

Ghost tour a suggestion at revitalization meeting. 10A

PHS NAMES ALL-STARS  
Best of baseball, girls soccer are named. 1B

45-year-old Gilster-Mary Lee worker dies. 3A

# Two die: gunshot wounds

Perry County Sheriff Gary Schaaf says it could have been a murder-suicide of a man and woman.

Amanda Keefe  
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A possible murder-suicide — or a possible double-suicide, according to Perry County Sheriff Gary Schaaf — is being investigated after a male and female were found dead in a Highway E residence Friday around 2:15 p.m.

Victims are Perryville residents Shawn Galeski, 36, and his girlfriend Jamie Cole, 29.

Both died from a single gunshot wound to the head. They were found at Galeski's residence, located at 3247 Highway E, in a locked room upstairs. A gun was located in-

SEE DEATHS/PAGE 5A

# Saturday to be 'sensational'

Super Sensational Saturday will be a special day for kids 10 and under, but there's more for all to enjoy.

By Amanda Layton  
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For the third year in a row, the people at Shining Stars preschool will be hosting an afternoon to promote getting dirty while learning at Super Sensational Saturday, and school director April Amberger said this year's will be bigger and better than ever before.

Also this Saturday is Bikers on the Square, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and lasting all day downtown in Perryville, and the Girl Scouts "Feet for Heartbeats," a 5K/10K family run/walk at 8 a.m., at the Perry Park Center. (For more information on these two events, check Thursday's Republic-Monitor.)

Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., children's activities.

SEE SATURDAY/PAGE 6A

**Want More?**  
■ Bikers on the Square, 9:30 a.m. until late.  
■ Girl Scouts 5K/10K run walk, 8 a.m., at the Park Center.



Paige Johnson



Lukas Welton



Clayton Grass

# Family suffers tragic deaths

Typical family day turns into a terrible episode in Grass family.

Amanda Keefe  
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Thursday began as a typical day for the Grass family, with morning errands to run before their workday began.

Kim Grass and her children — Paige Johnson, 19, Lukas Welton, 12, and stepson Clayton Grass, 10 — made a trip to Perryville from their home in Ste. Genevieve to take care of a few things: Lukas had an appointment with a Perryville dentist to get a few teeth pulled; Paige wanted to inquire about a car she'd been eyeing at her great-aunt and great-uncle's auto shop in Perryville; and Kim had to go to work at the Perry County Health Department.

The errands took longer than expected as Paige hurried to drop her mom off at the health department — Paige was worried she'd be late for work at McDonald's in Ste. Genevieve, and she still had to bring the boys home.

Just before she left her mother at the department, Kim told Paige, "Be careful. Don't be in a hurry going home."

"That was the last thing she said to

SEE FAMILY/PAGE 6A



SUBMITTED BY KIM GRASS

Pictured is the Grass family during Kim and husband David's wedding. From left are Paige Johnson, 19, Lukas Welton, 12, Kim Grass, David Grass and Clayton Grass, 10. All three children died Thursday after a car accident in Ste. Genevieve.



PHOTO BY AMANDA KEEFE

Pictured are those who made the Perry County veteran memorial wall possible. An official groundbreaking for the wall was held Friday at the Perryville City Park. From left: Paul Collins, Tom Nations, Norma Weinkein, Ruth Weinkein, Duane Ernst, Scott Sattler, Charles Hacker, Bernard Koetting, Vicki Lundy, Quint Robinson, William Green, Nancy Moore, Mayor Debbie Gahan and Mike Lundy.

# Ground broken for memorial wall

People can still donate to this project to honor county's veterans.

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An official groundbreaking was held Friday for the Perry County memorial wall, erected to remember fallen or living local veterans.

The wall, which has been a work-in-progress for two local historical preservation entities for roughly a year, will reside in the Perryville City Park near the old history museum.

Friday, members of the

Perry County Military History Museum Committee and the Perry County Historical Society came together to celebrate the groundbreaking, as did a handful of city officials. And, as if it couldn't be more appropriate, the groundbreaking fell on Flag Day.

History Museum Committee Member Mike Lundy gave a brief speech to the crowd Friday, explaining that this wall started out as just a dream.

"We knew what we wanted, where we wanted it, but we didn't know how to do it," Lundy said. "... I think that what we do today

will be something that all of us will be proud of for the rest of our lives."

He quoted Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

"... we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but can never forget what they did."

Perryville Mayor Debbie Gahan said a few words as

SEE WALL/PAGE 6A



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# Family

FROM PAGE 1A

them,” said Donna Steele, Kim’s aunt and co-owner of Dan’s Auto Body in Perryville.

At roughly 12 p.m., Paige was navigating a 2000 Pontiac Grand Am on Highway 61 into Ste. Genevieve, her brothers buckled up in the backseat. As she was nearing the intersection of Highway 61 and Buehler Road, Paige attempted to overtake another vehicle. Somehow, she overcorrected and lost control, sending her vehicle straight into oncoming traffic, striking a 2003 GMC Ford Sonoma driven by Dennis Klump, 52, of St. Genevieve.

Klump came away from the accident with what the Missouri State Highway Patrol described as moderate injuries.

The three siblings, however, would share a different fate. Lukas and Clayton were pronounced dead at the scene, and Paige would

“Paige and Lukas were Kim’s only two children. They were basically her world. She was pretty much the only parent in their life. Then she married David, and they were a blended family, but they all thought the world of each other.

— Donna Steele  
Aunt of Kim Grass

die hours later in a St. Louis hospital.

The Missouri Highway Patrol spent hours in their attempt to reconstruct the accident Thursday, but they also had a more difficult task: to tell Kim about the death of the two boys and the critical injuries — at the time — that her daughter sustained. Witnesses at the Perry County Health Department say Kim was inconsolable at the news.

