you most about your journey in nonprofit work?

EW: I’m still surprised by the competitiveness and, at times, the ugliness in the nonprofit sector. Some organizations prioritize appearances over solving issues, and racism remains pervasive. These challenges underscore the importance of creating equitable spaces for people like me and my board.

TTD: How has your role influenced your personal beliefs?

EW: It’s deepened my understanding of systemic issues. Positive change requires collective action and systemic reform across sectors like food access, education, and healthcare.

Addressing Evolving Needs

TTD: How have North County’s needs evolved since you started?

EW: The needs remain largely the same, though they’ve gained more attention. While urban farming has grown, educational resources are still lacking. Much of our time has been spent addressing emergency needs during the pandemic, but we’re eager to delve deeper into our mission.

TTD: What are some lesser-known issues needing more attention?

EW: Housing is a critical issue. North County’s homeless population, often living in extended-stay hotels, is growing. This issue deserves more focus and resources.

Advice for Future Leaders

TTD: What qualities are essential for lasting community impact?

EW: Resilience and determination are key. You need to push through setbacks, whether it’s resubmitting forms or following up repeatedly.

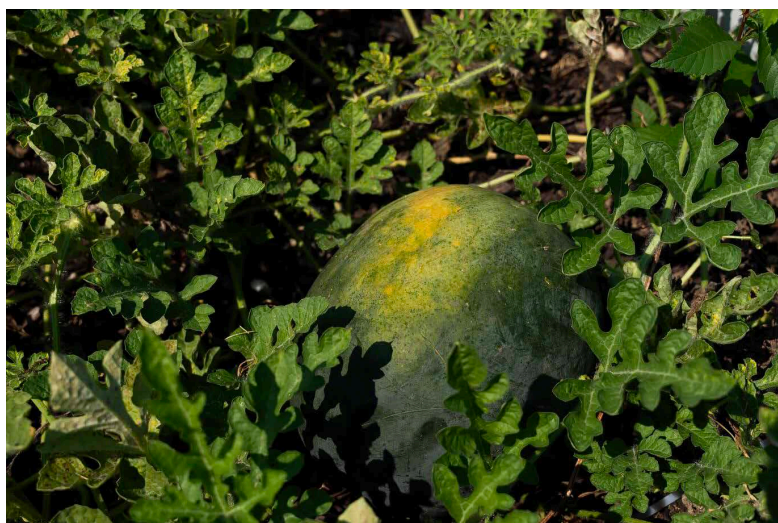
TTD: How can community members contribute to sustainable change?

EW: Donate, spread the word about the work being done, and advocate for North County with lawmakers.

Final Thoughts

Interviewing Erica further impressed upon me her genuine commitment to North St. Louis County. Through A Red Circle, she’s enriching the quality of life in a region many call home. Her work is a reminder that community transformation begins with passion, vision, and persistence.

The following photographs were provided by Erica Williams for publication in the “The Ferguson Highlights” of the Ferguson Neighborhood News (for December 2024).



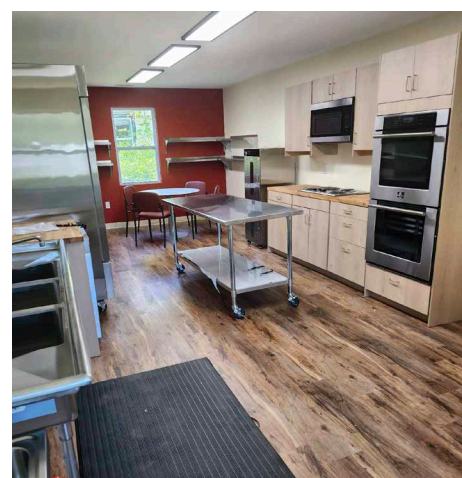
Watermelon at Damu Smith Liberation Garden at North County Community Nexus in Jennings, MO



Drumming for Peace Music Camp at The Creative Spot in Ferguson, MO



Sundae Stories at Heaven’s Creamery in Ferguson, MO



Teaching kitchen at The Litte Red Farmhouse, which is part of North County Agricultural Education Center in Pine Lawn

Financial Focus – Crypto Currency - Fad or the Future

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)
Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Understanding crypto currency has been somewhat confusing because it has no physical features. It is non-tangible and that what makes it seem risky to most people who have grown up in a society where “cash is king.” So what makes money have value? If we look at history we can see various types of money being used as a means of exchanging it for goods or services. Beans, shells, stones, metal and paper notes have been used over time and the one common feature is that a large group of people agree on its value. Towns and villages may have had their own types of money which may not be useful in another village. As populations and travel expanded, so did the need for better systems of exchange. Cities and countries found the need to be able to create their own currency and coins and find ways to exchange them across boundaries.

When disaster struck it often made a financial system collapse causing the money to become worthless. So just like the internet has become a major force in our world today, some pioneers on this front have been looking for ways to exchange funds without using bank notes, coins or digital payments being run thru a bank or in a government controlled system.

Surprisingly the first e-mail ever sent was in 1971 – the year I graduated from high school. Ray Tomlinson sent it to himself through a network of computers called ARPANET. It was addressed using his name and the computer name with an @ sign between them. Thus e-mail was born and the @ sign became the norm as the locator symbol for electronic addressing. While it went mostly overlooked, it was a breakthrough which really took off over twenty years later as the internet began. While the early pioneers were working on coding to create better communications often for the military, these mathematicians and cryptographers were finding ways to use crypto and algorithms in coding to not only move messages, but to also move money.

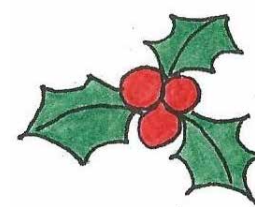
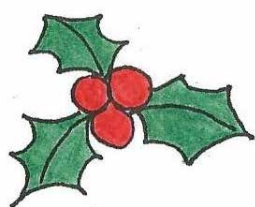
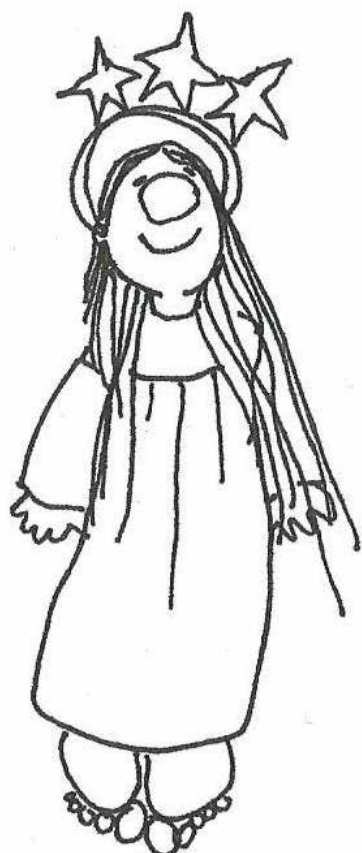
Becoming a cashless society seems to be the direction most countries may be moving towards. Here in the U.S. our government’s monetary policies and banking regulations have allowed more acceptance of using digital cash within our current system. Credit card companies and banks have made it easier for businesses and consumers to pay each other without using cash. Over the past twenty years, our current electronic pay systems have evolved from the early days of using a credit card with raised numbers to help create a transaction during a purchase. Much of the development moving these transactions to a digital system has made it safer and more cost effective. One of the most innovative options has come from cryptographers creating mathematical codes allowing an individual to deal directly with another individual or business eliminating the middle man – banks and credit card companies. Thus crypto currency

came into being. The most popular crypto currency is Bitcoin and it came about in 2008 during a major global financial collapse. While there was much skepticism at first, many saw it as a way to avoid the losses due to big banks failures. The little guy was affected through no fault of his own by decisions made on Wall Street that could result in financial hardship.

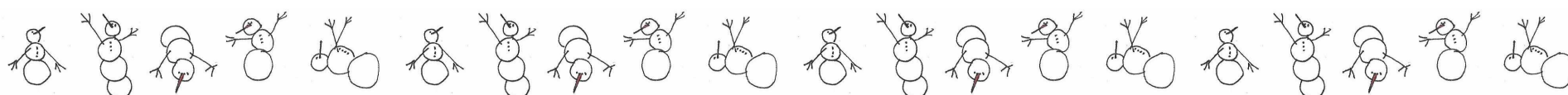
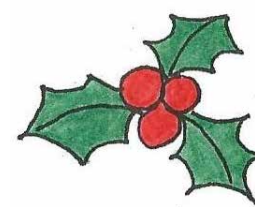
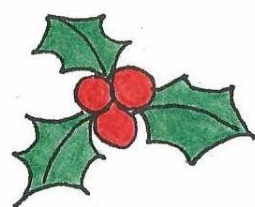
So finding a way to spend money for purchases without going thru the banking or credit card systems was the goal of bitcoin. Its creator is Satoshi Nakamoto and may be a group of developers rather than an individual. No one really knows and Satoshi hasn’t come forward. Since all crypto currencies like bitcoin have no physical form it can be risky. And the biggest problem introducing it as a new form of cash was getting acceptance. As I mentioned earlier with the history of money, acceptance requires a large group of people to agree on its value. You may have heard of Bitcoin Pizza Day. It occurred May 22, 2010 when Laszlo Hancz, an early bitcoin miner and developer in Florida, sent a message on the Bitcoin Talk forum to request two large pizzas to be delivered. He agreed to pay 10,000 bitcoins for the pizzas to help prove the new technology could work and bitcoin had value. This was the first real commercial transaction involving a bitcoin.