Just after, the President of the Perry County Board of Health, Yvonne Steinbecker, who was not at the health department, received a call from a staff member insisting she arrive right away.

“I was speeding to get

Lukas would have been a seventh-grader.

“Our whole town is just heartbroken,” Diesel said.

Kim Grass’ husband, David Grass, is Clayton’s father, and Lukas and Paige’s stepfather. Clayton’s mother is Shelly Boyer of Bonne Terre, Mo. Lukas’ father is Ronald Welton, and Paige’s father is the late Danny Johnson.

Paige was both a varsity softball player and varsity basketball cheerleader at Ste. Genevieve High School. She graduated in 2012, and Steele said Paige just finished her first year as a radiology student at Mineral Area College.

“[Paige and Lukas] were Kim’s only two children,”

Steele said. “They were basically her world. She was pretty much the only parent in their life. Then she married David, and they were a blended family, but they all thought the world of each other.”

According to Ste. Genevieve Coroner Leo “Chipper” Basler, Lukas and Clayton’s time of death was 12:33 p.m., Thursday. Paige was pronounced dead at Barnes Jewish Hospital at 4:15 p.m. later that day. All three passengers were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash; Klump was not.

To support the grieving family, the recently formed organization Perryville Cares will kick-start a fundraiser this week.

Monetary drop-off locations include the Perryville Area Chamber of Commerce, Hoeckele’s Bakery and Deli, Farm Fresh, Therapy Solutions, Dan’s Auto Body, E-Z Pump located on St. Joseph Street and Stonie’s Sausage Shop.

A visitation for Clayton Grass was to be held

Monday at Basler Funeral Home in Ste. Genevieve from 9-11:45 a.m. The funeral service was to be held at Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church at noon.

Visitations for Lukas and Paige will occur today at Pechacek-McClure Funeral Home in Chester, Ill., from 4-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 7:30-11 a.m. A service will be held at the same location Wednesday at 11 a.m.

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# Wall

FROM PAGE 1A

well, citing that the wall is something the community can cherish, and a place for families to remember their loved ones who served.

“Now, let’s shovel some dirt!” she said.

The 20-foot-wide wall will be comprised of different-sized bricks, purchased

through the community, engraved with respective veterans’ names. The wall would tentatively allow for 160 bricks, though in the future, could potentially expand to accommodate more.

Those contracted to complete the project include Ed and Quint Robinson, of SEMCO Stone, and Duane Ernst, of Ernst Construction. The project is estimated to cost roughly

\$40,000. Lundy said a deal was established between the contractors and the committee where, once the wall is completed, the committee would reimburse the contractors for materials and labor with money generated through brick purchases. Remaining funds would serve as proceeds to the committee.

Lundy said many interested parties have already purchased bricks, which

range in price from \$300 to \$1,000, based on size. For more information on brick

purchase, contact committee chair Tom Nations at (573) 547-5016.

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# Saturday

FROM PAGE 1A

dren age 10 and under are invited to the pavilion at the Bank of Missouri Soccer Complex where they can participate in hands-on activities and interactive projects sponsored by local businesses and organizations as part of the Super Sensational Saturday, since it is intended to stimulate all five senses: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell.

Amberger said the event is growing in leaps and bounds each year.

“We have more booths set up this year,” Amberger said. “And we are fortunate to have a bouncy house from Joyous Bouncy House Rentals and a petting zoo from the Lazy L. Safari park. All told, we have 17 different stations for children to participate in activities, and 70 different businesses will participate in making the day possible in some capacity.”

Proceeds collected at this year’s Super Sensational event are earmarked to help Perryville’s law enforcement’s Shop With a Cop charity that provides a Christmas shopping trip for children in need each holiday season.

“We are also collecting canned food items for the local food pantries, and although there are only 17 businesses on site with booths for Saturday, it is through the support of the 70 participating businesses that the donation to Shop With a Cop will be possible through either a flat monetary gift or the donation of gift certificates or other services that will be awarded

to the highest bidder in a silent auction that will also be held Saturday,” Amberger said.

She also said there would be a sound system providing a musical backdrop to the afternoon of bubble blowing, crafting and playfulness.

“Air Evac is expected to have their helicopter on display as well,” Amberger said.

Vendors participating in the afternoon were responsible for deciding what kind of hands-on activities they wanted to organize for the youngsters.

“They can arrange whatever kind of activity they want the kids to participate

in, and we have a lot of variety, I think,” Amberger said. “It’s a great way for businesses to support a community-wide event.

In addition to activities, Shining Stars will provide hot dogs, drinks and other snacks for those who participate.

Amberger said the sensory festival is a fun way to spend a Saturday with families. “Not only do children get to participate in something fun, but also businesses and parents contribute to a worthy cause,” she said.

For more information about Super Sensational Saturday, contact Amberger at shiningstarspreschoolllc@yahoo.com.

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## 3rd Annual Super Sensational Saturday Explore Your Senses

When: June 22, 2013  
Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Location: Pavilion at Soccer Complex



Super Sensational Saturday is a place to bring your children to participate in a number of FREE, fun, hands-on, interactive projects and activities while supporting a great cause, the Shop With A Cop Program.

There will be free hot dogs, drinks and snacks as well as music for your entertainment.

Although the event is FREE there will be a silent auction held and t-shirts will be sold to raise additional funds for the Shop With A Cop Program.

This is an interactive event, plan to get messy and have a great time!

For More Information Contact:  
April Amberger or Danielle Lands at 517-0266  
or shiningstarspreschoolllc@yahoo.com

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