So here is a brief description of the blockchain technology used to create bitcoin. You may be familiar with encryption which is a method of converting data into a code which protects that information online. Encryption is used to oversee monetary units and verify transfers. With bitcoin data is stored in blocks and linked in a permanent chain. A block represents transactions of bitcoin within a certain period. Each new block will be stacked on the previous blocks making them unable to be modified and more secure overtime. Think of the blockchain like a ledger being handled in the computer system rather than by a bank. The value of our dollar is determined by government and central banks to protect its value and the financial stability of our economy. With rules and regulations in place to protect us, we can understand why this approach is often criticized for allowing larger financial institutions bail outs as we saw in 2008. Since bitcoin transfers are P2P (peer to peer), its value is determined more by supply and demand without interference from a third party like the government or central banks. This makes it much more volatile.

At this point I still have many questions about crypto currency, blockchain technology and the energy costs of the high-tech computer systems used to run it. As many have discovered bitcoin may be more of an asset than actual money for buying products. Since 2010 bitcoin’s value has risen by 127,373,555.1% to \$11,326.84. However, along the way there have been many ups and downs. Some crypto currencies have not survived and many investors have lost money. And this knowledge has given way to new uses for blockchain technology and the development of NFTs. Next month, I will review the crashes with crypto currencies and how Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) work. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.



**Happy Holidays
From
Ferguson Neighborhood News**



Parents, don't miss this opportunity !

The Imagination Library provides a high-quality and FREE monthly book gift, mailed to your home, age-appropriate for your children ages birth to five. I can vouch for this program because it was my honor to help make selections for the library years ago when I worked for Parents as Teachers. (Another program I encourage our families to enroll in through the Ferguson-Florissant School District!)

I urge you to email or call to enroll your young child/children today! They will be so happy to get a book in the mail each month!

Marsha Gebhardt



"YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH
BOOKS
INTO THE HANDS
OF ENOUGH
CHILDREN"
Dolly



INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

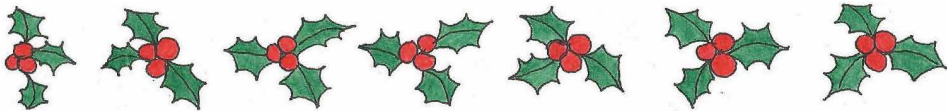
Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and the State of Missouri. Every child birth to age 5 in Missouri is eligible to participate – sign your child up today!



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As we kick off the 2024-2025 school year, Blessed Teresa (BTC) School of Sacred Heart Parish would like to thank the Ferguson community for its support and dedication to our school.

Whether you've helped by referring students for enrollment, making financial contributions, or keeping our school community in your prayers, we cannot THANK YOU enough.

To learn more about our school and initiatives, please contact the Blessed Teresa (BTC) School Office at 314-524-3888 or visit www.btcschool.org.



Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Shoeboxes for Seniors Holiday Drive

Happy December everyone. Wow, can you believe we are in the last month of 2024? The second hand on the clock never stops. Minutes, hours, days and months turn into a year before we know it. We now find ourselves in the Holiday Season.

There always seems to be some special magic in the air that happens from Thanksgiving to Christmas each year. Despite all the problems, challenges and struggles that continue to be part of the world we live in today; the generosity of people's hearts opens up. We see more kindness, caring and compassion; you find people wanting to bring more goodness, relief, hope and love to those in need, especially at this time of the year.

The Robinwood Automotive family will continue its longstanding annual tradition of giving back to the less fortunate in our community with the very popular Shoe Box for Seniors gift drive.

There are plenty of seniors who are living alone or in nursing homes who unfortunately, don't have much of a Christmas. It is a simple idea of taking a shoe box, filling it with useful items, wrapping it up and giving as gifts to our older adults.

Last year's generous response to donations and support from the community shows how the magic of Christmas is still alive bringing some hope and joy to our unfortunate brothers and sisters.

So once again I am asking for your support to our local seniors by donating to this year's Shoeboxes for Seniors drive. We'd like to pack the shoe boxes with these wish list items: socks for men and women, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, Vaseline, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, combs, hairbrushes, hand lotion, powder, and shaving cream. To sweeten the boxes, we'll also be collecting candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of cookies and gum. If you want to make a monetary donation; we will use the money to purchase items to fill the boxes. You can make your check payable to Robinwood Automotive.

Please drop off your donations at Robinwood Automotive, 803 S. Florissant Road in Ferguson during normal business hours. Shoe box donations need to be in by Wednesday, December 18th.

The shoe boxes will be distributed to seniors by local churches and organizations in time for Christmas. Also, please let us know if someone in your neighborhood could use a shoebox gift. Just give us their name, address and phone number and we will deliver a shoebox to them before Christmas.

So, spread the word and bring your donations in! Follow your heart in helping our local seniors. I am grateful for whatever you can do to help spread some Christmas Joy by the goodness of your human spirit.

I want to thank you in advance for your generous support. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please keep all our less fortunate children, families, seniors, and those who find the holiday season difficult, in your prayers. Share more smiles, take time to visit with them, spread a little Christmas magic.

However, you celebrate Christmas this year, remember each one of us is a son or daughter of God. It is our wish that everyone is filled with the love of the Christ Child and God's blessings of joy and peace this Christmas season and throughout the year.

Merry Christmas,
Bob McGartland

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore, the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, Then the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall take his place as shepherd by the strength of the LORD, by the majestic name of the LORD, his God; And they shall dwell securely, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace."

Micah, 5:1-3

The Sick - How Did I get Here?

By Patricia Brothers

“Mark, we need to talk.” Christa is sitting on the edge of the L shaped section of the sectional.

Mark notices her travel duffle bag is next to her. He looks on puzzled by the look on Christa’s face. “Sure babe. What’s up?” Mark sets down his bags. He remains standing with his arms crossed, steadying himself for what was to come next.

“I’m just going to say it. It’s over. I haven’t been happy in such a long time. I.” She stops short as Mark cuts her off.

“This is so cliché. Seriously. What’s going on? How is it that we had a good night last night and today you’re not happy? I mean. I don’t know what’s happening here.” Mark rubs his temple and exhales sharply.

Christa stands up. “Now look who’s being cliché here. You are acting more feminine than me right now. I am done. I just can’t anymore. I have not taken anything that doesn’t belong to me. I left everything. Like I said, I am not happy. We have been together for THREE YEARS and yet, we are no closer to marriage than we were when we first began dating. I found someone who wants to marry me and take care of me.” She lifts her bag over her shoulder.

“And there we have it ladies and gentlemen.” Mark throws up his arms and slaps his legs. “It’s always about you being taken care of. And for the record; I DO take care of you. You are upset because I asked you to do simple things or help me with the bills or around the house? It’s quite simple. I can do all that you ask, but what am I getting? I don’t even get a real home cooked meal BY YOUR HAND! I have bought you whatever you wanted with no hesitation. I even settled for what you do ‘contribute’.” (Mark air quotes contribute.) “All that I ask in return is a clean home. Oh wait, I do get that, but I pay for that. A delicious meal. Oh wait, between your family and caterers – we do eat that. So again, how is it that YOU are not happy again? The most you pay on the bills are very minimum. So, unless he is seven figures or more, I can hardly see how he will take care of you. I asked for children, and you said no. I asked to adopt, you don’t want to do that either. Now let’s see he’s seven figures, you get to stay at home, you don’t have to contribute anything of substantial value, and no children. That about sums it up right?”

Christa exhales and starts toward the door. “Yup.”

“Okay.” Mark leans his head back. His head is pounding. The next words that come from his lips come from a place of hurt and malice. “Goodbye Christa. I never want to hear from you again. When you leave out that door – and you will leave – NEVER come back. EVER. I am going to immediately change the locks. Make sure you take everything with you. You WON’T get a chance to get it unless you look for it in the trash. So double check. Do not call me. Do not call my family. Do NOT show up at my job. I know we have mutual friends in common so there is a good chance we will run into each other; I will be cordial and that’s all. Do not expect any type of conversation. I do not want to make it awkward for them as that would not be fair to them. I would like to say, ‘I wish you the best of luck,’ but the truth of the matter is – I don’t.”

Mark’s eyes were as cold and hard as steel. It was as if he looked past her. Christa stared at Mark as if he were a complete and total stranger. Taken aback by his now heartless demeanor and callous words, the tears began to roll.

Christa scoffs. “Fine! If that’s how you want it!” She screams at the top of her lungs.

She snatches her bag across her shoulder and storms toward the door. She pauses but thinks it better not to say anything else. Mark made it truly clear what his stance was. Plus, her pride would not let her. He never turns to face her. Nor does he walk her to the door. Immediately, he dials the number to the locksmith. He walks over to the bar and pours a drink. He thinks to himself “what a day.”

Mark heads upstairs to shower and change clothes. He assesses the room and notices how empty it looks without Christa’s belongings sprawled everywhere. He is unsure if he should be excited about the additional space, angry, or hurt. He decided not to care for the moment. The only thing he wanted to do was get out of the house for a while. Before he knew it, he was at Petey’s – a local pub. He sat there, downing shot after shot of Buffalo Trace. So much so he didn’t notice the beautiful ginger that sat next to him.

He glances in her direction.

“Hey. How you doing?” He nods his head. Mark’s words were slightly slurred.

The ginger smirks, “obviously better than you.” She sizes him up and turns away. Mark laughs uncontrollably. His laugh is so obnoxious that it startles her. “Wow. I guess I just have the worst luck with women.” He slaps the bar. “I can’t even be cordial.” He shrugs his shoulders and stands.

The ginger holds her breath. “I’m sorry. I’m having an off night. I am so over it.”

“Really? I thought you said you were doing better than me,” he says in the sultriest voice he could muster. Mark stares her directly in the eyes. Mesmerized by how crystal blue her eyes were, he introduces himself. “I’m Mark.” He extends his hand for her to shake it.

She smiles cordially, “I’m Ginger.” Ginger’s smile widened as she knew what was to come next based on the look on Mark’s face. She beats him to the punch. “No really. That’s my name. My dad’s little sick and twisted joke. When I was born, I had a head full of hair. It was the most beautiful set of curly locks you’ve ever seen. And if there weren’t pictures, I wouldn’t believe it either. But that’s the honest to God’s truth. And he named me Ginger” She shrugs.

Mark smiles. “Wow. You should be a model with how beautiful you are.” “I am actually.” She sighs. “Tonight’s photoshoot didn’t go so well. So, I am here to blow off a little steam.” Ginger exhales.

“May I buy you a drink?” Mark points toward the shot glasses.

Ginger sits down next to him and finishes his drink. “No. You can buy me two.”

Mark summons the bartender, orders wings and nachos, and tells him to keep the drinks coming. Ginger sits there watching in delight as she ponders over how no man has been this sweet to her without wanting something in return. The night becomes a blur with alcohol and food. Mark doesn’t realize how late it is. However, he did not care. For the first time in ages, he is enjoying himself genuinely. He cashes out his tab and hails a cab. Ginger follows behind him.

“Mind if we continue this at my place?” She rubs his leg.

Mark immediately responds, “oh absolutely.”

Before he knew it, things were getting very steamy in the back of the cab. They arrive at Ginger’s place, and it is lights out. Mark passes out before making it to the door.

The images and conversations were coming back vividly. However, he still can’t recall what happened after that. Did she rob him? Did she set him up. Was she sent by Christa? Just what in the world happened? He sat there thinking of Ginger, also afraid of what was happening at the current moment. The police believe he is a suspect. He does not recall how he got to public transit. He cannot recall the route to Ginger’s place. Did she drug him? As a government official this is not something he expected to go through.

He decided to change his focus on the current situation and how to best handle it. He leans over to ask the frantic young girl to borrow her phone. She reluctantly handed him the phone. He dials the emergency number. The operator answers.

“Operator 23477. State your code.” Her voice is gruff and stern.

“Zulu Alpha Delta Yankee 337.” Mark stares at the young lady.

There is a pregnant pause. “Agent Cummings, state your business.” Her irritation is noticeably clear.

“I am currently on a runaway subway. There is a police presence, but there are also sick people on the train including the conductor.” Mark did not believe the words as he said them.

The operator types furiously. “Please state the train, location, and is there imminent danger?”

Mark whispers, “what train is this?”

The young lady whispers, “WIL_7237_V66_M”. Mark repeats it back to the operator.

“The next stop?” Mark hears someone next to the operator. He whispers to the young lady, “next stop?”

She responds, “Curtis Park.”

Mark replies with “Curtis Park.”

“Thank you, Agent Cummings. Please keep this phone near you and we will be in touch.” The operator disconnects the call.

“You mind if I keep this phone? It’s work related and I may have a solution.” Mark gives her a gentle smile.

“Yeah. Sure. I guess.” The young lady was very apprehensive, but she wanted to get off the train desperately.

Mark mouths the words “thank you” and leans his head back. His head is pounding. He felt the migraine and hangover brewing. He truly wished he had his own inhaler. He begged the universe to act swiftly. He really needs to figure out what happened. Images of Ginger flashed through his mind once more. At the end of the day, how did he get here?

To be continued..

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely Goodbye, and have a blessed Christmas!
DECEMBER, 2024

Hello my friends! Let's see what is in store for us this month, according to WinCalendar.com, shall we?

- 1st---Advent begins. Prepare for Jesus' birth!
- 6th---St. Nicholas Day
- 8th---2nd Sunday of Advent
- 15th---3rd Sunday of Advent
- 22nd---4th Sunday of Advent
- 24th---Christmas Eve
- 25th---Christmas Day... We celebrate Jesus birth!
- 31st---New Year's Eve...BE SAFE OUT THERE--
--DON'T OVERDO IT!

Let Me Just Say This About That, dept.

Being as how the email account for this column, AND for the new God Speaks column, will be fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com just as it has been for quite some time. So, if you have puter issues or God stuff or whatever that you wish to discuss with me, I will be here at the exact same email address. Just keep your emails down to a manageable size and number, please. (I will draw the line to a small small countryful, if you will, or no more than what will fit into the state of Missouri. I do NOT want to get into trouble with the good people of Missouri, you understand!) Anyhow, write whatever you want, whenever you want, and that will be just peachy! CAUTION: you MUST put the phrase: I need puter advice into the SUBJECT FIELD, AND put your local telephone number into the body of your email, or we will NOT be able to connect to discuss anything. And NO, I will not be able to tell you when the last day is, no matter how much you pay me! God has made it clear to me that it shall remain a secret, and that is that! LOL!

Next, I want to explain about the new column a little bit. It will consist of a (or maybe some times a couple more) bible verse(s) that I select, based upon what I think is good. Now, before you complain, let me tell you that I will do this only after much prayerful thot, and likely based on how I see the world turning, as it were. For instance, the first verse that will appear in January, 2025, will be about WHO God is. I mean, if you are going to listen to His Word, then you should know Who He is, right? Makes sense to me!

On occasion, I may put a small few words for clarification, as needed. Or for background. Or point of interest. Whatever will help further your understanding of the matter. Regardless, the purpose and thrust of it will be to pass God's Word to you. He gave us free will to do whatever we want with it.

It is my hope that it will bring you closer to God, to partake of His blessings to us, chief of which is to let Him save us from eternal damnation by taking us to eternal bliss in heaven when our life here on earth is done.

Puter Stuff To Keep In Mind, dept.

It happens to all of us at some point in time. Our old puter is deemed less than fully useful. I believe it is important to find out if it is worth it to invest in repair or replacement. As I have said so many times in the past, it may be more worthwhile to repair. This is especially true if you have a software problem that can be remedied by replacing the operating system. Some of you can do this yourself. The rest of you may need to have it done for you. All of you can save a LOT of \$\$\$ by using a FREE operating system like the Ubuntu distro of linux. Google it. Go to their website. Read the info you find there. Download the operating system of your choice. Install it. Yes, it does offer a live version to try before you wipe the drive and install Ubuntu. I don't have the time or space here to give you full instructions; that's why YOU have to do your research on the Ubuntu site. If you don't, then you would be one of those who need someone like me to do it for you. This will require you to pay someone like me to do it for you. If I were chosen for that task, your cost would be around \$30 to \$60. the only way to get it done for less is to have a good friend or loved one do it for free. Your Mileage May Vary. If you get glitched, I have been know to offer free help over the phone. If I have to come over, that will add \$30 to the bill. As long as you don't need any parts replaced, that would be that. Do the math. If you need a replacement puter, I can do that too. I will tell you the info you need to know to make an intelligent decision. Hey! I LIKE to help people when I can.

This is a great example of how I can give you help; contact me and tell me about your issue, and I will tell you how I can help. YOU make all the decisions, not me!

When I Finish This Column...dept.


I'm gonna go cry for a while. So far, I'm keeping it together...mostly. ME GO NOW! I may not remember your name anymore, but I'd like to think that I will remember you if I see you when I'm out and about. If you see me, please give me the pleasure of of saying hello to me. Goodbye does not mean forever; it means God be with you! I love all of you! Thank you very much for letting me know you and help you! Goodbye!

IF YOU would like to contact Doug for any reason, email him according to the instructions contained above, and send your missive to him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com I pray that all of you will have a blessed Christmas. (go to church!)



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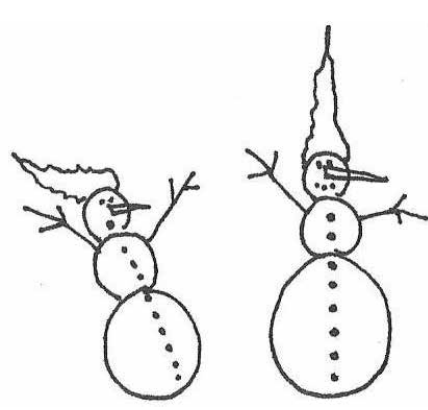
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Crossword Solution from page 4

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Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation and become a member.



Ferguson became a 4th class city in 1894, but it didn't have a Historical Society until 78 years later, in 1972. For the past 52 years your Historical Society has been collecting newspapers, correspondence, physical items and memorabilia. Once collected it has been filed in folders and on shelves so that researchers can find and use



the objects of their search. But – you had to physically be present to do your search. That all is about to change in the near future.

In 2023 a young man named Chris Morton approached the Board of Directors with a request to assist the Society in documenting our files for the internet (Chris was a graduate student and needed to complete a project). The Board had been discussing the need to move into a web site, but our finances could not support the formation of, and the continuation of, the site. By early 2024 Chris had



Jerry Benner, Mary Haux, Suzanne Cross, Jill Holtrop, Sandy Hunter, Bev Proost & Jeannie Boetcher

completed documenting a small part of our files as well as his project. It was time to create a web site.

The current board, pictured to the left, decided to create a fundraising event to fund our web site (Absent from the photo is John Knowles). That event took place on Sunday, November 3rd from 2:00 until 4:30 PM. We were fortunate that a member of our board had a home large enough and more-than-stunning to host the event. Thank you, Jill, for hosting our event. Jill's home on South Clay is at the right.



A little about the house. It was built in 1910 by John C. Atwood sitting on about 2.5 acres along South Clay. Not visible in the photo is the large carriage house in the back. The house has been sold three times since it was built. The present owner, Jill, grew up close to the house and was a frequent visitor as a child. She purchased it house in 2016 and began total renovation in 2017. She finally moved in in 2019. As you will see in photos below, each room in the house is finer than the next.



The event would require a lot of planning and just-plain-work – gathering doners for both support and for items to raffle – along with getting a caterer – finding decorations -

etc. While the whole board was involved in the event, three of the Board were particularly involved – Mary Haux (President), Suzanne Cross (Secretary) and Jill Holtrop. With the logo designed, we were ready to go

to work. Over 100 event tickets (\$25.00) were sold and over 40 items were donated for the raffle – along with some considerable money donations from local businesses. Wonderful support!



On the day of the event, about 100 people attended. They enjoyed catered food and cookies, wine, beer and punch along with the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and gamble on over 40 donated items ranging from historic baskets, fine art works, golf for 4 at Glen Echo and Norwood Country Clubs to a meal with

the Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Eight of the raffle items were historic baskets by local Ferguson and Florissant women donated by Ruth Brown and Mary Amrein. Food and drink were another highlight of the event – seen in this dining room photo.



With about 100 guests, socialization and catching up on friendships was a large part of the afternoon. The house provided a wonderful setting for people to get-together and talk.

These two photos give you a glimpse at the living room of the house.



Finally – to bring the event to a close, President, Mary Haux, addressed the crowd giving thanks to all. She then announced the winners of the many raffles. At the end the Ferguson Historical Society not only provided a fun event for the City of Ferguson, but also earned, through many generous donations and ticket sales, enough money to begin the formation of a web site. Future articles will keep you informed on our progress. Thank You to all who participated



Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”

EarthDance Organic Farm School offers Full Season Farm Apprenticeship in 2025

by Jess Coffin

Are you someone who wants to grow food? Do you long to tend to the earth, connect with kind, knowledgeable people, and live deeply in community with others while building healthy soil and sharing food?

If you're ready to dig all the way into a complete growing season of regenerative farming and food-sharing at EarthDance Organic Farm School, learning and working with our amazing farmer educators on soil that has given life as operational organic farmland since 1883, apply now for our 10-month, paid, Full Season Farm Apprenticeship!

Since 2009, more than 500 Farm & Garden Apprentices have come to EarthDance ~ right here in Ferguson ~ to explore their farming dreams. EarthDance's Farm and Garden Apprenticeship is the teaching farm's flagship and longest running program. Since 2009, teaching people to grow food in a hands-on, community-based way has been at the heart of our work.



Apprentices work together in the soil to harvest organic potatoes to sell at the EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand and at the Ferguson Farmers Market (also at Pay What You Can pricing.)

Now, in 2025, for the second year, EarthDance is offering a fully paid, 10-month Farm Apprenticeship, engaging participants in this work for 30 hours per week for the full spectrum of seasons.

There are 2 spots available, so this is a highly competitive program. While previous farming experience is not necessary, some growing experience and exploration into these topics before the apprenticeship is helpful. We are looking for individuals who are serious about exploring a career in agriculture in some capacity.

2025 Full Season Farm Apprentices will work with our team on the following types of activities, on a diversity of both perennial and annual crops:

- Greenhouse production
- Transplanting
- High tunnel growing
- Soil fertility
- Compost making
- Bed prep
- Cover cropping
- Plant care - including pest management via organically-approved spray & biological controls
- Harvest
- Fruit tree pruning and care
- Selling and sharing our harvest via wholesale sales and retail at the Pay What You Can Farm Stand, and at the Ferguson Farmers Market
- Participate in educational opportunities throughout the season on topics like soil health, raising chickens, fermentation & pickling, herbalism, mushroom production, and more
- Participate in youth and community programming, such as hosting summer campers on the farm, leading tours, or helping with events or outreach activities.
- Regenerative farming theory and practices
- Small-scale agroforestry theory and practices
- Crop planning

2025 EarthDance Full Season Farm Apprentices will participate in some online learning, including our 5-week Spring Training for Gardeners course (unless they're already graduates of that program).

By the end of the Full Season Farm Apprenticeship, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skill set to work entry level positions in the agricultural industry and or start a small-scale food production operation like a community or school garden.



Assistant Farm Manager Will Delacey and Apprentice Dani Fuhrman show off organic carrots in the EarthDance Harvest House.

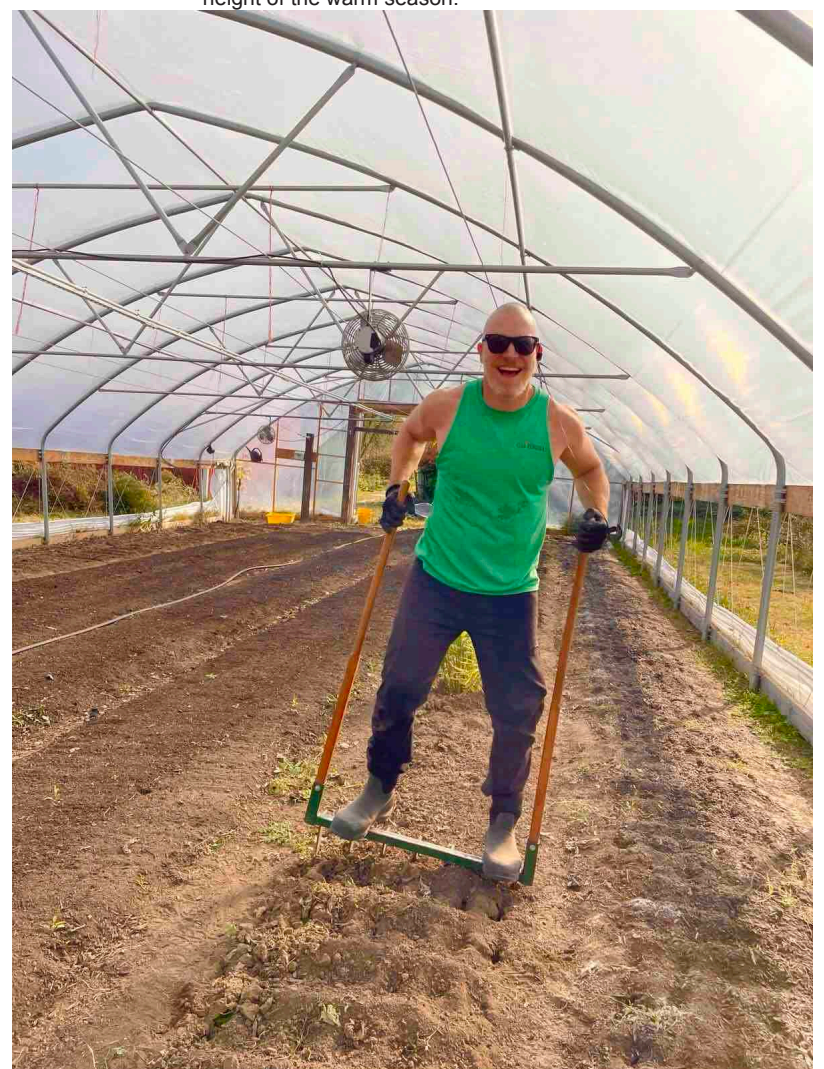
EarthDance invites anyone serious about a career in regenerative agriculture to learn and work with our farm team for the length of the full growing season. PRIORITY APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 15, 2024.

2025 Full Season Farm Apprentices will join the farm team March 4 - December 21, 2025, working with them from greenhouse seed sowing through all of the ensuing seasons and into the crop planning process for 2026.

Learn more at <https://earthdancefarms.org/apprenticeship/>. You can see and hear from 2024 apprentices by scanning the QR code below and watching the video. Questions? Call us at 314-521-1006 or email farm@earthdancefarms.org



EarthDance Apprentices work closely with the farm staff and volunteers. This group photo is at the end of a harvest shift near the height of the warm season.



Full Season Apprentice Blake Riley uses the broadfork in a high tunnel to break up compacted soil. Broadforking is an alternative to tilling that minimizes disturbance of the soil microorganisms and ecosystem.

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